

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 73, No. 36A © SS 2014 MIDEAST EDITION

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2014

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas



D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS

‘WE COME TO REMEMBER WHY’

— Page 4 —

THIBRAULT CAMUS/AP

World War II veterans of the U.S. 29th Infantry Division, from left, Hal Baumgartner, 90, of Pennsylvania; Steve Melnikoff, 94, of Rhode Island; Don McCarthy, 90, of Maryland; and Morley Piper, 90, of Massachusetts, attend a D-Day commemoration on Omaha Beach, western France, on Friday.

Afghan candidate escapes attack

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah survived a deadly suicide bombing outside a campaign rally in Kabul Friday, escaping a nightmare scenario that if successful would have thrown the election process into chaos and further delayed a final decision to keep an international force in the coun-

try after the end of this year.

A suicide car bomber and an attacker with a suicide vest detonated their explosives near a convoy carrying both Abdullah and Zalmay Rassoul, a former presidential candidate who trailed in the first round of voting but threw his support to Abdullah for the runoff — as they were leaving the event just after noon, campaign and security officials said.

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 2



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Abdullah Abdullah gets to work shortly after his convoy was attacked in Kabul on Friday.

VA SCANDAL

Agency: 18 vets who were on Phoenix wait list died

By CINDY CARCAMO
Los Angeles Times

PHOENIX — Eighteen veterans died while waiting for medical appointments, the acting Veterans Affairs secretary said during his visit Thursday to a facility that has become the epicenter of a growing and sweeping scandal over inad-

equately veteran patient care.

Sloan Gibson said the VA had contacted 1,700 veterans kept off an official waiting list at the Phoenix VA facility to schedule their appointments and confirmed that at least 14 of those 18 later contacted the VA for end-of-life care, Gibson said.

SEE PHOENIX ON PAGE 3

MILITARY

Former carrier pilot to lead Naval Academy

Page 2



VIDEO GAMES

‘Watch Dogs’ tailored for a cyberspy world

Page 18

MILITARY

Bergdahl could face range of punishments if guilty of desertion

Page 5



California Chrome looks to end Triple Crown drought >> Back page

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I can fully assure you I am not 100 percent happy with [the compromise bill]. I would have written a very different bill, [but] right now we have a crisis on our hands, and it is imperative we deal with that crisis.”

— Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. who floated a VA reform bill to help solve a scandal over patient scheduling abuses and veteran deaths

See story on Page 3

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. A US veteran, deported and residing in Jamaica
2. AAFES chief: Let 22 million vets shop exchanges online
3. 5 facts you may not know about the Normandy invasion
4. Marine Corps veteran reunited with bomb-sniffing dog, Cena
5. Pentagon: Bergdahl's condition improving at Landstuhl

COMING SOON

Music

Miranda Lambert



TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 14
- Business 20
- Comics 22
- Crossword 22
- Health & Fitness 19
- Opinion 12-13
- Sports 24-32
- Weather 20

MILITARY

Attack: Assassination could have endangered security pact

FROM FRONT PAGE

Six people were killed and more than 20 wounded, including several bodyguards and civilians, Afghan Ministry of Interior spokesman Najib Danish said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, though the Taliban have vowed to disrupt the second-round election. A Taliban spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

Western officials have privately expressed deep concern about a presidential candidate being assassinated ahead of the June 14th runoff between Abdullah, a former foreign minister, and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani. By Afghan law, the entire election process would start over, potentially delaying a transfer of power by months.

That could endanger a security agreement that would pave the way for a small contingent of foreign troops to stay in the country past the end of the year, when all foreign combat troops will have withdrawn.

“This has been the nightmare scenario all along, that an attack would kill a candidate and the clock would be set back to zero in the political transition at a really difficult time,” said Graeme Smith, the International Crisis Group’s senior analyst in Afghanistan.

The U.S. Embassy in Kabul issued a statement via Twitter condemning the attack: “The Afghan people deserve democracy, not violence.”

This election would mark the first democratic transfer of power



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan security forces investigate the site of a suicide attack that struck the convoy of presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah on Friday in Kabul.

in the country’s history. Karzai, the only president the country has had since the U.S. ousted the ruling Taliban in 2001, is barred by Afghanistan’s constitution from running for re-election.

Many Western nations as well as aid groups are closely monitoring the election, which is taking place as foreign combat troops wind down their nearly 13-year mission in the country. A follow-on military-training-and-counter-

terrorism mission is contingent on Kabul signing the bilateral security agreement with the U.S.

President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign the agreement, but both presidential candidates have said they will, if elected.

The Afghan government depends nearly entirely on foreign assistance for funding, and what happens with this transition of power could go a long way in determining how much contin-

ued assistance the country gets, Smith said.

“There are a lot of NGOs and other development actors who are waiting to see what will happen in this transition before they sign off on any new projects, (and) that’s important for a country as aid-dependent as Afghanistan is for their economy,” he said

Zubair Babakarkhali contributed to this report
druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @druzin_stripes

Obama appoints new Naval Academy superintendent

By BRIAN WITTE
The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A former “Top Gun” pilot who recently led the school that teaches the nation’s Navy leaders has been chosen by President Barack Obama to head the U.S. Naval Academy, the defense secretary said Friday.

The appointment of Rear Adm. Walter Carter comes as the military struggles to end sexual assault in its ranks, including at the Naval Academy.

Carter is a recipient of the Navy’s Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale Leadership Award, a prestigious leadership award recognizing high standards in ethical conduct. He spoke about the importance of ethics in military officers in 2012 during an interview with Shipmate, the academy’s alumni magazine.

“I believe that all Americans have an expectation that everyone in the fleet, enlisted sailors through admirals, will behave ethically and professionally, es-

pecially as we complete 40 years as an all-volunteer force,” Carter said.

Carter, a native of Burrillville, R.I., has been president of the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., since last year.

He would succeed Vice Adm. Michael Miller, who became the 61st superintendent of the academy in 2010.

Carter, whose appointment requires U.S. Senate approval, would be promoted to vice admiral.

He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1981 and was designated a naval flight officer in 1982. Carter graduated from the U.S. Navy Fighter Weapons School, what was known as the “Top Gun” school, in the last F-4 Phantom class in 1985.

He has commanded the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group 12. He also was commander of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

He has flown 125 combat missions.



June 12 with your copy of STARS AND STRIPES.




Compliments of




VA SCANDAL

Whistleblowers claim reprisals amid scandal

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators are looking into 86 cases of government misconduct and alleged whistleblower reprisals within the Department of Veterans Affairs following a nationwide scandal over secret wait lists and veteran deaths.

Of the 86 employees alleging “scheduling improprieties and other potential threats to patient safety,” 37 claim the VA retaliated against them for reporting the abuses and other wrongdoing, according to the U.S. Office of

Special Counsel, an independent investigative agency charged with protecting federal employees.

It is more evidence of a far-reaching scandal that began in April with whistleblower Sam Foote, a retired VA doctor who helped expose off-the-books patient waiting lists that may have played a part in 40 veteran deaths at a Phoenix VA hospital.

Last week, the VA inspector general reported that the patient scheduling abuses are systemic in veteran hospitals and clinics, which serve 6.5 million beneficiaries per year and constitute the largest integrated health care



Lerner

to identify problems and find solutions,” said Carolyn Lerner, head of the OSC, in a released statement.

“However, employees will

system in the United States.

“Receiving candid information about harmful practices from employees will be critical to the VA’s efforts

not come forward if they fear retaliation.”

One whistleblower was given a seven-day suspension after telling the VA inspector general about improper scheduling and computer coding procedures, according to the OSC.

The employee also claimed the VA lowered a performance evaluation and reassigned him following the report to the IG, OSC said.

Another VA employee was temporarily reassigned out of a position and then faced demotion after disclosing the mishandling

of money meant for patient care in December, and an employee who reported the unauthorized use of patient restraints faced a 30-day suspension without pay.

Last month, the OSC blocked disciplinary action against the employees while it investigates. It did not release the names of employees or location of the facilities.

The reports of scheduling wrongdoing and threats to patient safety are under investigation.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten



Matt York/AP

Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan Gibson said that three senior VA leaders in Phoenix may be fired over allegations of misconduct in patient care when he visited the Phoenix VA on Thursday.

Phoenix: Acting secretary vows transparency with release of wait time reports on all facilities

FROM FRONT PAGE

He said he didn’t know whether this group was part of the 40 patients that VA employees and veterans have said died while waiting for medical care. Gibson said he has asked inspector general officials to get back to him on that matter and to tell him how many of those deaths were associated with delay in patient care.

If that is the case, Gibson said, he would come back to Arizona and “personally apologize to those survivors.”

“In far too many instances we have let our veterans down,” Gibson said in a news conference. “They have had to wait too long for the care they deserve and in too many instances we have behaved in ways that are not consistent with our values.”

Gibson also said three senior VA leaders in this desert city may soon be fired over allegations of

misconduct in patient care and that hospital officials are scrambling to fill more than 300 vacancies as quickly as possible.

He promised to release documents that would provide details about wait times at every facility in the VA.

Gibson’s visit came less than a week after VA Secretary Eric K. Shinew stepped down and the VA Inspector General’s Office released a critical report about the Phoenix VA.

The interim report showed a systemic problem in scheduling veterans for health care in a timely manner, which included instances in which Phoenix VA staff falsified records to cover up long waits. Investigators found an average wait of 115 days for a sample of veterans at the facility.

Gibson met with Phoenix VA medical center staff, veterans service organization and Arizona

congressional delegates. He said he is working on immediate solutions to address the problems at the Phoenix facility, which he said is woefully understaffed.

Human resource specialists have already been brought in to expedite the hiring of new staff, including doctors and nurses, and that two mobile health care trucks are being brought on site to address immediate needs, Gibson said. In addition, officials are modifying their local contract so they can tap into “purchased care,” or outside services, for primary care.

“Where there are a need for resources we will not hold back,” Gibson said. “I will not hesitate to ask for resources when they are needed.”

He vowed to earn back the trust of every veteran, saying, “Veterans must feel safe when they come to the VA for care.”

Senate finds common ground on reform bill

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate introduced a compromise bill Thursday aimed at reforming the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs.

The legislation would streamline executive firings, expand access to outside health care for rural veterans, hire more doctors and nurses, and look at ways to improve VA computer systems.

It was a hard-fought compromise between Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who both floated VA reform bills to help solve a widening scandal over patient scheduling abuses and veteran deaths.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who sponsored a bill solely on firing VA executives, said Thursday he also supports the compromise.

Support appears to be building, but the bill must still pass a floor vote in the Senate, which has built a reputation for gridlock.

Congress is grappling with how to fix the nation’s largest integrated health system, which serves 6.5 million veterans per year, since the VA scandal broke in April with news that 40 veterans might have died due to a secret wait list kept at a Phoenix hospital.

The House passed a bill last month that would give the VA secretary power to fire department executives at will, which supporters say is necessary to clear out an entrenched culture of unaccountability and wrongdoing.

“I can fully assure you I am not 100 percent happy with [the compromise bill],” Sanders said. “I would have written a very different bill, [but] right now we have a crisis on our hands, and it is imperative we deal with that crisis.”

Under the bill, VA employees could be fired immediately by the secretary and would stop receiving pay and benefits. They could file an appeal within a week and

would have a right to an appeal committee verdict within three weeks.

“Under appeal, that person will not receive a salary but that employee will receive due process,” McCain said.

Some of the reforms include streamlining executive firings and expanding access to outside care

A key proposal of McCain’s legislation introduced Tuesday also made it into the compromise bill. Veterans who live more than 40 miles

from a VA hospital or clinic and cannot get care within a reasonable time would be allowed to choose where they are treated.

The VA already approves some outside care but McCain and Sanders say the bill will make that easier for veterans.

McCain’s office said the 40-mile proposal was taken from the regulations of military health care provider TriCare, which uses the geographical radius to determine the patient coverage area of medical facilities.

Here is what else the bill includes:

■ \$500 million in unobligated VA funds for hiring doctors and nurses

■ Leases for 26 new major medical facilities in 18 states

■ Expansion of sexual assault treatment

■ The creation of commissions to review VA computer systems and construction programs

■ “We both had to make some very tough compromises,” McCain said.

“Usually that is a sign of bipartisanship and proof it is a good piece of legislation.”

McCain said the bill will go to the Senate floor and face potential amendments in the coming weeks.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

D-DAY REMEMBERED

Obama honors bravery of D-Day forces

President, vets mark 70th anniversary of Normandy invasion

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — Speaking at the Normandy cemetery where nearly 9,400 Americans are buried, President Barack Obama on Friday said maintaining freedom continues to require sacrifices like those made by the men who landed here 70 years ago to defeat Nazi Germany.

“We have to do our best to uphold in our own lives the values that they were prepared to die for,” Obama said. “We have to honor those who carry forward that legacy, recognizing that people cannot live in freedom unless free people are prepared to die for it.”

The anniversary was of particular significance for World War II veterans, whose numbers are rapidly dwindling. It was along the coast here on June 6, 1944, that more than 160,000 American and Allied troops invaded northern France in an operation that would mark the beginning of the end of Nazi Germany.

Obama touted the bravery of America’s D-Day force, which suffered astonishing casualties at Omaha Beach, above which the Normandy American Cemetery now sits.

“Here, we don’t just commemorate victory, as proud of that victory as we are. We don’t just honor sacrifice, as grateful as the world is,” Obama said. “We come to remember why America and our Allies gave so much for the survival of liberty at this moment of maximum peril.”

Obama did not mention Europe’s current crisis in the wake of Russia’s moves against Ukraine, which for some have evoked memories of Germany’s land grabs at the dawn of World War II. The response by U.S. and European policymakers have also come under criticism by some, including World War II veterans, who say the West isn’t doing enough to deter Russian aggression.

“They’re letting it slide instead of standing up to it and stopping it,” said George Sherman, 88, an who fought at Bastogne with the 11th Armored Division. “It just reminds me of Munich all over again. It’s the same ‘Peace in our time’ baloney. And the only way you stop them is to stand up now.”

Obama’s speech was sprinkled with language asserting a continued need for strength and allusions to loftier U.S. goals in Europe.

“When the war was won, we claimed



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Susan and Robert McLellan of Andover, Maine, look at the grave markers following the ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer on Friday, the 70th anniversary of D-Day.

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

no spoils of victory,” he said. “We helped Europe rebuild. We claimed no land other than the earth where we buried those who gave their lives under our flag, and where we stationed those who still serve under it.”

Other military leaders in Normandy for days of commemorations and celebrations marking D-Day have stopped short of singling out Russia in public remarks, focusing instead on the actions of the veterans who carried out the invasion.

Nevertheless, current events are on the minds of many here.

“The whole situation is pretty sad,” said John MacPhee, who nearly drowned trying to wade 400 meters to shore at Omaha Beach and was shot in both legs and the lower back during the D-Day assault.

Infighting between political parties in the U.S. doesn’t help the situation, MacPhee said. Politicians seem to only remember the lessons of D-Day “on days like this.”

“When it comes to deterring Russia, the U.S. ‘can’t do it alone,’” Sherman said.

millham.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @matmillham



President Barack Obama and World War II veterans listen to taps at the conclusion of Friday’s ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery.

Navy official: Remembrance highlights allies’ importance

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

UTAH BEACH, France — A U.S. Navy warship on its way to support U.S. and NATO operations in the Baltics has stopped in Normandy to help commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day amid tension over Russia’s actions in eastern Europe.

Navy Chief of Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert, who visited

the Navy’s memorial here Thursday to place a wreath and to reenlist a sailor from the USS Oscar Austin before taking part in a ceremony nearby, said remembrances of D-Day put focus on the importance of coalitions.

“Today, we call it the North Atlantic Treaty Organization,” Greenert said in a brief interview.

“We’re standing here today; it could be a very different situ-

ation both in continental Europe and around the world,” Greenert said. “Those that went before us, that’s our legacy, our heritage, our history.”

Exactly 70 years ago Friday, U.S. and Allied forces landed on Normandy’s beaches in the largest amphibious assault the world has ever seen.

“Imagine as we look out here, 1,000 ships spread across the ho-

ried and 4,000 landing craft,” Greenert said.

Standing a few hundred meters from where the waters of the English Channel lapped the Normandy shore at Utah Beach, Petty Officer 1st Class James Jansma said the “thought is always there” that he might one day have his own D-Day.

Jansma, a 12-year veteran from Grand Rapids, Mich., was re-

enlisted by Greenert for six more years. He’s heading out with the crew of the Austin, a destroyer, and said the lessons of the men who fought at Normandy 70 years ago should not be forgotten.

“The courage it takes to stand up and say, ‘Evil cannot endure,’ has to be continued through all generations,” Jansma said.

millham.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @matmillham

MILITARY



VOICE OR JAHAD WEBSTE/AP

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, right, stands with a Taliban fighter in eastern Afghanistan.

Taliban: Captured US soldier was treated well

By AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban said Friday that U.S. Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was treated well during the five years they held him captive and was even allowed to play soccer with the men holding him.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban in eastern Afghanistan, told The Associated Press by telephone that Bergdahl was held under “good conditions,” and was given fresh fruit and any other foods he requested. “You can ask him in America about his life (in captivity). He will not complain,” Mujahid said.

The question of Bergdahl’s well-being is part of a fierce debate in Washington over whether the U.S. should have negotiated for his release on Saturday in exchange for five Taliban detainees who had been held at Guantanamo Bay.

Mujahid’s statements could not be verified. Bergdahl, of Haley, Idaho, was captured after he walked away from his base in June 2009 and U.S. officials believed he was mainly held by the Haqqani network, an insurgent group affiliated with the Taliban, in Pakistan. He was handed over to the U.S. in a remote area of Khost province, near the Pakistani border.

Mujahid said Bergdahl was held in different locations inside Afghanistan, without providing further details. He said the soldier enjoyed playing soccer as well as reading, including English-language books about Islam.

Since Bergdahl’s release, senior officials, including President Barack Obama, have said the prisoner swap that involved the release of five high-profile

Taliban detainees from Guantanamo Bay, which has caused a furor in the United States, was hastened by concerns the Army sergeant’s physical health was deteriorating.

But the Obama administration later told senators it did not notify Congress about the pending swap because of intelligence the Taliban might kill Bergdahl if the deal was made public, congressional and administration officials said Thursday.

Mujahid said he could not immediately comment on whether the Taliban had threatened to kill Bergdahl, who is currently recovering at a military hospital in Germany.

Several administration and congressional officials said a December video shown to senators in a briefing portrayed Bergdahl’s health as in decline but not so desperately that he required an emergency rescue. An assessment by U.S. intelligence agencies about the video in January came to the same conclusion, said two congressional officials familiar with it. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Taliban fighters freed Bergdahl Saturday and turned him over to a U.S. special operations team in eastern Afghanistan. Under the deal, five Taliban militants were released from Guantanamo and flown to Qatar, where they are to remain for a year under conditions that have not been spelled out in public.

A federal law requires Congress to be told 30 days before a prisoner is released from Guantanamo, but Obama administration officials said it did not apply in what they deemed an emergency situation.

If guilty, what punishment could Sgt. Bergdahl face?

By CHRIS CARROLL

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — What started with a joyful White House Rose Garden announcement Saturday on the return of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl from Taliban captivity soon took a darker turn, with commentators across the Internet calling for the ultimate legal penalty.

“If he’s guilty of desertion, the only orientation I care about is that he’s facing the firing squad,” a Stars and Stripes reader commented Wednesday on the newspaper’s website.

Military legal experts say chances are zero the Army would pursue such an unusual course — only one American has been executed for desertion since the 19th century — with some arguing such a sentence wouldn’t even be legal in the current conflict.

Realistically, what punishment could Bergdahl face? Former unit members have said he deserted his outpost in Paktika province, causing death and injury among soldiers who had to look for him.

There’s no clear answer, experts say. Military authorities will have to weigh a range of factors, including what Bergdahl did, the effect on his fellow soldiers and what’s best for the U.S. military as a whole. If he’s found to have committed misconduct — whether going absent without leave or deserting his unit — possible penalties range from an administrative discharge up to several years in prison.

“The military justice system doesn’t have strict rules about how cases are supposed to be handled, so you could potentially have a deserter who just gets an administrative discharge,” said Eugene Fidell, a former president of the National Institute for Military Justice who teaches military law at Yale University.

But given the claims about Bergdahl’s actions from the past, Fidell said a court-martial, which can end in penalties ranging from a dishonorable discharge to prison, was becoming increasingly likely.

