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Free to Deployed Areas

US BOMBS IRAQI MILITANTS

Airstrikes target Islamic State fighters' artillery in effort to stem northern offensive

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The U.S. military began bombing Islamic militants in Iraq on Friday, just hours after President Barack Obama announced that he had given the green light to do so.

"At approximately 6:45 a.m. EDT, the U.S. military conducted a targeted airstrike against Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorists," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement.



COVERAGE OF THE IRAQ CRISIS

The latest news, maps and timelines of the situation in Iraq as events unfold: stripes.com/iraq

Militant positions were attacked by two F/A-18 aircraft which dropped 500-pound laser-guided bombs on a mobile artillery piece near the city of Irbil, where American diplomats and about 40 U.S. military advisers are stationed.

The artillery was firing into Irbil and targeting Kurdish peshmerga forces, according to a U.S. official

who spoke to Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity.

"The decision to strike was made by the U.S. Central Command commander under authorization granted him by the commander in chief. As the president made clear, the United States military will continue to take direct action against ISIL

when they threaten our personnel and facilities," Kirby said.

The F/A-18s assigned to Carrier Air Wing 8 came off the USS George H.W. Bush aircraft carrier, which has been in the Persian Gulf since June, according to a Navy press release.

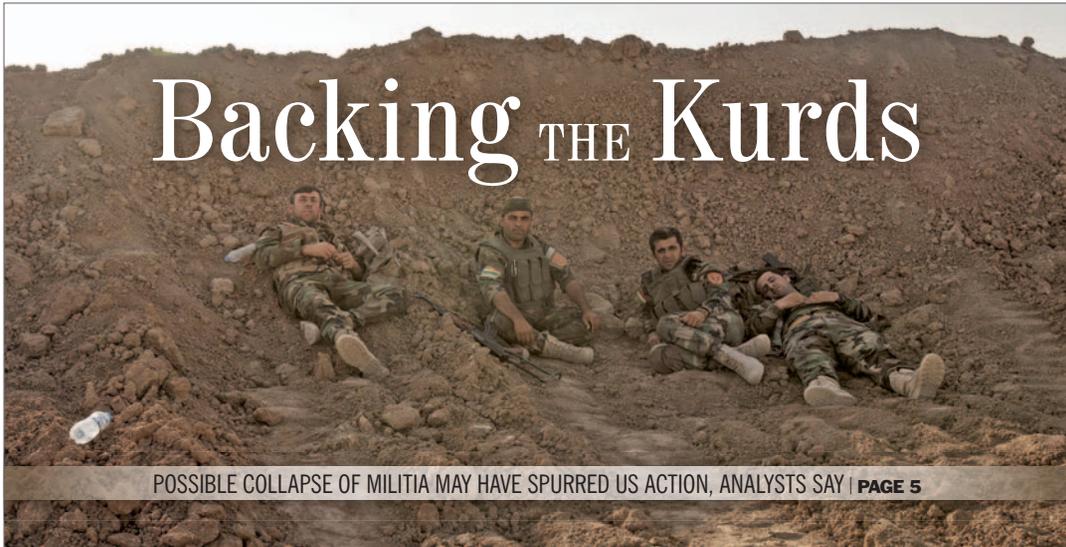
Obama announced late Thursday evening that he had authorized the U.S. military to bomb Islamic militants who have conducted a sweeping offensive in northern Iraq in recent days.

SEE AIRSTRIKES ON PAGE 4

"We intend to stay vigilant, and take action if these terrorist forces threaten our personnel or facilities anywhere in Iraq."

President Barack Obama

Backing THE Kurds



POSSIBLE COLLAPSE OF MILITIA MAY HAVE SPURRED US ACTION, ANALYSTS SAY | PAGE 5

MITCHELL PROTHERO/MCT

Kurdish peshmerga special forces rest in the shade of an earthen berm they used to protect approaches to the capital city of Irbil. An offensive by insurgents of the extremist Islamic State group into Iraqi Kurdistan has brought the militants into striking distance of Irbil, where dozens of U.S. diplomats and military staff are based.

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QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"I think women are more resistant to stress than men. They're ready to shoot civilians if it's necessary."

— Iskra, one of seven women in a Ukrainian militia unit fighting pro-Russia rebels

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MILITARY

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PAUL KELLY, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

The guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens is underway in the Pacific Ocean in 2012.

Navy: Skipper spent weeks in cabin

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Navy investigation found that the ailing skipper of a San Diego-based Navy cruiser retreated to his cabin for several weeks in the middle of a deployment, leaving the 330-member crew without its leader.

The probe also revealed that the skipper of the USS Cowpens, Capt. Gregory W. Gombert, was having an improper and "unduly familiar" relationship with the cruiser's acting executive officer, U-T San Diego reported Wednesday.

The Navy removed Gombert and the ship's command master chief, Master Chief Petty Officer Gabriel J. Keeton, from their positions on June 10. The reason given at the time was poor ship condition.

Gombert's medical problems were not disclosed, but investigators said they should not have left him unable to lead. They also shouldn't have required him to retreat to his cabin from early January through March, officials said.

"The violations revealed by the investigation, especially the blatant abdication of command responsibility on the part of the [commanding officer], are among the most egregious I have encountered in my 32-year career," wrote Vice Adm. Tom Copeman, the three-star admiral in charge of the Navy's surface ships.

At a July 25 administrative hearing, Gombert was found guilty of several counts of disobeying an



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

Capt. Gregory Gombert, left, commanding officer of the guided missile cruiser USS Cowpens, is seen with Lt. Cmdr. Destiny Savage, executive officer; Command Master Chief Gabriel Keeton; and Manila American Cemetery superintendent Master Chief Larry Adkison at the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.

order and conduct unbecoming an officer. So was the former acting executive officer, whom the newspaper identified in a Navy photo from March as Lt. Cmdr. Destiny Savage.

Neither Gombert nor Savage could immediately be reached for comment Thursday.

Keeton was found guilty of two counts of disobeying an order, apparently because he failed to notify anyone outside the ship of the troubles on board — despite telling crewmembers that he would.

The investigation found the skip-

per's unacceptable absence from the bridge predated his illness.

Of the 48 "special evolutions" that the ship performed — tricky maneuvers such as getting close to a refueling ship — Gombert was on the bridge for just 27, according to U-T San Diego.

His health-related seclusion began in mid-January, when he came down with an illness that required bed rest for 10 to 20 days, according to the investigation.

Gombert told his superiors that he questioned his ability to lead on two of those days and later said he

considered asking for convalescent time but decided against it.

As for Gombert's relationship with Savage, the newspaper reported that starting in December, the crew noticed the two officers spent evenings alone in Gombert's cabin with the door closed. Savage frequently was seen making dinner for Gombert in his cabin and keeping her toiletries in his private bathroom there, according to investigators.

Also, the investigation said, the two went away for days together during port visits.



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MIDEAST

Investigators finish questioning Bergdahl about 2009 capture

By MAYA SRIKRISHNAN
Los Angeles Times

Army investigators wrapped up two days of questioning Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl Thursday as part of an investigation into his 2009 disappearance from his base in Afghanistan, and his subsequent capture that led to nearly five years of Taliban captivity.

Bergdahl, 28, was questioned in San Antonio on Wednesday and Thursday about his disappearance.



Bergdahl

Maj. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl handled the questioning both days as he sought to determine how Bergdahl came to be away from his post and captured.

The Army investigation will take into consideration Bergdahl's explanation, along with information and accounts from others, as officials try to determine whether the former prisoner broke any military laws.

Bergdahl was released May 31 by his Haqqani network captors in a controversial exchange that involved the release of five Taliban suspects from the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Haqqani network has been behind some of the deadliest attacks against U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The deal drew criticism from some Republicans in Congress, who argued that it violated American policy against negotiating with terrorists. Some members of Bergdahl's Army unit accused him of deserting his post before being captured by the Taliban.

Eugene Fidell, Bergdahl's attorney, told the Los Angeles Times on Thursday that the interview was "very important" to his client and that being able to tell his side of things provided "intermediate closure," though real closure is further down the road.

"This is the first opportunity he's really had to describe in detail what happened and to describe it himself," Fidell said. "I think the government has the information it needs to make an informed judgment."

Fidell said that the atmosphere of the interview was "very relaxed" and "not confrontational or adversarial at all."

"Maj. Gen. Dahl really did a good job of putting everyone at ease," he said. "It was really masterful."

Speaking to reporters after the interview, Fidell described his client as a "pretty tough hombre."

"This is nothing compared to what he's had to deal with," he said. "He actually doesn't dwell on every news story, every interview, every rumor, every falsehood, every vilification. He doesn't sweat that."

Bergdahl was assigned recently to an administrative job at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

6 US servicemembers hurt in Kabul attack in stable condition

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Six of the nine U.S. servicemembers wounded when a suspected Afghan soldier opened fire on coalition forces at a defense university in Kabul are in stable condition at a U.S. military hospital in Germany, officials said Friday.

The attack on Tuesday killed Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, the first general officer killed in hostilities overseas since the Vietnam War, and wounded more than a dozen others, including nine Americans.

Six of them were flown to Ramstein Air Base in Germany and transferred to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where they were in stable condition, spokesman Chuck Roberts said.

Five were being treated for gunshot wounds, while the sixth was injured by shrapnel. Coalition of-

ficials in Afghanistan said three others were treated at the military hospital at Kabul International Airport and were released.

Roberts said he could not release the names of the wounded.

The Telegraph of Macon, Ga., said two of the Americans injured were graduates of Georgia Military College and identified them as U.S. Army Capt. Jeremy Haynes and Ibrahim Jantawi. The paper said they were in Germany in stable but critical condition. Haynes was serving as aide-de-camp to Greene, the paper said.

A German brigadier general and a senior Afghan commander were among those wounded in the insider attack at the Marshal Fahim National Defense University outside Kabul. The lone German was killed.

news@stripes.com



STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

From left, Afghan presidential candidate Ashraf Ghani speaks during a news conference on Friday in Kabul as rival candidate Abdullah Abdullah speaks to Secretary of State John Kerry, right.

Afghan candidates vow to stop feud, focus on issues

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The two contenders for Afghanistan's presidency promised Friday to stop feuding over an election recount and begin defining a power-sharing agreement, although their pledge avoided describing how such a novel political arrangement would work.

In an appearance that resembled one held three weeks ago when Secretary of State John Kerry brokered the deal to end a standoff over the disputed presidential runoff vote, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah appeared side by side again with Kerry to vow they would implement the same deal.

This time, both said they had signed an agreement to end arguing over the terms of the recount, to push for its speedy resolution and to accept its results. They also said they would immediately begin working together to define a new political structure, which would create a "chief executive" position to be filled by the losing candidate.

Kerry said the new agreement answered lingering questions from the original deal, clarifying the criteria used in the recount and the terminology in the power-sharing agreement.

"Those have now been worked through," Kerry said. "Both of them. And that's what brings everybody back here with greater clarity about the steps that we've taken."

Protests from the Abdullah camp last week over the technical details of the recount nearly derailed the effort before tallying resumed Monday.

"From now on, we are not going to discuss the election," Ghani

said. "Our discussion will be on the interests of Afghanistan — peace, security, stability and the interests of the Afghan people."

Under the agreement, the candidates will push for the recount to be finished by the end of August, just before a September summit of NATO countries. Yet they declined to set an inauguration date, believing it would distract from the recount, Ghani said.

The signed statement, a copy of which was not immediately available, also avoids enumerating the powers of the chief executive and does not set a deadline for doing so, despite the fact the candidates will be on different political footings once a winner is declared.

Ghani, who finished ahead of Abdullah in June's runoff by roughly a million votes, has said that he wants to wait until after the recount is finished to define the position. Abdullah has pushed for a faster resolution.

All three men emphasized the new political structure was permissible under Afghanistan's constitution, and Kerry said it wouldn't create a parliamentary system or diminish the powers of the president. He said it would work toward reforming sectors of Afghanistan society, although he didn't offer details on how. The position would answer to the president but could be confirmed and replaced only by the Loya Jirga, an assembly of tribal leaders from across the country.

How the recount will be finished by month's end remains unclear. Conducted by Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission and overseen by the United Nations with the aid of independent election observers, the recount is the biggest and most complex in U.N. history.

As of Thursday evening, about

18,000 ballot boxes remained to be checked, or roughly 82 percent of the total. Counters completed 720 boxes on Thursday, the largest single-day count yet, a rate that would have to be exceeded to meet the agreement time line. Kerry asked on Friday for more election observers to join the effort.

The two candidates offered their condolences to the family of Army Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, who was killed Tuesday when an Afghan insider a training base near Kabul opened fire. More than a dozen NATO troops were also wounded in the attack.

Kerry's visit underlines the urgency with which the U.S. views a resolution to the election and a peaceful transition of power in the country, which is fighting an entrenched insurgency and a rock-bottom economy that only grows worse amid perceptions of government instability.

Both candidates appeared to understand how closely their cooperation is being watched, each offering repeated reassurances about their ability to work together.

Ghani said he and Abdullah, both former ministers under the Hamid Karzai government, were so in sync Friday while speaking with Kerry that they "finished each other's sentences."

Whether such amity will survive the results of an election both want to win remains to be seen. In an awkward moment late in the news conference, Kerry responded to a reporter's question by saying he'd "leave the answer to the next president of Afghanistan."

Abdullah and Ghani looked at each other and hesitated before Kerry realized his flub.

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IRAQ CRISIS

Airstrikes:
Humanitarian
aid mission
lasted minutes

FROM FRONT PAGE

The militants, who call themselves the Islamic State, are now threatening the Kurdish provincial capital of Irbil. American diplomats are working at the U.S. consulate there, and about 40 U.S. troops are manning a joint operations center that was set up last month.

"To stop the advance on Irbil, I've directed our military to take targeted strikes against [Islamic State] terrorist convoys should they move toward the city. We intend to stay vigilant and take action if these terrorist forces threaten our personnel or facilities anywhere in Iraq, including our consulate in Irbil and our Embassy in Baghdad," Obama said in an address to the nation.

American aircraft continue to circle northern Iraq.

We have oriented both our manned and unmanned [intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance] to take a particular and constant look at Irbil to make sure we know what's going on. ... We almost consistently have either manned or unmanned ISR aircraft in the area, given the concerns," a senior administration official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

Despite the potential threat from Islamic State fighters, the consulate in Irbil is still operating, according to officials. Ironically, some American Embassy staffers in Baghdad had earlier been moved to Irbil due to safety concerns.

A U.S. official told Stars and Stripes there are contingency plans in place should there be a need to evacuate the consulate or the JOC.

For months, the administration had been sending weapons, including Hellfire missiles, to the Iraqi government in Baghdad. But U.S. officials said they are now going to start supplying directly to the Kurdish peshmerga forces in northern Iraq.

In his address, Obama said militants who have trapped Iraqi religious minorities on Mount Sinjar may also be targeted to help break the siege.

Thousands of members of the Yazidi religious sect fled to the mountain to avoid death at the hands of the Islamic State. The militants, Sunni Muslims who don't share their ideology, have threatened to kill the Yazidis if they try to leave the mountain.

Obama announced that the U.S. military had conducted a humanitarian assistance operation Thursday to aid the Yazidis, who needed food and water.

Escorted by two F/A-18 fighter jets, three cargo planes — a C-17 and two C-130s — the U.S. dropped 5,300 gallons of water and 8,000 rations for the displaced people.

"When we face a situation like we do on that mountain, with innocent people facing the prospect of violence on a horrific scale, when



PETE SOUZA, COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE/AP

President Barack Obama meets with the National Security Council in the White House in Washington, D.C., on Thursday.

we have a mandate to help — in this case, a request from the Iraqi government — and when we have the unique capabilities to help avert a massacre, then I believe the United States of America cannot turn a blind eye," Obama said. The U.S. aircraft, which launched from the CENTCOM area of operation, were over the drop area for less than 15 minutes and exited without incident, military officials said.

In a statement, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel commended "the men and women of the United States Central Command who safely and successfully executed this operation."

There were no U.S. ground troops involved in the mission, according to officials.

Senior administration officials, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said additional airstrikes would be conducted if necessary.

"I would expect that need to continue," one senior official said. The Iraqi military attempted to carry out the relief operation on its own but weren't up to the task.

"The Iraqi air force maneuvered some of their cargo transport and did a number of airdrops, but to limited effect," according to the official.

The U.S. military is much better equipped to conduct that kind of operation.

"It's a rugged area, but our capabilities are extraordinarily advanced when it comes to precision airdrops," a U.S. official told Stars and Stripes Thursday before the American airdrop began.

The airstrikes are focused on northern Iraq for now, and U.S. officials depicted the initiative as limited in scope.

"This was not an authorization of a broad-based counterterrorism campaign against ISIL [the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant]. It

had two very narrow and specific objectives," a senior administration official said.

However, the Pentagon is authorized to bomb the militants if American personnel and facilities in Baghdad are threatened.

Although the Islamic State also has a presence in Syria and Lebanon, officials said Obama's authorization to use force against the group applied only to potential targets in Iraq.

Obama, who pulled U.S. forces out of Iraq in 2011, had been reluctant to become directly involved in the sectarian fighting there.

In June and July, he deployed hundreds of troops to Iraq to perform security and advisory missions as militants overran much of the country and were advancing on Baghdad, but he did not authorize the Pentagon to launch strikes.

However, the group's advances in recent days forced his hand, ac-

ording to officials.

"On [Aug. 2], ISIL launched a multipronged attack reaching across hundreds of kilometers in northern Iraq. It was swift; it was effective. They used — they acted with tremendous military proficiency. ... And last night, ISIL launched another series of attacks, which changed the dynamic once again, particularly potential approaches into Irbil. ... At the same time, we had the humanitarian situation unfolding, and with a particularly unique and urgent situation on Sinjar Mountain. ... And that is when we, with our national security team, began to review all of our possible options, and acted on a fairly rapid basis to put together a very good military plan through the Department of Defense and CENTCOM," the official said.

Obama has long ruled out sending ground combat forces back into Iraq — a position he reiterated Thursday.

"I will not allow the United States to be dragged into fighting another war in Iraq," he said. "So even as we support Iraqis as they take the fight to these terrorists, American combat troops will not be returning."

The Obama administration consulted with members of Congress before the president gave the go-ahead to conduct the air operations. There appears to be little opposition from lawmakers thus far, although Republicans criticized Obama's overall handling of the crisis.

"The president's authorization of airstrikes is appropriate, but ... I am dismayed by the ongoing absence of a strategy for countering the grave threat ISIS poses to the region," Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a statement Friday. "The president needs a long-term strategy — one that defines success as completing our mission, not keeping political promises — and he needs to build the public and congressional support to sustain it."

Senior administration officials said Obama would continue to consult with lawmakers, but that he has sufficient constitutional authority as commander in chief to order these military actions without congressional approval.

US air assets in the Middle East

USS George H.W. Bush

The aircraft carrier has been under way in the northern Persian Gulf since mid-June, when it was sent there in case of military action against militants from the Islamic State. The ship has a complement of more than 60 combat aircraft, some capable of midair refueling: F/A-18 Super Hornets, F/A-18Es, E-2C Hawkeyes and EA-6B Prowlers.

Bataan Amphibious Ready Group

Is in the midst of an eight-month deployment to the Middle East region. Often referred to as the "Swiss Army Knife" of the joint forces, the ships give the U.S. military a crisis-response capability that can be tailored to a wide range of situations. The USS Bataan and the USS Mesa Verde both have flight decks, and between them they have an array of aircraft, such as MV-22 Ospreys, AV-8B Harrier attack aircraft and CH-53E Sea Stallion helicopters.

Al Udeid Air Base

This air base in Qatar is home to the U.S. 39th Air Expeditionary Wing with more than 100 combat and support aircraft capable of conducting bombing missions, airfield, aerial refueling, medical evacuations and reconnaissance. These forces have provided support for operations New Dawn and Enduring Freedom, as well as other missions for Joint Task Force Horn of Africa.

All Al Saleem Air Base

The U.S. 366th Air Expeditionary Wing operates from this base in Kuwait. The U.S. Air Force has aircraft here capable of providing tactical airlift, reconnaissance, combat support and humanitarian relief operations in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. Aircraft include C-130s, MQ-1Bd, C-17s, C-12s and UC-35s.

Jordan

The U.S. has a detachment of F-16s in Jordan that deployed there in June 2013 as violence escalated in neighboring Syria.

Isa Air Base

The U.S. military maintains a presence at this base in the remote southern part of Bahrain.

Bahrain International Airport

The U.S. Navy has an aviation-support unit here, used mostly for logistical support in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

Al Dhafra Air Base

The 380th Air Expeditionary Wing is stationed in the United Arab Emirates. The 380th has aircraft capable of performing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and aerial refueling support missions.

■ In addition, the U.S. can draw on these assets in Europe:

Incirlik Air Base

Strategically situated in Turkey, this base is home to the 39th Air Base Wing. With a robust infrastructure for logistical support, it offers staging and operational capabilities.

Ramstein Air Base

Ramstein serves as the headquarters for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and NATO. The 66th Airlift Wing conducts airlift, air-drop and aeromedical evacuation operations with the following aircraft: C-20Bs, C-21s, C-37s, C-40Bs and C-130Js.

Source: U.S. Navy and Air Force command websites

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this report.

IRAQ CRISIS

Airstrikes help allies facing militant attack

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

Launching airstrikes against Sunni militants in northern Iraq is aimed as much at supporting the Kurdish militia, a staunch U.S. ally for the past two decades, as it is at protecting U.S. personnel and preventing humanitarian disaster, analysts and diplomats say.

The extremist Islamic State group has routed the Iraqi army to seize much of western and central Iraq, including the country's second-largest city of Mosul. Now their offensive has brought the militants into striking distance of Irbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region, where dozens of U.S. diplomats and military staff are based.

The surge also has cut off Christian and Yazidi religious communities who relied on Kurdish military protection. In response to the humanitarian crisis and the militants' move toward Irbil, Obama on Thursday announced that he had authorized targeted airstrikes against the Islamic State group to stop the advance on Irbil.

On Friday, F/A-18 jets dropped 500-pound, laser-guided bombs onto a mobile artillery piece the militant group was using to shell Kurdish forces defending Irbil, a Pentagon spokesman said.

That contrasts sharply with Washington's policy to date.

Since the Islamic State offensive started in June, the administration has avoided airstrikes, insisting instead that Iraq's authoritarian Shiite prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, first must end the sectarian policies that have driven many Sunnis to support the Islamic State. U.S. officials feared airstrikes would be perceived as America siding with the Shiite-dominated government against a Sunni minority who had legitimate grievances against al-Maliki's rule.

But the Kurdish region was considered well-protected by its peshmerga militia.

Unlike the demoralized, U.S.-trained and largely Shiite Iraqi army, the peshmerga were viewed as a highly motivated force with experienced, battle-tested commanders whose ranks are not riveted with sectarian rivalries.

