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Inside

NATO eyes moving forces eastward

Alliance reviewing variety of options in effort to reassure allies, deter Russia

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

“Essentially, what we are looking at is a package of land, air and maritime measures that would build assurance for our easternmost allies.”

Gen. Philip Breedlove
NATO supreme allied commander Europe

NATO's next move in response to the crisis in Ukraine is likely to be more of the same: more NATO fighters patrolling over the Baltics, more rotations of warships into the Black Sea and more surveillance of Russian movements around Ukraine.

Since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula last month, NATO has sought to reassure jittery members concerned about Moscow's suspected expansionist aims by boosting its presence in those countries that

border Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, officials said.

“Essentially, what we are looking at is a package of land, air and maritime measures that would build assurance for our easternmost allies,” Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander Eu-

rope and head of U.S. European Command, told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. “I'm tasked to deliver this by next week. I fully intend to deliver it early.”

U.S. soldiers from the Texas-based 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division — the unit already des-

igned as the U.S. contribution to the NATO Reaction Force — could be deployed to the region to train with allies in the east. However, any such move would be on a rotational basis rather than any permanent repositioning of an additional Army brigade in Europe, military officials said.

“Rotating them over to participate in an exercise is one of the many options on the table to reassure allies,” said Col. Martin Downie, spokesman for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

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Stephen Colbert
tapped to assume
Letterman throne

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Nuclear commander
fired over drinking flap
to retire at lower rank

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visits Mongolia in
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MLB

Braun, Cruz, Peralta
bounce back from
Biogenesis case

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MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Daniel Meyer, right, with wife Harmonie, rarely leaves his Las Vegas home these days. Meyer, a former staff sergeant in the Air Force, suffered lung damage that was traced to his time in Iraq, when he was ordered to shoot birds in a burning trash pit.

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Obama, Texas base
mourn fallen soldiers
at memorial service



A look inside the store
where firearms used
in 2 shootings were sold



QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"Their heroism, their courage, their bravery — that's what they're stealing."

— Lisa Pucino Haglof, who is seeking to strengthen the Stolen Valor Act after a man accused of stealing the identity of her brother, a Green Beret who died in Afghanistan, was charged with criminal impersonation, a misdemeanor

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MILITARY

Drinking episode costs general job, rank

By **ROBERT BURNS**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The two-star Air Force general fired last fall as commander of the nuclear missile corps because of alcohol-fueled misbehavior will retire in June at a lower rank, the Air Force said Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Michael Carey was commander of 20th Air Force, with responsibility for the entire fleet of 450 Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles, when he was fired last October following an official investigation of his actions while leading a U.S. government delegation to a nuclear security exercise in Russia last July.

Carey will retire as a brigadier general, one rank below major



Carey

general. He did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment. Investigators determined that Carey had engaged in "inappropriate behavior," including heavy drinking, rudeness to his hosts and associating with "suspect" women, according to the investigative report made public in December.

After the Russia trip, a member of his delegation lodged a complaint about Carey's behavior. That person, described as a

female staff member in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, asserted on the delegation's first night in Moscow, Carey was drinking and speaking loudly in a hotel lounge about how he was "saving the world" and that his forces suffer from low morale.

The investigators said Carey, whom they interviewed at length on Sept. 4, seemed to forget substantial portions of what happened in Russia. The report also said that at times he claimed up or gave testimony at odds with others in the delegation.

After being relieved of command, Carey was allowed to remain in the Air Force; he has been serving as a staff officer at Air

Force Space Command, where he has no responsibility for nuclear weapons. An Air Force spokesman, Maj. Matthew Hasson, said Carey's final duty day is Friday and he will retire June 1.

The decision to not allow him to retire in his current rank of major general was made by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James.

Carey's firing was one of several setbacks for the nuclear force over the past year.

The Associated Press has documented serious security lapses and complaints of low morale and "rot" within the intercontinental ballistic missile force, as well as an independent assessment of "burnout" among a sampling of nuclear missile launch officers and junior security forces.