“I think they do have to send a message,” Fidell said. “This sounds to me like a court-martial. I don’t want to convict him in the media, but if I were a convening authority, the information that’s now available would probably convince me to send it to an Article 32 investigation.”

That seems likely, said Chris Jenks, an assistant law professor at Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law who served as an Army prosecutor. But alternately, the Army may fear a circus-like trial and elect to move Bergdahl out quickly through an administrative action.

“At the end of the day, the Army is going to have to figure out a way of eliminating Bergdahl from the

Army or a harsh characterization of his service is the top priority,” he said. “If moving him out expeditiously is the priority, they can chapter him and give him a general discharge or other-than-honorable discharge.”

“But if you want to have a harsh judgment on his service in the Army, you’re looking at the possibility of a long and drawn-out ordeal.”

A simpler way to deal with Bergdahl than a desertion charge could be to administratively classify him as having gone AWOL, eliminating the need to pay him hundreds of thousands of dollars in back pay and POW benefits from the nearly five years Bergdahl was in Taliban hands, Jenks said. Next, the Army could move to discharge him with an other-than-honorable discharge.

Bergdahl’s promotions and time in service would earn him in the neighborhood of \$125,000 in basic pay during the time he was in captivity. And according to the Army’s official benefits website, POWs are eligible for at least 50 percent of the global average per diem rate during each day of captivity.

“Even if 50 percent only works out to \$100 a day, after five years, you’re into the hundreds of thousands,” Jenks said.

Army POWs are also eligible for Basic Allowance for Subsistence and Housing Payments during their captivity regardless of whether they were authorized at the time of capture, as well as interest on uncollected payments and other benefits.

Considerations about what Bergdahl suffered in captivity could color the Army’s decision about what penalty to seek, said retired Maj. Gen. John Altburg, a Washington lawyer who served as deputy judge advocate general for the Army.

“If the facts show that he walked away deliberately and it was with the specific intent to avoid hazardous duty, I think a court-martial becomes more likely,” he said. “On the other hand, depending on his physical and mental condition, and what we learn about the conditions of his captivity, then that may offset the desire for a court-martial.”

But a decision about his legal status may not be made quickly.

The public and the media

might be hungry for answers, but expect to wait at least a month, Altburg said. The Army’s first priority must be attending to his physical and mental health after five years in captivity.

“The people that are charged with making the decision are not in a hurry, because they want to be thorough, and they want to know all the facts,” he said.

Although the U.S. military has not divulged specific details about Bergdahl’s condition or his state of mind, training his “reintegration” at a military hospital in Germany, Jenks said it’s unlikely the Army has begun questioning of the sort that could be used in a court-martial. He has to be fully advised of his legal rights before any such questioning could occur.

And what about observers recommending the death penalty for Bergdahl?

The last such sentence was imposed on World War II, Eddie Slovik during World War Pt. Under far different circumstances, Slovik, an action against Bergdahl, would be to desert his unit if sent to a front-line fighting position. After making good on the threat, he presented a letter explaining his actions to a soldier who gave it to an MP.

Slovik refused repeated offers to destroy the letter and to return to his unit, saying he preferred jail. But to his shock, he was sentenced to death at court-martial. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower refused to commute his sentence after such a flagrant offense, and on Jan. 31, 1945, Slovik became the only American servicemember of the war, or since, to be executed for desertion.

Legal experts scoffed at the idea that any military official today would even consider such an action against Bergdahl. And it would probably be illegal, they agreed, because desertion during wartime requires there to be an officially declared war, unlike the more than 12 years of fighting in Afghanistan.

“The Rules for Court-Martial define ‘war’ as a period of war declared by Congress or the factual determination by the President — neither of which have occurred,” Jenks wrote to Stars and Stripes in an email. “So the death penalty is out as a matter of law.”

carroll.chris@jpsnews.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll

BEEN THERE.
DONE THAT.

We've been making loans of up to \$10,000 to active duty military for over 64 years.



Click Today...Cash Today www.omnimilitaryloans.com "We love to say yes"

MILITARY



HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

Dust kicks up around a U.S. Marine light armored vehicle from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit as it prepares for a live-fire demonstration for dignitaries and the media Thursday in Jordan.

Nations show might, cooperation with Jordan live-fire demonstration

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

JEBEL PETRA, Jordan — Moments after fighter aircraft pummeled the exercise area with bombs, U.S. Marine and Jordanian armored vehicles advanced into it while low-flying AH-1F Cobra attack helicopters zoomed past them to provide cover. Each action was precise, taking place on cue.

Brig. Gen. Gregg Olson, commander of Task Force 51/59 and in charge of the amphibious forces deployed to U.S. 5th Fleet, commanded the American contingent during the drill, which marked the culmination of the two-week exercise involving 12,000 military personnel from 22 nations — 6,000 of them from the U.S.

U.S. officials acknowledged that the demonstration Thursday was somewhat artificial compared to how it would play out in real life. But those involved in planning the drill said the intent

is to enhance the Jordanian and U.S. militaries' understanding of each other's capabilities, proving both countries' armed forces are able to operate together.

Olson said all the combat techniques employed were the same as in a real battlefield situation. "I think what was important for our partners yesterday is they were able to see them in a demonstration that was both tactically sound and provided the opportunity to observe.

"The battlefield is a lonely place ... Every time that we can show the value we give back, the valor, the aggressiveness, the capabilities of our young men and women that make up our ranks, that's a great opportunity," Olson said.

The scenario for this main event was a simulated counter-attack against an enemy country that had sent its forces across the border. No specific nations were mentioned, although the scenario

appeared realistic in view of the civil war in neighboring Syria.

The use of combined air power and ground forces for the counterattack demonstration wasn't just for show.

"There's a misconception that you can do it all with air power. It takes a combined arms team to actually secure the terrain," said Maj. Dave Denial, an exercise planner.

This is the fourth annual iteration of the Eager Lion exercise in Jordan. Since its start on May 25, participants have trained on a wide range of offensive and defensive operations that include disaster relief, strategic communication and rescue operations. The Jordanian-led exercise runs until Sunday.

U.S. officials emphasized that there was no connection between the Eager Lion exercise and any potential increase in U.S. assistance to the Syrian opposition, which has been faring poorly

US report: China defense budget up 5.7 percent

Pentagon report to Congress focuses on potential threat to US forces

By JON HARPER

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — China's military budget rose to more than \$145 billion last year, as the country continues to build more advanced weapons that could target U.S. forces, the Pentagon said in its annual report to Congress on security developments involving China.

The unclassified version of the report, released Thursday, noted that China's official defense budget rose 5.7 percent to \$119.5 billion last year.

But once defense-related spending that isn't part of the official military budget is taken into account, the Pentagon estimates that the actual amount is north of \$145 billion.

"China has the fiscal strength and political will to support defense spending growth at comparable levels for the foreseeable future," the report states.

In comparison, the Pentagon's base budget in fiscal 2013 was \$496 billion.

However, once you factor in defense-related spending on things such as the war in Afghanistan, nuclear weapons-related activities conducted by the Department of Energy, and the Department of Homeland Security, that number climbs to well over \$600 billion.

Much of the report echoed what was stated in last year's China assessment.

Highlights include:
 ■ Preparing for potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait remains "the focus and primary driver of China's military modernization program," but steadily increasing tensions in the East China and South China Seas, along with growing interests and influence abroad, have caused "a substantial uptick in the PLA's preparations for a range of missions beyond China's immediate periphery."
 ■ The People's Liberation Army is investing heavily in its ground force, emphasizing the ability to deploy campaign-level forces across long distances quickly.

It is also developing a more rapid, flexible special operations force equipped with advanced technology.
 ■ The air force is "pursuing modernization on a scale unprec-

edented in its history and is rapidly closing the gap with Western air forces across a broad spectrum of capabilities." China's first fifth-generation fighter, the multirole J-20, could enter service as early as 2018.

■ The navy will likely build multiple aircraft carriers over the next 15 years.

■ The first Chinese-built carrier will likely be operational sometime at the beginning of the next decade.

■ The Chinese government and its military continue to target U.S. computer systems for intrusions focused on stealing information.

■ U.S. bases on Okinawa are in range of a growing number of Chinese medium-range ballistic missiles, and Guam could be reached by air-launched cruise missiles.

■ Chinese missiles have also become far more accurate and are now better suited to strike regional air bases, logistics facilities and other infrastructure.

■ As part of its planning for military contingencies, China continues to develop measures to deter or counter intervention by the U.S. by developing the capability to conduct long-range attacks against military forces that might deploy to or operate in the western Pacific.

■ In the coming years, instability on the Korean Peninsula could produce a regional crisis involving China's military.

"I don't think that there's really any part of the [PLA] today that's not undergoing some type of reform, modernization and transformation. It truly is a comprehensive modernization effort," according to a senior U.S. defense official, who spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity so that he could more freely discuss China's military advancements.

However, the report states that, "China would face several shortcomings in a near-term conflict with the U.S.," due to weaknesses in its missile targeting, anti-submarine warfare, and fighter jet systems.

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

Color guard to march in D.C. pride parade

By AARON C. DAVIS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Shortly after Dykes on Bikes rumble across the starting line of the Capital Pride parade in downtown Washington on Saturday, an expected 150,000 spectators should witness something never before seen on an American city street — a U.S. armed forces color guard marching alongside rainbow flags in a gay pride parade.

The Department of Defense has authorized what military gay-rights groups and organizers of the Capital Pride parade say is a first nationwide — a color guard

that will present the red, white and blue as well as flags of each branch of the military.

The eight-member team is scheduled to help lead off the 1.5-mile parade, immediately preceding the Capital Pride lead banner and grand marshal Chris Kluge, the former NFL punter and author of the book "Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies."

While no policy has precluded a U.S. Armed Forces color guard from participating in gay-rights events since the 2011 repeal of "don't ask don't tell," gay-rights organizations from D.C. to Hawaii say they have routinely faced rejection from local military offic-

es, saying the color guards were otherwise occupied on the days of pride parades.

In D.C., the color guard will be provided by the United States Military District of Washington, which presents colors for the president, members of Congress and countless official state functions.

An approval letter sent to pride parade organizers last month listed one caveat to the team's expected participation Saturday: "Please note this appearance is subject to preemption by the White House or other official military requirements."

NATION

'Heroes' helped stop Seattle school shooter

Suspect in custody; 1 killed, 3 wounded

BY MANUEL VALDES
AND PHUONG LE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — When a lone gunman armed with a shotgun at a small Seattle university stopped firing at students to reload, another student pepper-sprayed him and subdued him with the help of others and prevented more deaths, police said.

"There are a number of heroes in this," Assistant Police Chief Paul McDonagh said. "The people around him (the gunman) stepped up."

A 19-year-old man was fatally shot and two other young people were wounded after the gunman entered the foyer at Otto Miller Hall on the Seattle Pacific University campus and started shooting Thursday afternoon. When he paused to reload, a student building monitor disarmed him. The gunman had additional rounds and a knife, McDonagh said.

"But for the great response by the people of Seattle Pacific, this incident might have been much more tragic," he said.

The man in custody was not a student at the school, McDonagh told a news conference.

Four people, including the young man who died, were taken to Harborview Medical Center. A critically wounded 19-year-old woman was in intensive care late Thursday after five hours in surgery, hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg said. A 24-year-old man was hospitalized in satisfactory condition. A Seattle Fire Department official said the man



ELANE THOMPSON/AP

Students and faculty pray together following a shooting on the campus of Seattle Pacific University Thursday. Seattle police say one suspect is in custody.

suffered "pellet type wounds" to his neck and chest.

A 22-year-old man was treated and released, Gregg said. Police said he suffered minor injuries during the struggle with the suspect.

None of the victims was immediately identified.

Aaron R. Ybarra, 26, was booked into the King County Jail late Thursday for investigation of homicide, according to police and the jail roster.

Also late Thursday, police who said they were serving a warrant

entered a house that was believed to be tied to Ybarra. A phone message left at that house in the north Seattle suburb of Mountlake Terrace was not immediately returned.

Messages left with friends and relatives of Ybarra via social media were not immediately returned.

The Seattle Times reported that the suspect's father, Ambrose Ybarra, said he didn't know anything about the shooting.

"We just hope he's safe," he told the newspaper. "It's upsetting to

have these accusations thrown around. We're in emergency mode. We are trying to stay calm."

The paper said Zack McKinley described himself as one of Ybarra's closest friends and said he was "super happy and friendly."

McKinley said the attack was puzzling because Ybarra was happy to have just started a job bagging groceries at a store.

He said Ybarra didn't do drugs or drink alcohol and spent time writing. Ybarra could get emotionally low, but McKinley said he had a good group of friends and

'There are a number of heroes in this. The people around him (the gunman) stepped up.'

Paul McDonagh
Seattle Assistant Police Chief

never saw him depressed.

Student Chris Howard was at Otto Miller Hall when the shooting happened. He said he saw the wounded woman on the floor being tended to by a classmate. Her chest was bloodied. Her phone was covered in blood, but she asked her helpers to look through her phone for her mother, aunt and best friend.

"She was panicking," Howard said. "She said 'I think I'm going to die.'"

Soon after, police arrived. By then the suspect had been subdued. Howard ran outside and back through the lobby where he saw the man pinned on the floor.

"The suspect was calm. Not speaking, not moving. Not struggling. Just there," Howard said.

The shooting came a week before the end of the school year.

McDonagh said he did not know the gunman's motive or intended target. Detectives are "working as quickly as we can to figure it out," he said.

"It appears the suspect acted alone," McDonagh said.

The university locked down its campus for several hours, and it alerted students and staff to stay inside. Some students were taking finals in the building that the shooter entered.

Ferret fans hope NY lifts 15-year-old critter ban

BY KAREN MATTHEWS
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For 15 years, ferrets in New York City have been living in the shadows, outlawed under Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who famously told a ferret fancier that "this excessive concern with little weasels is a sickness."

Now there's a bit of hope for the slinky creatures. Years of lobbying by ferret owners has finally landed an audience in Mayor Bill de Blasio's administration, which says it could hold a hearing by the end of the year on a measure to make ferrets legal once again.

"Why would you ban ferrets?" asks Candace Lucas, who has owned ferrets for about 25 years and currently shares her Manhattan apartment with 6-year-old Tink. "How is a ferret any different than having a dog or a cat?"

Ferrets are legal in most of the



RICHARD DREW/AP

Candace Lucas poses for photos with her pet ferret, Tink, in her New York apartment on Wednesday.

U.S. but are prohibited in California and Hawaii and in some municipalities, including New York City for the stated health department reason of "vicious, unprovoked attacks on humans." Backers say ferrets don't attack unless they have been starved or abused.

But it's not like there's a history of problems with the animals.

The city says it knows of only two ferrets that were banished after neighbors complained. And while the city's pet stores don't sell ferrets, they do sell ferret food, hinting of a Big Apple ferret population burrowed deeply "underground."

While the city's health department agreed last week to a ferret hearing, the mayor himself has been publicly noncommittal.

Employers add 217,000 jobs; joblessness rate unchanged

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added 217,000 jobs in May, a substantial gain for a fourth-straight month, fueling hopes that the economy will accelerate after a grim start to the year.

The May figure was down from 282,000 in April, a figure that the government revised slightly down, the Labor Department said Friday. But monthly job growth has now averaged 234,000 for the past three months, up sharply from 150,000 in the previous three.

The unemployment rate, which is calculated from a separate survey, remained 6.3 percent.

The job market has reached a significant milestone: Nearly five years after the Great Recession ended, the economy has finally regained all the jobs lost in the downturn.

More job growth is needed, though, because the U.S. population has grown nearly 7 percent since then. Economists at the

liberal Economic Policy Institute have estimated that 7 million more jobs would have been needed to keep up with population growth.

In addition, pay growth remains below levels typical of a healthy economy. Average wages have grown roughly 2 percent a year since the recession ended, well below the long-run average annual growth rate of about 3.5 percent.

In May, average hourly pay rose 5 cents to \$24.38. That's up 2.1 percent from 12 months ago and barely ahead of inflation, which was 2 percent over the same period.

One reason for the weak pay growth: Many of the jobs added since the recession ended in June 2009 have been in lower-paying industries. A similar pattern was evident in May: Hotels, restaurants and entertainment companies added 39,000 jobs. Retailers gained 12,500. Manufacturers added 10,000 jobs, construction firms 6,000.

NATION

Slaying exposes deeply rooted Chicago violence

By DON BABWIN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — When a 14-year-old Chicago girl was arrested on charges that she shot and killed another 14-year-old Chicago girl, much of the attention centered on how the shooting stemmed from an argument over a boy that was playing out on Facebook.

But to hear police, prosecutors and the victim's friends tell it, the slaying of Endia Martin was also a tragedy that could have been stopped by many people along the way — from a trusted uncle charged with bringing the teen a gun and watching as she opened fire, to an aunt who authorities said did not step in, to the victim, herself, who did not heed classmates' warnings that she risked facing a gun on that April afternoon.

The war of words ended with Martin joining the longest list of homicides in any city in the nation — offering a glimpse at a life and death in some pockets of Chicago, where a reflex to grab a gun has become entrenched enough that even the victim understood the war had been joined.

"They are making her look like a monster when she was just a

love-starved child who turned to the wrong person," said Jerry Thomas, 48, a neighbor of the girl and acquaintance of the uncle, Donnell Flora, 25, who is charged with first-degree murder. "This thing took both children's lives."

The girl charged with shooting Martin in the back on April 28 was to appear in juvenile court Friday on a first-degree murder charge. The Associated Press is not releasing her name because she is a minor.

Martin, a vibrant girl who wanted to be a nurse like her mother, became the latest symbol of the violence that has put Chicago at the center of a national debate about gun crime. In 2012, the city recorded more than 500 homicides — nearly 100 more than New York and 200 more than Los Angeles. The numbers have since dropped, though Chicago still leads the nation as stories of bloodshed accumulate.

Endia Martin's death highlights another part of the same Chicago story. Not of a gang dispute, but one of neighborhoods where police say firearms are so easy to find, so accepted, that a good student and respectful child allegedly contacted an uncle — himself,



JESSICA KOSCIELNIAK, (CHICAGO) SUN-TIMES MEDIA/AP

Family and friends of Endia Martin sign posters at a makeshift memorial during an April 30 vigil for the girl who was shot and killed April 28 in Chicago.

police say, a known gang member who has been in a wheelchair since he was shot in 2010 — and asked him to bring her a gun.

The minister who eulogized Endia at her funeral said he sees Flora as a man passing on a way of life that he can no longer have himself.

"If you're shot and paralyzed, what do you do?" asked Pastor Larry Martin, who is not related to Endia. "You can't be the villain in the neighborhood in a wheelchair, but you can help empower someone else."

Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy made a similar point

after Flora's arrest, pointing to his refusal to cooperate with investigators after he was shot as a "classic example of the cycle of violence ... that exemplifies what we are up against." McCarthy points to the prevalence of guns, and lenient sentences for gun crimes, as one of the main problems behind the city's violence.

The teen charged in the slaying was, according to Thomas, a nice girl who always had a book in her hand and said hello on her way to school. Both she and her uncle are represented by Cook County's public defender's office, which declined to comment.

Authorities also contended the suspect's aunt could have intervened. During a court hearing, a police officer testified that Vandetta Redwood, 32, encouraged the suspect and other teens to "kick their ass" as they rode a bus that day.

Footage from a cellphone camera appears to confirm Redwood was at the fight, said her attorney. But he argued there was no evidence she played a role in the shooting and a judge agreed, dismissing mob action and obstruction charges against her. Redwood declined comment.

Rural clinics increasingly turning to telemedicine

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
The Associated Press

WAGNER, S.D. — Fifty years in farming had given Tom Soukup a few brushes with his own mortality, but after a cow pinned him against a wall, death felt closer than ever. He lay on the muddy ground and began to pray, every gasp feeling like a stab to the chest.

Although the nearest clinic was just a 10-minute drive from Soukup's South Dakota ranch, the doctor on duty did not have much experience treating such injuries. He had rarely inserted chest tubes and wanted guidance from another physician without having to consult a medical reference book.

So the clinic in tiny Wagner connected by video to doctors in Sioux Falls, who talked him through the steps to stop the bleeding and to drain the blood collecting inside the 72-year-old man back in March 2010.