Thus the latest militant advance into Kurdish territory came as a surprise and galvanized the U.S. to act, said a senior Western diplomat with many years' experience in Baghdad.

"The reason for the U.S. airstrikes 'is pretty self-evident — if the peshmerga can't defend and protect, then they need help,'" said the diplomat, who could not be named under standing rules.

"Everyone has underestimated (the militants). They are not some ragtag group — they are highly organized, equipped and funded with a strong strategic vision," the envoy said.

The West may have overestimated the peshmerga's strengths, said Afzal Ashraf, a fellow at London's Royal United Services Institute, a military and security think tank.

"The peshmerga are essentially a large militia, not an army," Ashraf said. "They lack equipment and training."

"The militants obviously have the advantage of choice where to attack, and they have been able to exploit this (by striking) where the peshmerga were weak."

The peshmerga were first formed in 1961, when Mustafa Barzani, the father of top political leader Masoud Barzani, revolted against Iraqi rule. Decades of conflict, which claimed the lives of about 100,000 Kurds and included the use of chemical weapons, nearly destroyed the rebels. But after Saddam Hussein withdrew his forces from the area following his defeat in the 1991 Persian Gulf War and the U.S. and its allies set up a no-fly zone over Kurdish territory, the peshmerga gradually have rebuilt their strength. During the 2003 invasion of Iraq, they collaborated closely with U.S. forces.

Since then, the Kurdish region



MITCHELL PROTHERO, McCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU/MCT

Kurdish peshmerga gather Thursday at the front lines in Kalak, west of the Iraqi capital Irbil, facing militants from the Islamic State just a little over a mile away. Hundreds of regular soldiers have been joined by retired peshmerga and volunteers to protect the capital.

“The peshmerga are essentially a large militia, not an army. They lack equipment and training.”

Afzal Ashraf
Royal United Services Institute

of northern Iraq, which borders Iran, Syria and Turkey, has enjoyed nearly total independence with its own government, parliament and security force. The region has about 8 million inhabitants, approximately a quarter of Iraq's total population.

When Islamic State insurgents swept into Mosul and other parts of northern and central Iraq in June, many analysts believed the jihadists would not take on Kurdish security forces. But less than two months later, it has become apparent that the group plans to expand its caliphate — proclaimed across swaths of Syria and Iraq — to include Kurdistan.

Ashraf, a former British air force officer who served in Iraq together with U.S. forces before their withdrawal nearly three years ago, said that after the start of the militants' offensive in June, Kurdish forces focused on seizing the disputed, oil-rich city of Kirkuk from fleeing Iraqi government forces. They appeared uninterested in pushing beyond that, effectively allowing fighters of the Islamic State to concentrate on mopping up remaining government forces and consolidating their control elsewhere.

That led to a bitter dispute

with the government in Baghdad, which accused the Kurds of seeking to exploit its army's defeat instead of helping resist the militant surge.

In other areas of Iraq Kurdistan, Ashraf said, the peshmerga deployed relatively small units to control their region's borders — stretching 652 miles from the Syrian border in the west to the Iranian border in the east. But that situation changed when the Islamists unexpectedly changed their tactics and attacked peshmerga positions in an attempt to expand their territorial control into Kurdish areas.

"This made it relatively easy to assault Kurdish positions, especially in areas where the peshmerga have been weak," he said.

After seizing large stocks of Iraqi army weapons, including artillery, tanks and armored personnel carriers, the militants are now more heavily armed than the peshmerga.

"So far, the militants have proved adept at taking advantage of (their enemies') divisions ... using geography and mobility to mitigate external threats," the security firm Stratfor said in a report this week.

Analysts said a sustained

U.S. bombing campaign could have a debilitating effect on the militants, because the terrain in northern Iraq is open rather than mountainous as in Afghanistan. And relying on motorized transport makes the militants very vulnerable to aerial attack. The insurgents are believed to have only light anti-aircraft cannons, which can be a danger to helicopters or low-flying jets, but cannot reach high-flying U.S. fighter-bombers or drones that have been conducting dozens of reconnaissance flights over the region in recent weeks.

"If U.S. bombing is coordinated with targeting intelligence on the ground and with attacks on the (Islamic State's) leadership, that would inflict grave damage to the organization," Ashraf said.

A report Friday by IHS Jane's, which provides analysis on defense and security issues, agreed that the large convoys employed by Islamic State forces would be vulnerable to attacks from the air. But it warned that U.S. intervention also could hand the militants a propaganda victory by depicting the government in Baghdad as being propped up by Western powers.

"The United States probably considers Islamic State advances into the Kurdistan region to be a red line, given the threat to U.S. investments and the (region's) role as a potential staging ground for future operations," the report said.

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US prohibits airlines from flying over Iraq

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Aviation Administration said it is prohibiting U.S. airlines and other commercial carriers from flying over Iraq as the U.S. launched its first airstrikes there Friday.

The FAA notice to pilots says its action was prompted by the "potentially hazardous situation created by fighting between militants associated with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Iraqi security forces and their allies."

The ban applies to all U.S.-

registered planes except those operated by foreign carriers and to FAA-licensed pilots. There is an exception for flights operated with U.S. government permission and for emergency situations.

The FAA previously had limited flights over Iraq to altitudes no lower than 30,000 feet.

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MILITARY

Arlington to correct monuments to WWII crew

By Chris Carroll
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A long struggle to make gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery reflect reality rather than bureaucracy has a happy ending for families of a World War II bomber crew lost during a mission in August 1944.

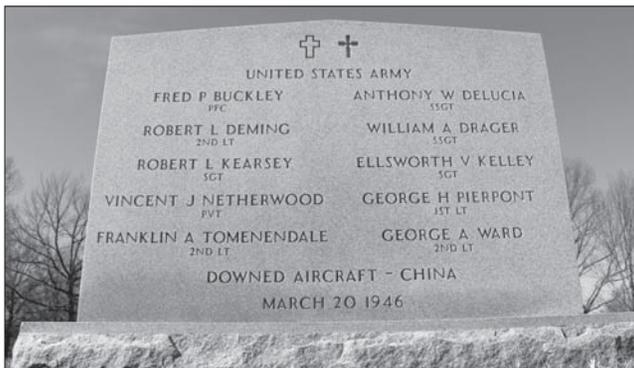
For years, the stone monuments to the crew bore the date on which the Army had classified the missing B-24 crew as dead, rather than the date on which the plane was reported missing — and on which they presumably were killed.

For 12 years, some families of the crew fought to get the date on the monuments changed, as recounted by Stars and Stripes in May.

Family members repeatedly argued to cemetery and Army personnel officials that gravestones that obscured the reality of the combat deaths of the 10 crewmen dishonored them. But the efforts never amounted to anything.

Until now. An Arlington cemetery official told Stars and Stripes that the Army now has the evidence it needs to correct the monuments to show to real date of death.

"Arlington National Cemetery will be replacing the current marker, changing the date of death to August 31, 1944, in accordance with the amended date of death provided by Department of the Army after a formal request for review by the Board of Correction to Military Records," Arlington cemetery spokeswoman-



Rick Vasquez/Stars and Stripes

Managers at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia for years resisted the entreaties of family members to change the date on a marker commemorating the crew of a B-24 that crashed in China on Aug. 31, 1944. They instead kept the date they were officially declared dead by the Army, but now the cemetery has announced it is changing the date.

an Jennifer Lynch told Stars and Stripes in an email. "We have initiated the reorders for all seven markers" — those for six individual crewmembers buried at the cemetery and one large monument with commingled remains, she wrote.

The unofficial leader of the group of families pushing for the change, retired Navy Capt. James Drager, whose father was among the crew, called it a great relief. Younger generations of his family

would have continued the fight to get Staff Sgt. William Drager's date of death right after he was gone, James Drager said.

"I actually had my adult sons and my teenage grandsons geared up to continue this fight for as long as it needed, because they've been watching me for years," he said.

The fate of the crew was a mystery for more than five decades.

After bombing a harbor on Formosa, now called Taiwan, the

damaged plane disappeared, and the Army declared the crew dead in March 1946. But in 1996, farmers hunting herbs on a mountainside in China's Guanzhong province found twisted wreckage and bones of the crew.

After recovery, six members of the crew were buried at Arlington in 2000, and commingled remains were buried in a common gravesite. The funeral was both solemn and spectacular, Drager remembers. But when he visited

the site with family a year later — after the monuments had been put in place — he was shocked to see the 1946 date.

He notified other family members around the country, who were similarly disturbed.

"These guys deserve a World War II date on their grave for eternity — not a 1946 weather balloon accident," J.D. Deming, nephew of 2nd Lt. Robert Deming, navigator on the flight, told Stars and Stripes earlier this year.

After the Stars and Stripes story ran in May, several staffers in the offices of U.S. legislators in whose districts crew family members live began probing the issue, as did Greg Gardner, the Army's Past Conflict Repatriations branch chief, Drager said.

Stars and Stripes could not reach Gardner by deadline for this story.

The Army got information from the Central Identification Laboratory-Hawaii, which oversaw the recovery, that allowed the service to issue new official findings of the date of death, Drager said.

Lynch said the cemetery expected to have delivery of the seven new markers within three to four months and to put them in place within days once all are received.

Deming said he was glad the process didn't drag out any longer — but August 2014 is a fitting month to finally make the fix.

"August 1944," he wrote in an email. "Just hits the 70th (anniversary of the crash) on the dot."

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National Guard's NASCAR decision splits Congress

By James Rosen

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Army National Guard's decision Thursday to end its NASCAR sponsorship sent ripples across Capitol Hill, where lawmakers have slashed Pentagon spending while protecting bases and weapons systems in their states.

The Guard spent \$32 million on NASCAR and \$12 million on its IndyCar sponsorship this year. Military officials blamed Congress for forcing them to make tough cuts.

"Significantly restrained resources and the likelihood of further reductions in the future call for more innovative and cost-effective ways of doing business," Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the National Guard, said in a statement.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who has held hearings on what she has branded the military's wasteful sports sponsorships, said the National Guard's move was long overdue.

"I'm a NASCAR fan, and I love the National Guard, but spending tens of millions of taxpayer dollars on a recruitment program that has been abandoned by other (military) service branches as ineffective, and which apparently yielded few, if any recruits, just makes no sense," McCaskill told McClatchy.

Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., disagreed. "The motor sports industry is a critical

economic driver in North Carolina and states across the country, and I am disappointed that the Army National Guard chose to end its sponsorship of NASCAR," Hagan told McClatchy. "With a strong fan base of 77 million men and women, this partnership with NASCAR has resulted in significant exposure for the Army National Guard that has strengthened recruitment and retention."

The Charlotte Motor Speedway, with a crowd capacity of 140,000, is one of the nation's largest NASCAR racetracks, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame is located in the Queen City.

Richard "The King" Petty and Dale Earnhardt, two of the greatest NASCAR drivers ever, both hailed from North Carolina.

The Army National Guard's NASCAR sponsorship has been mainly through its promotion of Dale Earnhardt Jr. and his racing team. The younger Earnhardt currently sits second in the Sprint Cup Series behind California native Jeff Gordon.

NASCAR stadiums draw some of the biggest crowds in American sports, from the Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas, to Florida's Daytona International Speedway.

Officials at NASCAR's Daytona Beach headquarters did not respond to several requests for comment about the Army National Guard decision to sever ties.



Joe Burbank, Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel/MCT

Dale Earnhardt, Jr. appears during the national anthem before the weather-shortened Coke Zero 400 NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Daytona International Speedway on July 6 at Daytona Beach, Fla.

Since 2006, the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard have each ended sponsorship programs with NASCAR. NASCAR also has lost major corporate

sponsors in recent years, among them Dodge, UPS, AT&T and Home Depot. While the sport retains millions of fans, its popularity has waned in the last decade.

NATION



CHARLIE NEBERGALL/AP

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, right, talks in June with Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., during the Iowa State Republican Convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

Republican leaders hope Iowa shake-up draws candidates

BY CATHERINE LUCEY
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa's Republican Gov. Terry Branstad has spent the past year leading an effort to seize control of his state party, hoping to send a message that the kickoff presidential caucuses will be welcoming to all 2016 GOP hopefuls.

But as conservative prospects fledge the state for a major annual gathering of evangelical Christians this weekend, it's not clear whether the party makeover will make Iowa more attractive to a mainstream GOP contender. Evangelicals, tea party adherents and libertarians remain strong in Iowa, which has been difficult terrain for more moderate Republicans in recent presidential cycles.

The lineup for the Family Leadership Summit in Ames — a daylong event expected to draw more than 1,000 conservative Christians — features Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and former caucus winners Rick San-

torum and Mike Huckabee. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul also has been touring the state this week.

Meanwhile, appearances in Iowa by the more pragmatic options have been sparse.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie came once in his role as chairman of the Republican Governors Association. Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has not been seen since 2012. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, busy with a re-election campaign, last came in May 2013.

Still, Branstad insists he is confident the state will get plenty of candidate attention.

"My advice is always come to Iowa early, spend a lot of time here," said Branstad, who is running for his sixth nonconsecutive term and said his efforts are also geared at making 2014 a strong year for Republicans in Iowa.

The recent party shake-up came after veteran Iowa Republicans grew concerned that the party's more conservative factions were displacing traditional Republicans. The victory by Huckabee, a former Arkansas

governor, in the caucuses in 2008 showed the power of the conservative vote.

Iowa Republicans also are still reeling from the debacle in 2012 when the state GOP initially declared Mitt Romney the winner and then admitted three weeks later that the conservative Santorum had received more votes. Shortly after that, supporters of libertarian U.S. Rep. Ron Paul took over the party leadership. The chairman then openly disagreed with Branstad on political and policy matters and fundraising languished.

Above all else, Branstad and his allies want to preserve Iowa's first-in-the-nation caucuses, which have given the state — with just 3 million residents — an outside influence on presidential politics.

Without new steps to assure the caucuses' stability, "it would limit the number of candidates willing to take part in the caucuses and it could harm the caucuses," said Jeffrey Boeyink, former chief of staff to Branstad.

Senator Walsh drops Montana re-election bid

BY SEAN SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sen. John Walsh, D-Mont., announced Thursday that he would end his bid for a full term, shutting down an underdog campaign that was derailed last month by allegations he plagiarized a substantial portion of a major paper he submitted at the U.S. Army War College.

In a note to supporters, Walsh said the 2007 paper had "become a distraction" to the campaign and his service in the Senate.

"I am ending my campaign so that I can focus on fulfilling the responsibility entrusted to me as your U.S. Senator," said Walsh. "You deserve someone who will always fight for Montana, and I will."

Walsh's decision came amid concerns from many Democrats about the impact of having a flawed candidate on the ballot — but it sparked a new round of uncertainty about the party's prospects of holding a key seat that has long been at serious risk of falling into Republican hands.

"We all just had a hard time, I think, with the circumstances surrounding" the plagiarism controversy, said Dave Fern, the male Western District chairman of the state Democratic Party.

Republicans need to gain six seats to win the Senate majority in November. GOP Rep. Steve Daines was leading Walsh in the polls even before the plagiarism allegations surfaced, and Republicans expressed confidence that he would defeat whomever Democrats nominate in place of Walsh.



Walsh

"Steve Daines is one of the strongest Senate candidates in the country, was in the process of defeating Senator Walsh, and will defeat whichever band-aid candidate Democrats can persuade to get in the race," National Republican Senatorial Committee spokesman Brad Draydspring said in a statement.

The New York Times reported last month that Walsh pulled a sizable part of a paper he submitted at the Army War College titled "The Case for Democracy as a Long Term National Strategy" from a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace document without attribution. The material was mostly used verbatim. Another chunk was pulled from a 1998 essay written by a Harvard University scholar.

Walsh's exit means Montana Democratic leaders will have to hastily arrange a convention to pick a replacement nominee. They have until Aug. 20 to do so.

Possible replacements Democratic leaders have named included former governor Brian Schweitzer; former lieutenant governor John Bohlinger, who lost in the primary; former NARAL Pro-Choice America president Nancy Keenan; and state Sen. David Wanzersheid.

The most intriguing of those options was Schweitzer. A populist with nearly universal name recognition in the state and a national liberal following, he was mentioned as a possible candidate last year, when Democrat Max Baucus announced plans to retire.

But after news of Walsh's withdrawal, the former governor reiterated his decision not to run.

Walsh was appointed to the Senate in February to replace Baucus, who departed to become U.S. ambassador to China. Before coming to Congress, Walsh was the state's lieutenant governor.

Scandal-hit congressman holding on in Tenn. despite 'too much sex'

BY ERIC SCHELZIG
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Scandal-plagued Tennessee Rep. Scott DesJarlais defied expectations of a blowout defeat in his bid for another term, instead emerging from the Republican primary with a razor-thin margin that left the race too close to call.

With all precincts reporting, DesJarlais and challenger Jim Tracy were separated by a 33-vote margin, illustrating the willingness of the incumbent's

tea party base to overlook his personal problems that included once urging a mistress to seek an abortion.

The final result of Thursday's election may drag out until the end the month as election officials consider provisional ballots and potential challenges.

In the other high-profile Tennessee primary contest, Republican Lamar Alexander became the latest U.S. senator to fend off a tea party challenge, defeating a state representative who had used a familiar tactic in trying to cast

him as an out-of-touch insider.

Alexander, a former two-term governor, ended up with 49.7 percent of the vote, compared with 40.5 percent for Rep. Joe Carr of Murfreesboro.

In both of DesJarlais' previous elections, he tried to cast doubt on reports of violent behavior toward his ex-wife and about multiple extramarital affairs before his divorce was finalized.

But court transcripts released the week after the November 2012 election revealed that he admitted under oath that he had

eight affairs, encouraged a lover to get an abortion and used a gun to intimidate his first wife during an argument.

And last year, DesJarlais, a physician, was fined and reprimanded by the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners in May for having sex with patients before he was elected.

DesJarlais dismissed those details as "old news," noting that he now is "happily remarried" while stressing familiar tea party attacks on President Barack Obama over health care and the assault

on a U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

"Tennesseans chose to judge me on my record in Washington," DesJarlais said in a statement.

Tracy, a state senator and former college basketball referee, stressed themes of integrity in his campaign against DesJarlais. That message resonated with some voters like Linda Warpool of Murfreesboro, who said she was tired of the incumbent's scandals.

"Too much sex. Too many abortions," she said.

NATION



PHOTOS BY ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Beryl Lipton, left, douses Matt Lee during the ice bucket challenge Thursday at Boston's Copley Square to raise funds and awareness for ALS.

Getting soaked for charity: Ice bucket challenges become cool

By DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — The idea is simple: Take a bucket of ice water, dump it over your head, record it and post the video on social media.

It's cold, it's fun and it's contagious. But these ice bucket challenges and similar social media-powered stunts also are raising awareness and money for causes such as Lou Gehrig's disease, breast cancer and a camp for kids who have lost their fathers to war.

Martha Stewart has been doused. So has Matt Lauer. And pro golfer Greg Norman.

The fundraising phenomenon asks those willing to doze themselves to challenge others to do the same within 24 hours. If they don't, they must make a donation to a certain charity. Each person who participates nominates more friends, who nominate more friends, who nominate still more friends, which explains why the trend has exploded.

The months-old movement has taken the Boston area by storm during the past 10 days, since friends and relatives of former Boston College baseball player Pete Frates used it to raise awareness about Lou Gehrig's disease. Frates was diagnosed with the neurodegenerative disease, also known as ALS, in 2012. Frates, 29, is now paralyzed, eats through a feeding tube and cannot talk.

On Thursday, his parents, Nancy and John Frates, joined 200 people who doused themselves in Copley Square. The couple said the ice bucket challenge has done more to increase understanding about ALS than anything they've done over the past two years. "Who knew all it would take was a bag of ice and a bucket?"



Boston City Councillor Tito Jackson, center in suit, leads some 200 people in the ice bucket challenge Thursday at Boston's Copley Square.

John Frates told the crowd, just before participants simultaneously poured 9-quart buckets of ice water over their heads.

While most were wearing T-shirts or other casual summer attire, City Councillor Tito Jackson stood out in a suit and tie, which promptly got soaked.

"This is a little bit of discomfort for a second, but it's a lifetime of challenges for people with ALS," Jackson said.

Similar challenges have attracted athletes, politicians, doctors, accountants and construction workers. They can take all sorts of forms: There are no-make-up selfies to raise money for cancer causes and cold-water plunges for kids' camps.

Lauer got soaked with ice water last month after Norman challenged him and ended up kicking in some cash for the Hospice of Palm Beach County in Florida.

Operation 300 is a foundation in Stewart, Fla, that hosts a camp for kids who lost their fathers to war. Founded by the family of

Navy SEAL Aaron Vaughn, who was killed in a helicopter crash three years ago, the foundation gets support from local firefighters, one of whom decided to put his money where his mouth was: Pay \$50 and avoid the icy dousing or get wet and pay \$20.

Since the spring, the foundation has raised about \$15,000 from the ice water challenge.

There can be dangers. Authorities in Camden Township, Minn., said Davis Colley, 16, drowned in May when he jumped into a lake as part of a challenge, and in some states, police warned parents and kids to avoid jumping into frigid or fast-moving waters.

For those who work to raise awareness of ALS, the ice bucket challenge has been a windfall.

The ALS Association's national president, Barbara Newhouse, said donations to the national office surged during the 10-day period that ended Thursday, to about \$160,000, from \$14,480 during the same period a year ago.

Immigrant child flow slows along Texas border

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
The Associated Press

MALLEN, Texas — Far fewer unaccompanied immigrant children are crossing the Texas-Mexico border, allowing the federal government to close the temporary shelters that it hurriedly opened to handle the surge, authorities say.

The Department of Homeland Security released data Thursday showing that about 5,500 unaccompanied children were arrested in July, barely half the number in May and June and the fewest children arrested in a month since February. Similarly, arrests of parents with children dropped by more than half last month, to just over 7,400.

DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson welcomed the decline but said the current numbers are still much higher than in previous years. "We continue to have much work to do to address this issue, and our message continues to be clear — 'Our border is not open to illegal migration,'" Johnson said in a statement.

Arrests in South Texas have fallen in recent weeks to about 100 per day, down from 300 or more in June, according to the Border Patrol.

The decline could be the result of searing summer temperatures or a messaging campaign by both the U.S. and the migrants' home countries that stresses the dangers of the journey and warns them they will not be allowed to

stay. The government has reduced the removal time for many adults traveling alone from 33 days to about four days, Johnson said.

Officials on the border are careful not to suggest that the crisis has passed. When temperatures subside, they say, children from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador could be back in greater numbers.

The White House has shied away from taking credit for the decrease, which gives the administration more time to deal with the crush of immigrants who have already arrived, many drawn here by persistent rumors that once across the border, they will be allowed to stay.