NATO: Ukrainian crisis could give alliance new lease on life

FROM FRONT PAGE

Other NATO options now under review include the deployment of aircraft to guard NATO airspace that borders Russia as well as planes capable of striking against ground forces. A more prominent naval presence in the Baltic and Black seas also could be an option for the alliance, military officials said.

As the crisis in Ukraine presses on, the U.S. and its allies in Europe are being forced to reconsider the security landscape in Europe during what many experts have described as perhaps the continent's most significant crisis in a generation.

In the short term, NATO's focus will be on ways to reassure allies and to deter any chance of Russian aggression on alliance territory — a move regarded by experts as highly unlikely. What's less clear is whether Moscow at some point will intervene in eastern Ukraine, where Russia has amassed thousands of troops along the border, rattling both Kiev and NATO.

Adm. James Stavridis, who served four years as NATO's SACRUR before retiring last year, said Breedlove's recommendations likely will focus on three core areas: posturing NATO for contingency operations, reassur-

ing allies and military cooperation with Ukraine.

Some specific steps could include activation of command-and-control centers within the NATO command structure, surveillance of Russian forces and events in Ukraine, and placing the NATO Response Force on alert, Stavridis told Stars and Stripes. Other likely actions in the region include moving aircraft, ships and troops into nations in the eastern part of the alliance, especially the Baltics and Poland, as well as conducting military exercises.

More support for Ukrainian forces could take many forms, including NATO military mentors and trainers, intelligence-sharing, the transfer of weapons and ammunition, and nonlethal assistance, such as night vision devices and communication gear, said Stavridis, who now serves as dean of the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

"I doubt they are looking seriously at boots on the ground or other combat options," he said, adding that the U.S. could be forced to take a harder look at its overall force posture in Europe in light of the crisis.

"I would guess the entire drawdown is being re-evaluated, and we may end up with three or even

four combat brigades back in Europe, as well as restoration of the combat aircraft cuts of recent years," Stavridis said.

During the next six months, U.S. European Command and U.S. authorities are likely "to look seriously at the U.S. ground and air footprint," he said. "Assuming effects by the end of the year, effects would begin to be felt in 2015."

"If not a full-blown Cold War, we certainly look to be heading into a very frosty Cool War in the years ahead," Stavridis said.

Paradoxically, the Ukrainian crisis may help revitalize NATO and give it a new lease on life after its engagement in the long war in Afghanistan ends later this year.

Conceived originally as a bulwark against Soviet expansion in the 1940s and '50s, the alliance lost its main raison d'être with the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of its only external military threat. Since then, it has engaged in a series of military actions that had little to do with its original defensive purpose — such as the conflict in Kosovo, the bombing of Libya and anti-piracy patrols off the Somali coast — leading to widespread doubts about the future need for a trans-Atlantic military alliance.

So far, there has been no sign during the Ukraine crisis that Russia, whose defense budget is just 10 percent of NATO military spending, poses a military threat to any member nation. Still, the prospect of Russian military action in Ukraine has galvanized those in the alliance who say it represents the best reason for returning the organization to its original purpose.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has said Russian actions in Ukraine threaten the post-Cold War order and pose a security threat to Europe as a whole.

On Thursday, Moscow responded, accusing Rasmussen of exploiting the crisis to justify the alliance's existence by conjuring up a nonexistent threat.

"The constant accusations against us (show) that the alliance is trying to use the crisis in Ukraine to rally its ranks in the face of an imaginary external threat to NATO members and to strengthen demand for the alliance ... in the 21st century," Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

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Medal of Honor recipient rejoins Army

By ADAM ASHTON

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

Medal of Honor recipient Capt. William Swenson has rejoined the Army and has been assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord's 1 Corps, the corps spokesman said Wednesday.

Swenson's appointment to the corps plans office means that three of the six living military servicemembers who have received the Medal of Honor for actions of Afghanistan are now assigned to Lewis-McChord.

Swenson, Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry and Staff Sgt. Ty Carter are the only Medal of Honor recipients still on active duty.

The three of them were rec-

ognized last week at a ceremony in Olympia in which their names were added to the state's Medal of Honor monument. Petry and Carter wore dress uniforms to the event, while Swenson wore a civilian suit.