It's a system that's gaining wider use across the rural U.S., where there are often few primary care doctors and even fewer emergency rooms. Although so-called telemedicine has been



JEREMY WALTNER/AP

Rancher Tom Soukup looks at a video monitor in March at a hospital in Wagner, S.D., that connects its clinic with Avera Health physicians in Sioux Falls, S.D.

around for at least two decades, the practice is fast becoming a standard feature in many small communities, even as other public services such as police and fire protection decay.

Soukup watched the monitor on the wall as the "doctor in Sioux

Falls was telling the doctor down here how to do that procedure."

A growing number of South Dakota health care providers are being assisted by a 24-hour emergency medicine hub based in Sioux Falls that uses two-way audio and video feeds.

The operator, Avera Health, has a telemedicine network that includes 86 hospitals in seven states in the West and Midwest. It expects to have contracts with 100 facilities by the end of the year.

The rapid expansion in telemedicine has led facilities to link up with providers well beyond their immediate region.

Since the first hospitals were connected in 2008, Avera's system has hosted more than 9,500 video encounters — about 4,000 within the last 12 months.

Not all of the hospitals connected to the network are part of Avera Health, and they must pay for the equipment and a yearly rate for the service.

The operator declined to provide the average cost of the service, citing competitive reasons. But Avera's senior vice president of quality initiatives, Deanna Larson, said the amount each hospital pays is less than the average salary of an emergency physician, which is about \$270,000, according to industry estimates.

North Dakota has 29 facilities connected to the network, the largest number of any state. South Dakota has 23 connections,

and Minnesota has 18.

When Soukup arrived at the clinic, nurses and the doctor on call quickly concluded that the 1,400-pound cow had punctured one of his lungs. Within seconds, they connected with the e-Emergency service with the push of a button on a wall.

The Sioux Falls staff guided Soukup's physician as he made a 1-inch incision between the ribs, pushed a finger through muscles and cleared the way for a tube.

At the same time, nurses in Sioux Falls charted all medications administered to Soukup, allowing the Wagner nurses to keep their hands on the patient instead of jotting down notes. A Sioux Falls physician located a helicopter to pick up the patient and transferred his record to the receiving hospital, expediting the transport and avoiding duplication of tests.

Soukup made a full recovery but now leaves most of the farmwork to his son-in-law so he can spend winters in Arizona with his wife, Linda.

"Fifteen years ago," Linda Soukup said, "this probably would have had a different outcome."

NATION

Texas GOP advances 'reparative therapy' for gays

By PAUL J. WEBER AND WILL WEISSERT
The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Texas Republican Party would endorse psychological treatment that seeks to turn gay people straight under a platform party aimed at rebuking laws in California and New Jersey that ban so-called "reparative therapy" on minors.

A push to include the new anti-gay language survived a key vote late Thursday at the Texas Republican Convention where, across the street, tea party star Sen. Ted Cruz fired up attendees at a rally to defend marriage as between a man and a woman.

Under the proposed plank, the Texas GOP will "recognize the legitimacy and efficacy of counseling, which offers reparative therapy and treatment for those patients seeking healing and wholeness from their homosexual lifestyle."

The full convention of nearly 10,000 delegates from across Texas will take a final



Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, avoided a question about his state party's platform on gays Thursday.

vote on the platform Saturday.

Gay conservatives in Texas could emerge with a rare victory on a separate issue: removing decades-old platform language that states, "Homosexuality tears at the fabric of society."

Stripping that phrasing survived a sometimes-tense challenge from hardliners who not only wanted to preserve it, but wanted to replace "homosexuality" with "sexual sins."

"I really beg my social conservative colleagues to let this issue go," said Rudy Oeftering, a Dallas businessman and vice president of the gay Republican group Metroplex Republicans. "It's your opinion. It's your belief — but it's my life."

That issue also faces a full vote Saturday. The Texas Republican Convention has long been unfriendly territory for gays, even conservative ones. For years, the party has refused to let gay GOP organizations rent booths in the convention hall.

The therapy language was inserted at the urging of Cathie Adams of Dallas, leader of the influential tea party group Texas Eagle Forum and a onetime chairwoman of the Texas Republican Party.

Adams, whose group backed tea party outsiders who dominated Texas Republican primary races this year, said she simply promoted language proposed by a man who she says was helped by such therapy.

"He knows what he's talking about. She is one of those who has benefited," Adams said. "I think the majority of Texans feel that way too. It's not like this is mandatory. This is only a voluntary program."

Cruz ducked a question about his state party's platform on gays, saying he would leave it up to the "grass roots at the convention."

Counseling banned in California, New Jersey

■ In August, New Jersey became the second U.S. state to ban licensed therapists from trying to turn gay teenagers straight. The bill was signed by Republican Gov. Chris Christie, a possible 2016 presidential candidate who opposes same-sex marriage but has said that he believes people are born gay and that homosexuality isn't a sin.

■ Judges on a federal appeals court also upheld a similar ban in California last fall, saying that trying to change a minor's sexual orientation through intense therapy appeared dangerous. The California Legislature has cited reports, experts and anecdotes involving suicides, substance abuse and other behavior by young recipients of the therapy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Faith little discussed on SC campaign trail

By JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Sen. Lindsey Graham's six Republican primary challengers frequently and loudly question whether he's conservative enough. But, in a deeply religious state, they haven't questioned his faith.

Graham's opponents have made some aspect of their faith part of their campaigns. Graham hasn't made it part of his pitch to voters.

Nationwide, many Republicans this year have not tied their conservatism to Christianity. In Mississippi, Sen. Thad Cochran has been fending off a tea party-backed challenger attacking his conservative credentials, while Rep. Jack Kingston and former Dollar General CEO David Perdue have locked horns over economic issues in Georgia's U.S. Senate race.

Some of that hinges on making sure Democrats don't get any ammunition since Graham's seat is a virtual lock for Republicans. A Democrat can't attack his GOP opponent for not being conservative enough, but character attacks can transcend party lines, said College of Charleston political scientist Gibbs Knotts.

"To make more personal accusations, that's a difficult thing and they can stick harder. Also, those strategies are a lot harder to make work. And the last thing Republicans want to do is hand a solid seat back to Democrats," Knotts said.

While Graham's faith isn't part of his stump speech, he said it is a large part of his life.

He said he would never have been able to deal with the deaths of his mother and father within 18 months of each other when he was in college without believing in God, and he tries to lead the country with a kind heart consistent with his Christian faith. But while he is a member of a Baptist

"The one thing I personally don't like is when a politician gets too preachy."

Sen. Lindsey Graham
R-S.C.

church in Seneca, S.C., he also said politics and religion don't mix well.

"The one thing I personally don't like is when a politician gets too preachy," Graham recently said outside a Columbia forum sponsored by Palmetto Family, a group whose goal is to influence issues through biblical principles.

Many of Graham's opponents in Tuesday's primary have no problem trumpeting their religious beliefs. Det Bowers talks about how he quit a six-figure job as a lawyer to become a preacher. Businessman Richard Cash runs commercials simulating him getting a mug shot and telling voters he has been arrested 10 times in peaceful protests outside abortion clinics. State Sen. Lee Bright is a board member of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. All six candidates tout marriages and have photos of them with their spouses and children on their websites.

In earlier campaigns, opponents and their surrogates have made a big deal of the fact the 58-year-old senator has never married. Graham's opponents don't mention that much this time.

Even at places where faith would be expected to be a big deal, the issue hasn't come to the front. At the Palmetto Family event, candidates were questioned individually for 10 minutes. Almost all the questions were policy-related except the first one, given in advance to the candidates, asking what they would do to help fami-



TRACY GLANTZ, THE STATE/AF

Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham isn't making faith part of a pitch to voters, but he says it is a vital part of his life. Graham is a heavy favorite to retain his seat when South Carolinians vote Tuesday.

lies in the state. Almost all of Graham's challengers spoke about how the country needed to stop gay marriage and took a swipe at Graham for being one of the few Republicans to vote to confirm President Barack Obama's choices for the U.S. Supreme Court, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, both considered liberal justices.

In his answer, Graham said

divorce and domestic violence are the biggest problems facing families. He asked audience members to give to shelters and said improving the economy will help alleviate financial pressures that can lead to marriages breaking up.

Graham is a heavy favorite to win his race Tuesday and needs 50 percent plus one vote to avoid a runoff later in June.

Clinton writes that she wanted to end embargo on Cuba

PARIS — In her new book, former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says she pushed President Barack Obama to lift ease the decades-long U.S. embargo on Cuba because it was no longer useful to American interests or promoting change on the communist island.

In excerpts of the book "Hard Choices" obtained by The Associated Press ahead of its release next week, Clinton writes that the embargo has given communist leaders Fidel and Raul Castro an excuse not to enact democratic reforms. She also says opposition from some in Congress to normalizing relations — "to keep Cuba in a deep freeze" — has hurt the United States and the Cuban people. She says the 2009 arrest by Cuba of USAID contractor Alan Gross and Havana's refusal to release him on humanitarian grounds is a "tragedy" for improving ties.

She says that late in her term she urged Obama to reconsider the embargo. "It wasn't achieving its goals," she writes, "and it was holding back our broader agenda across Latin America."

The steps Obama took, including allowing more travel to Cuba and increasing the amount of U.S. Cuban-Americans can send back to the island, have had a positive effect, she writes.

From The Associated Press



Hillary Rodham Clinton

WORLD

Man suspected of killing Canadian Mounties captured

The Associated Press

MONCTON, New Brunswick — The suspect in the killing of three Royal Canadian Mounted Police was arrested unarmed early Friday, ending a massive manhunt that paralyzed much of an eastern Canadian city.

"I'm done," a witness said he told police.

Police said at a news conference that they received a tip that led them to a wooded residential part of Moncton, where they found Justin Bourque, 24, suspected in the deadliest attack on Canada's national police force in nearly a decade.

Bourque had been armed with high-powered long firearms and had been spotted three times Thursday, eluding the massive manhunt that all but shut down the normally tranquil city about of about 60,000 people east of the Maine border. Nearly 300 police officers were involved in the search for Bourque.

RCMP Supt. Marlene Snowman said Bourque was arrested in a wooded Moncton area at 12:10 a.m. without incident. She said no weapons were on him, but were found nearby. Charges were to be brought later Friday.

Michelle Thibodeau said she saw the man arrested in the front yard of her home and heard him say, "I'm done," before his arrest by officers with guns drawn.

Roger Brown, commanding officer of RCMP in New Brunswick, choked back tears as he addressed media Friday morning.

"Fortunately most people will never have to experience what our officers have gone through in the last two days," he said. "I can't dig deep enough to explain the sadness that we all feel."

Brown identified the dead as Constables David Ross, 32, originally of Victoriaville, Quebec; Fabrice Georges Guevaudan, 45, originally of Boulogne-Billancourt in France; and Douglas James Larche of Saint John, New Brunswick.

Snowman and other RCMP officials did not release any more details about Bourque's arrest or the circumstances of the shooting, citing their ongoing investigation. Details will be made public in court, she said. Police have not spoken about a possible motive.

Residents of Bourque's trailer park said he was a quiet, seemingly reclusive man who shared a small, worn trailer with a roommate.

Kerry Fitzpatrick, who lives half a block away from Bourque, was at home when he heard the sound of gunfire.

Fitzpatrick said Bourque "obviously had things on his mind," based on a stretch of recent Facebook posts about guns and the police, but did not take it seriously.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, left, Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Ukrainian president-elect Petro Poroshenko talk after a group photo Friday in Normandy, France.

Russia, Ukraine leaders speak of end to violence

The Associated Press

QUISTREHAM, France — The American, Russian and incoming Ukrainian presidents spoke face-to-face about ending Ukraine's violence, a diplomatic turning point that played out Friday along the blood-soaked beaches where the Allies battled for Europe's peace 70 years earlier.

The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Ukrainian president-elect, Petro Poroshenko, called for the "soonest end to bloodshed in southeastern Ukraine and combat by both parties, the Ukrainian armed forces and supporters of the federalization of Ukraine," in a statement carried by Russian news

wires.

Putin, who was frozen out of G-7 talks Thursday in Brussels, appeared to be moving incrementally back into the fold of the West following his first direct talks with the man elected to lead Ukraine after the previous pro-Kremlin president was ousted in what Putin has compared to a coup.

In their eagerly anticipated contact, Putin and Poroshenko discussed how Russia could recognize the Ukrainian elections, and a possible cease-fire, said an official at French President Francois Hollande's office, who spoke anonymously.

Candy magnate Poroshenko, who is to be sworn in as Ukraine's

next president on Saturday, has promised a comprehensive plan to put an end to the hostilities in the east as soon as he assumes office.

Putin held his first face-to-face meetings with Western leaders in France this week since pro-European protesters pushed out Ukraine's Russia-friendly president in February. Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula, and the U.S. and EU imposed sanctions in response. He even met informally with President Barack Obama.

The roughly 15-minute conversation on the sidelines of a lunch for world leaders in France was casual and didn't rise to the level of a formal bilateral meeting, the White House said.



VICTOR PIVOVAROV, THE CANADIAN PRESS, MONCTON TIMES & TRANSCRIPT, TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM/AP

A heavily armed man that police identified as Justin Bourque walks Wednesday in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Officials: Attacks kill 20 people in Iraq

BAGHDAD — A back-to-back car bombing targeting an ethnic minority in northern Iraq and militant attacks on Iraqi soldiers and police killed at least 20 people on Friday, officials said.

Since last year, militants have escalated attacks in Iraq, with violence surging to levels not seen since 2006 and 2007.

The double bombing struck in the morning in Tahrara, a village inhabited by families from the Shabak ethnic group, killing seven members of the minority. The village is near Mosul. Police officials also said that 43 people

were wounded in the explosions.

The Shabak have their own distinct language and belief system, which is an offshoot of Shiite Islam.

Also Friday, clashes broke out in Mosul after gunmen attempted to seize an army ammunition depot.

The attack was repelled, but six soldiers were killed and five others were wounded, police said.

Also in Mosul, clashes in several neighborhoods left seven members of the security forces dead, along with 16 militants who tried to take control of some neighborhoods in the city. By the afternoon, the clashes died out and the militants were forced to withdraw from the city.

From The Associated Press

Ukraine: 15 rebels slain in border clashes

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — At least 15 pro-Russian rebels were killed in clashes with government troops at a border crossing with Russia, an aide to the Ukrainian interior minister said Thursday.

Speaking on a television show late Thursday, Anton Heraschenko said Ukrainian border guards clashed earlier in the day with armed men who came from Russia in trucks and an infantry vehicle and tried to cross the border at the village of Marynivka in eastern Ukraine.

Heraschenko said the attackers were supported by about a hundred rebels who came from the Ukrainian side of the border. Five Ukrainian troops were injured and 15 rebels were killed, and their bodies were taken to a nearby town, he said.

His account could not be confirmed independently.

Ukrainian government troops for weeks have been clashing with pro-Russian rebels who dismiss the Kiev government as illegitimate and are now seeking independence.

Following the clash, Ukraine's government or-



VADIM GHIRDA/AP

Ukrainian soldiers man a checkpoint Thursday outside the town of Amrovsiivka, eastern Ukraine, near the Russian border.

dered the closing of parts of the border with Russia, including the Marynivka crossing, in an attempt to prevent armed men from infiltrating into its territory. The Russian Foreign Ministry said it was "outraged" by this move.

WORLD

N. Korea says it is holding American tourist

Man detained over unspecified crimes is 3rd US citizen currently being held in country

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Friday it has detained an American tourist for committing an unspecified crime, the third U.S. citizen being held there.

The Korean Central News Agency said authorities were investigating him for committing acts inconsistent with the purpose of a tourist visit. It did not give details.

"American citizen Jeffrey Edward Fowle

entered the DPRK as a tourist on April 29 and acted in violation of the DPRK law, contrary to the purpose of tourism during his stay," KCNA reported, referring to the country's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Two other Americans are being held in North Korea.

A man was detained in April for alleged improper behavior while entering the country. North Korea identified him as Miller Matthew Todd, 24, possibly put-

ting his surname first. It said he entered the country on April 10 with a tourist visa, but tore it up and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum. The brief report said he chose the North "as a shelter."

North Korea has been holding a Korean-American missionary, Kenneth Bae, since November 2012. Bae was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for what the North says were hostile acts against the state.

North Korea has been pushing to promote tourism as part of efforts to earn

badly needed foreign currency, but the country is also extremely sensitive about how visitors act while in the country.

Friday's announcement came as tension on the Korean Peninsula remains high with North Korea keeping up rhetoric against the U.S. and South Korea following its series of missile and rocket launches earlier this year. The North's state media has also unleashed racist and sexist slurs against U.S. and South Korean leaders.



AP

Germany officially acknowledged its Federal Intelligence Service monitoring base in Bad Aibling on Friday, attaching the agency's logo to the entrance of the site. The site, until now, was called the "Telecommunications Traffic Office of the German Armed Forces."

German spy agency acknowledges secret sites

By **FRANK JORDANS**
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's foreign intelligence agency officially lifted the lid on some of its worst-kept secrets Friday, acknowledging that half a dozen facilities around the country are in fact spy stations — as anyone with Internet access could already figure out.

The Federal Intelligence Service, known by its German acronym BND, maintained the facade for decades that it had nothing to do with sites bearing cryptic names such as "Ionosphere Institute."

But amateur sleuths long suspected their true identities and posted them on

websites such as Wikipedia.

The subterfuge wasn't helped by the fact that some sites sport unmistakable signs of spy activity, like the giant golf ball-shaped radomes in Bad Aibling, near Munich — until now, the "Telecommunications Traffic Office of the German Armed Forces."

The agency held a ceremony at the site Friday to attach its logo officially to the entrance.

The rebranding is part of an effort by BND chief Gerhard Schindler to make the work of Germany's spies more transparent. The agency has sought to distance itself from some of its counterparts following Edward Snowden's revelations about the U.S. National Security Agency, insist-

ing it follows the law and doesn't conduct unwarranted mass surveillance.

"It makes no sense, to give a simple example, that external sites of the BND are run with covert names if the fact that they belong to the BND can be read on the Internet," Schindler acknowledged in a public speech last year.

"If there's one thing that the man on the street will remember from the whole NSA debate in Germany, it's that the satellite ground stations in Bad Aibling belong to the BND," he added.

The six sites now officially acknowledged are mostly linked to the agency's signals intelligence work — jargon for eavesdropping on radio, data and phone traffic.

Pakistan: Agency pulls license of top news station

By **REBECCA SANTANA**
AND **MUNIR AHMED**
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's media regulatory agency on Friday suspended the operating license of the country's leading news channel for two weeks after a spat between the broadcaster and the country's powerful military.

The decision was announced Friday by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority. The organization suspended Geo News for 15 days and imposed a 10 million rupee fine — roughly \$100,000.

The Authority "took a strong notice of violations committed by Geo News and unanimously decided to immediately suspend the license of the said channel for a period of 15 days," the organization said in a brief statement emailed to the media.

Geo stayed on the air for a few hours and reported the news of its own license being pulled along with a graphic showing the Geo News logo wrapped in chains, before the signal was cut. Viewers then saw a blank screen with the message: "The license of Geo News has been suspended by PEMRA, therefore the broadcast of channel has been terminated."

The suspension is the latest challenge for the media company following an assassination attempt against its top news anchor, Hamid Mir, on April 19. Mir survived six gunshot wounds to the stomach and legs during the attack in Karachi, Pakistan's largest city, on the southern coast.

The station angered the country's powerful military intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence, by repeatedly airing accusations by Mir's brother that it was behind the attack.

The ministry of defense later petitioned the regulatory agency to pull Geo's license. The regulator has not made the complaint public but in a copy obtained by the Committee to Protect Journalists and posted on the CPJ website, the ministry blamed Geo for a "false and scandalous campaign" against the ISI and its officers.

Advocates of press freedom have condemned the efforts to suspend Geo News. CPJ said in a statement on April 22 that the ISI was free to rebut allegations against it but should not try to censor media coverage.



LUCA BRUNO/AP

Sister Cristina Scuccia performs after winning the final of the Italian version of "The Voice" in Milan on Thursday.

Italy's singing nun wins 'Voice'

The Associated Press

MILAN — A singing nun who became an Internet star for her unadorned pop song performances in full habit has triumphed at Italy's version of musical competition "The Voice."

Sister Cristina Scuccia clinched the top prize early Friday with five songs, including a choreographed rendition of the 1980s hit "Flashdance — What a Feeling," winning 62 percent of the votes.

The 25-year-old Scuccia recited the Lord's Prayer after winning and invited the studio audience and a skeptical panel of judges to join her, saying, "I want Jesus to enter here."