The slowdown also seems likely to reduce the urgency for Congress to act after adjourning last week without a deal to give President Barack Obama any of the money he's asked for to handle the influx. If the slower pace holds, Congress may have little impetus to return to the issue when lawmakers reconvene after Labor Day.

The falling numbers could cause the border crisis to recede somewhat from public view, offering Obama extra space to curb deportations for other segments of the immigrant population, a step he's indicated he plans to take around the end of summer.

This week, the federal agency charged with housing the children announced it soon would suspend operations at three temporary shelters with a total of about 3,000 beds.

Jury rejects self-defense in porch shooting death

By ED WAFFER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — A suburban Detroit man who said he fatally shot an unarmed woman on his porch out of fear prompted by early-morning pounding on his door, facing a life in prison after jurors rejected his claim of self-defense.

Theodore Wafer, 55, was convicted Thursday of second-degree murder after a nine-day trial that centered on whether he had a reasonable and honest belief that his safety was in peril.

"I don't know why this was brought to me," Wafer testified Thursday. "I didn't go out looking for this."

No one knows why Renisha McBride, 19, ended up at Wafer's Dearborn Heights home about 4:30 a.m. on Nov. 2, though prosecutors speculated she may have

been seeking help. She had been out with a friend hours earlier before crashing her car in Detroit about 1 a.m. and an autopsy found she was extremely drunk.

Wafer opened the front door and shot McBride in the face, firing through a screen door while she stood on the other side. He first suggested to police that it was an accident but later admitted to intentionally pulling the trigger.

"This was a monster that killed her. All he had to do was call 911," instead of shooting, said McBride's aunt, Bernita Spinks.

The jury convicted Wafer of murder, manslaughter and a gun-related charge after deliberating eight hours over two days. He faces up to life in prison when he returns to court on Aug. 25 but would be eligible for parole after serving whatever minimum sentence is ordered.

WORLD

American Jews enlist in fight for homeland

By MATTHEW HAY BROWN
The Baltimore Sun

When she was in 10th grade, Risa Kelemer made up her mind: She wanted to serve in the army.

The Israeli army. The Baltimore native visited the Jewish state regularly throughout her childhood. She left her family to spend 10th grade at a school in Haifa. On returning home, she took up running to build strength and endurance, and began contacting authorities to ask about enlisting in the Israel Defense Forces.

"I felt this need to give back," Kelemer, 21, said from Jerusalem last week. Having fallen in love with the state, she said, "I wanted to be a part of this. These were my beliefs."

Kelemer is one of thousands of American Jews who have signed up to fight for Israel since the creation of the modern state in 1948. The IDF puts the number now on active duty at about 1,000.

"The kids there really have a sense of understanding who they are and what they can do to protect Jews, not just in Israel but worldwide," said Philip Berri, director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of Friends of the Israel Defense Forces. "They know the importance of Israel — they're very Zionist — and I think the theme 'Never Again' really resonates with them."

The risks of their service came home during the conflict in Gaza, where Jordan Low, a 19-year-old from Maryland, was wounded in a rocket strike last month. He was recovering from smoke inhalation at a hospital in Tel Aviv.

Other Americans include Max Steinberg, 24, of California, and Nissim Sean Carmeli, 21, of Texas — have died in the fighting.

Americans, who may serve in foreign armies without losing their U.S. citizenship, have a long tradition of fighting in other countries' conflicts. Thousands joined the Abraham Lincoln Brigade to battle the fascist forces of Gen. Francisco Franco in Spain. Hundreds signed up with the Canadian military to fight in Europe before the United States entered World War I, and again before the U.S. entered World War II.

Israel classifies its foreign volunteers as Lone Soldiers — those without parents in the Jewish state. Of the 4,000 now on active duty, about 1,000 are the largest, followed by Russians, Ukrainians, French and Canadians.

Through the IDF and supporters such as Friends of the IDF, the Lone Soldier Center and others, they are connected to adoptive families in Israel and granted extra leave and plane tickets to visit their home countries. But they are otherwise fully integrated into the military, where the requirements and expectations of the foreigners are the same as those for native Israelis, for whom military service is compulsory.



PHOTOS BY KHALIL HAMRA/AP

A wounded Palestinian man stands beside an elderly woman receiving treatment at the Shifa hospital in Gaza City on Friday as Israel and Gaza militants resumed cross-border attacks after a three-day truce.

Violence resumes in Gaza

Rockets fired as Israel-Hamas truce expires

By KARIN LAUB and MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza militants resumed rocket attacks on Israel on Friday, refusing to extend a three-day truce after Egyptian-brokered talks between Israel and Hamas on a new border deal for blockaded Gaza hit a deadlock.

Israel responded with a series of airstrikes, including one that killed a 10-year-old boy and wounded five children near a Gaza City mosque, Palestinian officials said. Two Israelis were wounded by rocket fire, police said.

The renewed violence threw the Cairo talks on a broader deal into doubt. Hamas officials said they are ready to continue talks, but Israel's government spokesman said Israel will not negotiate under fire.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry expressed "extreme regret" over the failure to extend the truce, urged restraint by both sides and called for a new cease-fire to resume negotiations. The ministry said progress had been made in the talks, but did not explain.

Hamas wants Israel to open Gaza's borders, following a seven-year closure also enforced by Egypt, but Israel says it will only do so if the Islamic militants disarm or are prevented from rearming. Hamas has insisted it will never give up its weapons.

The wide gaps became clear at an all-night meeting between Egyptian and Palestinian negotiators that preceded the renewed fire. Hamas negotiators told The



Palestinians attend Friday noon prayers at a mosque that was hit by Israeli strikes in Gaza City on Friday.

Associated Press that Israel rejected all of their demands.

Hamas had entered the Cairo talks from a position of military weakness, following a month of fighting in which Israel pounded Gaza with close to 5,000 strikes. Israel has said Hamas lost hundreds of fighters, two-thirds of its rocket arsenal and all of its tunnels under the border with Israel.

The heavy toll of the war appears to have made Hamas even more resistant to returning to the status quo. The group is unlikely to accept a cease-fire without assurances that Gaza's borders will be opened — particularly after the fighting left close to 1,900 Gaza residents dead, more than 9,000 wounded and tens of thousands displaced, with entire neighborhoods reduced to rubble.

Gaza militants began firing rockets at Israel even before the temporary truce expired at 8:00 a.m. Friday.

By midday, 33 rockets had been fired. Twenty-six landed in Israel, three were intercepted and four fell short in Gaza, the army said. The rockets appeared to have been an attempt by Hamas to exert

pressure on Israel without triggering a major escalation. Smaller Gaza groups claimed responsibility, while there was no word from Hamas rocket squads.

However, Israel said it will not negotiate under such terms.

"When Hamas broke the cease-fire, when Hamas launched rockets and mortar shells at Israel, they broke the premise of the talks," said Israeli government spokesman Mark Reggev. "There will not be negotiations under fire."

The Israeli delegation to the Cairo talks left Egypt on Friday morning, and it was not clear if it would return, while the Israeli military responded to the strikes.

Police in Gaza said most of the strikes hit empty fields, but one struck the backyard of the Nour al-Mohammadi Mosque in the Gaza City neighborhood of Sheik Radwan.

Gaza health official Ashraf al-Kidra said a 10-year-old boy was killed and five others were wounded, one critically.

Two Israelis were wounded by rocket and mortar fire, Israeli police said.

Gaza critics in crosshairs as Israelis back offensive

By DAVID WAINER
Bloomberg News

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli author Egar Keret is finding his words come with a cost nowadays.

Keret, whose surreal short stories and graphic novels won him the Prime Minister's award for literature in his homeland, was inundated with critical and abusive mail after arguing that Israel has grown increasingly intolerant to discourse condemning the military in a column for the Hebrew newspaper Yediot Ahronot and the New Yorker magazine.

"I have readers who write me that while they have loved my books for years, they now think it's disgusting," Tel Aviv-based Keret, 46, said in a telephone interview last week. "All that because I wrote that in this conflict we have a responsibility for our soldiers as well as for civilians."

While the violence in Gaza is the deadliest of any offensive since Israeli settlers and soldiers left the territory in 2005, opinion polls show public support for the military force has never been stronger.

The Israeli government said the action is aimed at halting rocket fire from Gaza. The mission also involved destroying tunnels used to infiltrate into Israel and breach a blockade of the territory. The country said it completed that aim this week and withdrew its troops, as a 72-hour truce brokered by Egypt took hold.

More than 90 percent of Israeli Jews backed the ground operation in Gaza and three percent felt it wasn't achieving its objectives, according to a survey by the Department of Sociology at the University of Haifa released on July 31. It questioned 1,007 people July 23-25. The poll, which had a 3.2 percent margin of error, also found that more than half of those questioned agreed or strongly agreed that civilian demonstrations against the army should be prohibited at wartime.

The survey's treatment from Hamas, considered a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States and the European Union, means there is little debate about the need to fight the militant group, according to Daniel Gordis, senior vice-president at Shalom College in Jerusalem.

Keret argued in his column that discourse in Israel has grown increasingly polarized. While "right-wing thugs chanting 'death to Arabs' and 'death to leftists'" and senior vice-president are considered patriotic," he wrote, "demands to stop the operation or mere expressions of empathy about the deaths of women and children in Gaza," are perceived as unpatriotic.

Critics of the Gaza operation in Israel's media, including former environment and education minister, Yossi Sarid, say they are alarmed by the hatred directed at those who voice disagreement about the war, or the way it's being conducted.

UKRAINE UNREST

Shelling kills 3 in Ukraine city held by rebels

By YURAS KARMANAU
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — At least three civilians have been killed and another 10 wounded in overnight shelling of the main rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine besieged by government forces, officials said. Local people said a rebel rocket launcher recently seen in the area may have been the target.

The Donetsk city council said four apartment buildings in the southern part of the city were damaged by artillery barrages. Shocked residents gathered around in the morning, and some left flowers on the pavement to commemorate the victims.

"Nina, my godmother, was blown into pieces right in front of the apartment. They only were able to identify her by her dressing gown," said Yevgeny Isayev, 55. He pointed at a crater left by a projectile that landed next to the apartment building's entrance.

Another resident, Marina Barsuk, 53, said the shelling came a few days after rebels had positioned a Grad multiple rocket launcher near the apartment building and fired at Ukrainian positions. She and other residents believed the shelling came from the Ukrainian side in retribution.

Such exchanges of artillery and rocket barrage have raised the death toll among civilians as the Ukrainian forces have closed

in on the main rebel bastion.

In an ominous signal that fighting will likely to escalate further, a top rebel leader, Alexander Zakharchenko, boasted Thursday about seizing 18 Grad systems from the Ukrainian military.

Government forces and the rebels use the same Soviet-made Grad (Hail) launchers, which fire unguided rockets at a distance of up to 12 miles. Their accuracy is very poor, making collateral damage from shelling populated areas inevitable.

Ukrainian officials have adamantly denied that government forces were shelling populated areas, but witness testimony has pointed to the contrary.

Explosions were also heard elsewhere in Donetsk overnight, but there was no immediate word about casualties there.

Ukrainian troops routed the pro-Russian insurgents from smaller towns in the region earlier this month and have now encircled Donetsk, where fighting has crept closer to the city center. The city council said it was working to keep transportation services running and to repair gas networks in apartment buildings. An estimated 300,000 of the city's 1 million residents have fled.

The insurgency in mostly Russian-speaking in eastern Ukraine flared up in April following Moscow's annexation of Crimea in response to the ouster of Ukraine's former pro-Russian president.

Russia bans most food imports from US, EU

By MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
The Washington Post

MOSCOW — Russia's ban on most imports of Western food products Thursday was a sweeping escalation in an economic war that will deal a multibillion-dollar hit to affected nations but will also unrel wide-ranging consequences at home.

The measures were a signal that Russia is not backing down from a confrontation that has sent Western-Russian tensions to heights not seen since the Cold War — and that it is willing to risk barer shelves and higher food prices at home in the name of striking a blow against countries that have tried to punish it over its role in the Ukraine conflict.

Russia has suspended imports of meat, fish, fruit, vegetables and

milk products from the United States, the 28-nation European Union, Norway, Canada and Australia for a year. The move came in retaliation for sanctions those countries imposed on Russia, which is accused of providing weaponry and other support to pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine. Russia has denied the allegations.

Western officials this week also accused Moscow of massing troops along the Ukraine-Russia border in a formation that appears designed for an invasion.

In another move with Cold War echoes, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev also said Thursday that Russia was considering banning U.S. and European airlines from flying over Russian airspace in transit to Asia.



COURTESY OF THE SAVCHENKO FAMILY/The Washington Post

Nadiya Savchenko, center, walks with fellow troops in 2004 after completing a grueling training program with the Ukrainian military.

Captured Ukrainian navigator inspires her country, women

By CAROL MORELLO
AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
The Washington Post

KIEV, Ukraine — The rebel interrogating Lt. Nadiya Savchenko tried his best to wheedle information out of her. Like other men before him, he underestimated her mettle.

In a YouTube video of the encounter, a fleeting smile crossed her face as the pro-Russian separatist demanded details of Ukrainian troop formations from the helicopter navigator in the Ukrainian army: How many units? What kind of weapons and armored vehicles? Who exactly is fighting against us?

"I think all of Ukraine," replied Savchenko, handcuffed to a bright, yellow chair and stating she would not reveal anything that could harm her country.

That video, shot a day after she was captured on June 18, has turned Savchenko, 33, into a national symbol of Ukrainian defiance and has crystallized the evolving role of women in society.

From President Petro Poroshenko down to the girls and young women who say Savchenko has inspired them, Ukraine is following the strange twists of her captivity and demanding her release from a Russian prison where she turned up under mysterious circumstances.

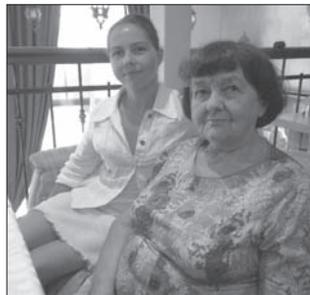
She is charged with complicity in the deaths of a Russian TV correspondent and a sound producer on June 17. They were killed during a mortar attack on a rebel checkpoint near Luhansk, where Savchenko was helping train a volunteer Ukrainian militia. Prosecutors say she pinpointed coordinates for the attack. She said she didn't know how to do that.

Last week, a Russian court ruled that Savchenko was not abducted and brought to Russia to face charges, as she claims, but was "found" in the country after slipping across the border pretending to be a refugee, as prosecutors allege. Savchenko's family has hired for her a high-profile attorney who once had the Russian opposition punk band Pussy Riot as a client.

A campaign, called #SaveOurGirl, has been launched to keep her in the public eye. "She's our Joan of Arc," said Valery Ryabych, a military expert with the Defense Express magazine.

In a country in which most women are still expected to tend house and cook for their families, the war against separatists in eastern Ukraine is drawing a small but growing number of women to the battlefield.

Women have volunteered for the front line. Seven women are with the Shakhtarsk Battalion, a militia now in the thick of the fighting near Donetsk. Last month, before they deployed, the women were sharing quarters at a campground near the central-east-



CAROL MORELLO/The Washington Post

Nadiya Savchenko's sister, Vira Savchenko, left, and mother, Mariya Savchenko, sit Aug. 3 in Kiev, Ukraine.

ern city of Dnepropetrovsk preparing for combat.

The women spoke on the condition that their full names not be used. Several said their families had opposed their joining the fight.

"I'm a citizen of Ukraine," said Iskra, 18, in her camouflage and black boots. "I understand the responsibility for everybody to take part." Her combat nickname means "spark" in Russian, and she said that she had been hunting with her family since she was 11.

To sign up for the fight, she left behind her family, her boyfriend and her linguistics studies at a university in the central Cherkasy region of Ukraine. Her mother only found out she had joined the battalion when the university called to say that Iskra had not completed the term. Every time she talks to family members, they plead, "Please come back," Iskra said.

"I realize that shooting a human being is something hard, but war is war," she said. "I think women are more resistant to stress than men. They're ready to shoot civilians if it's necessary."

Several of the women laughed when talking about how they were treated by their male counterparts.

"Of course the guys don't forget that we are women," said Yulia, 22, from the town of Torez, which is on the front lines of fighting. "They treat us properly. The guys flirt with some of the girls, but the rules are the same for everybody. They made me do 20 push-ups when I was late for lineup."

WORLD



MICHAEL DUFFAP

A man and woman taking part in a Ebola prevention campaign hold a placard with Ebola prevention information in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Ebola declared a global emergency

By MARIA CHENG
The Associated Press

LONDON — The World Health Organization on Friday declared the Ebola outbreak in West Africa to be an international public health emergency that requires an extraordinary response to stop its spread.

It is the largest and longest outbreak ever recorded of Ebola, which has a death rate of about 50 percent and has so far killed at least 932 people. WHO declared similar emergencies for the swine flu pandemic in 2009 and for polio in May.

The WHO chief, Dr. Margaret Chan, said the announcement is “a clear call for international solidarity” although she acknowledged that many countries would probably not have any Ebola cases.

“Countries affected to date simply do not have the capacity to manage an outbreak of this size and complexity on their own,” Chan said at a news conference in Geneva. “I urge the international community to provide this support on the most urgent basis possible.”

The agency had convened an expert committee this week to assess the severity

‘Statements won’t save lives. Lives are being lost because the response is too slow.’

Dr. Bart Janssens
Doctors Without Borders

of the continuing epidemic.

The current outbreak of Ebola began in Guinea in March and has since spread to Sierra Leone and Liberia, with a suspected cluster in Nigeria. There is no licensed treatment or vaccine for Ebola.

The impact of the WHO declaration is unclear; the declaration about polio doesn’t yet seem to have slowed the spread of virus.

“Statements won’t save lives,” said Dr. Bart Janssens, director of operations for Doctors Without Borders. “For weeks, (we) have been repeating that a massive medical, epidemiological and public health response is desperately needed. ... Lives are being lost because the response is too slow.”

“I don’t know what the advantage is of de-

claring an international emergency,” added Dr. David Heymann, who directed WHO’s response to the SARS outbreak and is now a professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

“This could bring in more foreign aid but we don’t know that yet,” he said.

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have already elevated their Ebola response to the highest level and have recommended against traveling to West Africa.

On Friday, American health officials also eased safety restrictions on an experimental drug to treat Ebola, a move that could clear the way for its use in patients. Two Americans infected with the deadly virus recently received a different drug never before tested in people and seem to be improving slightly, according to the charity they work for.

WHO did not recommend any travel or trade bans but said people who had close contact with Ebola patients should not travel internationally. For countries with Ebola, WHO issued various recommendations, including exit screening at international airports and border crossings to spot potential cases.

Erdogan favored in Turkey election

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL — For the first time in its history, Turkey is directly electing its president on Sunday in a contest considered a turning point for the country of 76 million people — with its prime minister the strong favorite for a job he has pledged to transform from a symbolic role into one of real power.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey’s dominant politician over the last decade, seen by many as aiming to solidify his grip on power after serving three consecutive terms as prime minister at the head of his Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party. An absolute majority is needed to avoid a runoff on Aug. 24.

Erdogan, 60, is revered by many as a man of the people who ushered in a period of economic prosperity, reviled by others as an increasingly autocratic leader trying to impose his religious and conservative views on a country with strong secular traditions.

If he wins, many fear he will appoint a pliant prime minister he can control — and concentrate all true power in his own hands.

Erdogan’s two challengers are Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, 70, an academic who enjoys the support of nearly a dozen opposition parties, including the main republican and nationalist parties; and Selahattin Demirtas, 41, a Kurd who heads a left-leaning party.

McCain: Ease limits on arms sales to Vietnam

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — U.S. Sen. John McCain said Friday in Vietnam that it’s time for the United States to ease the ban on selling lethal arms to the communist country, saying it has progressed on human rights.

McCain told reporters in Hanoi that the easing should happen gradually, but he hoped it could begin as early as next month.

“It should be limited at first to those defensive capabilities such as coast guard and maritime systems that are purely for external security,” he said.

The Obama administration has not announced any move to ease the ban, although during a visit to Hanoi in December, Secretary of State John Kerry announced up to \$18 billion in aid to provide Vietnam’s coast guard with five new fast patrol boats — part of a broader U.S. effort to help Southeast Asian nations to defend waters they claim as their own.

The Bush administration began allowing non-lethal arms sales to Vietnam in 2007.

Cambodia tribunal convicts Khmer Rouge leaders

The Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — They were leaders of Cambodia’s infamous Khmer Rouge, the fanatical communist movement behind a 1970s reign of terror that transformed this entire Southeast Asian nation into a ruthless slave state — a place where cities were emptied of their inhabitants, religion and schools were banned, and anyone deemed a threat was executed.

When the nightmares ended, in 1979, close to 2 million people

were dead — a quarter of Cambodia’s population at the time.

On Thursday, a U.N.-backed tribunal convicted two of the once all-powerful men who ruled during that era of crimes against humanity in the first and possibly the last verdicts to be issued against the group’s aging, top members.

Although survivors welcomed the decision to impose life sentences against Khieu Samphan, 83, a former head of state, and Nuon Chea, 88, the movement’s chief ideologue, they also say jus-

tice has come far too late and is simply not adequate.

“Nothing can compare to the immense suffering they imposed, no sentence can be enough. They belong in hell, not an air-conditioned jail cell,” said Youk Chhang, who heads The Documentation Center of Cambodia, which has collected more than a million documents related to the Khmer Rouge terror.

“But this gives us hope that we can learn from the past ... that we can try to prevent this from ever happening again.”

Summarizing the verdict, chief judge Nil Nonn said the defendants were part of “a joint criminal enterprise” that launched “a widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population” after Khmer Rouge guerrillas seized Phnom Penh on April 17, 1975.

The case, which lasted about two years, focused on just one of many mass killing sites and the forced exodus of millions of people from Cambodia’s cities and towns, where even hospitals were emptied of patients.

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OPINION

Social conservatism is the way
 GOP can win with black voters

By THEODORE R. JOHNSON III

The Root

The black electorate is back on venue. After saving Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran from defeat in the Republican primary just months after propelling Democrat Terry McAuliffe to Virginia's governorship, black America has demonstrated that it indeed can determine the outcome of elections. More important, perhaps, is the subtext of these results: The black vote is demonstrably in play.

In recent weeks, The New York Times' Nate Cohn has argued that Southern black voters will determine whether the GOP will control the next Congress. And the Times has reported on the outreach efforts of prominent Republicans like Sen. Rand Paul.

Since it already has an iron grip on the black vote, the Democratic Party has a strategy to simply increase turnout. In response, the GOP can either suppress the black vote, which is a goal so immoral and un-American that it will result in increased turnout for Democrats, or it can undertake the large project of actuating a contended black electorate.

Republicans have been roundly — and rightly — disparaged for their poor and inconsistent efforts to attract black voters. But what usually follows such criticism is nebulous advice about clear messaging and community engagement. This sort of counsel is good-natured, but so unclear and imprecise that it is almost wholly unhelpful.