1 Corps spokesman Col. Dave Johnson said Swenson joined the Lewis-McChord headquarters on March 14 as a captain.

Swenson, of Seattle, left the Army in 2011, two years after he repeatedly risked his life to recover the bodies of ambushed Marines and Afghan soldiers in Kumar Province. Five U.S. military servicemembers and nine of their Afghan partners lost their lives in the battle.

During the battle, Swenson coordinated combat aviation and

helicopter assets. He fought to rescue a wounded comrade, and delivered first aid under enemy fire.

He received the nation's highest military honor in an October ceremony at the White House, two years after Marine Dakota Meyer received a Medal of Honor for his role in the same battle.

A McClatchy investigation by

reporter Jonathan Landay, who was embedded with the troops during the ambush, showed that Swenson's nomination for the medal was delayed because the Army lost his paperwork.

Carter serves in Lewis-McChord's 7th Infantry Division. Petry soon is expected to retire from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Name of Marine shot at NC base released

The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The Marine killed in what authorities are describing as an apparently accidental shooting at a North Carolina military base has been identified as a 21-year-old Texan on sentry duty.

Lance Cpl. Mark N. Boterf, of Crowley, Texas, died after a single gunshot wound to the chest earlier in the week at the main entrance to the sprawling Camp Lejeune base, the Marine Corps said in a statement late Wednesday.

The statement from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune added that Boterf — a member of the 2nd Radio Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group — was on temporary assignment as a Marine sentry. Boterf joined the Marine Corps in 2012 and had no deployment history, it added.

Camp Lejeune spokesman Capt. Joshua Smith said Wednesday that a Marine colleague discharged a single shot from his M4 rifle in a guard shack at the main base entrance Tuesday and remains in custody. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating.

The name of the shooter, who is male, hasn't been released. No charges have been filed at this time. There were other guards at the gate, but no one else was hurt, officials said.

On Wednesday, a Pentagon spokesman said Wednesday that the fatal shooting of a Marine on guard duty by a colleague at a North Carolina base appears to have been an accident.

Indications point to a "negligent discharge" as the cause of Tuesday's death in a guard shack at the main gate to Camp Lejeune, Department of Defense spokesman Army Col. Steven Warren told reporters.

It will take several weeks of examination to confirm that the shooting was accidental, base spokesman Nat Fahy has said in a statement.

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FORT HOOD SHOOTINGS

Community grieves again

BY JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

FORT HOOD, Texas — The lives of the three soldiers killed in the mass shooting last week were defined by their love for the Army, and their last moments were defined by their love for their comrades, President Barack Obama said Wednesday at a memorial service in their honor.

Three thousand soldiers and families sat under a cloudless sky on the lawn in front of the III Corps headquarters building at Fort Hood, blocked from the road by shipping containers stacked three high. On the stage, three fallen soldier memorials provided a reminder of Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez and Sgt. Timothy Owens, who authorities say were fatally shot by Pvt. Ivan Lopez before Lopez turned the gun on himself.

Ferguson, who was engaged to be married, held a door closed as Lopez tried to push his way into an office, Obama said, saving the lives of others even as he sacrificed his own.

Owens, who helped counsel

other soldiers, was shot as he walked toward Lopez in an effort to calm him down, Obama said.

Lazaney-Rodriguez, who was just months away from retirement, was killed as he stood guard at a medical facility.

"The loss of these three soldiers is a terrible tragedy," said Gen. Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army. "Our job as leaders is to prepare our soldiers for the chaos of war. Yet somehow, the loss of comrades in the heat of battles is a risk we understand, and, with time, can accept."

That these losses happened on American soil makes them especially heartbreaking, Odierno said.

Soldiers can't help but feel echoes of 2009, Odierno said, when Maj. Nidal Hasan opened fire in a medical clinic at this post, killing 13 people and injuring 32 others.

Now, he said, "we must come together as an Army, as a community and as a nation, to learn from Wednesday's tragic events and support and heal one another."

The military must do more to identify the risk factors that lead to violence, he said, and to support the families and community that

is affected by it.

"We do not know why one soldier is strengthened by tough times, and another cannot see a way forward," Odierno said, "but we must and we will be there for them."