Scuccia became an Internet sensation from her first appearance in a blind audition on the show in March singing an Alicia Keys number. She chose bad-boy rapper J-Ax as her coach, who described the team as "the devil and holy water."

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 amrhain.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com; +49(0)631.3615.9310; cell +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385 5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 (+1)703693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com
 Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contacts

OMBUSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any complaints by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 31) on Fridays Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Postmaster: postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds to provide distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014
 stripes.com

OPINION

Where are China's good Samaritans?

By ADAM MINTER
 Bloomberg News

On Friday evening a cellphone camera captured the brutal murder of a woman at a McDonald's in China's Shandong Province. The footage is shaky, but the basic facts are not in dispute. The six Porsche-driving perpetrators were members of an apocalyptic cult; the murder itself was committed with an iron bar; and finally, and most disturbingly, the video clearly shows at least half a dozen witnesses to the act (including McDonald's employees), none of who intervene to save the victim.

It's this last fact that has transformed the video and the crime into one of the most intensely discussed topics on Chinese social media in several years (at one point last weekend it occupied five of the top 10 spots on Sina Weibo's trending topic list), prompting a round of national recriminations and soul searching. "I can't sleep to-night," wrote Cui Yongyan, a popular TV talk show host, to his Sina Weibo account at 4:35 a.m. Saturday. "Because I watched the video to see the killer and saw the bystanders and heard the woman's screams. If I'd been there, would I have helped her? Probably not, because in life we never imagine that we'll encounter such a situation." He concludes, solemnly. "Tonight, this is the Chinese people's collective shame."

It was a common sentiment in the immediate aftermath of the crime, and it was not without precedent. For the better part of a century, Chinese intellectuals and citizens alike have worried over and decried

China's lack of good Samaritans, and the collective spirit that is supposed to inspire and protect them. Every Chinese knows the most recent, infamous examples, including an ugly video in which a toddler is run over by a truck in a recycling market, and ignored by passers-by, as well as a well-known court case that had an elderly grandmother suing a young man for medical expenses after he helped her to a hospital.

What accounts for China's lack of good Samaritans? Theories vary, and point to factors as variable as the lack of obligations to strangers under the Confucian value system, and the social dislocation and mistrust that's inevitable in a rapidly urbanizing, formerly agrarian society. To be sure, there was very little social theorizing in the wake of the McDonald's murder. Instead there were recriminations and a sense that "something" had to be done. "As for the moral dimension of the problem," wrote Qiao Zhifeng, for the state-owned Yangtze River Network. "We need to introduce incentives, including rewards for courage, and material awards, as well."

Whether or not such policies will bring about a culture of good Samaritanism where none existed before is unlikely. Indeed, as discussion of the murder continued that week, there's been a decided shift in tone, away from the self-critical to the defensive. After all, accompanying a senior citizen to the hospital and jumping in front of a deranged cultist screaming "demon" as he beats someone with an iron bar are two very different kinds of good Samaritanism and — in the opinion of an

increasing number of online voices — it's crazy to expect everyone to do the latter.

"Everyone has the right to cowardice and retreat," wrote Yi Zhenxing, a well-known online video director, in a widely circulated tweet that he posted to Sina Weibo late Sunday morning. "Not every-one is capable of being a hero. Conscientious people are commendable and their courage is worthy of admiration, but not every ordinary person need shoulder such obligations." It's a fair point: a uniquely characteristic of a country that was theoretically founded on collective ideals (and prior to that, ruled by Confucian ideals), I'd added: "We should love ourselves before loving others and ensure our own safety before helping others."

By now the angry denunciation of bystanders who did not intervene in the murder has given way to snide mocking of "keyboard heroes" who denounce the injustice and perceived cowardice of others from behind a handle. On Sunday, the cartoonist Wang Liming posted an eight-panel comic to his Sina Weibo account that brings this cultural trope to life in the guise of "Keyboard Man," a mild-mannered Clark Kent type who by day studiously ignores social ills. By night, however, he transforms into a muscular superhero who spends his time berating others — from the safety of his computer. It's a cutting commentary, yet one that's unlikely to make any difference to a Chinese society in need of an occasional hero.

Adam Minter is a Columbia writer based in Asia, who covers politics, culture, business and junk. He is the author of "Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion Dollar Trash Trade."

Miss. runoff could be Democrats' big break

By ALBERT R. HUNT
 Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON Democrats think they may have a gift, the next Todd Akin, which would enhance their prospects of retaining control of the Senate. He is Mississippi Republican state legislator Chris McDaniel, a right-winger who has forced incumbent Sen. Thad Cochran into a runoff. The general history of Southern runoffs is not favorable to incumbents who fail to get half the vote the first time.

Round 2 is slated for June 24, although that could run afoul of some legal requirements that there should be more than three weeks between the initial and the final votes. If the 76-year-old Cochran wins he seems a near certainty in the general election. But if McDaniel, 41, prevails, Democrats believe that makes it a very competitive race for their candidate, Travis Childers.

More worrisome for Republicans is the possibility that McDaniel becomes their 2014 version of Todd Akin, the Missouri Senate candidate two years ago whose extreme views — talking about "legitimate rape" — cost his party the seat and forced Republicans on the defensive in races elsewhere. Democrats say support for McDaniel may offer a similar litmus test.

They have ammunition. For starters, he's spoken in front of and praised the Sons of Confederate Veterans. That's likely to

embarrass Republicans nationally; Democrats would use it as a vehicle to energize turnout among blacks, likely to be crucial in Mississippi and several other senate contests. In Mississippi, blacks comprise anywhere from 30 percent to more than 35 percent of the electorate; the higher end of that range, fueled by McDaniel, would augur well for Childers.

McDaniel, a member of the ultra-conservative caucus in the Mississippi Legislature and a former radio talk show host, has given critics other ammunition too. He has referred to Latino women as "Mamacitas" which, he explained, means "hot mama."

Potentially most lethal was an effort by some activists to sneak into a nursing home and photograph Cochran's wife, who is suffering from dementia. One of the suspects, law enforcement officials said, has links to the McDaniel campaign, which denies any involvement.

On substantive issues, McDaniel's views are pretty standard right-wing conservative. He might give Democrats a slight opening with suggestions that Social Security has to be pared back or it'll go bankrupt, and that President Lyndon B. Johnson created "permanent underclass" who function "under the weight of a vicious cycle of lawlessness and dependency."

Democrats acknowledge a campaign against Cochran will be futile. Childers, 56, was a two-term conservative Democrat in Congress. These same Democrats

now believe against McDaniel he would have a real shot at picking up 20 percent to 25 percent of whites turned off by the Republican's extreme positions and the ugly campaign against Cochran.

Before the primary, national Republicans admitted they were nervous over a possible McDaniel upset. They particularly feared the "Akin effect," whereby his views would force other Republicans to either embrace or repudiate McDaniel. Still, the general feeling was McDaniel likely would squeak through in such a heavily Republican state.

Actually, with a huge African-American population, Mississippi is not as red, or Republican, as its neighbors Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee. In these three states, Barack Obama got less than 40 percent of the vote in the last presidential election; he got 44 percent in Mississippi.

Democrats currently hold a 55-to-45 advantage in the Senate; Republicans need a net gain of six seats to take control. There's a general consensus they will win at least two or three now held by Democrats; those prospects improved Tuesday when Joni Ernst, a state legislator and farmer's daughter, easily won the Republican primary in Iowa to face Democrat Bruce Braley in November. There are another half dozen contests up for grabs.

Albert R. Hunt is a Bloomberg View columnist. He was formerly the executive editor of Bloomberg News, directing coverage of the Washington bureau.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader letters information on this page.

OPINION

Obama leaves intel panel smarting again

BY GEORGE F. WILL

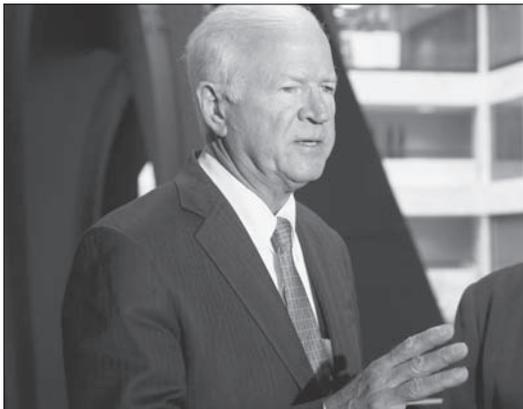
WASHINGTON

What Winston Churchill said of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles — that he was a bull who carried his own china shop around with him — is true of Susan Rice, who, is, to be polite, accident prone. When in September 2012 she was deputed to sell to the public the fable that the Benghazi attack was just an unfortunately vigorous movie review — a response to an Internet video — it could have been that she, rather than Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, was given this degrading duty because Rice was merely U.N. ambassador, an ornamental position at an inconsequential institution. Today, however, Rice is Barack Obama's national security adviser, so two conclusions must be drawn.

Perhaps she did not know, in advance of the swap of five terrorists for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the, shall we say, *ambiguities* about Bergdahl's departure from his platoon in Afghanistan, and the reportedly deadly consequences of his behavior. If so, then she has pioneered a degree of incompetence exotic even for this 10-thumbed administration. If, however, she did know, and still allowed Obama to present this as a mellow moment of national satisfaction, she is condign punishment for his choice of such hirelings.

Perhaps this exchange really is, as Obama said in defending it, an excellent thing "regardless of the circumstances, whatever those circumstances may turn out to be." His confidence in its excellent is striking, considering that he acknowledges that we do not know the facts about what would seem to be important "circumstances."

Such as the note Bergdahl reportedly left before disappearing, in which he supposedly said he did not approve of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan. And the notably strong and numerous expressions of anger by members of Bergdahl's battalion con-



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Senate Intelligence Committee Vice Chairman Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., says the Obama administration told him he would be notified about negotiations for the release of terrorists. He now says he cannot "believe a thing this president says."

cerning his comportment and its costs.

Obama did not comply with the law requiring presidents to notify Congress 30 days before such exchanges. Politico can be cited about this not because among the media it is exceptionally, well, *understanding* of Obama's exuberant notion of executive latitude but because it is not. Politico headlined a story on his noncompliance with the law "Obama May Finally Be Going Rogue on Gitmo." Politico said Obama's "assertive" act "defied Congress" — Congress, not the rule of law — in order "to get that process [of closing Guantana-

mo Bay prison] moving." It sent "a clear message" that "Obama is now willing to wield his executive powers to get the job done." Or as used to be said in extenuation of strong leaders, "to make the trains run on time."

The 44th president, channeling — not for the first time — the 37th (in his post-impeachment conversation with David Frost), may say: "When the president does it, that means that it is not illegal." Already the administration says events dictated a speed that precluded complying with the law.

This explanation should be accorded

open-minded, but not empty-minded, consideration. It should be considered in light of the fact that as the Veterans Affairs debacle continued, Obama went to Afghanistan to hug some troops, then completed the terrorists-for-Bergdahl transaction. And in light of the fact that Obama waged a seven-month military intervention in Libya's civil war without complying with the law (the War Powers Resolution) that requires presidents to terminate within 60 to 90 days a military action not authorized or subsequently approved by Congress.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee, says the administration told him he would be notified about negotiations for the release of terrorists. He now says he cannot "believe a thing this president says."

Obama says his agents "consulted with Congress for quite some time" about prisoner exchanges with the Taliban. Mike Rogers, R-Mich., chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, says there have been no consultations since 2011. Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., says "I don't like it when the White House says the intelligence committee was briefed. Because we weren't." He says Obama is "referring to ... 2011-2012, when I was still in grade school."

Now, now. "Assertive" presidents can't be expected to "go rogue" without ruffling feathers. And omelets cannot be made without breaking eggs. Etc.

This episode will be examined by congressional committees, if they can pierce the administration's coming cover-up, which has been foreshadowed by the response to congressional attempts to scrutinize the politicization of the IRS. If the military stalls on turning over files to Congress pertaining to the five years of Bergdahl's absence, we will at least know that there is no national institution remaining to be abused.

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

Desertion of Bergdahl defies rules of engagement

BY WILLIAM SALEATAN

State

WASHINGTON

The weekend deal that released Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl from five years of captivity, in exchange for five Taliban prisoners, was a relief to his family. But for President Barack Obama, it's an escalating headache. Critics accuse Obama of setting a precedent that the United States will negotiate with terrorists. They're wrong, because terrorism is about the exploitation of civilians, not soldiers. But they're also ignoring the precedent that's real at stake: keeping our promise to bring home our troops.

The terrorism charge, leveled by former Vice President Dick Cheney and other Republicans, focuses on the Haqqani network, which held Bergdahl captive. As CNN's Wolf Blitzer pointed out Tuesday, this network is on the U.S. State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations.

That's true. But scroll down to the bottom of the list. There, you'll find the legal criteria for inclusion. They refer to section 140(d)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which defines "terrorism" as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents."

Sgt. Bergdahl was not a noncombatant.

He was a prisoner of war, captured on the field of battle. Therefore, by definition, his capture wasn't terrorism. Negotiating for his release, trading enemy combatants for our own combatant, isn't a concession to terrorism. It's conformity with the longstanding tradition of exchanging POWs.

According to Sen. Ted Cruz, "The reason why the U.S. has had the policy for decades of not negotiating with terrorists is because once you start doing it, every other terrorist has an incentive to capture more soldiers." That's ridiculous. Terrorists didn't invent the capture of soldiers. It's a basic military objective, with a standard option to trade the enemy's soldiers for yours. The reason not to negotiate with terrorists is to discourage the seizure of civilians, not the seizure of soldiers.

So Obama's critics are better to believe that negotiating for Bergdahl sends a dangerous message to terrorists. But they're also ignoring the message his abandonment would have sent to our troops, their families, and prospective military recruits. It would have betrayed our pledge that if you're captured in service to our country, we'll free you.

The Code of Conduct for members of the armed forces, published more than half a century ago, details every servicemember's obligations to the military and the nation, even in captivity. In exchange, the code promises:

Just as you have a responsibility to your country under the Code of Conduct, the United States government has an equal responsibility — always to keep faith with you and stand by you as you fight for your country. If you are unfortunate enough to become a prisoner of war, you may rest assured that your government will care for your dependents and will never forget you. Furthermore, the government will use every practical means to contact, support and gain release for you and for all other prisoners of war.

The army's training pamphlet on being a POW repeats this commitment: "Every captured U.S. individual continues to be of special concern to the U.S. The U.S. government expresses this concern by ... employing every available means to establish contact with you and gain your release."

In light of that commitment, it's unwise to focus, as many critics of the Bergdahl deal do, on the circumstances of his capture. They say he left his post without authorization, provoking search and rescue operations that endangered other troops and led to several deaths. None of these claims has been adjudicated, and some of them are already unraveling. But the larger principle is that our allegiance to our soldiers has to be as solid as their allegiance to us. We don't have to love their character, any more than they have to love the character of their commanders. In the

military, loyalty transcends personality. And loyalty goes both ways.

It's not just Republicans who sometimes forget this. Some Democrats miss the point, too. Tuesday, Obama's spokesman, Jay Carney, insisted on CNN that Bergdahl served "with honor and distinction" because he "put on the uniform of the United States voluntarily and went to war. ... That takes honor and it is a mark of distinction." No, it's not a mark of distinction. It's what every soldier in our volunteer army does. And that's why we bring these people home. Our promise to them, like their promise to us, is without distinction.

Yes, there are limits to what we should trade for a POW. But "negotiating with terrorists" isn't one of them. Nor is the alleged carelessness of our captured soldier. From the comfort of a congressional office or a TV studio, it's easy to talk tough about the messages we send to our enemies. But for the people who put their lives on the line, the crucial messages are the ones we send to our friends: *I'll cover you. You cover me. We're here for each other. We'll get you out.*

We can't just say it. We have to mean it, even when it carries a price. Just ask all the soldiers who went to Afghanistan and, unlike Bergdahl, never came home.

William Saleatan covers science, technology and politics for Slate.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man burns feces behind Seattle police station

WA SEATTLE — The No. 1 thing Seattle police officers noticed Sunday at the East Precinct station was a fire in the alley. The next thing was No. 2.

A man told officers he had just relieved himself and was burning the feces. He said he did not know starting a fire was illegal and thought he did nothing wrong.

Because there were nearby trash bins with paper, the 31-year-old man was arrested for reckless burning.

The online police blotter says firefighters put out the fire and hosed down the alley.

Police spokeswoman Renee Witt said there's nothing in the report to indicate why the man thought burning human waste behind the police station was a good idea, but he was not referred for a mental evaluation.

Fake officer held after pulling over real one

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — Police said a man impersonating an officer faces charges after signaling a real detective to pull over on a road in Florida.

St. Johns County authorities said Matthew Michael Lee McMahon, 20, activated a red-and-blue light Monday while driving behind an unmarked sheriff's car. Detective Chance Anderson pulled over and was shocked to see an unknown face behind the wheel of the other car.

McMahon was charged with impersonating an officer and unlawfully displaying blue lights.

He was released Tuesday after posting \$5,500 in bail.

Wedding party falls into lake as dock collapses

MN CROSSLAKE — A wedding party took a plunge in Minnesota lake when a dock gave way under their weight.

Dan and Jackie Anderson lined up on a dock with all their groomsmen and bridesmaids for a photo shoot about an hour before the wedding was due to begin. But the weight of the 22 people was too much for the dock and it collapsed beneath them into the lake.

A couple of bridesmaids were able to dash off the dock, but the rest ended up in waist- or chest-deep water. The bride, groom and their entire wedding party were still drying off as the guests arrived for the wedding.

Police use hidden GPS unit to track stolen toy

GA ATHENS — Police in Georgia said they used a GPS device hidden inside a teddy bear to track down the toy and apprehend a suspect in the theft.

Athens-Clarke County police said Mid-Atlantic Clothing Recycling had been experiencing thefts of clothing from its collection bin at Georgia Square Mall. The Athens Banner-Herald reported that a company manager

THE CENSUS

5 The length (in feet) of an alligator that took up residence in a Mississippi woman's pool. Pam Jones opened her back door Monday morning to let out her dog when she spotted the alligator in the pool. The animal was swimming around, then climbed out to sun itself. Jones got the dog inside, shut the door and called the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. Officials captured the alligator after a 5-hour effort. The alligator was to be moved to an undisclosed location.



KEITH MYERS, THE KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR/AP

Another brick in the lawn

Artist Stan Herd, left, places a flagstone into the installation, "Young Woman of Brazil," on Wednesday in Kansas City, Mo. Bill Haw, who donated the land for the project along with 6,500 bricks, looks on. Herd is known as a sculptor of giant images formed of carefully laid rocks and plantings — best viewed aerially. A counterpart artwork in Brazil is planned to coincide with the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

concealed the GPS device inside the bear, placed it into a bag of clothing and tossed it into the collection bin.

About 5:30 a.m. Tuesday, the manager called police to report that the teddy bear was on the move. Police said the manager worked with the officer to update the stuffed animal's location, and a 55-year-old man was stopped and charged with theft by taking, a misdemeanor.

Hamster actor charged with disability fraud

CA LOS ANGELES — A man who played a dancing hamster in Kia car commercials and was a backup dancer for Madonna has been charged with California disability fraud.

The California Department of Insurance said Leroy Barnes, 27, of Los Angeles, collected \$51,000 in workers' compensation benefits in 2010 and 2011. Barnes claimed he was disabled when a piece of ceiling fell on him.

But the department said he made at least one Kia commercial, performed in a rap group, assisted in recording the song "Cat Daddy," and was a backup dancer for Madonna, Kelly Rowland and Chris Brown.

Barnes was arrested last month and is free on bail. He couldn't be reached for comment Wednesday.

Man pinned by branch credits son, 4, for help

MI BEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP — A man who was pinned under a large tree branch in Michigan's northwestern Lower Peninsula credits his 4-year-old son's quick efforts for helping to get him free.

Grant Groenwald said he was cutting wood Friday near his home in Manistee County's Bear Lake Township when a branch rolled onto him. His son, Quillan, said he was able to drag a chain saw to his dad.

"The whole thing rolled down on top of me," Groenwald said. "It hit me in the shoulder and hit in my elbow and just kind of knocked me off balance."

Groenwald used the chain saw to cut the branch while he was still pinned underneath, the station reported, and Quillan helped him back to a truck.

"I saved my daddy's life," Quillan said. "I got to drag the chain saw to him."

Groenwald has a broken ankle, which is expected to require sur-

gery. When he was trapped, Groenwald said his son didn't think he could help.