A more fruitful approach would be for the GOP to turn to a component of the party platform that some believe is passe: social conservatism. When packaged with other government and economic-reform policies, this ideology could be the key to garnering support from just enough of the black electorate to become the nation's majority party.

Social conservatism is sometimes considered nothing more than a euphemism for opponents of abortion and same-sex marriage, but social conservatism is fundamentally about traditional family values, the role of religion, the importance of community, and the intergenerational transfer of morals and beliefs. These are principles integral to the American culture — and a recent Gallup poll confirms that more Americans identify as socially conservative.

Among black Americans, however, social conservatism is more pronounced. Research highlighted by professors Sherri Wallace and Angela Lewis in the paper "Compassionate Conservatism and African Americans" shows that though black voters routinely support the Democratic Party, black Americans identify with conservatives on a wide range of social issues.

The Pew Research Center found that black Americans are the most religious race or ethnicity in the nation, whether the measure is church attendance, frequency of prayer or reliance on religion in daily life. Black Americans are the least accepting of changes to the traditional family structure, and here's a reminder: President Barack Obama's and both Bill and Hillary Clinton's views on gay marriage took so long to evolve. Black parents have the most socially conservative views about premarital sex and abstinence, a 2009 survey shows.

Even the prevalence of homeschooling, a sacred cow of the socially conservative crowd, doubled among black families between 2007 and 2011, the National Center for Education Statistics reported last year.



The black electorate propelled Democrat Terry McAuliffe — shown talking with reporters on the sidelines during the Washington Redskins' training camp in Richmond, Va., on Aug. 1 — to Virginia's governorship.

These trends especially hold true for older black Americans, who also possess the majority of black wealth and income. And a number of statistics come together to show why this should be music to Republican ears. There are around 10 million more voting-age black Americans over 35 than under, accounting for two-thirds of the voting population, according to Census data. The 2012 black voter-participation rate — now the highest in the nation — was driven by black voters over 35, whereas under-25 black voter participation dropped significantly. In short, older, socially conservative black Americans are voting more, and younger, liberal-leaning black voters are voting less.

Why, then, do black Americans vote for Democrats in such large numbers? The answer is fairly straightforward: black Americans are pro-government. A Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation study categorizes many black Americans as "God and government" Democrats who are essentially social conservatives who vote for larger government because, on the whole, they experience more economic distress. Black Americans, especially, look to the government to create jobs, provide financial safety nets in times of need and protect hard-won civil rights gains.

Taken together, the message to Republicans should be clear. But if recent history is any indication, it still needs a more explicit explanation, and there are two primary takeaways. First, though social conservatism resonates with many black voters, attempting to win elections with campaign promises of policy and legislation that turn conservative morals into legal mandates is a losing endeavor. The socially conservative black man who is underemployed isn't nearly as concerned with legalizing school prayer as he is with finding employment and increasing his income. The socially conservative black woman is less worried about passing laws on marriage than ensuring that schools are safe and academically sound.

Second, the GOP can establish a connection with black voters by promoting traditional values, but to win their votes, the party will need to offer reassurances that smaller government and more reliance on the free market economy does not mean government will abandon civil rights protections and economic safety nets. This is where historical context is paramount.

DEAN HOFFMEYER, RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

Black Americans' introduction to market forces and small government came by way of slavery. Thanks to the resolve of remarkable men and women, it was the government that secured our rights, not the free market or even the Christian sensibilities of the social conservatives. But encouraging black Americans to entrust our fate to goodwill and markets is wasted energy.

When the government refused to protect its black citizens, lynching happened. When it abated from ensuring liberty for blacks, Jim Crow happened. When the government was improperly regulated with little oversight, the Tuskegee experiment and housing fraud happened. Black Americans trust a larger government role because that was how our rights were secured. So the GOP's message of reduced government is tone-deaf to the black experience in America.

Yet it remains true that even if Republicans did not all of the above perfectly, they would not come close to winning even half the black vote. But they don't have to. All that's needed is 1 in 5 black votes for the GOP to consistently win general elections. In a paper titled "Blacks and the Republican Party: The 20 Percent Solution," the authors test the theory of former Republican National Committee Chairman Lee Atwater that claimed 20 percent of the black vote would make the GOP the majority party. The soundness of the math is evinced in gubernatorial races in deep-red states like Haley Barbour's in Mississippi, Mike Huckabee's in Arkansas and even George W. Bush's in Texas — each won more than 20 percent of the black vote on the way to victory at the ballot box. The authors found that the 20 percent was probably correct but the Republican Party was not postured to achieve it.

Social conservatism is the answer. As the 2014 midterm elections approach, the nation will witness the power of the black electorate. And with the 2016 presidential election looming, the black electorate is poised to be the fashionable choice for intense demographic engagement. By connecting to older black Americans through shared socially conservative views, the GOP can truly contend for the black vote in a general election for the first time in decades.

Theodore R. Johnson III is a writer based in the Washington area. He's been a military professor at the Naval War College and was a 2011-2012 White House fellow.

OPINION

Detractors misread Obama foreign policy

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg News

I find it hard to avoid the conclusion that the United States is doing very well at the international Great Game under President Barack Obama.

Now, you may think U.S. hegemony is a good thing or a bad thing (personally I prefer it to the alternatives currently on offer). And you may disapprove of Obama's methods, which include the scary advent of drone warfare. But in terms of pure realpolitik, Obama seems to be very far from the weak, ineffective statesman that the Republicans try to portray him as.

Let's try to take an unbiased look at the scoreboard. The U.S. has one military enemy (international jihadists) and three geopolitical rivals — China, Russia and Iran. All have suffered setbacks during the Obama years.

Global Sunni Islamist jihadism is on the back foot. Osama bin Laden sleeps with the fishes. Most of al-Qaida's leaders have been killed or captured — the single remaining villain of 9/11 is Ayman al-Zawahiri, a cantankerous old man who has notably done nothing to boost the dying terrorist organization. The new kids on the jihadist block are the Islamic State, which is locked in a death struggle with one of our rivals, Iran.

That's worth repeating. If Obama had intervened in Syria, as many wanted him to, it would be American bullets interposing themselves between the bullets of the Sunni and Shiite combatants — much as it was in the later days of the war in Iraq, only worse. Instead, our main enemy and one of our rivals are at each other's throats. The people of the Middle East are suffering — and that's bad — but U.S. power and prestige are enjoying a much-needed respite.

For Russia, it took Crimea, that's true. But in the process it transformed Ukraine from a client state to an enemy, whose trade links with the European Union will



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Barack Obama signs a bill that provides an additional \$225 million in U.S. funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system, in the Oval Office on Monday.

probably draw it further and further from Russia's orbit. Russia then tried to foment a rebellion in Ukraine, perhaps thinking it might split off the Russian-speaking eastern areas, but the rebels utterly failed to gain popular support. Now Vladimir Putin's hired goons can barely hold onto two cities in a tiny and shrinking region on the Russian border. Meanwhile, Russia's economy, already suffering from stagnant oil prices, is taking a beating from sanctions. It seems hard to believe that a U.S. military intervention could have produced a better outcome.

Finally, China, by far the most powerful rival, has experienced some setbacks. With its enormous size and hypercharged growth, China looked in the 2000s as if it was poised to dominate Asia. Maybe it still will, but its charm offensive

has evaporated as it has engaged aggressively in territorial disputes with almost every country in its vicinity. Myanmar, one of its few regional allies, has defected from China's camp, opening up to the West and taking steps toward democracy.

Speaking of democracy, the idea that it's the U.S.' responsibility to promote our system of government may have gone out of fashion, but we still generally think it's beneficial when democracy spreads. On this front, things are looking good, with Tunisia going democratic, Indonesia showing that Muslim-majority countries have no problem with durable democracy and Myanmar reforming substantially. A couple of countries, such as Thailand and Turkey, have backslid, but not as a result of the influence of the U.S.' rivals.

Now note that during all this, the U.S.'

prestige in the world has increased, while the prestige of Russia and Iran have fallen (China's has remained unchanged).

What about the idea that our president is a wimp, not sufficiently feared by our enemies and rivals? For a supposed milquetoast, Obama sure managed to goe Syrian President Bashar Assad, who agreed to dispose of his entire arsenal of chemical weapons in the middle of a civil war. That is a pretty unprecedented feat of intimidation.

The idea that Democrats are wimps is a standard old Republican saw. They've used it constantly since World War II, usually flying in the face of facts to the contrary. Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, for example, who in the 1950s implemented the policy of containment that ultimately won the Cold War, was ridiculed by Richard Nixon for his "College of Cowardly Communist Containment." Don't believe this line — it's pure partisan noise.

It seems to me that the presidents who have done the most to advance U.S. power and prestige aren't the ones who charge forward firing their guns randomly — as George W. Bush did — but those who keep their powder dry and wait until they see the whites of the enemy's eyes. Richard Nixon withdrew from Vietnam and allied with China against the Soviet Union; Ronald Reagan built up U.S. strength and avoided major military adventures even as he signed arms control treaties with the Soviets. In both cases, the U.S. came out on top of our rival.

Today, the growth of China and the U.S. recession have put America in a much trickier situation. But Obama's quiet, inexorable strategy — whatever you think of his methods — are defying the odds and paying dividends for American hegemony.

Noah Smith is an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University and a freelance writer for a number of financial and business publications. He maintains a personal blog, called Noahjournal.

Possible Snowden copycat a mole for the US public

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY
Bloomberg News

Whistle-blowers come in packs, so it is not surprising no one followed the example of former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden for so long. Now, there seems to be a second leaker, and he or she is, like Snowden, feeding information to the press rather than peddling it to foreign intelligence services. It's a sign that there's a flaw in the U.S. approach to national security.

After WikiLeaks published its trove of U.S. military and diplomatic documents in 2010, copycat sites sprang up throughout the world. Even established media outlets set up their own. The information released on these Web pages was not always sent in by whistle-blowers. I was present at the birth of YanukovychLeaks, the Ukrainian site where documents plundered from former President Viktor Yanukovych's abandoned residence was published. The "leaks" component in the names, however, pointed to the original project spearheaded by Julian Assange.

Snowden handed over his archive of stolen NSA documents to the journalist Glenn Greenwald and others more than a year ago, and no copycats came forward, reinforcing the impression that Snowden's

anomaly, a foolhardy act that no one wanted to repeat. Since people are prone to find safety, even moral safety, in numbers, Snowden's loneliness somehow made his motivation suspect. Now he may finally have company.

The blogger Cory Doctorow was the first to suggest there's a second NSA leaker. Last month, one of his sources told him that a story on the German site Tagesschau was not based on documents from Snowden's trove. The article dealt with the NSA's spying on the anonymous Tor network, the backbone of the "Dark Web" that intrigues the intelligence services of many countries.

"The existence of a potential second source means that Snowden may have inspired some of his former colleagues to take a long, hard look at the agency's cavalier attitude to the law and decency," Doctorow wrote. Bruce Schneier, a U.S. computer security expert and blogger, agreed with Doctorow's suggestion, pointing out a second leak — concerning the NSA's "Tailored Access Operations," allegedly the agency's cyberattack outfit — had also been unlikely to come from Snowden's archive. Greenwald himself said the second leaker conclusion "seems clear at this point."

Now, new evidence has surfaced that somebody at the U.S. government's most secretive agency is supplying information

to journalists. The Intercept, an investigative site founded by Greenwald and eBay chairman Pierre Omidyar, was handed documents showing that the government's Terrorist Screening Database has expanded greatly under President Barack Obama and that half the people in it did not have links with any known terrorist organization such as Hamas or al-Qaida. The National Counterterrorism Center, contacted for comment on the information, immediately fed it to an Associated Press journalist, hoping to obtain friendlier coverage.

That spurred an ethics discussion, with Greenwald accusing the government agency of stealing the Intercept's scoop, but that is a less significant aspect of the episode than the subsequent admission by U.S. government sources, to CNN, that the second leaker probably exists and his or her identity was being investigated.

CNN called the leaker a "mole," a name usually given to double agents within intelligence services. That's a misnomer in this case, as it would have been in Snowden's. A mole would have passed the information quietly to the Russian or Chinese or whatever intelligence services. The person who is handing information bit by bit to different media outlets — a sensible strategy to avoid detection — can only be a double agent for the press.

We often forget that the press has a useful function in society: It's supposed to

keep tabs on governments so they don't overstep the line that divides democracy from authoritarian rule. Silly as that may sound in this cynical age, the journalists who publish the leaks are doing a useful job for society, as well as their readers.

People deserve to know, for example, that the NSA will take a special interest in them, and store their communications longer, if they so much as search for information about Tor. That the names of people who are not members of terrorist groups are added to the terrorist database, and no-fly lists, is also worthy of public attention. That the government has not seen fit to reveal these facts just goes to show that the press still has a job beyond entertaining. That explains, by the way, why people like Omidyar and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos are interested in journalism: The Western governments' forays into dictatorship territory are increasingly frequent on the Internet, where modern companies conduct most of their business.

As in the days of Watergate, people with sensitive information about the government's doings seek to make it public, not just to hostile governments. That's a sign that Washington needs to clean house again.

Bloomberg View contributor Leonid Bershidsky is a Moscow-based writer.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

After fight on train, 15 treated for intoxication

NJ ABERDEEN — Police say two people were hospitalized and 15 were treated for "high level intoxication" after officers responded to a report of a fight on a New Jersey Transit train.

The Long Branch-bound train stopped at the Aberdeen-Matawan station Sunday night.

An NJ Transit spokeswoman said police dispersed two large groups of juveniles and arrested a man for disorderly conduct.

The spokeswoman said a "highly intoxicated" 18-year-old female and a man who was injured during the fight were taken to a hospital.

The train resumed its trip after the groups had left.

Second corpse in 3 years found in home

IL CHICAGO — Authorities have discovered the decomposed body of a man in a Chicago home where his mother's body was found in similar condition three years earlier.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported that police found the body of Ronald Opilka, 47, on Tuesday. Neighbors had called their alderman to complain about an odor coming from the home.

In 2011, the decomposed body of Cecylia Opilka, 80 — the man's mother — was found buried under piles of debris by workers who also were responding to complaints of a bad smell. She had died of natural causes. Police at the time described Cecylia Opilka and her son as hoarders.

Neighbor Kathy Cooke said she hadn't seen Ronald Opilka for weeks and that he hadn't been able to accept his mother's death in 2011.

Police: Men tried to remove arm tattoo

MD HEBRON — Two men face charges including attempted murder after officials say they attacked a housemate and tried to forcibly remove a tattoo from his arm.

Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis said Wednesday that the 31-year-old victim of Monday's attack had his right arm amputated below the elbow and is in critical condition.

Investigators said Paul Martin Hurst, 33, of Hebron, and Carey Lee Edwards, 35, of Williamsburg, Va., savagely beat the victim, then tried to carve and burn a tattoo from his arm. A judge has ordered them held without bail.

Lewis said all three men are affiliated with the Juggalos, a fan base of the rap-metal duo Insane Clown Posse that the FBI has described as ganglike.

Lewis said the suspects thought the victim disrespected the group and didn't deserve the tattoo.

Man fined for recording naked female inmate

NE LINCOLN — A former jailer in Lincoln has been fined \$500 for making

THE CENSUS

\$1,200

The value of hundreds of ears of corn police say were stolen from two farms in Connecticut. Workers at Green Acres Farm in Bristol went to pick corn to sell at a market Sunday and discovered that the stalks had been all but picked clean. Police reported another farm was hit last month. A father and his son have been charged in that case.



NICK TOMECKE, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Greeting a gator

Kinsley Robertson, 10, of North Liberty, Iowa, left, reacts to holding an alligator with her brother Trace, 7, and handler-in-training Dusty Ricketts on Thursday at Fudpucker's in Destin, Fla.

a video recording of a naked female inmate.

Online court records say Michael Going, 54, was sentenced on Friday. Going had pleaded no contest to attempted official misconduct after prosecutors lowered the charge.

Police say Going used his smartphone to record the 46-year-old woman on May 29 last year after she disrobed and sat naked in a holding cell at the Lancaster County Jail.

Going eventually lost his job.

Naked man rescued from storm drain

CA CHULA VISTA — San Diego County authorities rescued a naked man who told authorities he got lost inside a storm drain after seeking underground refuge from the heat.

A resident called 911 after hearing a man yelling for help from inside a drain in Chula Vista on Monday night.

Firefighters were able to get the man out. A dispatcher said he was not wearing any clothes.

The man said he had been hot, and had climbed into the storm drain about 10:30 a.m. He said he got lost and had been wandering around in the sewer system for hours.

The man was not injured and was returned to his home.

According to the National Weather Service, the high temperature Monday in Chula Vista was 86 degrees.

Texan known as 'naked unicyclist' struck, killed

TX LA PORTE — A Houston-area man

known by police for riding his unicycle naked has died after being hit by a vehicle while clothed and pedaling at night.

La Porte police said Joseph Glynn Farley, 48, of Clear Lake, was killed Tuesday night when his unicycle was hit from behind by an SUV.

Sgt. John Krueger on Wednesday said Farley was wearing black shorts, a backpack and apparently a reflective vest, which was found nearby. Krueger said the unicycle had lights and was operating legally on a thoroughfare.

The SUV driver, who wasn't hurt, called 911 to report the accident.

Kemah police in 2012 accused Farley of riding naked, distracting drivers and creating a hazard. Farley was cited for misdemeanor or indecent exposure.



Newlyweds take vows at hockey rink

MI MUSKOGON — The bride wore white — and stainless steel.

Ben and Courtney Sikkenga were married Saturday at a western Michigan ice rink where they first met in seventh grade.

Ben, 23, is a lifelong hockey player, and Courtney, 24, is his biggest fan. The Muskegon Chronicle said groomsmen and bridesmaids got dressed in locker rooms at Lakeshore Sports Centre before skating onto the ice.

Guests had the option of sitting in chairs on the ice or on benches behind the protective glass.

The newlyweds left the rink by walking under raised hockey sticks.

AG: Toilets not cleaned before transport

NH LITTLETON — A Vermont portable toilet company has pleaded guilty to reckless conduct and agreed to pay a fine for transporting toilets containing human waste in New Hampshire.

In July 2013, a New Hampshire state trooper saw liquid leaking from a pickup loaded with three portable toilets on Interstate 93 in Littleton. The trooper found the toilets had not been emptied before they were moved.

The company, Calkins Portable Toilet of Danville, Vt., called a sewage hauling truck to pump out the waste.

On Tuesday, Calkins entered into negotiated pleas of guilty to three counts of recklessly engaging in conduct that may place another in danger of serious bodily injury. It was fined \$6,000, with \$1,500 suspended over five years of good behavior.

Man blames robbery on stomach scratch

NM ALBUQUERQUE — An Albuquerque man facing robbery and larceny charges says he merely scratched his stomach and didn't pull a gun when a grocery store clerk handed him cash.

Patrick Silva told police he only asked for change Sunday when a grocery store clerk thought he was robbing her and handed him more than \$1,600.

Silva told police anyone handed lots of cash would take it and run, so that's what he did.

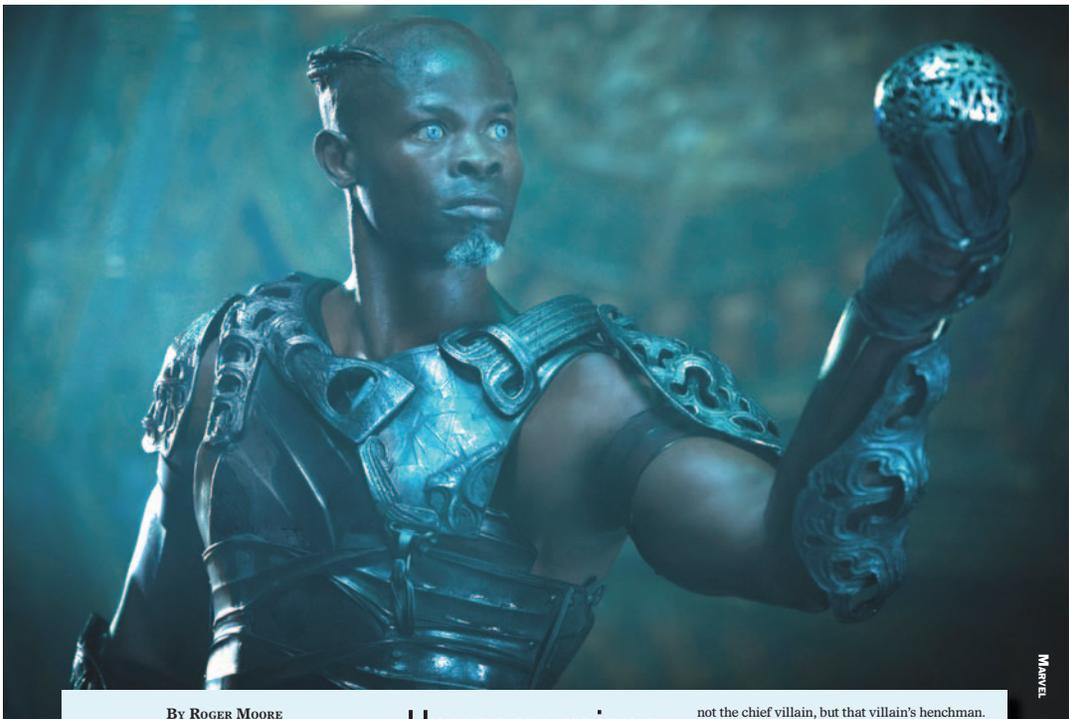
But the cashier told authorities Silva threatened to shoot her if she didn't turn over the money during a robbery.

Police found Silva at a nearby gas station lying in the bed of a pickup.

Silva is being held on \$10,000 bail.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



MARVEL

By ROGER MOORE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Growing up, first in Benin in West Africa and later in France, Djimon Hounsou had “no experience of comic books. I only came to them much later in life.”

So it wasn't as if the two-time Oscar nominee was on the lookout for a role in a big comic book film franchise. Those rumors that he could take the 2010 animated version of the comic book “Black Panther,” which he voiced, to the big screen, are still only rumors. But here he is, as Korath, warrior-hunter for the villainous Kree in “Guardians of the Galaxy.”

“I did this because I wanted my son (Kenzo, who is 5) to say, ‘My daddy’s in ‘The Guardians of the Galaxy.’ Not exactly a superhero, but he’s in the movie, messing with the superheroes!”

Hounsou describes the comic book blockbuster as “a new experience for me. Every day, after you’ve spent four hours getting made up, you come onto the set and you see 100 extras with even more makeup on. Strange creatures of every shape and color! Magical! Snake heads, crazy hair and headdresses, tattoos, green skin. You truly feel like you’re on a different planet, and we were just in a studio in London.”