Obama also called for a renewed commitment to keep troops safe, at home and abroad.

"In our open society, and at vast bases like this, we can never eliminate every risk. But as a nation, we can do more to help counsel those with mental health issues, to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are having such deep difficulties," Obama said. "As a military, we must continue to do everything in our power to secure our facilities and spare others this pain."

Ferguson, 39, of Mulberry, Fla., served nearly 21 years in the Army and deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. The avid Cowboys fan played several sports in high school, and, his fiancée told the president, the Army was his life.

Lazaney-Rodriguez, 38, of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, came from a close-knit family, following in his father's footsteps by enlisting, Odierno said.

He was known as a meticulous



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Mourners comfort each other Wednesday during the final roll call for soldiers killed in a shooting last week at Fort Hood, Texas.

soldier, "leading from the front, with a tough, but kind" nature, Odierno said.

Lazaney-Rodriguez served 19 years and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq. A friend said he was "the epitome of what you would want a leader to be in the Army," Obama said.

Owens, 37, of Effingham, Ill., taught martial arts before he

joined the military and loved working on cars, according to military leaders and friends.

He served for 10 years, and deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait.

"He would help out anybody. That's just how he was," Caycee Hauck, a friend of Owens', told reporters after the memorial.

Small gun shop that sold weapon to Lopez is popular with soldiers

BY JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

KILLEEN, Texas — Guns Galore, a small brick building on South Fort Hood Street, has a red-and-white awning under a sign with a rifle sight as the "O" in the store's name. The sides of the building are painted white, with signs promising 3,000 guns in stock and "1,700 plus on display."

Inside, rows of display cases are packed with carefully arranged handguns and handwritten prices, and rifles spaced inches apart reach up to the ceiling. Posters remind customers that it is illegal to buy a firearm for someone else, and remind parents that a gun store is no place for children.

Comic strips and memes are taped to the top of the counter. Behind it, a neon yellow sign warns "No idiots allowed."

This is where Spc. Ivan Lopez bought the .45-caliber Smith & Wesson he used in the April 2 mass shooting at Fort Hood. Maj. Nidal Hasan shopped at the same store in 2009, buying the FN-57 and two laser sights he used to kill 13 and injure more than 30 others at the same, and nearby base.

Guns Galore filled out the required paperwork, passed the background check and was not acting suspiciously, according to Greg Ebert, a retired police officer who works at the store and sold Lopez the semi-automatic weapon March 1. The entire transaction took about 20 minutes, he said.

Guns Galore, which opened in 1999, is not the only place in town to buy a gun. It is popular with soldiers, and the extensive

stock means customers are likely to find what they want.

After the second rampage on the post, Ebert is wary of the media and quick to point out that the store is "not the story."

"We are a legitimate business," he said. "We follow the rules."

Buying a firearm

On Monday morning, soldiers in camouflage and older civilian men stood in the aisle nearest the counter, browsing the weapons and talking to the staff. A young soldier asked for help finding a new deer rifle, in anticipation of hunting season. A man in civilian clothes pored over the pistols.

The men working the counter greeted everyone who walked in the door, offering help and answering questions. Two soldiers in digital camouflage filled out the paperwork required by federal law to buy a gun.

The Firearms Transaction Record, a U.S. Department of Justice form, is required for all buyers. Questions include whether the buyer has been found mentally defective or incompetent, whether he or she uses or is addicted to drugs, has been discharged from the military under dishonorable conditions or has been convicted of domestic violence. Answering yes disqualifies a potential buyer.

One of the soldiers had a concealed handgun license, which means that he has completed a background check and provided information about his psychiatric, drug, alcohol and criminal history. For custom-



AP

Greg Ebert reported a transaction in 2011 that resulted in an arrest and conviction of an AWOL soldier.

ers who do not hold that license — including Lopez and Hasan — the salesman calls the FBI for a background check.

Texans can carry rifles or shotguns in plain view on no permit, but must have a permit to carry concealed handguns. Texans are not allowed to openly carry handguns.