"I said, 'I need your help. Daddy's pinned,'" Groenwald said. "He said 'I can't, dad. I can't help you.' I said, 'You've got to. You're the only person I've got. You're my only savior.'"

Bear dead, hunter in hospital after mauling

MT BUTTE — Montana wildlife officials said a hunter who was attacked by a grizzly bear over the weekend is hospitalized in serious condition but didn't suffer life-threatening injuries.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks spokeswoman Andrea Jones said the victim remained in a Seattle hospital Wednesday in serious but stable condition. His name hasn't been released.

The father of the 47-year-old Stevensville man reported hearing a gunshot just before finding his son with serious injuries Sunday afternoon.

On Monday, his father led a bear specialist, state game wardens and U.S. Forest Service rangers into the area of extreme southwestern Montana where the attack occurred while the men

were hunting black bear.

Jones said the 10-year-old male grizzly died of a gunshot wound near where the hunter was mauling. She says an investigation is continuing.

Vandalized Santa Fe burro gets new tail

NM SANTA FE — A new tail is going onto the donkey.

The Albuquerque Journal reported artist Taylor Mott attached the new tail Tuesday to the well-known metal donkey statue in Santa Fe just weeks after it was mysteriously stolen.

Police have no clues on any possible tail bandits and are offering a \$1,000 reward.

The metal sculpture stands at one end of Santa Fe's Burro Alley.

The city of Santa Fe paid about \$4,000 to replace the tail, to repair three hooves and to remove graffiti.

The sculpture by artist Charles Southard is part of the city's collection of about 75 pieces of public art and was commissioned in 1988. It's valued at \$12,500.

From wire reports

ENTERTAINMENT



Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

Bob Newhart won his first Emmy last year. He was rewarded for his role as Arthur Jeffries on the popular TV sitcom "The Big Bang Theory." "He is the master of his craft. You can't really anticipate what he's going to do because his rhythms are so unique and his own," "Big Bang" series creator Chuck Lorre says of Newhart.

What about Bob Newhart?

BY SUSAN KING
Los Angeles Times

A few months shy of his 85th birthday, Newhart has entered the national-treasure phase of his career, proving it's still very hip to be square.

Bob Newhart had modest expectations in 1960 when Warner Bros. Records released his first comedy album, "The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart."

The recording, which included such seminal Newhart routines as Abraham Lincoln getting notes from his press agent before delivering the Gettysburg Address, was a marked contrast to the more edgy, controversial comedians of the day, such as Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl.

"I never thought much would come of these record albums, to be honest," said the affable comedian during a recent lunch near his California home. "I thought maybe 25,000 copies might sell. Then it went crazy."

How crazy? "Button-Down Mind" sold 1.5 million copies and earned two Grammy Awards.

Before Newhart became one of the hottest comedians on the scene, he was offered a role in the 1962 World War II film "Hell Is for Heroes." When the film finally started production several months later, Don Siegel was hired to direct and Steve McQueen was signed to star along with Bobby Darin and Fess Parker.

"It became a totally different movie," said Newhart.

By that time, Newhart was also in a totally different place in his career. He was being offered substantially more money to do nightclubs than he was making on the movie. So he came up with an idea to get out of the movie earlier than scheduled: He would suggest his character get killed.

"I would go up to Don Siegel and I'd say, 'You know when that tank comes over the hill, I could trip.' He said, 'Forget it. You're in the movie!' I was in it to the very end."

A few months shy of his 85th birthday, Newhart has entered the national-treasure phase of his career, proving it's still very hip to be square.

Several generations of TV audiences have watched his classic CBS sitcoms — 1972-1978's "The Bob Newhart Show" and 1982-1990's "Newhart" in syndication and DVD. Recently, Shout! Factory released the entire "The Bob Newhart Show" on DVD with several extra features, including new interviews with Newhart and other cast members — Bill Daily, Peter Bonerz and Jack Riley among them — and the 1991 CBS reunion special.

Newhart has also developed a fan base with young audiences thanks to his roles as Papa Elf in the 2003 Will Ferrell comedy "Elf" and for his role as Arthur Jeffries on

CBS' top-rated sitcom, "The Big Bang Theory."

Last September, Newhart finally won his first Emmy as the down-on-his-luck Jeffries, who, as Professor Proton, had hosted a tacky children's science series that Sheldon (Jim Parsons) and Leonard (Johnny Galecki) watched as kids. In a recent episode, Sheldon, Leonard and the gang learn that Arthur has died. But Sheldon discovers that Arthur will be there by his side as his own personal Obi-Wan Kenobi.

"The plan is whenever Jim has a problem, he comes to Obi-Wan to help him," said Newhart. "They told me the idea, and I thought it was great."

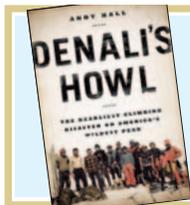
"Big Bang" show runner Steven Molaro came up with the idea of introducing a retired Mr. Wizard-esque character on the series. Series creator Chuck Lorre knew just the man.

"One of the smartest things I said in a while was, 'How about Bob Newhart?'" I called because I know him personally and asked him," Lorre said. "He was wide open because he liked the show."

Getting to work with Newhart has been a remarkable experience for the cast and crew of the series. "He is the master of his craft," said Lorre. "You can't really anticipate what he's going to do because his rhythms are so unique and his own."

Newhart does about 20 stand-up gigs a year and still finds it exciting to write — and rewrite — new routines.

"That is the enjoyment — taking a new piece of business, trying it out, expanding on it a little and making it a little longer," said Newhart. "Before you know it, you have five or six new minutes."



In 1967, twelve young men set out to climb Alaska's Mount McKinley—known as Denali—one of the world's most popular and deadly mountaineering destinations. At nearly 20,000 feet, they endured winds of up to 300 miles an hour, freezing flesh solid in minutes. Only five survived.

WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!

Stripes Book Club and Dutton, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., are proud to offer you a chance to win one of 10 signed copies of Andy Hall's DENALI'S HOWL.

Go to stripesrewards.com/bookclub to enter and win.



Penguin Group (USA)

BOOKS

Marion Winnick of Newsday has compiled a summer reading list that she describes as "a picnic with fiction of every flavor: fantasy, thriller, romance, satire and the ever-popular genre of books about people going to the beach."

"Cutting Teeth" by Julia Fiery

An ensemble of Park Slope parents you'll love to hate take their playgroup to a shabby summer cottage on the Gold Coast. Everybody's got problems and burning secrets, including the nanny, "the Tibetan Mary Poppins." Will Grace have another baby? Will Tiffany put some clothes on? Will Nicole have to go back on Zoloft? Is the world about to end? All will be revealed by Labor Day.

"The Vacationers" by Emma Straub

Off to Mallorca with the Post family: parents celebrating their 35th, daughter just graduated from high school, older son and his girlfriend, a gay couple who are close friends. Unfortunately, Dad has just lost his job as editor of a men's magazine for reasons that put a damper on the anniversary celebration. Great characters, delicious setting.

"Abroad" by Katie Crouch

Those who couldn't get enough of the Amanda Knox trial will enjoy the nasty, deadly adventures of an Irish girl who falls in with a bad crowd during her year of study in Italy. Sex games, jealousy, mean girls, money, booze, ancient Umbrian secrets, strange American roommate — it's all on the syllabus.

"Summer House with Swimming Pool" by Herman Koch

Dutch author Koch's reputation for creating irresistible stories about nasty people doing nasty things was established last summer with "The Dinner," now on its way to a screen adaptation directed by Cate Blanchett. This year's model focuses on the shady doings of a celebrity doctor whose star patient dies not long after he has raped the doc's teenage daughter during a stay at their villa on the Mediterranean.

"One Plus One" by Jojo Moyes

Housecleaner, bartender and single mom Jess Thomas can't make ends meet — and tech mogul Ed Nicholl has woes at the other end of the financial spectrum. Beloved British chick lit author Moyes brings the two together on the side of the road, where Jess is standing beside a broken-down Rolls-Royce with her two oddball kids and giant dog. They were on their way to a math Olympiad in Scotland when a cop pulled her over. Now they're en route to a love story.

"The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair" by Joel Dickler

A literary thriller by a Swiss 20-something who spent summers in New England, this 670-page translation from the French has taken Europe by storm. Its narrator, young novelist Marcus Goldman, is in a sophomore slump when his mentor, Harry Quebert, is arrested for the murder of a 15-year-old girl he was in love with 30 years earlier.

"The Last Magazine" by Michael Hastings

"My name is Michael M. Hastings and I'm in my twenties." The first sentence of this novel about an ambitious intern at New York news magazine is made poignant by the fact that the author, the non-fictional Michael Hastings, was killed in a car crash last year. His reporting from Iraq, Afghanistan and Washington is the basis of this debut novel, a behind-the-scenes eye-popper for politics and news junkies.



SUMMER READING

Lather on the sunscreen, get under an umbrella and enjoy a good book

From wire services

For many of us, summer reading is code for what we plan to take to the beach to occupy our time while our loved ones frolic in the waves. We've all noticed that the more additive the book, the less we're noticing the damage to our epidermis as we revel in the sun's ultraviolet glory.

After all, the goal is always to lose oneself in the literary experience, be it heavy or light. Light never has to mean frivolous.

novel because it is so massive, but fear not. You don't need to fully grasp the nuances of the Napoleonic wars to understand what this novel is about.

If you come from a family, then you'll understand the book's deepest meaning, thanks to Kaufman's erudition and scholarship. Turns out Tolstoy wrote "War and Peace" with our generation in mind, too.

"The Rise & Fall of Great Powers" by Tom Rachman
Every journalist you know has either read or intends to read Tom Rachman's 2013 literary debut, "The Imperfectionists," about the staff at an English-language newspaper in Rome. As a result, his sophomore effort is highly anticipated among writers. "The Rise & Fall of Great Powers" is not about newspapers, but it is about book lovers and book culture.

"Mr. Mercedes" by Stephen King

All you need to know is that a madman driving a Mercedes mows down eight unlucky souls at a job fair and drives off. Years later, a suicidal detective is roused from self pity to find and arrest the killer.

Yeah, of course there are twists. This is Stephen King.

"Prayer" by Philip Kerr
Someone is killing the nation's most prominent atheists in ways only the Lord himself could differentiate from legitimate acts of God. FBI agent Gil Martins is a lapsed Catholic based in Texas trying to make sense of these unfathomable acts. Oh, there's also a serial killer nicknamed St. Peter on the loose killing only good people. This is not your run-of-the-mill thriller.

"California" by Edan Lepucki
When the American economy collapses and anarchy reigns in the land, a couple from Los Angeles head for the hills where they have to forage for food and improvise shelter. They are quickly confronted by stark choices and must figure out whether reconnecting with other survivors would be worth the aggravation that comes with being a part of civilization.

Be warned: There are no zombies or mutants in this apocalyptic drama.

"The Martian" by Andy Weir

Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded alone on Mars after he is believed killed during a violent dust storm that forces his comrades to make an emergency launch back to Earth less than a week after arriving. Though injured, Watney figures out how to survive the hostile Martian environment with minimal supplies and food. His ultimate plan is to make it back to Earth, though it will be years until a rescue mission can be launched. His ingenuity is rewarded by dramatic failures and successes.

Be prepared to read this sci-fi thriller in two or three sittings.



MUSIC

RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES!



Courtesy of RCA Nashville

Instant classic!

Miranda Lambert examines darker side of celebrity on new album, 'Platinum'

BY CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

Miranda Lambert has learned something about human nature since becoming one of country music's most identifiable stars.

"People are very, very mean," she says of the tabloids that have made sport of her life, her looks and her marriage since her husband, Blake Shelton, joined NBC's musical competition "The Voice" as a celebrity coach.

Lambert's wild ride over the past two years is all over her ambitious, sprawling new album, "Platinum." The 30-year-old lays bare her life in many ways on songs that examine the darker aspects of celebrity, and she shows the tabloids have been getting everything wrong.

"There are people who literally, their only job is to make other people miserable, and that's a terrible way to live your life," Lambert said.

Lambert's multifaceted musical reaction to the gossip press helps make "Platinum," out this week, her most diverse album yet. It heads in many directions musically, from the rock 'n' roll of "Priscilla," "Girls" and "Little Red Wagon" to the singer-songwriter self-reflection of "Bathroom Sink" and "Hard Staying Sober."

"Priscilla" takes on the tabloids directly. In the song, Lambert identifies with Priscilla Presley and the troubles she must have experienced in her life with Elvis. The song resulted from a catch-up session between Lambert and songwriter Natalie Hemby as Lambert gathered material for "Platinum."

"When I get to write with her, I think she just lets her

down," Hemby said. "She doesn't have to be Miranda. I've known her before she was big and famous ... and I asked how she was doing. She said, 'According to the press, I'm pregnant or I'm fat or I'm getting divorced.' It just went on and on, and I just kind of laughed and said, 'Well, then you must be really successful.'"

Lambert says she's learning to live with all the attention. Her new trim look is a result of getting control of her emotions, she says, and not some darker reason. She simply no longer turns to corn dogs for solace when she reads an upsetting headline.

Tabloids aren't the only topic on "Platinum." There is plenty of joy and sass, just as there is in her life. She shows a beau the door in traditional country style on "All That's Left," featuring The Time Jumpers; examines her love of flea markets and her hatred of getting older on songs with titles that can't be reprinted; and teams up with Carrie Underwood for the powerhouse anthem "Somethin' Bad."

In the end, the album is as overstuffed as her life.

"Loretta Lynn say you've got to live a life in order to sing about it," Lambert said. "That's what I'm doing. The good, the bad and the ugly is on this record. It's who I am."

Country star takes on the tabloids!



Miranda Lambert

Platinum (RCA Nashville)

Let's cut to the chase: Miranda Lambert's new "Platinum" album isn't just the finest work of her already-strong career, it's also the best album so far in an already impressive 2014.

Lambert does it by forgoing marketing strategies and current trends. She simply follows her heart and speaks her mind.

It's hard to imagine another superstar singer daring to be as raw as Lambert is in "Bathroom Sink," where her chorus is "It's amazing the amount of rejection that I see in my reflection, but I can't get out of the way," while still managing to rock hard.

Lambert effortlessly bounces from the Western swing style of "All That's Left" with The Time Jumpers to the Def Leppard-styled arena rock of "Somethin' Bad" with Carrie Underwood. It's clear that "Platinum" isn't about packaging Lambert as some sort of salable country star, which was an issue with her last album. This is about ripping away the packaging to let Miranda be Miranda.

Whether it's the Bonnie Raitt-ish "Holdin' on to You" which she co-wrote with fellow Pistol Annie Ashley Monroe and Jessi Alexander, or the honky-tonk sing-along "Gravity's a Bitch," Lambert uses whatever country-leaning style suits her material best. She might be most effective, though, when, like her husband, Blake Shelton, she romanticizes the glory days of country, as she does in the first single, "Automatic," and the gorgeous "Another Sunday in the South."

Considering how great "Platinum" is, Lambert better watch out. She might be leading country into a new Golden Age.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday

VIDEO GAMES

By **BRIAN BOWERS**
Stars and Stripes

Ubisoft's "Watch Dogs" promises a new sort of open-world adventure, where a digital vigilante battles corrupt authorities in an effort to break their stranglehold on Chicago.

The game does a pretty good job of delivering on those promises — except for the "new" part.

Over the past few months, we have seen a number of games offer exactly the same scenario, "Batman: Arkham Origins," "Saints Row IV" and most recently "inFamous: Second Son" have featured protagonists with special abilities who fight villains in expansive city environments. And if you stretch the meaning of the term "special abilities" to include thuggery, you could add "Grand Theft Auto V" to the list.

In fact, "Watch Dogs" plays a lot like "Grand Theft Auto," with the major difference being that you shake down passers-by by hacking their cellphones instead of beating them to a pulp.

But none of this means that "Watch Dogs" isn't a good game.

It's well-designed, delivers superb graphics and offers action that's intense and engaging. And, although much of the game seems very familiar, it actually does present some interesting new gameplay opportunities, thanks to its hacking mechanics that allow players to enter each other's games.

You play as a hacker named Aiden Pearce. In the opening scene, Aiden stirs up trouble by trying to electronically loot a fancy hotel. This prompts a mysterious villain to strike back in an incident that kills Aiden's beloved niece and spurs a quest for vengeance.

As the game progresses, Aiden's journey leads us from downtown Chicago to gang-infested neighborhoods to the doorstep of the huge Blume Corp., which has Chicago under its digital thumb.

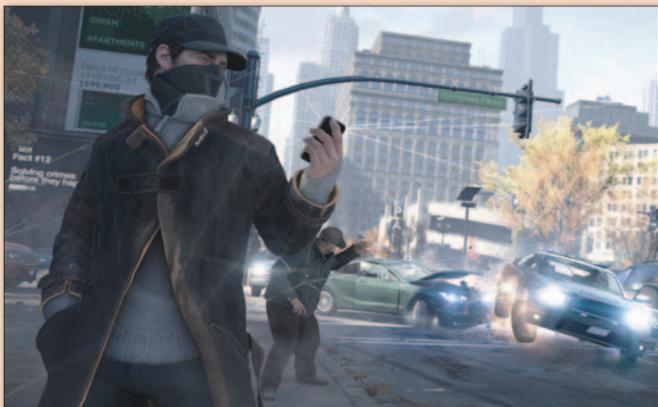
Aiden's main tool is his cellphone, which he can hack into Blume's electronic grid, which supports and connects practically everything that happens in Chicago. He can change stoplights, open doors, operate machinery, intercept transmissions, access video cameras, raise bridges and even cause local blackouts. The phone is helpful in gaining access, pilfering information, stealing funds and covering his tracks. It's like having Batman's entire arsenal of gadgets contained in one handy item.

But unlike the caped crusader, Aiden isn'taverse to killing his foes. He can use his phone to hack into anyone's security personnel. Or he can simply pull out a gun and blast away.

Many of the most satisfying events in the game combine hacking and gunplay. The campaign missions and side quests contain numerous battles, usually against gangsters and hitmen, against security personnel. And if you don't mind taking a

Hack with a vengeance

Well-designed 'Watch Dogs' offers intense action, superb graphics and new gameplay opportunities



Photos courtesy of Ubisoft

Set in Chicago, where a central network of computers connects everyone and everything, "Watch Dogs" explores the impact of technology within our society.



Overall grade: **B+**

major hit to your reputation, you can also do battle with Chicago's police department.

Although you can go into almost any encounter with guns blazing, I find it much more satisfying to sneak around the edges and use the electronic environment to soften up my enemies. For example, you can hack cameras and examine your foes and their surroundings for strengths and vulnerabilities. One enemy might be carrying explosives that you can detonate or have communications gear that you can silence. A wall might contain electrical equipment that can explode or a steam valve that can be released. It's usually possible to thin the ranks even further by using a silenced pistol before opening up with heavier weaponry.

But I have to admit that relying heavily on firearms seems to go against the spirit of the game. The defining element of "Watch Dogs" is hacking. The more you resort to

firearms, the more the game seems like "Grand Theft Auto" or "Saints Row."

No matter how you approach the battles, though, they are the most intense and enjoyable parts of the game.

The game also offers a lot of excellent puzzles. Aiden spends a lot of time gaining access to places he isn't wanted or investigating crimes that turn up during campaign missions. Many of these involve using a network of cameras to locate and unlock access points. Others involve manipulating elements of a "computer code" to create a path to the desired information.

While Aiden does a lot of crime-solving and gang-busting, his path isn't exactly straight and narrow. Of course that shouldn't be a surprise since his journey was sparked with a failed heist and propelled by vengeance. In addition to leaving a trail of bodies in his wake, Aiden funds his operations by hacking bank info from inno-

cent passersby, and he steals a lot of cars. But despite this rob-from-the-poor-and-keep-for-himself ethic, Chicago's citizens are inclined to see Aiden as a vigilante working on their behalf rather than a thief. That is, if you play the game the right way. If you stop a crime in progress or break up a gang, your popularity increases. If you run over pedestrians or shoot cops, it declines. The practical benefits of good deed are ample. You have a much lower profile with the police, and citizens are looking the other way when you commit crimes. If your profile is high, it's hard to accomplish anything between the police chases.

"Watch Dogs" delivers a solid selection of side quests and mini-games. In addition to stealing cars and solving crimes, activities including shooting up convoys of criminals, solving chess-themed puzzles or engaging in reflex-based "drinking games." The best mini-game is "Spider Tank," which takes a step outside of the game's version of reality to let you take command of a giant mechanical spider stalking the streets of Chicago. It's very well-designed and incredibly fun.