It’s a different sort of acting, with all the digital sets, heavy makeup (“That bloody radio thing they had to glue to my skull every day!”) and added-later effects that make up the scene. “It’s a more liberating sort of acting—bigger, more theatrical. Kind of fun. You take a big swing and just go for it, and you hope (director) James Gunn’s vision will be as cosmic and vast as he is promising. The finished film made me shake my head. ‘We did all THIS?’”

It’s an ensemble action comedy that’s earning breathless praise from the planet’s movie critics, with *The Wall Street Journal*’s Joe Morgen-

Hounsou raises his profile by playing the heavy in ‘Guardians of the Galaxy’

stern echoing others in saying “the people who made this movie must have had a swell time in the process.”

Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana and Dave Bautista are the protagonists (along with animated versions of Bradley Cooper and Vin Diesel), and Hounsou is

not the chief villain, but that villain’s henchman.

“Here’s what I look for,” Hounsou says. “My character has to be somewhat relevant to the story. I try to remove this fellow out of the script, while reading it, to see if the story still flows without him. If it does, my participation doesn’t feel as ... necessary. That’s a problem. You’re ‘set dressing.’ If it doesn’t, if the tale comes apart without him in it, I’m interested.”

Since first gaining notice as a model performing in Janet Jackson videos, Hounsou has been hired for his exotic good looks, deep voice and masculine-African presence. But fantasy and science fiction have tapped into how other-worldly he can seem. He was in “The Island” in 2005, and this past year, he filmed “Air,” set in a future where cryogenically preserved humans are guarded so that someday they can repopulate the Earth. “Seventh Son” has Hounsou co-starring with Jeff Bridges and Julianne Moore in a tale of sorcery, evil spirits and a sorcerer’s apprentice.

And then there’s “Tarzan,” “which I have to say, is science fiction in a way,” Hounsou says, cryptically. The film has Alexander Skarsgard in the title role, Christoph Waltz and Samuel L. Jackson. “It’s a more confined, compact movie than ‘Guardians.’ It’s sort of a ‘grown-up’ ‘Tarzan.’”

The movies can bring an actor fame. But fame moves to a new level when you’ve starred in a science fiction blockbuster, especially one based on a comic book. Ask anybody who ever played “The Dark Knight” or “The Man of Steel,” or even played a supporting character in a film about them. Hounsou has a perfect role model for how to handle that fanboy adulation on the set with him in “Tarzan.”

“I don’t have to ask Samuel L. Jackson about what is coming, or how to deal with it,” Hounsou jokes, wondering about conventions and the like. “I mean, just LOOK at him. He IS comic book movie cool. He owns it, and that’s how you handle that.”

LIFESTYLE

By JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

Michael Gross never planned on joining the frontlines of the fight against cancer.

The guy who once put a terrified-looking dog on the cover of National Lampoon magazine with a gun to its head and the words, "If You Don't Buy This Magazine, We'll Kill This Dog," was only thinking he'd have a little fun with his art students when he told them to draw a hand with a raised middle finger.

"Makes a dramatic statement and teaches a little about anatomy," the gruff, gravely voiced artist quipped one recent morning as he sat on the deck of his beachfront bungalow in Oceanside, Calif., sipping coffee.

It was only after he reviewed the drawings that Gross, who is dying of kidney cancer, had one of those white-light bursts of inspiration: "I said to myself, this is really funny. And I said this also makes a nice statement about how I feel about cancer."

So the artist who spent a career corraling others to work with him on magazine covers and films began calling in favors from muralists, abstract expressionists, illustrators and others. Whether they worked in oil or acrylic, pen or pencil, they would all do the same thing: Create a drawing of a hand with a raised middle finger.

Having gathered more than 30, he plans to organize them into a touring gallery show this fall, eventually sell them and also screen some onto T-shirts and limited-edition prints for sale. He plans to donate whatever money is raised to Scripps Health's cancer-treatment programs.

The works run the gamut from Gross' own pop-art drawing of a green hand with a raised middle finger to graphic designer Tracy Belcher's nude woman in profile flipping somebody off.

Everett Peck, who created the popular cartoon character for the 1990s TV series "Duckman: Private Dick/Family Man," decided to go with a leering, cigar-chomping, eight-fingered spider.

"I just thought if one finger is good enough, then seven more is better," laughed Peck. "I wish it were deeper than that, but

that's about it."

Like others, Peck says he was flattered to be asked for a drawing. Gross is a legendary figure in art circles, not only for his quirky, oversized personality but for his impact on popular culture.



When New York's prestigious Pratt Institute held a 125th anniversary celebration two years ago, it surveyed people for their thoughts on the 125 most admired icons created by alumni. Gross' "Ghostbusters" logo, created for the films of the same name, came in first, beating out the Chrysler Building.

When the American Society of Magazine Editors released its list of the top 40 magazine covers, the artist's dog with the gun to its head was No. 7, not bad for an illustration that wasn't even planned for the cover.

"We were just going to do it as a subscription ad in the magazine," recalled Gross, who was National Lampoon's art director.

"Then we thought the next one would be, 'OK, we killed the dog. Now we're going to kill the cat. We really mean it.'"

Fortunately, he learned the humor magazine's editors were planning an entire issue making fun of death. The dog was promoted.

From the Lampoon, the New York-born artist segued into producing films, everything from hits like "Ghostbusters" to flops

like the Sylvester Stallone turkey "Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot."

The films brought him to California, where he eventually retired to a career

of curating and offering private art lessons. He'd recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer when he gave his students the raised-finger assignment.

"I've got a year or two, they tell me. So I thought, 'Well, let's do some new things and have some fun.'"

Among Gross' art students is popular veteran San Diego radio personality Madison, who had organized a pair of benefit concerts for Scripps' Loren Nancarrow Healing Garden Project, an ambitious effort named for the late San Diego news anchor who died of cancer.

The program provides a calm garden setting for people undergoing radiation treatment at Scripps, as well as funds for cancer-related therapies not covered by insurance.

If enough money is raised, the entire garden will eventually be named for Nancarrow.

Madison and Gross, meanwhile, have partnered on a kickstarter project aimed at raising \$12,000 to mount the gallery shows and create the initial T-shirts and prints. Whatever they raise from the sales will go to the garden project.

"I don't see it raising a lot," Gross says of the effort. "But maybe the shirts will sell and maybe it will grow and maybe it will be a recurring thing after I'm gone. And that would be nice."

Michael Gross is best known for designing the logo for the 1984 comedy "Ghostbusters." The artist, who has terminal kidney cancer, plans to sell some of his artwork and donate the proceeds to Scripps Health's cancer treatment programs.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Helping women reach their fitness goals

Trainer puts emphasis on health, not looks

By JACKIE SALO
The Miami Herald

The fitness world always has had a fixation with physical appearance, but social media has propelled this into stratospheric levels of vanity.

Fitness gurus are posting countless photos of themselves online, with their accomplishments chronicled by selfies rather than definable health goals.

One south Florida trainer, however, is trying to buck this trend.

Idalis Velazquez wants her clients to focus on their health rather than their looks.

"For a lot of people, this is very superficial," Velazquez said. "I am about improving the performance. Let's get stronger, better and energized."

People are noticing. The Coconut Creek, Fla., trainer has been named one of five finalists in Women's Health magazine's "Next Fitness Star" competition.

"I honestly just want to get women fit and change that fitness world," Velazquez said. "Stop thinking about aesthetics and looks. It is about just so much more than that."

Velazquez's passion for personal training started with her own health struggles.

A former track and field athlete, Velazquez counted numerous national championships in the junior division level in her native Puerto Rico. At Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, she competed in track and field at the NCAA Division I level before a neck injury sidelined her.

With her track aspirations quashed, she began to work with a few clients as a personal trainer.

"I was teaching other people, but I wasn't getting healthy my-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK FARRELL, THE MIAMI HERALD/MCT

After a sports injury and a brain hemorrhage, Idalis Velazquez, top center and above, re-evaluated and improved her fitness regimen.

self," Velazquez said. "I started to get weak."

Her health issues multiplied when during her second preg-

nancy in 2011, she suffered from a brain hemorrhage.

"My health really went downhill," Velazquez said. "After a year

“For a lot of people, this is very superficial. I am about improving the performance.”

Idalis Velazquez
personal trainer

on and off, after countless ER trips and neurologists, I got really frustrated because I was used to being so active and strong."

She felt like a shell of her younger self and realized she had to take back control of her body.

"I started to exercise but in a smarter way," she said. "I would play around with exercises that would not hurt me, but would strengthen my body and challenge all areas."

As her health improved, her mindset followed.

"During this time, I found this

passion to help other moms out there because sometimes we really lose ourselves during pregnancy," Velazquez said.

Today, Velazquez advises women to "train smart rather than hard."

"Choose the right exercises — ones that are going to improve your mobility, your stability and that help you get stronger while working multiple muscle groups," she said. "If you train smart, the body will respond. You will see the changes."

She reiterates this message to a group of women she trains three times a week in Coral Springs. With her dark hair pulled back, Velazquez stands in front of the class, animated, regardless of how arduous the workout.

Many of the women had seldom exercised before they joined her "boot camp" class, but together they have progressed and built a bond around their success. Velazquez does not promote the class on her website since she feels the group has a unique camaraderie.

"They have these amazing personal histories. Seeing them happy and motivated here is amazing," Velazquez said. "It is a positive thing, and they feel good when they leave here."

Since she knows the road to healthy living continues outside of class, Velazquez makes herself available to all of her clients. They text her for workout tips and call her to put things in perspective when they get down on themselves for indulging in sweets.

Velazquez's class supports her in return.

"I was teaching this class (when I found out I was a finalist)," Velazquez said. "I started screaming and everyone was like 'Are you OK?' I was so excited and we were all hugging."

The competition landed Velazquez on the flip cover of Women's Health magazine. If she wins the competition, she will receive a DVD contract.

"It feels really good to have made it this far," Velazquez said.

"I want to do my best to represent all of the moms that have struggled and normal, real women who want to feel their best."

After more than a dozen surgeries, vet gives knees a workout

By LESLIE BARKER
The Dallas Morning News

Pete Wright, 65, of Dallas, played all sports in high school. Not until a military injury during the Vietnam era, though, did he take up racquetball — the sport that became his passion. He played at Texas Christian University, and also won the first organized state singles championships in the late 1970s.

He became a racquetball instructor and operated two pro shops in Dallas. But, he says, "my knees were wearing out, and by the early '90s I was limited to swimming and biking." Eventually, "my knees were completely worn out."

But he wasn't about to use multiple knee surgeries — he's had 13, including replacements — as an excuse to sit still. He's still competing and will be playing for another national age group title in October.

Here are his thoughts on his regimen:

Typical week of workouts: I alternate days of swimming (or) biking with playing racquetball. Normally I work out (at a fitness center) six days a week for two hours. I also do light weights as a second workout twice a week.

If I had 20 minutes to work out, I would: Spend 10 minutes swimming followed by 10 minutes of light weights.

Proudest fitness moment: Returning to the courts again with my new knees.

Favorite healthy food: Fruit and health bars.

Favorite indulgence: Chocolate.

What I'd say to someone who wants to follow my routine: Identify activities you enjoy, get expert advice as needed, and know your limits.

What my workout says about me: I'm willing to make the sacrifices necessary to stay active for a lifetime.

Despite 13 knee surgeries, Pete Wright, 65, is a champion racquetball player.

MONA REEDER,
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT



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MOVIES

'Storm' director seeks realism within effects

By JOHN ANDERSON
Newsday

Steven Quale is among a school of directors who've looked into the future. And seen fewer special effects. Which may seem odd, since his latest movie — "Into the Storm," about a massive tornado ripping up the Southwest as well as a bunch of storm chasers — has some of the more impressive effects to be seen this season.

"Here's the thing," Quale said. "You can do anything with today's digital effects. There are no limitations. It's entirely up to the creative team to decide what they're going to do with it all. You want to make a crazy ride? That's fine. But other people like myself are saying, 'Let's strive for some realism.'"

That said, there are no real tornadoes in "Into the Storm." Real footage, Quale said, was submitted to the digital re-creators as models, and the subsequent computer-generated ones are set down in fictional Silvertown, Okla., where they churn the town to bits. Humans as well as crops are endangered: Gary (Richard



Photos by Warner Bros. Pictures

"Into the Storm" director Steven Quale uses what he calls a "first-person narrative view" in the movie, where the action is seen through onlookers' footage.

Armitage), a single father, can't find his son; Alison (Sarah Wayne Callies), a meteorologist, wants to stay alive to see her daughter again; her boss, chief storm chaser Pete (Matt Walsh), just wants to photograph the eye of a tornado. Mayhem ensues.

"Into the Storm" has what Quale called "a first-person narrative point of view," which required the use of handheld cameras, "but not the really shaky, unwatchable

kind of footage common to horror films. It's kind of a hybrid where we used professional camera operators, as well as storm chasers, who know how to operate cameras and know about framing and composition and are less interested in gimmicks than in making a watchable movie."

The first-person narrative approach is also the reason "Into the Storm" is not — as one might have expected — in 3-D. "I like 3-D," Quale said, "and a lot of people like 3-D because the tickets cost more. But very few people are running around with 3-D cameras. It would have been contrary to the concept."

Quale, whose last film was "Final Destination 5," said the increase in severe weather, especially across the Midwest (he grew up in Wisconsin), was alarming. While he didn't want to politicize his disaster movie, "we mention the subject a little bit during a driving scene, and I did that intentionally. We didn't want to be preachy. A lot of people will ignore it. But we did want to slide it in the back door, for those who'll be receptive."



Most through the eyes and lenses of professional storm chasers, thrill-seeking amateurs and courageous townspeople, "Into the Storm" throws viewers directly into the eye of the storm to experience Mother Nature at her most extreme.

Weather takes leading role in 'Into the Storm,' other popular films

By COLIN COVERT
Star Tribune

Sometimes bad weather is an important supporting player in the movies. After all, without a thunderclap and a forked bolt of electricity striking his operating-room lightning rod, Dr. Frankenstein never could have shrilled his triumphant, "It's alive! It's alive!" And Dorothy never would have left Kansas if that cyclone didn't scoop her up and plunk her down in Oz. Gene Kelly couldn't have gone singing in the rain.

But in the upcoming meteorological adventure "Into the Storm," they're trying to do something different. The film, with a raft of low-wattage human actors, effectively makes lousy weather the movie's star. A massive barrage of tornadoes roars across a single Midwestern town, sucking up semitrucks, crashing airliners, flattening buildings, carrying off some of the cast and leaving others dreadfully ruffled. In anticipation of the new film, here's a look back at a slew of movies where lousy weather played a pivotal role.

Hot and muggy

"Do the Right Thing" (1989)
The narrative effectiveness of Spike Lee's best film depends to a huge degree on the heat wave broiling his embattled characters. It's the hottest day of the year in the South Bronx. "HEI-TER SWELTER, 98-DEGREE RECORD BREAKER!" screams a Daily News banner headline. The simmering temperature pushes an irritable group of neighbors in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant to

the boiling point. When a frazzled cop kills an irritating but harmless local character, the other players erupt in a frenzy of re-cremations, rioting and looting. Lee used a scalding-hot red-orange color palette to push the point home, and strong, sizzling sunlight to make the tenements and storefronts look desert-hard and hostile.

Flash flood watch

"Noah" (2014)



Darren Aronofsky turns the biblical story into a taut disaster-evacuation saga with complex theological overtones and outlandish special effects. Russell Crowe gathers up his family and a giant menagerie aboard an ark in preparation for an impending rain so ferocious it will obliterate his sinful, immoral world.

When the vicious storm hits, the devastation has a deeper meaning than bravura special-effects thrills.

Chilly but bright

"Frozen" (2013)

Disney's smart revision of its "princess movie" genre depends on the uncontrolled flash-freezing abilities of Elsa, who accidentally unleashes eternal winter on her kingdom, then imprisons herself in a distant ice palace. She also freezes her caring sister Anna's heart, unless it can be

thawed by an act of pure love. The film's shimmering songs, radiant snowscapes and icebound adventures powered it on to become the highest-grossing animated film of all time.

Pack an umbrella and fork

"Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" (2009)

The gleefully silly animated adaptation of the children's classic stars Bill Hader as a hapless young inventor whose food-transforming gizmo goes haywire, triggering pasta precipitation and jelly bean hail. When a pancake the size of a city block flattens the local schoolhouse, followed by a huge splash of maple syrup, it's childish wish fulfillment on a grand scale.

But the most delicious moment comes when it snows ice cream and the local kids make snow angels fast down.

Small craft warnings

"The Perfect Storm" (2000)

Wolfgang Petersen tells the true story of a superstorm. George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg and John C. Reilly are among the crew of a Massachusetts fishing boat capsized during a catastrophic 1991 storm at sea. Their boat is battered by hammering downpours and tossed by stomach-dropping giant waves that dismantle the

vessel piece by piece. It's a gripping drama told with kinetic punch that could make a viewer seasick.

Travel advisory

"The Ice Storm" (1997)

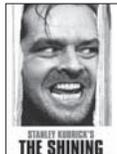


Ang Lee's film about affluent families trapped in failed marriages and the pursuit of empty pleasures literally traps its players with a symbolic early winter storm. Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and Joan Allen play suburbanites medicating their ennui with adultery and alcohol, while neglecting their drugged-up, alienated children. Ice rain seeps into everything, like a force of nature dissolving the decadent characters' sexual inhibitions to tragic effect.

Seasonal affective disorder

"The Shining" (1980)

Trapped in the haunted Overlook Hotel as an endless blizzard howls outside, Jack Nicholson dazzles the worst case of cabin fever in history. Stanley Kubrick's horror film uses some spook-story effects, but the claustrophobia and isolation alone are enough to drive viewers to the edge of hysteria. With a snowfall making the mountain roads impassable, there's no way for the authorities to save the day, or for Nicholson's terrified wife and son to flee from their unyielding patriarch.



MOVIES



'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' A digital and divisive redesign

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

Over the past two years, inside the high-tech sanctuary of Industrial Light and Magic, the man who built a virtual virgin jungle for the last "Indiana Jones" movie and conjured 150-foot-tall aliens for "War of the Worlds" has been confronting his most difficult task yet: creating a digital version of the beloved Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that could realistically interact on screen with Megan Fox.

On this assignment, Pablo Helman needed more than just turtle power.

"For me, in the 19 years that I've been at ILM, this is one of the most challenging projects I've worked on," the visual effects supervisor said in a recent interview at his office. "Technologically, it's very difficult to capture someone's performance, put it on a character and make it believable. In this case, we had to design a way to combine performances that were taken at many different times."

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the live-action reimagining of the 30-year-old comic book franchise in theaters Friday, features a completely computerized version of the four sewer-dwelling superheroes, a take more akin to Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" films or Caesar from the recent "Planet of the Apes" movies than the rubbery renditions from the 1990s live-action "Turtles" films.

The revitalized reptiles were fashioned at ILM by blending computer-generated imagery with several motion-capture performances by four actors. It's a radical departure from the original '90s film trilogy, when Jim Henson's Creature Shop crafted puppet suits for actors playing the half-shell heroes.

For the reboot, the performers physically portraying each Ninja Turtle donned skin-tight gray getups and shell-shaped backpacks, while helmets equipped with cameras captured their facial expressions. The actors' bodies were replaced on screen by their counterparts — massive talking turtles who know kung fu — and their facial expressions were grafted onto the Ninja Turtles' green noggins.

Despite the effort to construct Ninja



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" director Jonathan Liebesman, foreground right, discusses a scene with actors portraying mutant ninja turtles, from left, Noel Fisher, Pete Ploszek, Jeremy Howard and Alan Ritchson.

Turtles for the digital age, die-hard fans didn't initially deem the makeover of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello totally tubular. Instead, many were shell-shocked to see in early teasers and trailers that the filmmakers added nostrils and lips to the turtles' faces, a different anatomy than the one from the previous comics, cartoons, toys and films.

"This whole gritty, doofy, straight-out-of-Avatar" look is not working for the iconic cartoon turtles," Jason Schreiber wrote on the blog Kotaku last May. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has never exactly been cool — Leonardo and crew were always dorky and cheesy in a lovable sort of way — but they have never had ridiculous zombie nostrils and gaping mouths like this before. It sure looks dumb."

Helman defends the humanlike faces because it allows the computer-generated characters, who he said are onscreen for about two-thirds of the movie, to be more expressive.

"You're never going to please everybody because what you're fighting is that magical moment when, in this case,

someone first discovered the Ninja Turtles," said the Academy Award-nominated visual effects guru. "It's not possible to convince someone that these are the Ninja Turtles they fell in love with 30 years ago. The idea is that you have to take the original intent and make it your own."

"Ninja Turtles" director Jonathan Liebesman noted that producer Michael Bay, the man responsible for bringing "Transformers" to life, originally laid out three commandments for the overhaul of the Ninja Turtles: they should be charming, intimidating and individually recognizable — not just to kids but also their mothers. Liebesman believes the filmmakers accomplished their mission.

"I feel like once people see the movie, they will understand why we made these decisions," said the "Wrath of the Titans" and "Battle Los Angeles" director.

"We're trying to make them more lifelike and realistic. I don't think it sacrifices anything fans love, once they go and see the movie. I think hating on design is just a part of fandom, which is fine. There's a lot of value to what fans have to say."

'TMNT' — A to Z

Here's a look at the world of the Turtles, from A to Z.

April O'Neil: She's a former lab assistant to mad scientist Baxter Stockman, Channel 6 reporter and teen ninja student. The only constant is her support for the Turtles.

Bugs: The only things that scare Raphael.

Casey Jones: Hockey mask-wearing vigilante who is a close pal of the Turtles and loves internet for April. His choice of weapons is a golf bag filled with sports gear.

Donatello: He is the brains in the Turtles. Also known as Don or Donnie, he fights with a bo staff. Named for the early Renaissance Italian artist Donatello.

Eastman, Kevin: Created the Turtles in 1984 with Peter Laird.

Fox, Megan: Actress plays April O'Neil in the new movie. Judith Hoag and Paige Turco portrayed April in previous live-action movies, while Veronica Taylor, Mae Whitman and Sarah Michelle Gellar have provided April's voice in animated offerings.

Game: The "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" app is now available in app stores for Apple, Android and Amazon devices. The game, based on the new feature film, allows players to take back the streets of New York City with the Turtles.

Howard, Jeremy: Actor who provides the voice for Donatello in the new feature film. Noel Fisher, Johnny Knoxville, Alan Ritchson are the voices of Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael.

IDW Publishing: San Diego-based company that publishes "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" comic book series.

Jonathan Liebesman: Director of the new "Turtles" movie who previously helmed "Wrath of the Titans," "Battle Los Angeles" and "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre: The Beginning."

Krang: Brain-looking villain to the Turtles who sits inside the torso of a mechanical body he uses to get around.

Leonardo: Tactical leader of the Turtles who fights with two katanas. Named after the Italian artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci.