Gun stores rely on the process to weed out those attempting to buy a weapon illegally. But they have no way of knowing if someone is being treated for mental health issues.

Ebert said he believes soldiers with mental health issues or under psychological evaluation should be flagged so that gun stores will know — after a background check — not to sell weapons to them. He said he knows there are concerns about a

tempt to restrict individual rights, but he balanced that with a question:

"Do you really want someone who is mentally unstable to have a gun?"

Plot thwarted in 2011

Ebert has reported suspicious behavior in the past. In July 2011, he called authorities about Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, who Ebert said then, wore sunglasses inside, acted aloof and didn't wait for his change or receipt.

Ebert told media at the time that Abdo bought an unusually large amount of smokeless gunpowder, three boxes of shotgun ammunition, and a magazine for a pistol.

He notified the police department, which tracked him to a local hotel. Abdo was later sentenced to life in prison for a plot to set off bombs and shoot soldiers at Fort Hood.

During Hasan's trial in August, Guns Galore owner Chad Cheade said Hasan's demeanor did not seem strange. He did make one unusual request, Cheade said: He asked the salesman to demonstrate assembling and disassembling the weapon so he could record it on his cellphone. Hasan was found guilty and sentenced to death.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama said Americans must honor the memory of the three soldiers killed April 2 by renewing their commitment to keep troops safe, "not just in battle but on the home front, as well." That includes doing more for anyone suffering from mental illness, he said, and making sure "we never stigmatize those who have the courage to seek help."

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MILITARY

Test group given prototype cover for female sailors

Stars and Stripes

A prototype combination cover has been issued to a small test group of female sailors as part of a larger plan to redesign the female uniform to more closely match the male version.

The prototype cover resembles the male version but has a woman's head size and proportions in mind.

A test group of about 30 female sailors based in the Washington area were given the prototypes Tuesday and Wednesday and will wear them to evaluate fit and function, the Navy said in a statement. In the fall, the test will be expanded to a larger group of about 100 sailors.

After the trial period ends, the groups' feedback, as well as comments from observers, will be shared in an online survey and in focus groups.

Anyone who sees the female sailors' prototype covers and wishes to share their comments with the Navy can email their observations to usnpes@ gmail.com, the Navy statement said

Wednesday.

Late last year, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus approved a proposal to bring the dress blues worn by some enlisted women closer to those worn by men. The plan calls for a redesign of the service dress blue uniform for enlisted female sailors from seaman recruit through petty officer first class and the combination covers worn by female chief petty officers and above, according to the Navy.

"As you look out across a group of sailors, you ought to see not female and male Sailors, but sailors," Mabus said in the December announcement discussing the change.

The proposed redesign was made by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran, aided by an internal May 2013 uniform survey in which more than 1,000 female sailors were asked to weigh their satisfaction in wearing the male combination cover, dixie cut and winter jumper-style uniform.

news@stripes.com

USFK workers threaten strike over stagnant pay

By **ASHLEY ROWLAND**
AND **YOO KYONG CHANG**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Thousands of South Koreans who work for the U.S. military could go on strike later this month to protest what union officials describe as stagnant wages, unstable jobs and unfair working conditions.

U.S. Forces Korea countered that it has followed appropriate procedures and pointed to its recent decision to fully fund the salaries of its Korean employees — most of whom are normally paid by South Korea — thus averting the furloughs of more than 12,000 Korean employees earlier this month.

Kim Song-yong, head of the USFK Korean Employees Union, said this week he doesn't know how many employees might take part in a strike, which would be timed to coincide with President Barack Obama's visit later this month. He wouldn't speculate how long it would last.

"We will fight until our requirements are fully satisfied and

until USFK complies with our requests," he said.

The union's 9,500 members are scheduled to vote April 14-16 on whether to strike, according to the union's website.

The National Assembly is preparing to meet in a special session this month that is expected to include a debate over a controversial defense cost-sharing agreement with the U.S.

Under the Special Measures Agreement, South Korea pays as much as 71 percent of salaries for Korean employees who work for USFK, while the U.S. pays the rest. However, the National Assembly has not ratified the latest SMA due to concerns about an increase in Seoul's contributions and a perceived lack of oversight of how USFK spends Korean-provided funds.