Since "Watch Dogs" is a game about online connectivity, it isn't surprising that it offers an interesting selection of multiplayer activities. You can hack other players' cellphones, race them through the streets of Chicago or join a team to decrypt someone's files. Invitations to join other players pop up pretty frequently, and you can simply ignore them if you choose.

However, you can also bring the outside world into your game uninvited if you hack the cellphone of someone identified as a "Blume affiliate." This will send a warning to Blume, which places a bounty on your data. Another player is likely to choose to accept the challenge and try to hack your phone. You'll receive a notice that you're being hacked and be given a chance to find the perpetrator. If you find and stop him, you earn a reward. If you don't, your foe does. If you don't like this sort of intrusion, you can simply avoid hacking anyone identified as a "Blume affiliate," or you can hack him, gain access to his money and then grab his phone before he can contact Blume.

All of this hacking and spying evokes headlines concerning the Federal Security Agency, WikiLeaks and identity theft. However, any political or social messages along these lines get submerged in Aiden's single-minded quest for vengeance and the idea that ends justify the means. While the story is deep and pretty interesting, I have to admit that Aiden came off as more of a self-righteous thug than a heroic Robin Hood saving the city from digital doom.

The game earns its mature rating because of violence, vulgar language and several scenes involving topless women.

Bottom line: B+ "Watch Dogs" might seem familiar, but it delivers a lot of fun.

Platforms: PlayStation 3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Wii U

Online: watchdogs.ubi.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

Work hard, play harder

How to create a winning team — on and off the field

By **LESLIE BARKER**

The Dallas Morning News

When it comes to success in sports, the first need that probably comes to mind is the obvious talent.

But with softball and baseball seasons in full swing, it's good to be reminded that success requires one other must-have element: teamwork.

"It all comes out in performance," says Yolanda Bruce Brooks. The Dallas psychologist, whose background includes serving as senior director of player development for the National Basketball Association, has worked extensively with coaches and athletes at all levels.

The coach can have all the talent in the world, she says. But there's no guarantee of success if team members aren't working together to pool their talents.

Creating cohesion is a bit of an art, a delicate combination of happenstance and chemistry, serendipity and finesse. Think of a basket of market-fresh foods, or a jumble of musical notes. Delicious and pure on their own, they don't always meld into a meal or a composition.

"Talent isn't enough," Brooks says. "There are so many elements that go into it. Is that person a good team player? Will that person help players on the team become better than who they are? It's about players, mindset, working with others as a team.

"You don't have to be friends or best buddies, but you have to figure out a way to get together."

Successful teams usually share three traits, she says:

Common cause. Everyone is working toward the same goal, she says.

Mindset. You're focused on achieving that goal. "They call it familiarity for the greatest good," Brooks says. "You know you won't stand alone and achieve goals. Everyone is there to support you."

Creating the flow or synchronicity. Successful teams learn to work together as one.

"Those are things you need to create a solid, cohesive team," she says, "whether in sports, business or the military."

Peyton Harris adds others: communication and longevity.

"Communication is a big key," says Har-

ris, who has played on the Jack Wagons since the Dallas softball team's inception five years ago. "It's not like we sit around and strategize, though. A big part of it is just playing together for so long."

For almost 10 years, Richard Danielson has worked with softball teams in Plano, Texas. Some are competitive; some play just for fun. The teams that work, that develop a bond, those whose camaraderie is palpable even to the casual observer tend to be both organized and altruistic.

"Why are you out there? If you're out there to show you're the best individual softball player in the world, maybe that's detrimental to the team as a whole,"

Danielson says. "If you find a good mix of people who enjoy playing together and are willing to sacrifice individual accolades for working with the team, that works for the Jack Wagons."

"Everybody holds himself accountable and knows the others will hold themselves accountable, too," says Harris,

whose team has already won one tournament this year. "One of the biggest points we've driven home is that it's important to hit your cutoff man instead of having some guy trying to show off his arm and throw the ball home."

Coaches play a significant role in how well this works, Dan-

ielson says.

"If you can have a coach who treats each player as a special individual and finds a place for him to be on that team and contribute in a meaningful way, you'll have a better team overall as opposed to one who says, 'I have my team here. One pitches, one catches, one plays shortstop, and the rest we don't talk to,'" he says.

A good coach unites the team by treating players "differently but equally," says Scott Martin, professor of sport and exercise psychology at the University of North Texas.

"Are you as a coach preparing each

player to be the best they can be and not coaching to the person you used to be as a young player?" he says. "... Good coaches make sure people understand how important their contribution is."

In strong teams, each player has a role, whether being captain or giving the pregame prayer or motivational speech.

"Who are the players who will be the go-to in the crunch?" Brooks says. "Who are the energizers? If they're not pumped up, you can see the energy of the team plummet."



PHOTOS BY ANDY JACOBSON, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Tyler Parrish, left, and Andrew Reinhardt, members of the Jack Wagons, cheer as runs are scored during one of the softball team's recent games at Fair Oaks Park in Dallas.

Stock illustration

Tips for creating a solid team

So what's the best way to turn a disparate bunch of talent into a cohesive unit? Here's advice from the experts:

Limit the number of players.

"The more you have, the more have to sit out," says Barbara Benante, chief Softball Complex manager. "The whole point of the game is playing."

Learn something new about other people on your team.

This can "eliminate or reduce a biased opinion," says Scott Martin, professor of sports psychology at the University of North Texas.

Do team-building activities. Psychologist Yolanda Brooks suggests going out to eat together and watching movies like "Remember the Titans."

"They were rival schools, but did you know you have to do to get along," she says.

Think positively.

Brooks uses two clichés with players: "Are you playing to win or are you playing to keep from losing?" And "Teamwork makes the dream work." "I love those because you don't know what your potential is when you come together and work as a team."

Don't limit communication to game time.

Talk during warm-ups, Brooks says. "Those informal things tell you they're working together."

Be there for each other.

"Do you celebrate someone doing something well? Do you ignore someone who's not doing well?" Brooks asks. "In football, when a guy is on the bench by himself, you might see a teammate sit by him, maybe he won't even say anything. That tells you a lot about players and interactions."



Peyton Harris of the Jack Wagons, right, believes that longevity and good communication are instrumental in his softball team's success.

STARS AND STRIPES

DAILY HEADLINES



Sign up to get the top stories of the day, emailed right to your inbox, every day!

TODAY'S TOP HEADLINES FROM STARS AND STRIPES.

STARS AND STRIPES

WEEKLY UPDATE



Subscribe to get each week's most important stories, along with other military news of note from bases around the world.

STARS AND STRIPES OFFERS A SUMMARY OF THE LEADING STORIES OF THE WEEK.

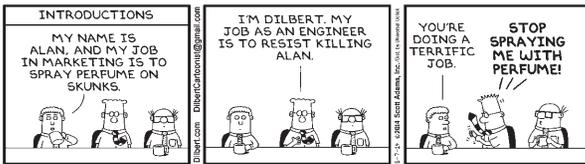


Get your news at: stripes.com/newsletters

Frazz



Dilbert



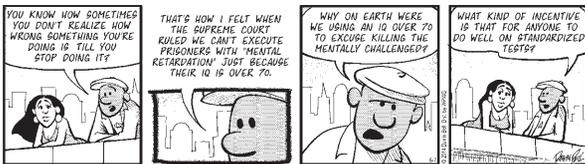
Pearls Before Swine



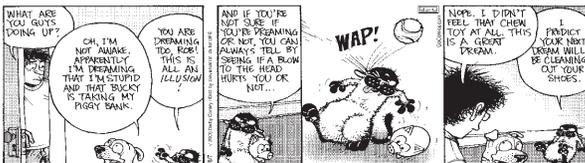
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
33						34				35		
			36				37					
38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

ACROSS

- 1 Greet the villain
- 4 KFC additive
- 8 Tablet
- 12 Shade provider
- 13 "American —"
- 14 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
- 15 Fredericksburg victor
- 16 Igneous rock material
- 17 "Monopoly" payment
- 18 Texas
- 21 "Certainly"
- 22 Opponent's vote
- 23 Was long-winded
- 26 A mere handful
- 27 Kvetch
- 30 "Oh, woe!"
- 31 Coquettish
- 32 Prima donna
- 33 Blend
- 34 Bagel topper
- 35 Battling factions throughout time
- 36 Junior
- 37 Oz., lb., et al.
- 38 City in 18-Across
- 45 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
- 46 Cairo's river
- 47 Center
- 48 Portent
- 49 Stinky
- 50 Honest —

DOWN

- 1 Liberty —
- 2 Bread spread
- 3 Harbinger
- 4 Sounded like a snake
- 5 Rewrites, maybe
- 6 "Arrivederci" —
- 7 Flatterer's forte
- 8 Bash
- 9 Thought
- 10 Dryer fuzz
- 11 Tardy
- 12 Spud's buds
- 20 Watched goat
- 24 "The Greatest"
- 25 Grow
- 26 Sly one
- 27 Kibosh
- 28 Rd.
- 29 Petroli
- 31 Associate
- 32 Lucy's man
- 34 Bud's partner
- 35 Drive or putt
- 36 Exhausted
- 37 Puie
- 38 Moolah
- 39 Medley
- 40 Equips
- 41 Burn a bit
- 42 Counterfeit
- 43 Hefty horn
- 44 Mountain goat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	M	R	A	N	D	E	N	I	S
O	V	A	A	V	E	A	L	O	N	E
B	E	D	H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N
E	R	S	T	E	E	L				
D	Y	E	S	A	R	C	S	U	R	E
			H	U	R	H	E	N	S	O
S	C	O	O	T		G	I	A	N	T
H	A	R	V	E	Y	C	O	D		
E	D	G	E	E	M	U	E	Z	R	A
			A	G	O	R	A	I	M	
H	E	M	I	N	G	W	A	Y	A	J
A	L	E	R	T	E	R	E	R	E	S
M	I	X	E	S	D	E	S	E	S	S

6-7

CRYPTOQUIP

C X D Z O S J Q I A M L Z O M O
 K U N W T M C M S J V R C X
 O C J A K F D U Q M . W ' C
 A M J B B X K D W Q R W Q N J S U Z K
 L W B W Q N L U A I M T W M .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHAMPOO SPECIFICALLY FORMULATED NOT TO SEPARATE YOUR HAIR INTO LAYERS: NO MORE TIERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.



Stripes® BLOGS

Our award-winning journalists deliver useful insights on everything from pay and benefits and veterans' issues to the best overseas travel adventures and high school sports.

Get recharged 24/7 at Stripes.com/blogs.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on ESPN

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

College baseball

NCAA super-regionals

Best-of-three; 3 p.m. necessary. Home team is Game 1; home team; visiting team is Game 2; home team; coin flip determines Game 3 home team.

Friday: Arkansas (40-22) at Louisville (48-15)

Saturday: Tennessee State vs. Louisville

Sunday: Tennessee State vs. Louisville

At Hawkins Field Nashville, Tenn.

Friday: Stanford vs. Vanderbilt

Saturday: Stanford vs. Vanderbilt

At Allie P. Reynolds Stadium Stillwater, Okla.

Friday: Irvine (38-23) at Oklahoma State (48-16)

Saturday: Oklahoma State vs. Oklahoma State

Sunday: Oklahoma State vs. Oklahoma State

At UFCU Ditch-Falk Field Austin, Texas.

Friday: Houston (48-16) at Texas (41-18)

Saturday: Houston vs. Texas

Sunday: Houston vs. Texas

At Denver Field Charlottesville, Va.

Saturday: Maryland vs. Virginia

Sunday: Maryland vs. Virginia

At M.L. Tribble Field Louisville, Ky.

Saturday: Mississippi (44-18) at Louisiana-Lafayette (40-16)

Sunday: Mississippi vs. Louisiana-Lafayette

At Charlie and Marie Lupton Stadium Fort Worth, Texas.

Saturday: Pepperdine vs. TCU

Sunday: Pepperdine vs. TCU

At Griffin Park Lubbock, Texas.

Saturday: College of Charleston (44-17) at Texas Tech (43-19)

Sunday: College of Charleston vs. Texas Tech

Sunday: College of Charleston vs. Texas Tech

AP spotlight

June 7 — Gallant Fro, ridden by Earle Sande, wins the Belmont Stakes by three lengths over Whiccone, becoming first female horse to capture the Triple Crown.

June 1 — Whitlaway, ridden by Eddie Arcaro, becomes the first horse to win the Triple Crown by capturing the Belmont Stakes by 2½ lengths over Robert Moroy.

June 1986 — Danzig Connection, ridden by Chris McCarron, wins the Belmont Stakes by 1½ lengths. Jockey Steve Treaster is given trainer Woodie Stephens his fifth straight Belmont win.

1998 — Utah breaks the record for fewest points in an NBA game since the 1950s. The Jazz, led by Steve Nash, 95-44 to Chicago in Game 3 of the NBA Finals. Nash is the highest-scoring player in NBA Finals history. Utah's 54 points breaks the NBA record of 55 set earlier in the season by Indiana.

2003 — Justine Henin-Hardenne beats Kim Clijsters 6-4, 6-4 to win the French Open in the first all-Belgian Grand Slam final. Henin becomes her nation's first Grand Slam winner.

2004 — Russian Fedotenko scores twice, including the critical first goal, and the resilient Tampa Bay Lightning hold off the Calgary Flames 2-1 in Game 7 to win their first Stanley Cup.

2005 — The United States becomes the first state to institute a statewide steroid-testing policy for professional athletes.

2008 — Ana Ivanovic wins her first Grand Slam title by beating Dinara Safin in the final of the French Open.

2008 — Da' Tara spins Big Brown's bid for the triple crown by winning the Belmont Stakes. Da' Tara, a 38-1 long shot, wins the 125th Kentucky Derby by edging winning by 5½ lengths over Derek and covers the distance in 2:29.55. Big Brown, a 10-1 favorite, is eased out of the homestretch by jockey Kent Desrosiers. Arroyo, the 11-2 favorite, is also eased out of the margin of defeat isn't even charted.

2009 — The United States wins a career Grand Slam, winning his first French Open title. Federer wins his 14th Grand Slam title by defeating Rafael Nadal in sweeping surprise finalist Robin Soderling 6-1, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Chicago	W	L	Pct
Washington	4	2	.667
Atlanta	4	3	.571
Indiana	4	3	.571
New York	5	5	.500
Connecticut	2	5	.286

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Minnesota	W	L	Pct
Phoenix	4	1	.800
Portland	4	1	.800
Los Angeles	3	2	.600
Oklahoma	2	3	.400
Salt Lake City	2	3	.400
Tulsa	0	5	.000

Thursday's games

Washington 74, Connecticut 66
San Antonio 87, New York 75

Friday's games

Indiana at Washington
Phoenix at Tulsa
Los Angeles at Chicago
Minnesota at Seattle

Saturday's games

Chicago at Atlanta
Atlanta at Connecticut
Phoenix at San Antonio
Minnesota at Los Angeles

Sunday's games

Washington at New York
Minnesota at Los Angeles

Monday's games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's games

Seattle vs. Chicago
Seattle at Washington
Seattle vs. Chicago

Wednesday's game

Seattle at Indiana

Boxing

Fight schedule

June 7 — At Moscow, Richard Brill vs. Eduard Troyanovsky, 12, for AIBA's WBA World lightweight title.

June 8 — At Schwerin, Germany, Jürgen Braehmer vs. Roberto Llorent, 12, for IBF's world super featherweight title; Jorge Mendez vs. Javier Malart, 10, super welterweights; Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. vs. Juan Manuel Marquez, 10, featherweights; Andy Lee vs. John Jackson, 10, junior middleweights.

June 14 — At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Deontay Wilder vs. Brian Rose, 12, for WBA's world junior middleweight title; Rustan Izmagulov vs. Chris Algieri, 12, for Provodnikov's WBO junior welterweight title.

June 15 — At Atlantic City, N.J., Glen Tapia vs. Keenan Collins, 10, junior middleweights.

June 19

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

June 21

At Monte Carlo, Martin Murray vs. Max Bursak, 10, middleweights; Hekmatulla Rizaev vs. Muhammad Kokkietdym, 12, for Budler's WBO strawweight title; Mateusz Masternak vs. Ilunga Makulu, 12, for the vacant WBA interim cruiserweight title.

June 22 — At Anzotegui, Anatoly Dudchenko vs. Naqib Mohammed, 12, IBF light welterweight title.

June 28 — At StubbHub Center, Carson, Calif., Vasily Lomachenko vs. Gary Russell Jr., 12, for the vacant WBO featherweight title; Robert Guerrero vs. Yoshitoki Kamekura, 12, for the vacant WBA super welterweight title; Jesus Soto Karass, 10, super welterweights.

June 28 — At Omaha, Neb., Terence Crawford vs. Yuriy Kambua, 12, for Crawford's WBO lightweight title; Matt Korobov vs. Joseph Ortiz, 12, featherweights.

July 2

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

July 6 — At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Erislandy La Cruz vs. 9-4, 6-4, for the French Open in the homestretch by jockey Kent Desrosiers. Arroyo, the 11-2 favorite, is also eased out of the margin of defeat isn't even charted.

July 26 — At Madison Square Garden, New York, Gennady Golovkin vs. Daniel Geale, 12, for Golovkin's WBA and IBF middleweight titles.

Pro football

NFL calendar

June 22-23 — Rookie symposium, Auro, Ohio.

June 3 — Hall of Fame game, Canton, Ohio.

Sept. 4 — Regular season begins, Green Bay at Seattle.

Sept. 7-8 — First full weekend of regular season.

Oct. 7 — Fall owners meetings, Detroit.

Auto racing

NASCAR Sprint Cup schedule

Feb. 23 — Daytona 500 (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)

March 2 — The Profit on CNBC, Avondale, Ariz. (Kevin Harvick)

March 9 — Kobalt, Las Vegas (Brad Keselowski)

March 16 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Carl Edwards)

March 23 — Auto Club 400, Fontana, Calif. (Kevin Harvick)

March 30 — STP 500, Ridgeway, Va. (Kevin Harvick)

April 7 — Duck Commander 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Joey Logano)

April 14 — Aaron's 499, Southern 500, Darlington, S.C. (Kevin Harvick)

April 21 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va. (Joey Logano)

April 28 — Bass Pro Shops, Talladega, Ala. (Denny Hamlin)

May 5 — Sprint Showdown, Concord, N.C. (Clint Bowyer)

May 12 — Sprint Sprint All-Star Race, Concord, N.C. (Jamie McMurray)

May 25 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord, N.C. (Jimmie Johnson)

June 1 — Dover 400, Dover, Del. (Jimmie Johnson)

June 8 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, Pa. (Jimmie Johnson)

June 15 — Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich. (Kevin Harvick)

June 22 — Toyota-Save Mart 350, Sonoma, Calif. (Kevin Harvick)

June 28 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, N.C. (Kevin Harvick)

July 5 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla. (Kevin Harvick)

July 13 — Camping World RV Sales 301, Loudon, N.H. (Kevin Harvick)

July 27 — The Brickyard 400, Indianapolis, Ind. (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 3 — Go Bowling.com 400, Long Pond, Pa. (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 17 — Cheez-It 355 at the Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y. (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 24 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich. (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 31 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Tenn. (Kevin Harvick)

Aug. 31 — Atlanta 500, Hampton, Ga. (Kevin Harvick)

Sept. 7 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va. (Kevin Harvick)

Sept. 14 — Chicagoland 400, Joliet, Ill. (Kevin Harvick)

Sept. 21 — Sylvania 300, Loudon, N.H. (Kevin Harvick)

Sept. 28 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Kevin Harvick)

Oct. 5 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan. (Kevin Harvick)

Oct. 12 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C. (Kevin Harvick)

Oct. 19 — Goody's Headache Relief, St. Louis, Mo. (Kevin Harvick)

Nov. 2 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas (Kevin Harvick)

Nov. 9 — Quicken Loans 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Kevin Harvick)

Nov. 16 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla. (Kevin Harvick)

IndyCar schedule

March 30 — Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg, Fla. (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

April 13 — Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, Calif. (Mike Conway)

April 20 — Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama, Birmingham (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

April 27 — Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Lexington, Ohio (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

May 4 — GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma, Ukiah, Calif. (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

May 25 — MAVTV 500, Fontana, Calif. (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

June 2 — Chevrolet Indy Dual (Race 1) (Will Power)

June 1 — Chevrolet Indy Dual (Race 2) (Dustin Johnson)

June 7 — Firestone 600, Fort Worth, Texas

June 28 — Grand Prix of Houston (Race 1)

June 29 — Grand Prix of Houston (Race 2)

July 6 — Pocono INDYCAR 500, Long Pond, Pa. (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

July 12 — Iowa Corn Indy 250, Newton, Iowa (Ryan Hunter-Reay)

July 19 — Honda Indy Toronto (Race 1)

July 20 — Honda Indy Toronto (Race 2)

July 27 — Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Lexington, Ohio

Aug. 25 — GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma, Ukiah, Calif.