Michelangelo: Easygoing member of the Turtles — also known as Mike or Mikey — uses a pair of nunchucks. Named for the Italian Renaissance painter and sculptor Michelangelo.

Nickelodeon: Cable channel that airs the latest animated "Ninja Turtles" cartoon. Series premiered Sept. 29, 2012.

Oroku Saki: Evil leader of the Foot Clan is better known as Shredder.

Pizza: Favorite food for the shelled heroes is from Antonio's Pizza. Michelangelo's favorite topping is mustard.

Raphael: The team's most aggressive member carries a pair of sai. He's named after the High Renaissance Italian painter Raphael.

Splinters: The mutant Japanese rat is sensei and adoptive father of the Turtles.

Telecommunications: Global mobile app, "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Rooftop Run," launched in June 2013 and was No. 1 among paid apps in the U.S. and in more than 40 territories around the world. It remains in the top 10 paid gaming apps on iTunes.

USAopoly: Company produced two original monopoly games — "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Edition" and "Monopoly: Teenage Mutant Turtles Collector's Edition" — to launch this year. Both games will be available in specialty stores and at amazon.com.

Vanilla Ice: The rapper's "Ninja Rap" is featured in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze."

Will Arnett: Star of the CBS comedy "The Mindy Project" plays Vernon Fenwick in the new movie.

X, Dimension: Fictional alternate dimension in the cartoon series and comics.

Yoshi, Hamato: Master Splinter's real name.

Z-Line: Toy company's Fire Escape Free Fall, Window Wipe Out, Water Tower Wash Out and Billboard Breakout can be linked together to allow the Turtles to zip between them.

—Rick Benley/The Fresno Bee

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

GM issues recall on SUVs over fire risk

By Tom Krisher
The Associated Press

General Motors' troubles with safety recalls have surfaced in another case, this time with the company recalling a group of SUVs for a third time to fix power window switches that can catch fire.

The problem, revealed in documents posted by federal safety regulators this week, is so serious that GM is telling customers to park the SUVs outdoors until they are repaired because they could catch fire when left unattended.

The vehicles will be left outside for a while. Parts won't be ready until October at the earliest, according to GM. The automaker also has ordered its dealers to stop selling the SUVs as used cars until they are fixed.

The recall covers about 189,000 vehicles in North America, mainly from the 2006 and 2007 model years. Models affected include the Chevrolet TrailBlazer, GMC Envoy, Buick Rainier, Isuzu Ascender and Saab 9-7X. The recall

was one of six announced by GM on June 30 that covered 7.6 million vehicles.

GM is in the midst of the biggest safety crisis in its history, touched off by the delayed recall of 2.6 million older small cars to fix faulty ignition switches. The company has issued a record 60 recalls this year covering nearly 29 million vehicles.

Before this year, GM had been reluctant to issue recalls, at times opting for lower-cost fixes for safety problems. It's been fined \$35 million by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for lapses in reporting the ignition switch problems, which it blames for at least 13 deaths.

After the ignition switch debacle, GM did a companywide safety review, appointed a new global safety chief and pledged to recall cars quickly.

The SUV problem first appeared early in 2012 when NHTSA began investigating consumer complaints of fires in the driver's-door switches that control power windows.

At first, GM tried to address the issue with a "service campaign," where it sent letters to owners telling them that water can find its way into the switches, causing rust that can result in short circuits, overheating and possibly fires. The campaign, which wasn't a recall, extended the warranty and offered service only to vehicles that exhibited the problems. It was limited to 20 states and Washington, D.C., where salt is used to clear roads in the winter.

But in August of 2012, under government pressure, GM recalled 278,000 of the SUVs in the cold-weather states and offered extended warranties to the rest of the country. NHTSA kept investigating, and 10 months later, GM expanded the recall nationwide.

By then, NHTSA and GM had received 242 complaints, including 28 about fires. There were no injuries.

In one complaint filed with NHTSA from October of 2008, a woman reported the alarm sounded while her 2006 TrailBlazer was parked in her drive-

way. When she looked outside, it was in flames. Firefighters put out the blaze and told her it started in the driver's door.

The fix used by GM last year was to put a protective coating around the window switch circuit boards, which is less costly than replacing the switches. But starting this April, GM received complaints that the switches malfunctioned in SUVs that had been repaired. So in June, it decided to do the third recall and replace all of the switches.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 11)	\$1.3734
Dollar buys (Aug. 11)	€0.7281
British pound (Aug. 11)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (Aug. 11)	100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 11)	1,013.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6789
Canada (dollar)	1.0972
China (Yuan)	6.1560
Denmark (Krone)	5.5467
Euro	1.1251
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3396
Hungary (Forint)	244.35
Israel (Shekel)	3.4692
Japan (Yen)	101.87
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2833
Norway (Krone)	6.2340
Philippines (Peso)	44.05
Poland (Zloty)	3.14
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2516
South Korea (Won)	1,033.72
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9661
Thailand (Baht)	32.16
Turkey (New Lira)	1.6222

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

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 7, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-75.01
	16,368.33
Nasdaq composite	-20.08
	4,334.97
Standard & Poor's 500	-10.67
	1,909.57
Russell 2000	-5.79
	1,119.76

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.09
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.22

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	87	71	Rain	Fort Wayne	81	61	Clcy	Louisville	87	71	Pcldy	Pocatello	85	54	Clcy	Sioux City	79	63	Clcy
Ablene, Tex	98	76	Pcldy	Cheyenne	81	55	Clcy	Fresno	99	72	Clcy	Lubbock	96	70	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	80	57	Clcy	Sioux Falls	78	63	Clcy
Akron, Ohio	82	61	Clcy	Chicago	79	65	Clcy	Goodland	88	62	Clcy	Macon	91	73	Rain	Portland, Ore.	84	58	Clcy	South Bend	81	62	Clcy
Albany, N.Y.	84	55	Clcy	Cincinnati	78	66	Rain	Grand Junction	90	61	Pcldy	Madison	81	59	Clcy	Providence	83	62	Clcy	Spokane	87	59	Clcy
Albuquerque	88	66	Pcldy	Cleveland	82	64	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	82	58	Pcldy	Medford	95	59	Clcy	Pueblo	90	60	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	81	66	Clcy
Allentown, Pa.	83	56	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	85	56	Clcy	Great Falls	75	58	Pcldy	Memphis	94	76	Clcy	Raleigh-Durham	76	68	Rain	Springfield, Mo.	87	68	Clcy
Amarillo	84	55	Clcy	Columbia, S.C.	88	72	Rain	Green Bay	89	56	Pcldy	Miami Beach	90	78	Clcy	Rapid City	83	60	Pcldy	Toledo	82	61	Pcldy
Anchorage	64	55	Clcy	Columbia, Ga.	92	74	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	74	57	Rain	Midland-Odessa	97	72	Clcy	Roanoke	89	62	Pcldy	Tallahassee	96	73	Clcy
Ashville	73	65	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	79	65	Clcy	Harrisburg	82	57	Clcy	Milwaukee	86	53	Clcy	Richmond	77	66	Clcy	Tampa	90	78	Clcy
Atlanta	83	61	Pcldy	Corpus Christi	95	78	Pcldy	Hellena	80	58	Pcldy	Missoula	86	63	Pcldy	Rockford	79	62	Pcldy	Terre Haute	82	61	Pcldy
Atlantic City	83	61	Pcldy	Corpus Christi	95	78	Pcldy	Honolulu	84	59	Pcldy	Miami Beach	90	78	Clcy	Rockford	79	62	Pcldy	Tulsa	95	73	Clcy
Baltimore	82	68	Clcy	Dayton	78	64	Clcy	Houston	96	77	Pcldy	Montgomery	94	75	Clcy	Sacramento	89	63	Clcy	Tulsa	95	73	Clcy
Batman Rouge	94	75	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	91	76	Rain	Huntsville	91	72	Rain	Nashville	89	73	Clcy	St. Louis	84	70	Rain	Tupelo	93	74	Rain
Bilings	85	62	Pcldy	Denver	88	59	Clcy	Indianapolis	79	66	Clcy	New Orleans	92	78	Clcy	St. Petersburg	80	89	Clcy	Worcester	80	77	Rain
Birmingham	88	74	Rain	Des Moines	80	66	Clcy	Jackson, Miss.	95	75	Clcy	New York City	85	65	Clcy	St. Thomas	89	78	Rain	Wilmington	82	67	Clcy
Bismarck	85	62	Clcy	Detroit	84	62	Pcldy	Jacksonville	93	74	Clcy	Newark	86	65	Clcy	Salem, Ore.	85	57	Clcy	W. Palm Beach	90	77	Rain
Boise	92	64	Pcldy	Duluth	78	58	Pcldy	Janeau	59	54	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	78	69	Clcy	Salt Lake City	90	63	Pcldy	Wichita	82	69	Clcy
Boston	81	64	Clcy	El Paso	92	69	Clcy	Kansas City	83	66	Clcy	North Platte	86	62	Clcy	San Diego	99	75	Clcy	Wichita Falls	98	76	Pcldy
Bridgeport	83	63	Clcy	Elkins	73	61	Rain	New York	83	63	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	85	73	Pcldy	San Antonio	98	76	Pcldy	Wilkes-Barre	83	55	Clcy
Brownsville	97	80	Clcy	Erie	81	64	Pcldy	Knoxville	84	70	Clcy	Omaha	82	65	Clcy	San Angelo	77	68	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	84	62	Pcldy
Buffalo	81	59	Clcy	Eugene	87	55	Clcy	Lake Charles	92	76	Pcldy	Orlando	94	75	Rain	San Francisco	74	60	Clcy	Yakima	90	54	Clcy
Burlington, Vt.	81	59	Clcy	Fargo	83	63	Pcldy	Las Vegas	82	67	Clcy	Portland	88	70	Clcy	San Jose	81	61	Clcy	Youngstown	82	59	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	79	53	Pcldy	Fairbanks	77	51	Clcy	Las Vegas	99	79	Clcy	Pendleton	89	55	Clcy	Santa Fe	86	58	Clcy				
Casper, Wyo.	86	54	Pcldy	Fargo	83	63	Pcldy	Lexington	85	68	Rain	Peoria	82	66	Clcy	St. Marie	81	53	Clcy				
Charleston, S.C.	89	74	Rain	Flagstaff	79	48	Pcldy	Lincoln	85	65	Clcy	Philadelphia	84	66	Pcldy	Savannah	92	75	Clcy				
Charleston, W.Va.	78	67	Rain	Flint	83	55	Pcldy	Little Rock	95	75	Clcy	Phoenix	101	84	Clcy	Seattle	82	56	Clcy				
Charlotte, N.C.	78	70	Rain	Fort Smith	96	75	Clcy	Los Angeles	82	67	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	79	62	Clcy	Shreveport	96	77	Clcy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 115, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Thu., 36, Belemont, Ariz., and Chemult, Ore.

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 Started
- 6 Human herbivore
- 11 Early release
- 12 Cameron movie
- 14 Garland
- 15 Distant
- 16 Some NFL players
- 17 Become established
- 19 Pinch
- 20 A util.
- 22 Commotion
- 23 "Whip lit" band
- 24 Missionary Junipero
- 26 OR stitching
- 28 Branch
- 30 React to gravity
- 31 Man of many words?

DOWN

- 1 Ornament of a sort
- 2 Pencil part
- 3 Deity
- 4 Hearty brews
- 5 Home of Hercules' lion
- 6 Sundry
- 7 Still
- 8 Group of whales
- 9 Repentant one
- 10 Indigenous
- 11 Rids of rind
- 13 Nonpayment
- 15 results, for short
- 18 Gridiron scores, for short
- 21 Unrefined
- 23 Exhumed
- 25 Illustrations
- 27 Middle X?
- 29 Explosive measure
- 31 Least desirable
- 32 Publishing turned into
- 33 Turpentine
- 34 Spinbad's bird
- 36 Sweet Spanish wine
- 37 Pre-refrigeration deliverers
- 38 Bottom
- 41 Bust
- 44 "Boe"
- 45 Logical
- 48 Suitcase
- 50 Trail the pack

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-9

CRYPTOQUIP

DJIWK IYW UMKHWKWK BKDOS
 YVU UFWHVDR VONVUVCVRVIA
 FMIVMO, YW DUSWB, "YDNW V
 XDBW XAUWRJ HRWDK?"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU'RE AN ORTHODONTIST AND YOUR TEETH ARE BADLY CROOKED, I THINK YOU SHOULD BRACE YOURSELF.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals H

SOCCER/SPORTS BRIEFS

Donovan set to retire

Top scorer in US history was crucial to growth of MLS

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

CARSON, Calif. — A year after Landon Donovan returned to soccer, he realized he had lost his passion for the sport again. This time, the best player in American history decided to walk away for good.

The 32-year-old Donovan announced Thursday he will retire from professional soccer at the end of the MLS season, wrapping up the most prolific career in the league's history with one last run at a championship with the LA Galaxy.

"I think for the last few years, I haven't had the same passion that I had previously in my career," Donovan said at the Galaxy's stadium. "To some extent, I had felt obligated to keep playing. ... It's time to enjoy the rest of the season, and there would be no better way than to go out as a champion, so that's what I want to do."

Donovan is the top goal scorer in MLS history and the top scorer in U.S. national team history, excelling as a forward and a midfielder. He was even named the most valuable player of his 14th MLS All-Star game on Wednesday night in Portland, scoring a goal in the All-Stars' 2-1 win over Bayern Munich, only to make his stunning retirement announcement the next day.

"All I could think of is that if everyone only knew," Donovan said with a grin.

'There is no doubt that Major League Soccer would not be what it is today without Landon Donovan.'

Don Garber, MLS Commissioner, pronounced himself revitalized after an extended sabbatical.

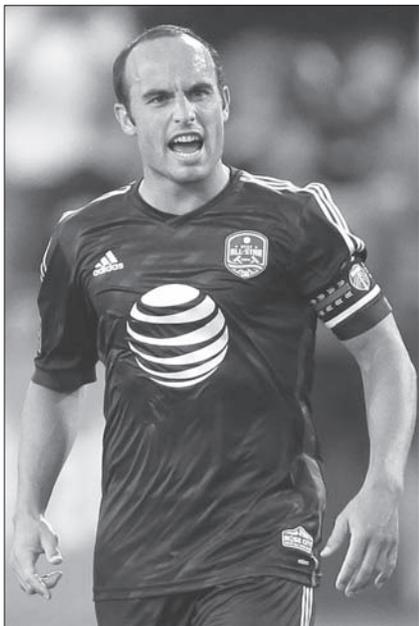
He took several months off following the Galaxy's second straight MLS Cup title alongside now-retired David Beckham in December 2012. Donovan traveled extensively during his time off, and he plans to see even more of the world after his career ends this fall.

"It gets me excited thinking about it," Donovan said. "For 16 years, almost every decision I've made, every hour of every

day, has revolved around me. How is this going to prepare me for tomorrow's training session or tomorrow's game? Just having the freedom to do whatever you want is exciting, and I'm looking forward to that."

Donovan has been a key component of MLS' impressive growth during his 14 years in the top North American league. After he struggled for playing time at Bayer Leverkusen as a teenager, he chose to pursue a pro career in his native California instead of Europe, adding a marquee attraction to the then-struggling league.

"There is no doubt that Major League Soccer would not be what it is today without Landon Donovan," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said. "His decision to join MLS in 2001 was a statement to the entire soccer community, at the most crucial time in our history, that MLS could be a league of choice for the best American players. Landon is to MLS what Michael Jordan was to the NBA, Wayne Gretzky was to the NHL and Tiger Woods was to the PGA Tour: a player whose sporting accomplishments and popularity transformed their respective leagues and set a new standard for how the game would be played."



TED S. WARREN/AP

Los Angeles Galaxy forward Landon Donovan reacts after scoring the winning goal of the MLS All-Star match against Bayern Munich in Portland, Ore., on Wednesday. Donovan announced Thursday he's retiring from professional soccer at the end of the MLS season.

Briefly

OKC's Durant withdraws from US national team

The Associated Press

Kevin Durant withdrew Thursday from the U.S. national team, the biggest loss yet for a weakening American squad.

The NBA's MVP took part in the Americans' training camp in Las Vegas last week, but then informed team officials that he wasn't going to continue.

"Kevin reached out to Coach K and myself this afternoon and expressed that he is just physically and mentally drained from the NBA season and his attention to his many responsibilities," USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said in a statement. "He tried to give it a go at our recent Las Vegas training camp but felt coming out of camp that he was not prepared to fulfill the commitment he made to the team."

Durant was the MVP of the world championship in 2010, leading the Americans to that title for the first time since 1994. The Oklahoma City star also started on their gold medal-winning team in the 2012 Olympics.

His withdrawal comes less than a week after Indiana's Paul George was lost to a broken right leg and follows previous withdrawals by All-Stars Kevin Love, Blake Griffin and LaMarcus AL-



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant withdrew from the U.S. national team on Thursday.

dridge, and NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard.

"This was an extremely difficult decision as I take great pride in representing our country," Durant said. "I know that I owe it to my USA Basketball teammates to be totally invested in the experience. After going through training camp with USAB, I realized

I could not fulfill my responsibilities to the team from both a time and energy standpoint.

"I need to take a step back and take some time away, both mentally and physically in order to prepare for the upcoming NBA season. I will be rooting for USAB and look forward to future opportunities with them."

Tsonga upsets Djokovic in Rogers Cup 3rd round

TORONTO — Top-ranked Novak Djokovic was upset by 13th-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on Thursday in the Rogers Cup, falling 6-2, 6-2 in only 63 minutes in the third round.

Second-seeded Roger Federer avoided another upset, edging Marin Cilic 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-4.

Djokovic came in with 11 straight wins over Tsonga but was nowhere near adding a 12th. "Just nothing was going," Djokovic said. "No baseline, no serve, no return. So just generally (a) very bad day, very poor performance."

■ Serena Williams waited out a brief rain delay before beating Czech left-hander Lucie Safarova 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday to reach the quarterfinals of the Rogers Cup.

Having won her fourth title of the season last week in Stanford, this week's progress continued Williams' recovery since withdrawing from Wimbledon because of equilibrium problems.

"I served great," said Williams, celebrating her 200th week at No. 1 in the world. "I needed to

serve great because she was hitting unbelievable serves to me."

In the quarterfinals Friday, Williams will play Caroline Wozniacki, a 6-1, 6-0 winner over American qualifier Shelby Rogers.

Duke's Jones: 'Never a rivalry' with Cook

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke freshman point guard Tyus Jones says he and veteran Quinn Cook "don't look at it as a competition."

The highly touted recruit could beat out Cook when the season gets started in a few months. In an interview with The Associated Press, Jones says it's "never a rivalry" because "we all have one goal in mind."

Jones arrived on campus last month as one of four members of one of the nation's top-rated recruiting classes, along with big man Jahlii Okafor, small forward Justise Winslow and guard Grayson Allen.

They've spent plenty of time this summer getting used to playing with each other and with a solid group of returners that includes Cook and fellow guard Rasheed Sulaimon.

AUTO RACING

Wallace earns induction into Motorsports HOF

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Former NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace was one of seven men inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America on Wednesday.

"I think my years in NASCAR were some of the best years NASCAR ever had," Wallace said. "Places were mobbed out and sold out and I was winning a lot of races. People say, 'You drove at a time when NASCAR was at its peak.'"

Wallace made his debut on the top circuit in 1980 in a Roger Penske-owned car and joined the series full-time in 1984. His first victories came in 1986 with Raymond Beadle's Blue Max Racing team and he won the 1989 Sprint Cup championship after holding off Dale Earnhardt.

Wallace moved to Penske's team in 1991 and ran the final 15 years of his career for the car owner, who presented him for induction Wednesday.

"He's been an incredible mentor," Wallace said. "I never had any car dealerships and I ran it by him for some advice and now I have seven of them."

Wallace finished his career with 55 wins — 37 with Penske — and was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2013. Five of those victories came at Michigan International Speedway, once owned by Penske.

His former car owner was happy to introduce Wallace on Wednesday.

"What he's done for this sport and our team, we wouldn't have what we have today without him," Penske said. "He was one of the first drivers to really understand what it meant to keep a sponsor. Miller got in back then and it is still involved today. He was a driver, a technician, a marketer and a good friend."

Arie Luyendyk, who began racing on the IndyCar circuit in 1985 and won the Indianapolis 500 in 1990 and '97, also was inducted. The Dutch-born driver's winning average speed of 187.433 in his first Indy victory — at a time when Penske entries dominated at Indy — stood as a race record until 2013.

Like Wallace, he also looks back on his career as a good job of the sport.

"What I liked about the older days at Indy was you had different cars and different engines and not all the tight and close racing you see today," he said. "It was about having the best tire, car, engine — a lot of things had to come together."

"It's not like today where everyone has the same car."

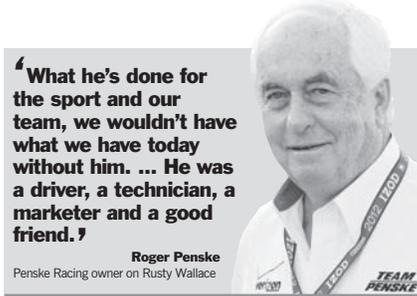
Drag racer and car owner Beadle had a heart attack last month in Texas. His son, Ryan, accepted the honor on his behalf.

The remaining members of the



JEFF SINER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Rusty Wallace, already a member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, joined six others on Wednesday as the newest members of the Motorsports Hall of Fame. Wallace finished his career with 55 wins — 37 with Penske Racing — and was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2013.



“What he’s done for the sport and our team, we wouldn’t have what we have today without him. ... He was a driver, a technician, a marketer and a good friend.”

Roger Penske

Penske Racing owner on Rusty Wallace

class — Ole Bardahl, founder of the Bardahl Oil Company that has sponsored entries in a variety of motorsports; IMSA founder John Bishop; three-time American Motorcyclist Association grand national champion Ricky Graham; and NASCAR pioneer Marshall Teague — are dead.

Teague's widow, Mitzi, died Saturday at age 90. His daughter, Patty Teeters, came to Detroit on Wednesday to acknowledge her father's induction.

The Hall of Fame, based in a suburb northwest of Detroit, will move to Daytona Beach, Fla., in January 2016.

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP

This week: Cheez-It 355 at Watkins Glen, N.Y.

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

Track: Watkins Glen International (road course, 2.45 miles).

Race distance: 220.5 miles, 90 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the third of his four 2013 victories.

Last week: Dale Earnhardt Jr. completed a season sweep at Pocono for his third victory of the year, closing the gap on points leader Jeff Gordon to 17 with five races left before the Chase.

Next race: Pure Michigan 400, Aug. 17, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	757
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	740
3. Brad Keselowski	687
4. Matt Kenseth	668
5. Ryan Newman	642
6. Jimmie Johnson	633
7. Joey Logano	633
8. Carl Edwards	618
9. Clint Bowyer	617
10. Kyle Busch	611
11. Kevin Harvick	608
12. Kyle Larson	590
13. Greg Biffle	590
14. Casey Kahne	589
15. Austin Dillon	588
16. Paul Menard	562
17. Marcos Ambrose	541
18. Brian Vickers	539
19. Tony Stewart	537
20. Jamie McMurray	536

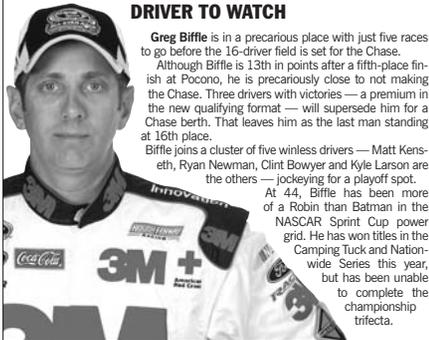
DRIVER TO WATCH

Greg Biffle is in a precarious place with just five races to go before the 16-driver field is set for the Chase.

Although Biffle is 13th in points after a fifth-place finish at Pocono, he is precariously close to not making the Chase. Three drivers with victories — a premium in the new qualifying format — will supersede him for a Chase berth. That leaves him as the last man standing at 16th place.

Biffle joins a cluster of five winless drivers — Matt Kenseth, Ryan Newman, Clint Bowyer and Kyle Larson are the others — jockeying for a playoff spot.

At 44, Biffle has been more of a Robin than Batman in the NASCAR Sprint Cup power grid. He has won titles in the Camping Truck and Nationwide Series this year, but has been unable to complete the championship trifecta.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Zippo 200 at Watkins Glen, N.Y.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8:15 p.m. Saturday Central European Time.

Track: Watkins Glen International (road course, 2.45 miles).

Race distance: 200.9 miles, 82 laps.

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

Last week: Keselowski won at Iowa Speedway, holding off Michael McDowell.

Next race: Nationwide Children's Hospital 200, Aug. 16, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, Ohio.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

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

Last week: Austin Dillon won at Pocono in a green-white-checked finish.

Online: nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

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

Last week: John Force won the NHRA Northwest Nationals in Kent, Washington, for his third Funny Car victory of the season and record 141st overall. Doug Kalitta won in Top Fuel, and Jason Line topped the Pro Stock division.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

TUDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP: Continental Tire Road Race Showcase, Sunday (Fox Sports 1, 6:30-9:30 p.m.), Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wis.

Online: imsa.com

ARCA RACING SERIES: Federated Auto Parts, Saturday, Berlin Raceway, Marne, Mich.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Knoxville Nationals, Saturday, Knoxville Raceway, Knoxville, Iowa. Super DirtCar: Hall of Fame 100, Thursday, Weedsport Speedway, Weedsport, N.Y.

Online: www.worldofoutlaws.com

FORMULA ONE

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

Last race: Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 27 for his second victory of the season. Ferrari's Fernando Alonso was second.

Online: formula1.com

NFL



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Broncos wide receiver Jordan Norwood scores a touchdown as the Seahawks' Terrell Thomas (21) defends during the second half of Thursday's preseason game in Denver.

Briefs

LeBron steals spotlight at Browns' practice

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — For the first time at Browns training camp, the spotlight wasn't on Johnny Manziel.

LeBron James stole it.

The NBA megastar got his football fix Thursday, showing up with his two sons to watch Manziel and the Browns practice. James spent an hour watching a morning workout as the team prepares for Saturday's exhibition opener in Detroit. It was James' first public appearance — the practice was open only to media and corporate VIP guests — since re-signing with the Cavaliers last month, and his entrance caused quite a commotion.

Browns players couldn't wait to meet him after practice, and several had their photos taken with the four-time MVP, who is noticeably thinner after shedding some weight during the offseason.

"It's awesome having him out here," Pro Bowl tackle Joe Thomas said. "He's obviously the best player in our generation in the NBA. To have him back in Cleveland is awesome."

Golisano submits bid for Bills

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Former Buffalo Sabres owner Tom Golisano has entered the running to purchase the Buffalo Bills.

A person familiar with the sale process confirmed to The Associated Press on

Thursday that Golisano submitted a non-binding bid to Morgan Stanley, the banking firm overseeing the sale. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the sale is private.

The Buffalo News first reported Golisano's entry earlier in the day.

The Bills are on the market after Hall of Fame owner Ralph Wilson died in March.

Golisano's addition comes at the same time the sale process moved into the next phase after Bills officials began meeting with prospective ownership groups that had already submitted their non-binding bids.

Two other people familiar with the process said New York real estate mogul Donald Trump was first up, by attending a lengthy presentation in the Detroit-area on Wednesday.

Current Sabres owners Terry and Kim Pegula, and a Toronto-based group fronted by rocker Jon Bon Jovi are also scheduled to attend presentations.

HOFF OKs contributor category

CANTON, Ohio — The Pro Football Hall of Fame is adding a contributor category for nomination next year.

The addition was announced Wednesday, after being approved by the Hall's bylaws for the selection committee. The new category has the potential of increasing the number of annual inductees to eight.

Preseason roundup

Flags fly in Broncos' win over Seahawks

The Associated Press

DENVER — The Super Bowl teams slogged through a preseason opener delayed by lightning and a flurry of flags Thursday night before linebacker Steven Jackson's end zone interception of Terrelle Pryor's pass sealed the Denver Broncos' 21-16 win over the Seattle Seahawks.

In between a 46-minute delay, both starting offenses put together long touchdown drives that ate up more than 9 minutes and were kept alive by a wave of yellow flags.

Altogether, there were 25 accepted penalties, 13 on Seattle and a dozen on Denver.

Redskins 23, Patriots 6: Tom Brady took the night off, and Robert Griffin III played just one series as host Washington beat New England in the teams' preseason opener.

Coach Bill Belichick rested Brady, Darrelle Revis and most of his starters. The first-teamers already had plenty of good work against the Redskins this week during three days of joint practices at Washington's training camp facility.

Backups Kirk Cousins and Colt McCoy each threw a touchdown pass for the Redskins under new coach Jay Gruden. Washington went a tension-filled 3-13 last year, costing coach Mike Shanahan his job.

Ravens 23, 49ers 3: Joe Flacco needed just one drive to show how effective host Baltimore's offense could be under Gary Kubiak.

Flacco produced an 80-yard touchdown march in his only series, and the Ravens

beat San Francisco in a preseason opener. **Chiefs 41, Bengals 39:** Sean Smith and Malcolm Bronson returned interceptions for touchdowns, De'Anthony Thomas brought back a punt 80 yards for another score and Kansas City beat visiting Cincinnati in its preseason opener.

Andy Dalton was sharp in his only series for the Bengals after signing a new six-year deal this week. He hit wide receiver A.J. Green for a 53-yard pass to set up the opening field goal.

Jets 13, Colts 10: Michael Vick led host New York on a touchdown drive, capped by fellow newcomer Chris Johnson's 1-yard scoring run, in a victory over Indianapolis in the preseason opener for both teams.

Geno Smith, looking to retain his starting job in his second season, was 4-for-6 for 33 yards in two series with the first-team offense that included a 51-yard field goal by Nick Folk before giving way to Vick. The 34-year-old backup received a hearty cheer from the crowd at MetLife Stadium, and moved the starting offense for the Jets down the field against the Colts' second-team defense.

Chargers 27, Cowboys 7: New backup quarterback Kellen Clemens threw a 70-yard touchdown pass to Dontrelle Inman midway through the third quarter and host San Diego beat Dallas.

Brandon Weeden, making his Cowboys debut with Tony Romo sitting out to rest his surgically repaired back, started and played the first half. He completed 13 of 17 passes for 107 yards.



CHUCK CROW, THE CLEVELAND PLAINDERER/AP

The Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James, right, talks with Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel at the Browns training camp on Thursday.

The proposal to add a contributor category was first raised on Friday, a day before the 2014 seven-member class was inducted. Hall of Fame president David Baker said there was a need to add the category to ad-

dress what had become a backlog of qualified candidates, including commissioners, owners and general managers.

There are currently only 19 contributors enshrined, and only nine of whom were inducted over the past 46 years.

Under the plan, two contributors and one senior player will be eligible for induction next year, followed by one contributor and two seniors in 2016. The numbers would rotate over five years and the process reassessed.

Texans owner says he's healthy

HOUSTON — Houston Texans owner Bob McNair says he's gotten a clean bill of health after a 10-month battle with two forms of cancer.

He had surgery last fall to remove an abnormal growth behind his left ear. Doctors told him that they couldn't remove all the cancerous cells and that McNair had an aggressive form of the disease. He underwent six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy and CT scans in April and on Monday showed that the cancer cells were virtually gone.

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

Team	East Division	West Division	Pct	GB
Baltimore	65	49	.570	5
New York	58	52	.523	12
Toronto	61	55	.526	5
Texas	56	54	.506	15
Minnesota	50	64	.439	15
Chicago	56	64	.464	9
Philadelphia	52	61	.459	11
Detroit	52	54	.488	11
Kansas City	60	53	.531	2%
Milwaukee	62	49	.562	6%
Chicago	55	61	.474	9
Minnesota	62	45	.581	11%

National League

Team	East Division	West Division	Pct	GB
Washington	62	51	.549	9
Atlanta	58	59	.500	14%
Philadelphia	58	59	.500	14%
New York	54	61	.470	9
Milwaukee	61	59	.535	11%
Cincinnati	59	56	.513	4
Chicago	59	56	.513	4
Los Angeles	66	50	.569	9
Pittsburgh	61	59	.535	11%
San Diego	59	64	.462	12%
Arizona	48	67	.415	17%
Chicago	49	69	.395	20

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	61	52	.540	1
St. Louis	61	59	.509	1
Pittsburgh	59	56	.513	4
Cincinnati	59	56	.513	4
Chicago	59	56	.513	4

West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	66	50	.569	9
San Diego	59	64	.462	12%
Arizona	48	67	.415	17%
Chicago	49	69	.395	20

Wednesday's Games

Texas 3, Chicago White Sox 3
 Tampa Bay 1, Oakland 1
 N.Y. Yankees 5, Baltimore 1
 St. Louis 5, Minnesota 4, 10 innings
 Seattle 7, Atlanta 3
 Philadelphia 10, Houston 3
 Pittsburgh 7, Miami 3
 Philadelphia 7, N.Y. Yankees 6
 Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 3
 Los Angeles 12, Milwaukee 4
 St. Louis 2, St. Louis 1
 L.A. Dodgers 13, Chicago Cubs 4
 San Francisco 10, San Francisco 10

Thursday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 1, Detroit 0
 Detroit 2, Toronto 1
 Oakland 3, Minnesota 0
 Seattle 10, Chicago White Sox 3
 Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 3, 13 innings
 Minnesota 4, San Francisco 1
 Chicago Cubs 6, Houston 5
 Philadelphia 6, Houston 5
 Cincinnati 4, Cleveland 0
 Kansas City 5, Boston 1
 Kansas City 6, Arizona 2
 Philadelphia 10, Philadelphia 0

Friday's Games

Cleveland 10, N.Y. Yankees 6
 Detroit 4, Toronto 0
 Texas at Houston
 Boston 4 at L.A. Angels
 Milwaukee at Oakland
 San Francisco at Seattle
 Tampa Bay at Chicago Cubs
 Chicago White Sox at Philadelphia
 San Diego at Pittsburgh
 Baltimore at Baltimore
 Miami at Cincinnati
 Washington at Atlanta
 Detroit at Milwaukee
 San Francisco at Kansas City
 Colorado at Arizona

Saturday's Games

Cleveland (Kubler 12-4) at N.Y. Yankees (McCarthy 4-0)
 Detroit (Kawshir 13-4) at Toronto (Stroman 7-3)
 Texas (Darver 10-6) at Houston (Feidman 7-3)
 Toronto (Buchholz 5-7) at L.A. Angels (Richards 2-0)
 Minnesota (Udén) at Oakland (Santana 2-0)
 Chicago White Sox (Noesi 6-8) at Seattle (Lynn 10-4)
 St. Louis (Lackey 1-0) at Baltimore (J.P. Rivera 4-0)
 Tampa Bay (Oderiz 7-9) at Chicago Cubs (Jackson 6-1)
 Philadelphia (Gee 4-4) at Philadelphia (Hamm 6-5)
 Philadelphia (Stuys 4-13) at Pittsburgh (Lirio 3-7)
 Detroit (Giles 4-12) at Milwaukee (Fiers 1-1)
 Cincinnati (Francisco 0-4) at Cincinnati (Simon 12-4)
 Washington (Roark 11-7) at Atlanta (Harris 10-6)

Sunday's Games

Cleveland (Carraway 11-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 7-7)
 Detroit (Price 11-8) at Toronto (Buehrle 11-8)
 Texas (N.Martinez 1-8) at Houston
 Boston (De La Rosa 3-4) at L.A. Angels (Herrero 3-7)
 Minnesota (Hughes 11-8) at Oakland (Morgan 10-6)
 Chicago White Sox (Joh.Danks 9-7) at Philadelphia (Lynn 11-10)
 Miami (Hand 2-3) at Cincinnati (Cueto 13-6)
 N.Y. Mets (Z Wheeler 7-8) at Philadelphia (Kendrick 5-13)
 San Francisco (Lirio 10-10) at Pittsburgh (Morton 10-5)
 St. Louis (Lynn 11-10) at Baltimore (Neris 9-7)
 Los Angeles (Kershaw 13-2) at Milwaukee (J Nelson 2-2)
 San Francisco (McCormac 9-7) at Kansas City (Duffy 6-1)
 Tampa Bay (Cobb 7-6) at Chicago Cubs (Wood 7-9)
 Colorado (Undecided) at Arizona (Mantle 7-9)
 Washington (Gonzalez 6-8) at Atlanta (Wood 7-9)

Thursday

Yankees 1, Tigers 0

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	4	0	1.000	0
New York	0	1	.000	1

Nationals 5, Mets 3 (13)

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	6	0	1.000	0
Washington	0	1	.000	1

Phillies 6, Astros 5

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	4	0	1.000	0
Houston	0	1	.000	1

Cardinals 5, Sox 2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	4	0	1.000	0
Boston	0	1	.000	1

Mariners 13, White Sox 3

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	5	1	.833	0
Oakland	0	1	.000	1

Reds 4, Indians 0

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	4	0	1.000	0
Cleveland	0	1	.000	1

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	5	1	.833	0
Arizona	0	1	.000	1

Pirates 7, Marlins 2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	6	1	.857	0
Miami	0	1	.000	1

Padres 5, Rockies 2

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Diego	4	0	1.000	0
Colorado	0	1	.000	1

Thursday

Yankees 1, Tigers 0

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Detroit	9	1	0	0	1	5
New York	9	0	0	0	1	5

Nationals 5, Mets 3 (13)

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
New York	9	1	0	0	1	5
Washington	9	0	0	0	1	5

Phillies 6, Astros 5

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia	9	1	0	0	1	5
Houston	9	0	0	0	1	5

Cardinals 5, Sox 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
St. Louis	9	1	0	0	1	5
Boston	9	0	0	0	1	5

Mariners 13, White Sox 3

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seattle	9	1	0	0	1	5
Oakland	9	0	0	0	1	5

Reds 4, Indians 0

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cincinnati	9	1	0	0	1	5
Cleveland	9	0	0	0	1	5

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Atlanta	9	1	0	0	1	5
Arizona	9	0	0	0	1	5

Pirates 7, Marlins 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pittsburgh	9	1	0	0	1	5
Miami	9	0	0	0	1	5

Padres 5, Rockies 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
San Diego	9	1	0	0	1	5
Colorado	9	0	0	0	1	5

Thursday

Yankees 1, Tigers 0

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Detroit	9	1	0	0	1	5
New York	9	0	0	0	1	5

Nationals 5, Mets 3 (13)

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
New York	9	1	0	0	1	5
Washington	9	0	0	0	1	5

Phillies 6, Astros 5

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia	9	1	0	0	1	5
Houston	9	0	0	0	1	5

Cardinals 5, Sox 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
St. Louis	9	1	0	0	1	5
Boston	9	0	0	0	1	5

Mariners 13, White Sox 3

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seattle	9	1	0	0	1	5
Oakland	9	0	0	0	1	5

Reds 4, Indians 0

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cincinnati	9	1	0	0	1	5
Cleveland	9	0	0	0	1	5

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Atlanta	9	1	0	0	1	5
Arizona	9	0	0	0	1	5

Pirates 7, Marlins 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pittsburgh	9	1	0	0	1	5
Miami	9	0	0	0	1	5

Padres 5, Rockies 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
San Diego	9	1	0	0	1	5
Colorado	9	0	0	0	1	5

Thursday

Yankees 1, Tigers 0

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Detroit	9	1	0	0	1	5
New York	9	0	0	0	1	5

Nationals 5, Mets 3 (13)

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
New York	9	1	0	0	1	5
Washington	9	0	0	0	1	5

Phillies 6, Astros 5

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia	9	1	0	0	1	5
Houston	9	0	0	0	1	5

Cardinals 5, Sox 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
St. Louis	9	1	0	0	1	5
Boston	9	0	0	0	1	5

Mariners 13, White Sox 3

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seattle	9	1	0	0	1	5
Oakland	9	0	0	0	1	5

Reds 4, Indians 0

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Cincinnati	9	1	0	0	1	5
Cleveland	9	0	0	0	1	5

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Atlanta	9	1	0	0	1	5
Arizona	9	0	0	0	1	5

Pirates 7, Marlins 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Pittsburgh	9	1	0	0	1	5
Miami	9	0	0	0	1	5

Padres 5, Rockies 2

Team	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
San Diego	9	1	0	0	1	5
Colorado	9	0	0	0	1	5

MLB

Dodgers, Ryu blank Angels to win series



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

Dodgers second baseman Justin Turner, top, and Angels outfielder Mike Trout react as the Angels' Albert Pujols is called out at first for a double play in the ninth inning of Thursday's game in Anaheim, Calif. The Dodgers won 7-0.

Roundup

O's earn AL-best 35th road victory

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Caleb Joseph homered for the fourth consecutive game, Miguel Gonzalez won for the first time in three starts and the Orioles won for the fourth time in five games, 2-1 over the Blue Jays.

The Orioles lead the AL East by five games. It was the AL-best 35th road victory for Baltimore, which has won six consecutive series.

Gonzalez (6-6) allowed four hits in six innings, including Anthony Gose's leadoff homer in the fifth. The right-hander improved to 2-1 with a 2.78 ERA in his last seven starts.

Blue Jays left-hander J.A. Happ (8-6) struck out a career-high 12 in a season-best eight innings. He allowed two runs and five hits.

Athletics 3, Twins 0: Jon Lester pitched a three-hitter for his fourth career shutout, leading host Oakland past Minnesota.

Yankees 1, Tigers 0: Shane

Greene capped a series of fine starting pitching, working into the ninth inning and then watching closer David Robertson finish host New York's victory.

Brewers 3, Giants 1: Wily Peralta became the majors' first 14-game winner, earning his fifth straight win for host Milwaukee.

Cardinals 5, Red Sox 2: Adam Wainwright pitched seven innings for his 14th win, matching Milwaukee's Wily Peralta for the major league lead, and rookie Kolten Wong homered twice for host St. Louis.

Nationals 5, Mets 3 (13): Bryce Harper's two-run homer in the 13th inning lifted host Washington to a season-high 4½-game lead in the NL East.

Mariners 13, White Sox 3: Roenis Elias took a no-hitter into the fifth inning, and Dustin Ackley led host Seattle's offense with a home run and four RBIs.

Royals 6, Diamondbacks 2:

Korean lefty wins for fourth time in five starts

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Although Angel Stadium was packed with its biggest crowd in 16 years, the blue-clad fans had all the fun in the Freeway Series finale.

Hyun-Jin Ryu yielded two hits over seven dominant innings, Hanley Ramirez had a two-run single and the Los Angeles Dodgers wrapped up the rivalry series with their third straight win, 7-0 over the Los Angeles Angels on Thursday night.

Adrian Gonzalez added a late two-run single as the NL-leading Dodgers (66-50) thoroughly shut down their Southern California neighbors in Anaheim, allowing one run in two games to win the Freeway Series for the first time since 2006.

"It's just great to get wins against good teams like that," said Matt Kemp, who drove in a run and scored another. "It builds our confidence up to come in here and get two games in the way we did."

Ryu (13-5) was brilliant in his fourth victory in five starts, striking out four and allowing just two runners to reach third base. The Korean left-hander threw a shutout last year in his only previous start against the Angels.

"It just felt really good to do it again," Ryu said through a translator. "Last year, I had that really symbolic game for me. I just tried to duplicate the outcome. It's a great thing to be on a winning streak and to take the series here."

The Dodgers moved to a season-best 16 games over .500 and improved the majors' best road record to 36-23.

The Angels (67-47) managed just two runs on eight hits in the final 24 innings of the series, falling three games behind Oakland after the overall major league standings.



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

Dodgers starting pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu, of South Korea, struck out four against just two hits in seven straight innings on Thursday against the Angels.

David Freese's one-out double in the fifth was the first hit for the Angels, who were shut out for the third time all season. They have lost three straight for the first time in more than two months.

"There are going to be stretches where you're not pitching well and not playing well," catcher Chris Iannetta said. "We're not playing bad right now. We're just not playing to our potential. ... Hopefully we can tread water, hang in the race and not fall too far behind from Oakland."

C.J. Wilson (8-8) had another rough outing in his second start back from the disabled list. He yielded six hits and four walks in his fifth straight winless start, throwing just 54 of his 100 pitches for strikes.



FRED THORNHILL, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Baltimore's Caleb Joseph hits a two-run home run against the Toronto Blue Jays in the fourth inning on Thursday in Toronto. The AL-East-leading Orioles won 2-1.

Jeremy Guthrie retired the final 19 batters in his team's first complete game this season, and visiting Kansas City completed a three-game interleague sweep.

Pirates 7, Marlins 2: Edinson Volquez pitched one-hit ball for seven innings for host Pittsburgh,

and rookie Gregory Polanco drove in four runs.

Reds 4, Indians 0: Homer Bailey pitched seven innings to end his losing streak against Cleveland, and Billy Hamilton had an RBI triple and scored a run, leading host Cincinnati to the victory.

Cubs 6, Rockies 2: Javier Baez hit two more homers and drove in four runs, leading visiting Chicago to the win.

Phillies 6, Astros 5: Ryan Howard hit a grand slam, capping host Philadelphia's five-run rally in the eighth inning.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Arkansas running backs a nod to past

Trio reminds fans of backfield many tout as team's best

By **KURT VOIGT**
The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Brandon Allen was in junior high when Arkansas' greatest collection of backfield talent ran its way through the Southeastern Conference.

The Razorbacks quarterback and Fayetteville native remembers well the accolades earned in college by future NFL running backs Darren McFadden, Felix Jones and Peyton Hillis.