Aug. 30 — MAVTV 500, Fontana, Calif.

Formula One schedule

March 16 — Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne (Nico Rosberg)

March 30 — Malaysian Grand Prix, Kuala Lumpur (Lewis Hamilton)

April 10 — Chinese Grand Prix, Shanghai (Lewis Hamilton)

April 20 — Spanish Grand Prix, Catalunya (Lewis Hamilton)

May 25 — Monaco Grand Prix, Monte Carlo (Lewis Hamilton)

June 8 — Canadian Grand Prix, Montreal (Lewis Hamilton)

June 22 — Austrian Grand Prix, Spielberg (Lewis Hamilton)

July 6 — British Grand Prix, Silverstone (Lewis Hamilton)

July 20 — German Grand Prix, Hockenheim (Lewis Hamilton)

July 27 — Hungarian Grand Prix, Budapest (Lewis Hamilton)

Aug. 24 — Belgian Grand Prix, Spa-Francorchamps (Lewis Hamilton)

Sept. 21 — Singapore Grand Prix, Monza (Lewis Hamilton)

Oct. 5 — Korean Grand Prix, Yongsu (Lewis Hamilton)

Oct. 12 — Russian Grand Prix, Sochi, Russia (Lewis Hamilton)

Nov. 2 — United States Grand Prix, Austin, Texas (Lewis Hamilton)

Nov. 9 — Brazilian Grand Prix, Sao Paulo (Lewis Hamilton)

Nov. 23 — Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Yas Marina, United Arab Emirates (Lewis Hamilton)

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
New England	W	L	T	Pts	GF/GA
D.C. United	9	4	3	21	18
Sporting KC	6	4	3	19	14
Columbus	6	4	5	17	18
Philadelphia	4	5	5	15	17
New York	3	5	6	15	22
Chicago	3	5	6	15	22
Montreal	2	3	8	14	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Seattle	W	L	T	Pts	GF/GA
Real Salt Lake	6	1	7	25	24
Colorado	5	2	5	22	23
Vancouver	5	2	5	20	27
FC Dallas	5	3	5	18	23
Los Angeles	3	4	19	15	10
San Jose	4	4	16	13	13
Portland	3	7	16	24	24
Chivas US	2	7	10	13	25

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

Wednesday's games

Columbus 1, Real Salt Lake 1, tie

Colorado 0, Chicago 0, tie

Saturday's games

Sporting Kansas City at Houston

San Jose at Toronto FC

Columbus at D.C. United

Vancouver at Philadelphia

Portland at Real Salt Lake

San Jose at Los Angeles

New York at New England

Chivas US at Los Angeles

Wednesday, June 11

D.C. United at Montreal

FC Dallas at Portland

NWSL

Seattle	W	L	T	Pts	GF/GA
---------	---	---	---	-----	-------

FRENCH OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS



DAVID VINCENT/AP

Rafael Nadal serves the ball to Andy Murray during their semifinal match of the French Open at Roland Garros stadium in Paris on Friday. Nadal won 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 to advance to Sunday's final.

Nadal, Djokovic in final

Top two seeds set to meet for French Open title

BY CHRIS LEHOURITES
The Associated Press

PARIS — Rafael Nadal is going for No. 9 at the French Open, and the only man that can stop him is Novak Djokovic.

Nadal is already a record eight-time champion with a lifetime 65-1 record at Roland Garros. One more victory on the red clay will make him the first man to win five in a row and give him his 14th Grand Slam title — tied in second place with Pete Sampras.

The top-seeded Spaniard reached the final by beating Wimbledon champion Andy Murray 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 Friday on Court Philippe Chatrier, the stadium Nadal calls his favorite place to play. Djokovic defeated Ernests Gulbis 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the first semifinal.

Nadal has beaten Djokovic at the French Open in all five of their meetings, starting with a quarterfinal victory in 2006. They also met in the semifinals in 2007, '08 and '13, and in the final in 2012.

The second-seeded Djokovic, however, has beaten Nadal the last four times they have played, including on clay in the final in Rome last month.

The winner on Sunday will also be ranked No. 1 on Monday. Nadal is currently at the top, but needs to extend his French Open winning streak to 35 matches to stay there.



DAVID VINCENT/AP

Novak Djokovic reacts after defeating Ernests Gulbis during their semifinal match of the French Open on Friday. Djokovic won 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

He certainly played like the No. 1 on Friday.

Nadal jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first set, then broke early again in the second and third sets. The Spaniard had six break points in the entire match, and converted each one.

Murray, meanwhile, could not even manage to earn a single break point.

Besides his eight titles at the French Open, Nadal has also won twice at Wimbledon, twice at the U.S. Open and once at the

Scoreboard

Friday
At Stade Roland Garros
Paris
Purse: \$34.12 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
Men
Semifinals
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Andy Murray (7), Britain, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1
Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Ernests Gulbis (8), Latvia, 6-3, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3

Women's Doubles
Su-Wei Hsieh, Taiwan, and Peng Shuai (1), China, def. Garbine Muguruza, Spain, and Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.
Sara Errani, Italy, and Roberta Vinci (2), Italy, def. Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, and Michaela Krajcikova, Netherlands, 6-2, 6-1.

Australian Open. Sampras won 14 major titles in his career, but never the French Open. The record holder is Roger Federer with 17 Grand Slam titles. He won his 14th in Paris in 2009, the only French Open in which Nadal lost a match.

On the first sunny day of this year's tournament, the semifinals started with Djokovic and Gulbis on Chatrier.

Djokovic was able to control the pace of the match while letting Gulbis' unforced errors mount. The powerful Latvian, who was playing in his first Grand Slam semifinal, finished with 44 errors.

Djokovic, a six-time major champion, needs to win the title at the French Open to complete a career Grand Slam.

Briefly

Aiken selected No. 1 by Houston in Draft

The Associated Press

SECAUCUS, N.J. — Brady Aiken was too polished to pass up for the Houston Astros.

The California high school left-hander mesmerized the team holding the No. 1 pick with his impeccable control, and was the first selection in the Major League Baseball draft Thursday night.

"It's the most advanced high school pitcher I've ever seen in my entire career," Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow said. "He has command like I've never seen before of his stuff."

That "stuff" includes a fastball that hits 96-97 mph, a knee-buckling curve and a tough changeup that sits in the low- to mid-80s. The 17-year-old from San Diego's Cathedral Catholic High School is just the third prep pitcher to be selected first overall, joining fellow lefties Brian Taylor (1991, Yankees) and David Clyde (1973, Rangers).

"It's really a dream come true," Aiken said. "This is something that I've wanted ever since I was a young kid. I'm at a loss for words."

The Astros are the first team to select first in three consecutive drafts, having picked shortstop Carlos Correa in 2012 and right-hander Mark Appel last year.

Aiken is the first high school lefty to be drafted in the first five picks since Adam Loewen went fourth overall to Baltimore in 2002. The UCLA recruit, who compared himself to Clayton Kershaw and David Price, is also in line to receive a huge contract. The allotted slot bonus for the top pick is nearly \$8 million.

The Miami Marlins made it the first time high school pitchers were the top two picks in the draft when they selected Tyler Kolek, a left-throwing right-hander from Shepherd High School in Texas.

The 6-foot-5 Kolek has a fastball that sits in the high 90s and touched 100-102 mph several times, causing many to compare him to fellow Texas flamethrowers such as Nolan Ryan, Kerry Wood and Josh Beckett.

The Chicago White Sox selected North Carolina State left-hander Carlos Rodon with the third overall pick. He was widely regarded as the top college pitcher available and had been in the mix to go No. 1 overall. He followed a dominant sophomore year with a solid but not spectacular junior season.

Kentucky gives Calipari new 7-year contract

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky gave coach John Calipari a job seven-year, \$52.5 million contract that will pay a base package of \$6.5 million next season and \$8 million over each of the final three seasons.

Already one of college basketball's highest-paid coaches,

Calipari led the Wildcats to the 2012 NCAA championship and is coming off his third Final Four appearance in five years with Kentucky, a 60-54 title-game loss to Connecticut in April.

Wiggins set to miss Tour de France

LONDON — Former Tour de France champion Bradley Wiggins says he is likely to miss this year's race as his team focuses on his bitter rival and defending champion Chris Froome's title defense.

Wiggins, who became the first British rider to win cycling's showpiece two years ago, was not selected to compete along with Froome at the Criterium du Dauphine, the tuneup event for the Tour. It was a clear indication he was unlikely to line up in Yorkshire on July 5 for the Tour's start in England.

Wiggins told the BBC Breakfast program on Friday "as it stands, I won't be there."

He says Team Sky is focused around Froome and he feels "guzzled."

Penguins fire Blysm, hire Rutherford as GM

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins on Friday fired Dan Blysm and hired Jim Rutherford as their new general manager.

Blysm won a franchise-record 252 games behind the bench but failed to produce a bookend to the championship he captured with stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin in 2009. The Penguins were just 4-5 in playoff series since raising the Cup, with each loss coming to a lower-seeded team.

Pittsburgh's latest defeat came last month when the Penguins fell to the New York Rangers in seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The 63-year-old Rutherford replaces Ray Shero, who was fired three weeks ago. The move is a homecoming for Rutherford, who played goalie for the Penguins in the 1970s before spending 20 years with the franchise that began as the Hartford Whalers, moved to North Carolina in 1997 and won the Stanley Cup in 2006.

Rutherford stepped aside in April when the Hurricanes promoted Ron Francis — who helped Pittsburgh win consecutive Cups in 1991 and '92 — to the GM's job. It's Rutherford's job to do the same with the Penguins.

Rutherford said he is "very comfortable" with the control he has to name a replacement for Blysm and hopes to have someone in place by the time free agency begins in July.

STANLEY CUP FINALS/AUTO RACING

Captain's 'zombie mode' has Los Angeles thriving

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

DEL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Justin Brown used a delicious phrase last week to describe the Los Angeles Kings' seemingly inexorable march through the Stanley Cup playoffs, outworking and outlasting every opponent in their path.

According to their captain, the Kings have been in "zombie mode" while they chewed through San Jose, Anaheim and Chicago in three straight seven-game series, never getting more than 72 hours of rest between games for seven grueling weeks.

Brown's brainy comparison still seemed apt after Los Angeles beat the New York Rangers 3-2 in overtime on Wednesday in the Stanley Cup finals opener.

The Kings might not be as fast as their four playoff opponents, and they've encountered innumerable obstacles along the way. They still exude their relentless style of play with remarkable precision, and nobody has figured out how to stop them yet.

"We're very comfortable in any situation we're in as a group," Brown said on Thursday.

Game 2 is on Saturday, giving the Kings another two-day rest — which is more than these zombies have needed lately.

The Kings' tenacity is unmatched in this franchise's mostly mediocre history, and they're becoming one of the most remarkable teams in recent seasons.

Los Angeles has won nine seven-game playoff series in the past three years — one more than the Kings managed in their first 43 seasons of existence combined.

The Kings won an incredible seven elimination games in the first three rounds this spring, including four straight in their historic first-round rally past San Jose.

Even when the Kings found themselves one period or one shift away from elimination, they will never wavered — and neither did their determination to play responsible two-way ice hockey.

"It's everything taking pride, chipping in, helping each other out," said Anze Kopitar, the NHL's postseason scoring leader with 24 points.

"We have always played our best hockey when you push and pull guys together. That's what it is, and that's what we've been doing so far."

It takes a helping of brainpower to play in zombie mode, and the Kings have it. Los Angeles' puck-possession game and defensive mindset are among the best in recent NHL history, as borne out both by advanced ice hockey statistics and the naked eye.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

New York Rangers defenseman Marc Staal, left, checks Los Angeles Kings right wing Dustin Brown on Wednesday during the first period of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup finals in Los Angeles.

General manager Dean Lombardi put together a dressing room full of compatible players willing to play any role for team success.

Coach Darryl Sutter takes little credit for his players' tremendous group will, but the Alberta farmer fostered it with a steady message and constant accountability.

Rangers coach Alain Vigneault was around for the start of the Kings' current playoff brilliance, much to his chagrin. His Presidents' Trophy-winning Vancouver Canucks were knocked out of the first round by eighth-seeded Los Angeles two years ago.

"They were a good team in the years past," Vigneault said. "They're a real good team now. It's obvious they've got more experience. They play their game-plan to a T, and they don't deviate in any shape, way or form, so that makes it real challenging for the opposition."



Stanley Cup finals
N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles
Game 2
AFLI-Sports
1 a.m. Sunday CET
8 a.m. Sunday JKT

NHL scoreboard

Stanley Cup finals
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
Saturday: at Los Angeles
Monday: at N.Y. Rangers
Wednesday: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Friday: at Los Angeles
x-Monday, June 16: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Wednesday, June 18: at Los Angeles

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Pocono 400 at Long Pond, Pa.

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

Track: Pocono Raceway (triangle, 2.5 miles).

Race distance: 400 miles, 160 laps.

Last year: Jimmie Johnson raced to the third of his six 2013 victories en route to his sixth season title. He swept the 2004 races at the track.

Last week: Johnson won at Dover for the record ninth time. He won the Coca-Cola 600 the previous week in North Carolina.

Next race: Quicken Loans 400, June 15, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.

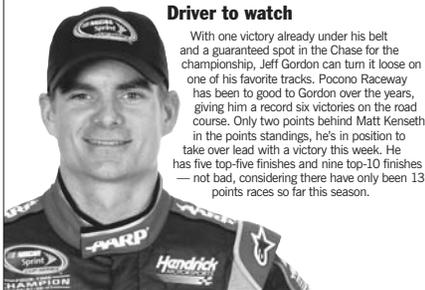
Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Matt Kenseth, 463
2. Jeff Gordon, 461
3. Carl Edwards, 438
4. Jimmie Johnson, 436
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 429
6. Joey Logano, 414
7. Kyle Busch, 411
8. Brad Keselowski, 404
9. Denny Hamlin, 379
10. Kyle Larson, 377
11. Ryan Newman, 374
12. Kevin Harvick, 373
13. Brian Vickers, 366
14. Paul Menard, 362
15. Austin Dillon, 358
16. Greg Biffle, 357
17. Clint Bowyer, 350
18. Kasey Kahne, 344
19. Aric Almirola, 349
20. A.J. Allmendinger, 337

Driver to watch

With one victory already under his belt and a guaranteed spot in the Chase for the championship, Jeff Gordon can turn it loose on one of his favorite tracks. Pocono Raceway has been good to Gordon over the years, giving him a record six victories on the road course. Only two points behind Matt Kenseth in the points standings, he's in position to take over lead with a victory this week. He has five top-five finishes and nine top-10 finishes — not bad, considering there have only been 13 points races so far this season.



CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: Winstar World Casino and Resort 400 at Fort Worth, Texas.

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 250.5 miles, 167 laps.

Last year: Jeb Burton raced to his first series victory.

Last week: Kyle Busch won at Dover for his fourth victory in four series starts this season.

Next race: Drivin' for Linemen 200, June 14, Gateway Motorsports Park, Madison, Illinois.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Firestone 600 at Fort Worth, Texas.

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

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 372 miles, 248 laps.

Last year: Helio Castroneves raced to his fourth victory at the track. Team Penske was fined \$35,000 and docked 15 entrant points because the underdog on Castroneves' car didn't meet specifications.

Last week: Team Penske swept the Detroit Grand Prix doubleheader. Will Power took the opener and Castroneves won the second race.

Next race: Grand Prix of Houston, June 23 and 25, Streets of Houston.

Online: indycar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: Thunder Valley Nationals, June 13-15, Bristol Dragway, Bristol, Tenn.

Last week: Australia's Richie Crampton won Top Fuel at the Summernationals in Englishtown, N.J. Cruz Pedregon won Funny Car, Greg Coughlin won Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines took Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER SERIES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS Sprint Car: Sprint Car: Friday, 1-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Nebraska; Saturday, Lakeside Speedway, Kansas City, Kansas.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

Series capsules by The Associated Press

NBA FINALS

Spurs prevail in scorcher in San Antonio

Broken AC raises temps; LeBron can't handle heat

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — LeBron James was resting on a training table in the back of the Miami Heat locker room an hour after Game 1 of the NBA Finals ended, feeling drained, pained and frustrated.

The Heat star wasn't stopped by San Antonio.

Instead, he was stopped by the San Antonio heat.

On a night where air conditioning failed and the AT&T Center turned into a steamy mess, James missed the final four minutes because of cramps and the San Antonio Spurs took full advantage.

The Spurs closed the game on a 16-3 run as the four-time NBA MVP could only watch helplessly, beating the two-time defending champion Heat 110-95 on Thursday night in a rather bizarre opener to the title series.

"After I came out of the game, they kind of took off," James said. "And it was frustrating sitting out and not being able to help our team."

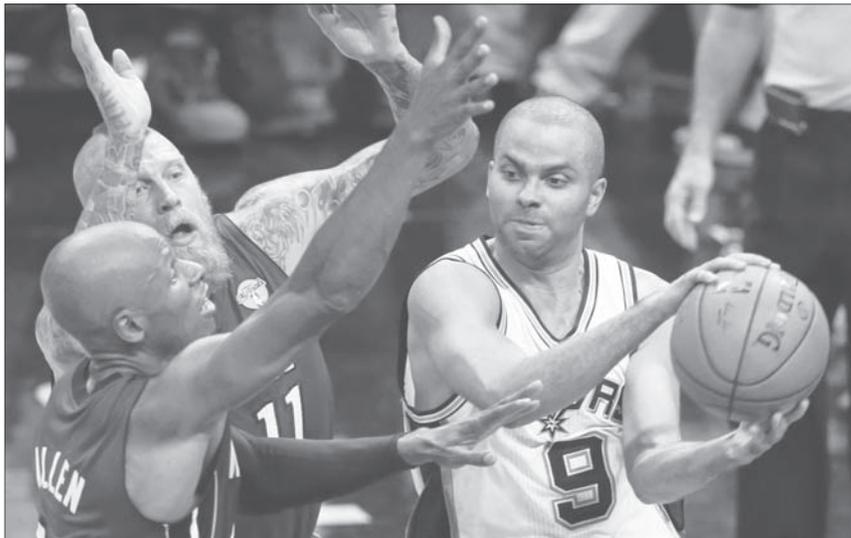
The heat, not the Heat and not even the Spurs, was the story.

A power outage was blamed for the lack of cooling inside the arena, and ABC sideline reporter Doris Burke said during the network's coverage that the temperature near the court in the third quarter was 88 degrees.

Thousands of fans shed the black souvenir T-shirts that were left on their seats before the game, and ABC sideline reporter Tim Duncan scored 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting, the best percentage of his 230-game postseason career.

Game 2 isn't until Sunday. The NBA expects the arena's issues to be repaired by then, and neither team was scheduled to practice there Friday or Saturday anyway.

"I'm sure that both teams are going to be happy that we have a



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Spurs guard Tony Parker tries to pass around Heat guard Ray Allen, left, and forward Chris Andersen during Game 1 of the NBA Finals.

couple of days before the next game," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "And hopefully, we can pay our bills."

Popovich's deadpan comedy probably got as much notice as the effort by his team, which topped Miami in Game 1 of the Finals for the second straight year.

Tim Duncan scored 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting — the best percentage of his 230-game postseason career — for the Spurs, who got 19 points from Tony Parker and 16 from Manu Ginobili.

Parker felt right at home, meaning his literal home.

"Felt like I was playing in the European Championship," Parker said. "We never have AC in Europe, so it didn't bother me at all." James

led the Heat with 25 points, the last of those coming on a layup with 4:09 left that got the Heat — who led by seven with 9:38 left — within 94-92.

After that play, James couldn't move. He stood on the baseline as play went the other way, literally unable to coax another step out of his left leg.

His night was over. Soon, so were Miami's chances. "I think it felt like a punch in the gut when you see your leader limping like that back to the bench," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But at the same time we still had an opportunity."

Not without James, they didn't.