And Allen isn't shying away from the potential he sees in Arkansas' current backfield of Jonathan Williams, Alex Collins and Korliss Marshall to rival their predecessors' accomplishments.

"They very well could," Allen said. For a team coming off a 3-9 season in its first year under coach Bret Biellema, the hope brought by Williams, Collins and Marshall — who combined to rush for 2,072 yards last season — is very real for the Razorbacks.

The three have also given Arkansas a clear identity leading into its second season under Biellema, a welcomed sense after the school's first winless conference season since joining the SEC in 1992.

Biellema had standout running backs in his seven seasons at Wisconsin, highlighted by 2012 Doak Walker award winner Montee Ball. He also preferred a stable of ball carriers during his time with the Badgers, and this season's returning group has provided him with a much higher comfort level than last year.

"I feel a lot better," Biellema said. "For those of you that didn't know, I like good



DANNY JOHNSTON/AP

Arkansas' running back trio of Alex Collins, left, Jonathan Williams, center, and Korliss Marshall are giving the Razorbacks their identity under second-year head coach Bret Biellema, who preferred a run-heavy offense during his seven years at Wisconsin.

running backs." The Razorbacks were third in the SEC last season with an average of 208.7 yards rushing per game, and they were led by Collins' 1,026 yards. Collins also led Arkansas in attempts as a freshman, averaging 5.4 yards per carry, but he had plenty of help from Williams — who rushed for 900 yards while averaging 6 yards per carry.

As good as the duo was last season, even more is expected this year out of Collins as a sophomore and Williams as a junior. They are fine with that. "We just kind of push each other, because we're not satisfied just for being great," Collins said. "We want to be the best; that's what we strive for."

What Collins provides in shiftness as a runner, and Williams in power, Arkansas' largely unknown member of its big three — Marshall — provides in flat-out explosiveness.

The sophomore didn't receive nearly the recruiting hype as Collins and he split most of last season between safety and running back. When his opportunity came on offense, he literally ran with it. Marshall gained 586 all-purpose yards for Arkansas last season, largely in kickoff returns.

However, he also averaged 8.6 yards per carry in limited action and was moved to full-time running back in the offseason. "It's really nice ... to have three legitimate starters," running backs coach Joel Thomas said. "The best thing right now that we have going for that room is competition, and it's just making each other get better in everyday activities."

Despite the abundance of talent at one position, the running backs all believe there will be plenty of carries to go around this season. "If you're not getting the ball, that means you're not the hot guy and you don't have too much to complain about if you're not the hot guy," Williams said.

They've also heard the comparisons to McFadden, Jones and Hillis, though Williams shies away from the hype. He'd prefer to first concentrate on returning the Razorbacks to a bowl game for the first time since 2011 and let the attention follow.

"They're a unique group, and we're trying to set our own trends, trying to have our own name," Williams said. "But it's definitely an honor being compared to them."

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON NCAA REFORM

Q: Will athletes get paid?

A: None of the college presidents who spoke Thursday at NCAA headquarters were advocating the popular pay-for-play proposal. Neither did NCAA President Mark Emmert. Instead, leaders from the power conference schools endorsed some form of a stipend to cover the full cost of attendance. A plan for a \$2,000 annual athlete stipend — money that expands scholarship limits to cover living expenses beyond tuition, room and board, books and fees — was passed by the board in October 2011 but overridden two months later after smaller schools complained about the financial impact. It still might be a complicated area to address, Kansas State President Kirk Schuchman noted, as an example, that meeting the full cost of attendance at his school might be \$2,000 but the equivalent at UCLA might be \$3,500.

Q: How will this work?

A: The 65 schools in Atlantic Coast Conference, Wake Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and Southeastern Conference will form their own proposals and anything that gains a majority vote in one of the conferences could be sent to the board of directors. If 12 of the 200 presidents on the board agree, school leaders and commission-

ers will try to agree on a proposal. Each school would then get one vote and three athletes from each conference would create a voting bloc of 80. It would require 48 votes and a simple majority from three of the leagues or 41 votes and a simple majority of four of the conferences to pass.

Q: Will other conferences try to do what the Big Five want to do?

A: Those details are still being worked out, but the leaders of the other five conferences that play at the highest level of college football, the Bowl Subdivision, have all said their members are prepared to do their best to provide the same additional benefits to athletes. Some schools, such as those in the American Athletic Conference or Mountain West, are probably better situated to spend more on athletes than others, such as those in the Sun Belt or Mid-American Conference. But they'll try.

Q: Does everyone agree this is the right move?

A: No, critics contend it will create a wider gap between the haves and have-nots in college sports and some wonder whether it will impact Olympic sports and Title IX requirements.

— The Associated Press

Power: Heavyweight conferences will have unprecedented autonomy

FROM BACK PAGE

president of The Drake Group, an NCAA watchdog, has complained the new structure could damage non-revenue sports. Boise State President Bob Kustra was even more explicit.

"For those who already think that Division I athletics has developed into a business that too often dictates university priorities rather than the other way around, it's about to get worse," he said. "These elite programs will bear less and less resemblance to amateur athletics and the mission and role of a university. No one should think it will stop here."

Those who helped draft the legislation insist there are checks and balances to prevent overreach.

"It does provide degrees of autonomy for the five high-resource conferences," said Wake Forest President Nathan Hatch, the board chairman. "This is not complete autonomy. We're still part of Division I, but I think it allows us to provide more benefits to student-athletes."

It's a dramatic new start for an organization that has come under increasing criticism.

Already this year, the NCAA has agreed to settle two lawsuits for a combined \$90 million and still awaits a judge's decision on a federal lawsuit in which plaintiffs led by Ed O'Bannon have argued college sports' amateurism rules are anti-competitive and allow the organization to operate as an illegal cartel.

The new legislation is intended to give the NCAA's most visible schools enough flexibility to perhaps ward off additional lawsuits.

The transition to a new governing system could begin in January. The five richest leagues will have nearly twice as much voting power (37.5 percent) as any other group on the new council, where most legislation will be approved or rejected.

While there are worries about the growing gap between the haves and have-nots, the smaller conference schools are still angling for a chance to adopt the autonomous rules, too.

"I think that's important to examine," said Wright State President David Hopkins, whose school plays in the Horizon League. "At least we want to have the opportunity to work and choose what we decide (on the autonomous issues)."

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Stars going in opposite directions

AT A GLANCE

First round

LEADING: Lee Westwood, Kevin Chappell and Ryan Palmer were tied at 6-under 65.

PURSING: Five players were tied at 66, highlighted by three-time major winner Rory McIlroy.

TRACKING TIGER: Woods, whose bad back limited his practice time, shot 3-over 74.

KEY STAT: Eight players shot 66 or better.

NOTEWORTHY: Defending champion Jason Dufner (neck) and Matt Kuchar (back) pulled out because of injuries. Both were on course to qualify for the U.S. Ryder Cup team, potentially leading captain Tom Watson with big shots to fill.

QUOTEWORTHY: "I didn't play as well as I wanted to. I didn't get a putt to the hole. That's not a good combo." — Woods.

— The Associated Press

5 THINGS TO WATCH

CAN TIGER MAKE THE CUT? In only his 11th competitive round since back surgery, Woods was tied for 109th and in danger of missing the cut in a major for the fourth time as a professional. The top 70 advance to the weekend, so Woods has work to do.

RYDER CUP WATCH: The PGA is the final event for the Americans to qualify for the Ryder Cup. The biggest move is coming from Europe. Lee Westwood would have to win to move into the top nine in the standings. Even if he doesn't, he's at least sending a strong reminder to captain Paul McGinley that his game is rounding into shape. Ian Poulter delivered a 68 to bolster his bid, and Luke Donald didn't hurt himself with a 70. The Americans' Jason Dufner (No. 8) withdrew, and has to wait to see if two players can pass him. Zach Johnson (No. 9) opened with a 70. Phil Mickelson (No. 10) had a 69. None of the next five players behind Mickelson broke 70. The biggest disappointment was Keegan Bradley (74), who made four bogeys on the back nine.

FWELER IN THE MIX: Rickie Fowler was a runner-up in the U.S. Open and the British Open, and he is the first player since Woods in 2005 to finish in the top five at the first three majors of the year. Looks like the 25-year-old Fowler will be a contender again after opening with a 69, which included five birdies in a stretch of eight holes.

CLUB PROS: None of the 20 club professionals in the field made much of an impact, but a couple of them were in decent position to at least play 72 holes. Steve Stricker of Sandy, Utah, opened with a 72, while Ryan Helminson of Menasha, Wis., managed a 73.

EYES ON THE SKIES: With forecasters predicting a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms over the next three days, weather could become a factor.

— Paul Newberry, AP

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The divide between golf's two biggest names just keeps growing.

There's Rory McIlroy, shooting another round in the 60s and looking very much like the man to beat in the PGA Championship.

Then there's Tiger Woods, spraying shots all over Valhalla and now most concerned with making it to the weekend.

Clearly, they are two players heading in very opposite directions.

"I'm really happy with everything," said McIlroy, who opened with a 5-under 66 on Thursday despite one bad swing that led to a double bogey. "I've got a good thing going right now."

Woods can't get anything going.

Just four days after withdrawing at Firestone because of back pain, he shot a 3-over 74 that included only one birdie — and he had to hole out from the fairway to do that.

"It wasn't very good," Woods said. He faced a daunting nine-shot deficit heading to the second round. Lee Westwood, Ryan Palmer and Kevin Chappell all shot 65 on a day when plenty of players went low, taking advantage of a course that was soft and gentle.

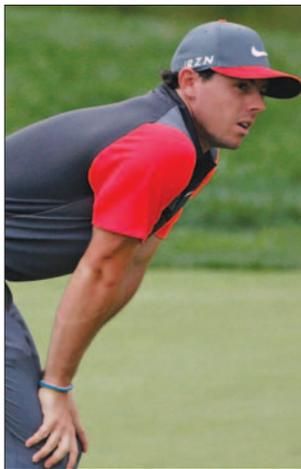
Coming off victories in the British Open and at Firestone, McIlroy likely would've had the lead all to himself if not for his second shot on the par-5 10th hole. He hooked it over a fence and out-of-bounds, leading to a 7. Still shaken, he made a three-putt bogey on the next hole.

Then, just like that, he bounced back with four straight birdies to get right back into the mix. "Whenever you are confident and you have some momentum on your side, it's easier to do what I did," he said.

It was his 11th straight round under par, and his third straight round of 66.

Westwood followed up a season-best 63 in the final round at Firestone by matching his best score in a major championship. He made nine birdies, helping offset a double bogey of his own.

"I've played better rounds of golf, but I was really pleased," he said. "I hit a lot of quality iron shots, and it felt like 65 was a fair enough score for the way I played. I got a couple of bad breaks out there, but I rolled a couple of putts in that you probably wouldn't expect to hole."



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Rory McIlroy, who is coming off victories in the British Open and Bridgestone Invitational, opened with a 5-under 66 in the PGA Championship on Thursday at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky.

Tiger Woods, who withdrew at Firestone because of back pain, had to work for his only birdie in an opening-round 74. Woods is in danger of missing the cut for only the fourth time as a professional.

Scoreboard

Thursday
At Valhalla Golf Club
Louisville, Ky.
Purse: \$10 million
Yardage: 7,458; Par: 71 (35-36)

Lee Westwood	32-35-65	-6
Kevin Chappell	32-33-65	-6
Ryan Palmer	34-31-65	-6
Edoardo Molinari	31-35-66	-5
Henrik Stenson	32-34-66	-5
Rory McIlroy	32-34-66	-5
Chris Wood	32-34-66	-5
Mikko Ilonen	33-34-67	-4
Jerry Kelly	32-35-67	-4
Joost Luiten	33-35-68	-3
Ian Poulter	33-35-68	-3
Bernd Wiesberger	33-35-68	-3
Danny Willett	33-35-68	-3
Shawn Willett	34-34-68	-3
Shawn Stefani	33-35-68	-3
Matt Jones	33-35-68	-3
Seung-Yul Noh	34-34-68	-3
J.B. Holmes	33-36-68	-3
Rickie Fowler	34-35-69	-2
Victor Dubuisson	35-34-69	-2
Nick Watney	35-34-69	-2
Jimmy Walker	36-33-69	-2
Jason Day	34-35-69	-2
Phil Mickelson	32-37-69	-2
Jamie Donaldson	34-35-69	-2
Rafael Cabrera-Bello	35-34-69	-2
Kevin Streelman	35-34-69	-2
Russell Henley	34-35-69	-2
Alexander Levy	35-34-69	-2
Grahan Delattre	34-35-69	-2
Steve Stricker	35-34-69	-2
Cameron Tringale	34-35-69	-2
Geoff Ogilvy	35-34-69	-2
Patrick Reed	34-36-70	-1

Colin Montgomerie	35-35-70	-1
Brendon Todd	32-38-70	-1
Eric Elst	36-34-70	-1
Brendon de Jonge	34-36-70	-1
Louis Oosthuizen	34-36-70	-1
Justin Rose	33-37-70	-1
Stephen Gallacher	34-36-70	-1
Charley Hoffman	35-35-70	-1
Sergio Garcia	36-34-70	-1
Martin Kaymer	33-37-70	-1
Hunter Mahan	36-34-70	-1
Luke Donald	31-39-70	-1
Zach Johnson	34-36-70	-1
Richard Sterne	34-36-70	-1
Tim Clark	35-35-70	-1
Daniel Summerhays	37-33-70	-1
Chris Stroud	35-35-70	-1
Robert Karlsson	37-34-71	E
Hideki Matsuyama	37-34-71	E
Billy Horschel	34-37-71	E
Brian Stuard	35-36-71	E
Jordan Spieth	35-36-71	E
Adam Scott	35-36-71	E
Thongchai Jaidee	35-36-71	E
Brian Harman	37-34-71	E
Brooks Koepka	37-34-71	E
Kevin Stadler	33-38-71	E
Marc Leishman	37-34-71	E
Marc Warren	35-36-71	E
Brendan Steele	34-37-71	E
Pat Perez	36-35-71	E
Scott Brown	34-37-71	E
Scott Stallings	32-38-71	E
Jonas Blixt	34-37-71	E
Erik Compton	34-37-71	E
Diego Zannotti	34-37-71	E
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	36-35-71	E
Bill Haas	35-36-71	E
Vijay Singh	34-37-71	E
Thorbjorn Olesen	32-39-71	E

Francesco Molinari	34-37-71	E
Jason Bohn	35-36-71	E
Shaun Micheel	35-36-71	E
Fredrick Jacobsen	34-37-71	E
K.J. Choi	34-37-71	E
Miguel Angel Jimenez	35-37-71	E
Charl Schwartzel	35-37-71	E
Ryo Ishikawa	36-36-71	E
Gary Woodland	34-38-71	E
Tom Watson	35-37-71	E
Davis Love III	35-37-71	E
Kenny Perry	36-36-71	E
Kiradech Aphibarnrat	36-36-71	E
Steve Scheinler	36-37-71	E
Roberto Castro	36-37-71	E
Charles Howell III	36-37-71	E
Geoff Coetzee	36-37-71	E
37-34-71	E	
Ross Fisher	36-37-71	E
Padraig Harrington	38-35-73	E
Graeme McDowell	36-37-73	E
Brandt Snedeker	34-39-73	E
Hyung-Sung Kim	35-38-73	E
Ryan Helminson	37-36-73	E
George McNeill	36-38-73	E
Wybo Simpson	34-39-73	E
Rebb Moore	36-37-73	E
Scott Piercy	37-36-73	E
Branden Grace	35-38-73	E
Tommy Fleetwood	34-37-73	E
Koumei Oda	37-37-74	E
Jannie Bruce	37-37-74	E
Rich Beem	37-37-74	E
Tony Finau	37-37-74	E
Eric Williamson	35-39-74	E
David Hearn	35-39-74	E
Keegan Bradley	34-37-74	E
Chris Kirk	38-36-74	E

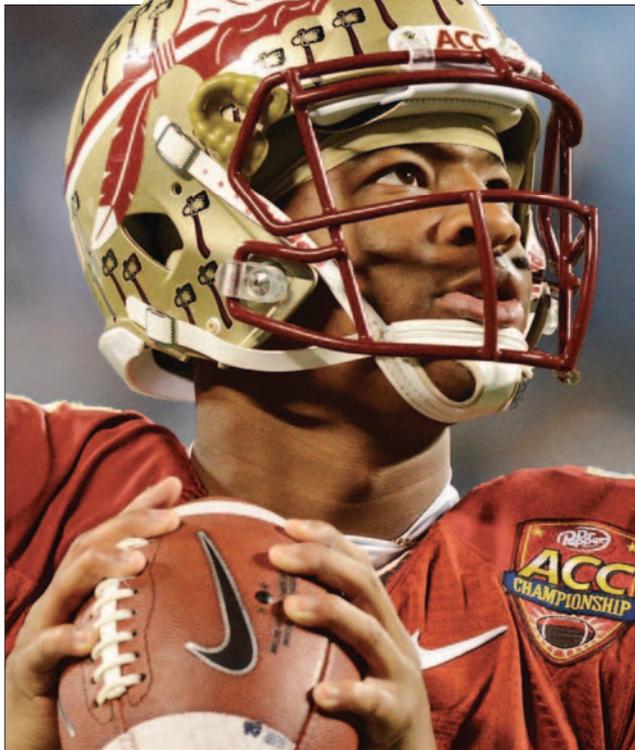
Hideto Tanihara	37-37-74	+3
Chesson Hadley	36-38-74	+3
Paul Casey	35-39-74	+3
Kevin Na	33-41-74	+3
Ben Martin	34-40-74	+3
Steven Bowditch	36-38-74	+3
Rod Perry	39-36-74	+3
Ben Crane	36-38-74	+3
Russell Knox	36-39-75	+4
Thomas Bjorn	36-39-75	+4
Y.E. Yang	33-42-74	+4
Stuart Denen	38-37-75	+4
John Stender	37-38-75	+4
Y.E. Yang	33-42-74	+4
John Daly	40-36-76	+5
Bob Coronado	36-40-76	+5
Will MacKenzie	35-41-76	+5
Michael Black	40-37-77	+6
David McGilver	37-40-77	+6
Brian Norman	37-40-77	+6
Mark Brooks	38-40-78	+7
John Huh	39-39-78	+7
Jason Kokrak	40-38-78	+7
John Kok	40-38-78	+7
Pablo Larrazabal	39-41-79	+8
Matt Peca	38-41-79	+8
Dave Tenzin	41-38-79	+8
Darren Clarke	38-41-79	+8
Boo Weekley	40-40-80	+9
Jerry Shott	40-40-80	+9
Matteo Manassero	37-43-80	+9
Dustin Wolf	39-42-81	+10
David Kronak	40-41-81	+10
Angel Cabrera	39-43-82	+11
Frank Eppinger	40-43-83	+12
Jim McDevitt	41-42-84	+13
Aaron Kruger	42-42-84	+13
Jason Dufner	38-46-74	WD

SPORTS



Perfect conditions

Slew of golfers shoot 66 or better in first round | PGA Championship, Page 31



JEFF SINKER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

James Winston won the Heisman Trophy and guided Florida State to the national championship last season. Florida State is a member of the ACC, one of the five heavyweight conferences.

NEW GOVERNING STRUCTURE

TOP CHANGE: The five biggest football conferences — the ACC, Big 12, Big Ten, Pac-12 and SEC — will have more control over legislation on some of the most contentious topics in college sports, including adding money to scholarships to more fully meet the so-called “full cost of attendance” (money beyond tuition, room and board, books and fees) and additional academic and career counseling.

CHECKS AND BALANCES: To gain control of such issues, a majority in one of the five leagues must agree along with 12 of the 20 presidents or chancellors on the expanded board of directors. All 65 schools and 15 student-athletes, three from each conference, would cast votes. Passage would require 48 votes and a simple majority of support from school reps in at least three of the five conferences or a simple majority of all votes (41) and a simple majority from school reps in four of five conferences.

EVERYONE ELSE: All 32 Division I conferences would have a voice in legislative matters not deemed “autono-

mous.” These areas include championship administration and policy, oversight of membership standards and management of sports or topic-specific studies intended to formulate recommendations. Most legislation will be delegated by the newly expanded board to a newly created council that replaces two committees that previously helped draft legislation. Two student-athletes would vote on the council, and voting would be weighted toward the five biggest conferences (37.5 percent of the vote).

RED TAPE: The NCAA would reduce the large number of subcommittees to three: One focused on academics, one on competition and student well-being, and one to assist the council with its legislative role. The Committee on Academics will report to the board and is expected to maintain a close working relationship with the council and the other two subcommittees.

OVERSIGHT: University presidents and chancellors will maintain control on oversight and strategic decisions through the board of directors.

— The Associated Press

Power

NCAA board hands more of it to 5 biggest leagues

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — College football's biggest schools are ready to spend millions of dollars more on their athletes.

Individual players are likely to cash in on only a small portion of that money.

After the NCAA's board of directors voted 16-2 on Thursday

to give the five power conferences the ability to establish some rules unilaterally, a handful of university presidents and chancellors unanimously agreed that pay-for-play won't be approved. Instead, the school leaders said they were only willing to expand scholarship limits to provide a limited amount of spending money.

“I think there will be some institutions and conferences that will take a hard look at what that full cost-of-attendance means to them,” UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said. “But I think the other thing is we'll be able to involve people in the process more quickly and in a more nimble way, and I think it's really, really important that it protects the integrity of the collegiate model.”

Current rules only allow scholarships to cover the cost of tuition, room and board, books and fees. The five biggest leagues — the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — have argued that they should help defray additional expenses such as laundry and travel for players' families.

The schools will soon get that chance.

Conference leaders have until Oct. 1 to create a list of rules they'd like to change on their own. All it will require is a majority vote in one of the five leagues, and 12 of the 20 presidents or chancellors on the new, expanded board. An 80-member committee, with one representative from each of the 65 schools and three student-athletes from each conference, would vote on the items. It would require 48 votes and a majority in three of five conferences or 41 votes and a majority in four of five conferences to pass.

NCAA President Mark Emmert said the board will retain veto power if it deems the solutions go too far, though he said that would be rare.

The top priority for most schools: giving athletes a stipend.

In October 2011, the board approved a measure to give up to \$2,000 to athletes if their leagues opted in. Two months later, a group of smaller schools gathered enough signatures to overturn the vote, which prompted the big schools to seek autonomy over more items.

Despite the overwhelming vote at the NCAA headquarters in Indianapolis, it wasn't welcomed everywhere.

U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) expressed concerns about an unequal playing field, Title IX compliance and antitrust ramifications. Gerald Gurney,

SEE POWER ON PAGE 30



Inside:

■ Arkansas has 3 options in backfield, Page 30

Ryu blanks Angels as Dodgers take Freeway Series

MLB, Page 29

Donovan says he'll retire at end of MLS season

Soccer, Page 25