Not with the way the Spurs were shooting, either. San Antonio closed on a 26-7 run in the final

6 minutes. Neither heat nor Heat would slow them down on this night.

"It was an unusual circumstance," James said. "I never played in a building like that."

It's not the first time electricity has had a significant impact on a championship event in recent years.

The Super Bowl in 2013 between Baltimore and San Francisco was marred by a power outage at the Superdome in New Orleans, interrupting play for 34 minutes.

"It's frustration and there's anger," James said. "But at the same time, it's something you try to prevent, you try to control. I got all the fluids I needed to get. I did my normal routine I've done. It's something that was inevitable for me tonight."

Scoreboard



NBA Finals
Miami at San Antonio
Game 2

2 a.m. Monday CET
9 a.m. Monday JKT
AFN-Sports

Finals

Miami vs. San Antonio
(Best-of-seven; 1st necessary)
San Antonio 1, Miami 0
Thursday, San Antonio 110, Miami 95
Sunday: at Miami
Tuesday: at Miami
Thursday, June 12: at Miami
x-Sunday, June 15: at San Antonio
x-Tuesday, June 17: at Miami
x-Friday, June 20: at San Antonio

Thursday Spurs 110, Heat 95

Miami — L James 9-17 5-6 25, Lewis 4-10 0-0 10, Bosh 7-11 1-1 18, Chalmers 1-2 0-0 3, Wade 8-18 2-2 19, Allen 6-12 1-2 16, Anderson 1-2 0-0 2, Cole 1-4 0-0 2, Battier 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 37-78 11 95.
SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 3-5 1-2 9, Duncan 9-10 2-4 21, Splitter 5-6 4-5 14, Parker 8-15 1-2 19, Green 4-9 2-2 13, Ginobili 5-10 3-3 16, Diaw 1-5 0-0 2, Mills 2-5 0-0 7, Belinelli 2-3 1-4 9, Totals 40-68 17-22 110.

Miami	20	29	29	17	— 95
San Antonio	26	28	20	36	— 110
Three-Point Goals—Miami	12-29				
(Bosh 2-4, Allen 3-8, L James 2-3, Lewis 2-6, Chalmers 1-1, Wade 1-3, Battier 0-1, Cole 0-0), San Antonio 13-25 (Ginobili 3-6, Green 3-7, Parker 2-2, Leonard 2-3, Belinelli 2-3, Mills 1-3, Diaw 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 31 (Bosh 9), San Antonio 46 (Duncan, Diaw 10). Assists—Miami 16 (Cole 5), San Antonio 30 (Ginobili 11). Total Fouls—Miami 21, San Antonio 14. A—18,581 (18,797).					

Did you know

Tim Duncan scored 21 points on 9-for-10 shooting, the best percentage of his 230-game postseason career.



"I don't know what happened to LeBron, but I think all of us were feeling the heat. We were all dehydrated."

Tim Duncan

Spurs forward, on the 88-plus degree heat inside the AT&T Center after the arena's air conditioning failed. Miami forward LeBron James left the game with just over four minutes remaining due to cramping and did not return. The Spurs went on to win 110-95.

ERIC GAY/AP

MLB

NL roundup

Red-hot Giants rough up Reds

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Left-hander Madison Bumgarner got his career-high sixth straight win, and the San Francisco Giants beat the Reds 6-1 on Thursday afternoon, taking a series in Cincinnati for the first time in five years.

San Francisco moved a season-high 18 games over .500 with its 11th win in 14 games. The Giants have the best record in the majors at 39-21.

Bumgarner (8-3) gave up three hits in eight innings, including Todd Frazier's homer, and retired the last 16 batters he faced. He's 6-0 in his last seven starts, the best such streak of his career.

Michael Morse hit a two-run homer, and Brandon Crawford broke out of a slump with a three-run shot off Mike Leake (3-5), who had overwhelmed the Giants the last four times he faced them.

Nationals 4, Phillies 2: Doug Fister kept himself and his club

on a roll, allowing two runs and four hits over seven innings as host Washington capped a sweep.

Fister (4-1) struck out five and didn't walk any as he won his fourth consecutive start for what's starting to look like the toughest-to-follow rotation expected from the Nationals this season.

The Nationals have won five of six. They've outscored opponents 38-12 in those half-dozen games, including 19-6 in each of the three-game series against the Texas Rangers and the Phillies.

Diamondbacks 12, Rockies 7: Paul Goldschmidt, Miguel Montero and Chris Owings homered as Arizona reached double-digits against Colorado again and completed a sweep.

Arizona took all three games at Coors Field for the first time since April 2008.

Bronson Arroyo (5-4) pitched effectively most of the evening before running out of steam. The



AL BEHRMAN/AP

The Giants' Pablo Sandoval slides hard past Reds second baseman Brandon Phillips trying to break up a double play at second base in the fifth inning on Thursday in Cincinnati. Phillips threw Michael Morse out at first to complete the double play. The Giants won 6-1.

37-year-old allowed four runs and six hits in 6½ innings.

A night after the Diamondbacks put up 16 runs, they pounded Rockies starter Juan Nicasio (5-4).

The right-hander struggled with his command, allowing a season-high seven runs in 5½ innings as the Rockies dropped

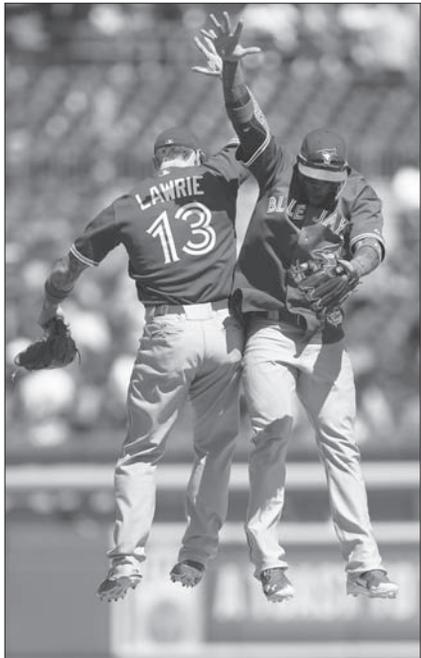
their seventh straight game.

Cubs 7, Mets 4: Anthony Rizzo hit a tiebreaking homer, Travis Wood went deep and drove in three runs, and host Chicago beat New York to complete the three-game sweep.

Rizzo's solo drive off Vic Black (1-1) with one out in the seventh

gave Chicago a lead after New York's Andrew Brown capped a four-run comeback with a two-run shot in the top half.

Junior Lake added a two-run triple in the eighth, and the Cubs came away with their first series sweep since they took three at San Francisco last July 26-28.



PAUL SANCIYA/AP

The Blue Jays' Brett Lawrie and Jose Reyes celebrate their 7-3 win over the Tigers in Detroit on Thursday.

AL roundup

Blue Jays sweep Tigers

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Juan Francisco and Brett Lawrie hit consecutive home runs in the sixth inning off Justin Verlander, and Toronto got a 7-3 victory to complete a three-game sweep of Detroit.

The AL East-leading Blue Jays have won 19 of 23, including sweeps of defending champion Boston, AL West-leading Oakland and AL Central-leading Detroit. J.A. Happ (5-2) allowed three runs and seven hits in 6½ innings for Toronto.

Casey Janssen got the final out for his 10th save in 11 chances. He needed only one pitch to retire Nick Castellanos on a line drive to left with two on.

Melky Cabrera also homered for the Blue Jays.

Verlander (6-5) allowed six runs — five earned — and eight hits in seven innings. He walked four and struck out four. Toronto scored three runs each in the fourth and sixth.

Rangers 8, Orioles 6: Rougned Odor had a leadoff single in the seventh and scored the tiebreaking run with the help of two errors by Baltimore shortstop J.J. Hardy and host Texas avoided a three-game sweep with a win.

The Rangers blew an early 5-0 lead, but their three-run seventh started when No. 9 batter Odor had an infield single off reliever Brian Matusz (2-2) and moved up on a throwing error by Hardy.

Odor came home when Hardy misplayed a grounder hit by Elvis Andrus to make it 6-5. Alex Rios and Chris Jimenez then added consecutive RBI singles off Preston Guilmet, the fifth Baltimore pitcher.

Hardy, an All-Star for the second time last season, also had a throwing error in the fourth for the first three-error game in his career.

Yankees 2, Athletics 1: Masahiro Tanaka tamed the highest-scoring team in the majors and New York stopped a four-game skid, ending visiting Oakland's five-game winning streak in the process.

Facing the A's for the first time, Tanaka (9-1) got an early jolt when John Jaso homered as the second batter in the game. But that was the only run Tanaka allowed in six innings, and he left with an AL-leading 2.02 ERA.

David Robertson worked the ninth for his 13th save in 15 chances.

Astros 8, Angels 5: Jose Altuve and George Springer drove in two runs each during their team's four-run eighth inning as Houston pulled away for a win over visiting Los Angeles.

Altuve had two hits, including a two-run double in the eighth, and Springer finished with three RBIs for the Astros.

Brad Peacock (2-4) allowed three runs and six hits with a strikeout in five innings.

Interleague

Royals 3, Cardinals 2: Yorlano Ventura threw six innings in his return from a sore elbow, and Kansas City ended a string of eight straight home losses to its in-state rival.

Ventura (3-5) was skipped his previous time through the rotation because of minor elbow pain, but he looked sharp in his return.

The Royals rallied for three runs off Michael Wacha (4-4) to take the lead in the sixth inning, and Francisley Bueno and Wade Davis each pitched a perfect inning in relief of Ventura.

Brewers 8, Twins 5: Carlos Gomez hit a three-run homer against his former team to spark visiting Milwaukee's comeback.

Chris Davis hit a two-run homer off Kevin Correia (2-7) for the lead in the sixth inning to pull Brewers starter Wily Peralta (5-5) out of an early deficit built by Oswaldo Arcia's grand slam. Jonathan Lucroy tacked on a two-run shot in the ninth, and Francisco Rodriguez finished up for his 18th save in 20 attempts.

Marlins 11, Rays 6: J.T. Realmuto had three RBIs in his major league debut, Marcell Ozuna homered and drove in four runs, and Miami handed host Tampa Bay its 10th consecutive loss.

Realmuto drove in two runs on his first big league hit, a fourth-inning single, and added a sixth-inning RBI single.

BELMONT STAKES

California Chrome's greatest obstacles

BY CHILDS WALKER
The Baltimore Sun

JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Belmont Stakes hopeful Tonalist, winner of the Peter Pan Stakes, will bring fresh legs to the race.

A fresh find

Few analysts question that California Chrome is the best 3-year-old in America.

He easily avoided the pitfalls inherent in a 19-horse field in the Kentucky Derby, and he fended off early challenges from speedy contenders in the Preakness.

The road ahead is far steeper as California Chrome prepares to run for the third time in five weeks against horses who haven't worked nearly as hard.

His top rivals from Kentucky — Commanding Curve, Danza and Wicked Strong — are expected to run in the Belmont on five weeks' rest. A new challenger, Tonalist, will run on four weeks' rest after winning the Peter Pan Stakes on May 10 at Belmont Park.

Ride On Curlin, second in the Preakness, is the only other Belmont entrant who will have run the previous two legs of the Triple Crown.

So even if California Chrome is the best horse, he'll start at a significant disadvantage. Imagine the Miami Heat needing to win an extra round of playoffs before playing in the NBA Finals. That's the scenario here, and recent history says it makes a difference.

Since 1978, of the 11 near-misses who made it to the starting gate for the Belmont (I'll Have Another scratched in 2012), seven lost to challengers who had not run in the Preakness. It's an accelerating trend; the last five horses to win the first two legs of the Triple Crown lost the Belmont to horses who hadn't run in Baltimore.

California Chrome's co-owner, Steve Coburn, wasn't shy about calling for change after his horse won at Pimlico. Coburn said he'd like to see the Preakness and Belmont fields limited to horses who had run the previous legs of the Triple Crown.

"If you bow out in the Preakness, you don't come back for the Belmont," he said. "I honestly believe that if the Triple Crown is not won this year by California Chrome, I will never see it in my lifetime, because there are people out there trying to upset the apple cart."

The fatigue factor

California Chrome has never run three times in five weeks. It's a work rate unfamiliar to most modern thoroughbreds. Trainer Art Sherman will tell you he prefers to rest his horses six or seven weeks between starts.

It's common to hear old-school analysts complain about the lack of stamina in modern thoroughbreds. Today's horses are bred to run shorter distances and often worked lightly before Triple Crown season. So come Belmont time, they're unprepared for the rigor, or so the argument goes.

Take Big Brown, who was perceived as even more dominant than California Chrome after he swept through the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness in 2008. He had run just three times before the Derby, and after battling a cracked hoof leading up to the Belmont, he pulled up mid-race, leaving his quest unfinished. Big Brown came back to win twice later in the year, confirming his talent. He simply could not handle the Triple Crown schedule.

The next near-miss, I'll Have Another, never even started in the Belmont because of a sore tendon. He had raced just five times entering the Triple Crown. "I think horses years ago were tougher, and they campaigned harder," said Affirmed co-owner Patrice Wolfson. "They usually relished racing."

Is there reason to think California Chrome will be different? Perhaps so. With 12 races on his resumé, five this year, his schedule is akin to those of the great 1970s champions. The Belmont was Secretariat's 12th race, for example. It was the ninth for 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew.

For all of Sherman's reservations about the schedule, his horse is well tested.



MCT

Big Brown, a horse thought to be even more dominant than California Chrome, couldn't handle the rigors of the Triple Crown schedule in 2008.



MCT

Birdbstone, left, ridden by Edgar Prado, passes Triple Crown hopeful Smarty Jones, ridden by Stewart Elliott, on the homestretch to win the 136th Belmont Stakes on June 5, 2004, at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y. The 1½-mile distance of the Belmont simply proves to be too much for some contenders.

The distance ▲

If the Kentucky Derby is marked by packed fields and the Preakness by early speed, the Belmont is the marathon of the Triple Crown slate.

Like most of his peers, California Chrome has never run longer than the 1¼ miles at Churchill Downs. The 1½-mile Belmont represents an unexplored frontier.

Sherman has been bullish about his colt's ability to handle the distance. The trainer likes to say California Chrome would run all day if permitted. By all accounts he had energy to spare at the end of the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness.

On the other hand, jockey Victor Espinoza had to run him hard down the stretch at Pimlico to hold off Ride On Curlin. Commanding Curve was closing fast at the end of the Derby. If either race had been 1½ miles, would California Chrome have been passed?

It's a question he might have to answer at Belmont Park, with strong contenders such as Commanding Curve and Wicked Strong in the field. The closest near-misses since 1978

— Silver Charm, Real Quiet and Smarty Jones — all led in the Belmont and lost to late charges.



Victor Espinoza

Race tactics

Espinoza feels an unusual affinity for California Chrome, who has responded to his calls for speed at various points in big races. This versatility might be the colt's greatest strength.

But Espinoza acknowledged that the Preakness presented a difficult tactical challenge, with speedy horses attacking California Chrome in the first half of the race. Given the 1½-mile distance, Espinoza had to decide whether to accelerate earlier than he wanted or risk letting a speed horse run away with the race. He asked for California Chrome's big move with more than a half-mile to go, and the colt had enough endurance to pull it off.

What if the same thing happens in the Belmont and California Chrome accelerates early only to face a much longer stretch run?

Many felt Stewart Elliott fell into that trap aboard Smarty Jones in 2004 and lost his lead to 36-1 underdog Birdstone because of it.

Patience is often key to a strong run in the Belmont.

Bad luck

Any trainer will tell you that anything can happen in horse racing. So many variables have to align for one victory, much less three in five weeks against the nation's best competition.

Already, California Chrome has evaded the threat of a poor post position at Churchill Downs and overcome the irritation of a sore throat at Pimlico. While rivals have been scratched because of injuries or become trapped in impenetrable race traffic, he has seemingly made his own luck.

But Sherman knows that some factors are out of his or the horse's control.

California Chrome could develop a minor injury, as I'll Have Another did in 2012 or Big Brown did in 2008. He drew the No. 2 post position and so he could become trapped against the rail with other horses kicking dirt in his face.

These are problems he has not yet confronted, and if we've learned anything about the Triple Crown, it's that the problems keep coming.

That's as it should be, traditionalists say.

"I think it takes not only an exceptional horse to win all three races, but

it takes great training and management, and it takes good luck," said Dr. Jim Hill, co-owner of Seattle Slew. "I think all those things should go together, and I don't think that the task should be lessened at all."



SPORTS



Cramping his style
Ailing LeBron exits in 4th as
Spurs take Game 1 | Page 27



Trouble trifecta

Fatigue, fresh opponents, distance have derailed recent Triple Crown bids

By CHILDS WALKER • *The Baltimore Sun*

“S

ince Affirmed in 1978” — it has to be the most overused phrase in thoroughbred racing.

Yet it's inevitable every spring, when a new crop of 3-year-olds takes a shot at the sport's most cherished prize, the Triple Crown.

Affirmed was the last to do it, 36 years ago, and the ensuing drought has coincided with a long downturn in popularity for racing. The sport's stakeholders have hungered for a new superstar, and a Triple Crown seems the surest way to make one.

Which is where California Chrome enters the picture.

He's perfect for the role — a personable chestnut colt with four white hooves, an underdog story and scintillating speed. Five times he has entered the starting gate as a 3-year-old and five times he has blown away

the competition, the last two in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes.

California Chrome will enter the Belmont Stakes on Saturday as a commanding favorite, having already beaten the best challengers in the field. He seems poised to follow in the hoofprints of another great chestnut who ended a long Triple Crown drought, Secretariat.

But the sport's recent past is littered with 3-year-olds who looked like the next superhorse only to falter on the 1½-mile track at Belmont Park. A dozen horses since 1978 have won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, then lost in New York. A few — Silver Charm, Real Quiet and Smarty Jones — came agonizingly close. Others, such as Big Brown and War Emblem, seemed spent shortly after leaving the starting gate.

The Triple Crown is a rigged game, one in which the aspirant is asked to find new limits of endurance while facing wave after wave of fresher horses. Some horse-men say it's become unfair. Others argue it's supposed to be this hard.

■ CALIFORNIA CHROME'S BIGGEST OBSTACLES, PAGE 30

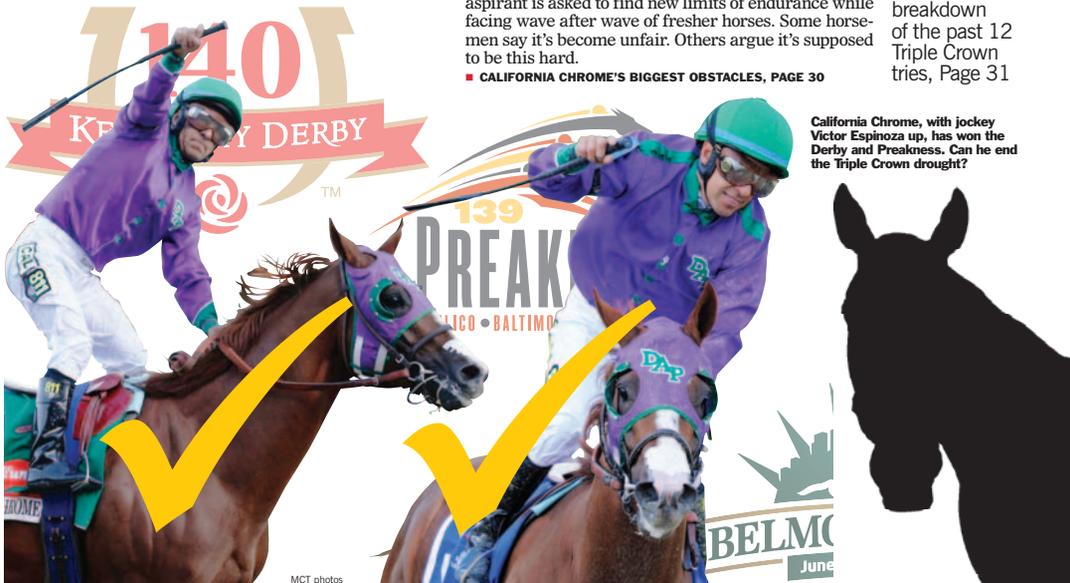
Inside:

■ 5 things to know about the race, Page 31



The immensely popular Smarty Jones falls short in 2004.

■ An in-depth breakdown of the past 12 Triple Crown tries, Page 31



California Chrome, with jockey Victor Espinoza up, has won the Derby and Preakness. Can he end the Triple Crown drought?