Had USFK not decided last month to provide full funding for their salaries, the Korean employees could have been furloughed beginning April 1.

"This decision reflects how much local national employees

are valued and demonstrates U.S. concern for maintaining force readiness to deter aggression and defend the ROK," the command said in a statement.

Choe Ung Sik, the union's general secretary, said that in addition to complaints about shortened work hours, employees want to strike because their wages have been frozen for the past three years, though they are supposed to increase this year.

"A wage freeze is the same as a wage cut," he said.

He also said plans are underway to replace some South Korean workers with U.S. civilians in violation of the Status of Forces Agreement. USFK says its staffing does not violate the SOFA.

USFK also said that because USFK's Korean workers are employed by the U.S. government, their salaries are subject to U.S. laws and regulations that include restrictions on annual raises. The command said it is evaluating pay adjustments for them.

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MILITARY

US pulls assets from Kony search

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Less than a month after sending a “limited number” of CV-22 Ospreys and refueling aircraft into central Africa to assist in the hunt for fugitive warlord Joseph Kony, the U.S. military is pulling those additional assets out of the mission, a top U.S. general said.

“In fact, they’ve just begun to move back out,” Africa Command Gen. David Rodriguez told reporters in Washington, according to a transcript of the briefing. In late March, 150 noncombat troops were sent to Uganda along with the tilt-rotor aircraft as part of an effort to bolster the effectiveness of regional forces

involved in the yearslong search for Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army. The assets, which were on loan from U.S. Central Command, were described at the outset as temporary in nature.

Rodriguez did not rule out the return of Ospreys and other aircraft capabilities to central Africa but said that it would depend on new intelligence and whether the assets were requested by the African Union regional task force, which is headed up by Uganda.

“The biggest challenge that the African Union regional task force is having is light mobility, to get after Kony and his leaders,” Rodriguez said Tuesday. “So we’ll again, support those efforts — as required,” he said.

The added aircraft and the troops that came with them were stationed in Uganda, but they were to be used in the areas of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan where the LRA has operated.

In 2011, President Barack Obama sent about 100 U.S. troops to several small military camps in central Africa to support regional militaries in areas such as training, intelligence gathering and operational planning.

Despite those efforts, the whereabouts of Kony remains unknown. Still, military officials say the mission has had some successes, including numerous high-level defections from the ranks of

the LRA, which today stands at only about 200 fighters.

Despite the multinational search, the LRA has proven hard to track, operating across some of Africa’s most remote territories in the vast border regions of South Sudan, the DRC and CAR. Much of the dense jungle terrain is roadless.

The number of people killed by the LRA, known for abducting children to serve as soldiers, has dropped by more than 75 percent since 2010, according to U.S. officials.

The LRA poses no direct threat to American interests but is potentially destabilizing for U.S. allies.

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VA hit on response to deaths of veterans

By LAUREN KIRKWOOD
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A House of Representatives committee blasted the Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday over a lack of progress and accountability in the aftermath of at least 23 preventable veteran deaths that were the result of delays in treatment at VA medical centers across the country.

One of the centers to come under heat was the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, S.C., where six patients died as a result of not receiving care they needed, according to a VA report.

In the third full House Committee on Veterans Affairs hearing on patient safety, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the panel, along with other lawmakers, expressed frustration with the VA’s unresponsiveness to requests for information. Those included the steps the department has taken to discipline those responsible, as well as how funding meant to reduce backlogs and improve care has been spent.

In a report released Monday, the VA said it has identified 76 patients in its health care system whose care warranted an “institutional disclosure,” or a formal notification that a problem with the patient’s VA care is expected to result in death or serious injury.

Of those 76 patients, 23 died, and the deaths were primarily the result of delays in gastrointestinal care, the report said. The report did not state when the patients died.

Miller called the testimony that VA officials submitted to the committee “ridiculous.”

“It concerns me that my staff has been asking for further details on the deaths that occurred as a result of delays in care at VA medical facilities for months, and only two days before this hearing did the VA provide the information we have been asking for,” he said.

Barry Coates, an Army veteran who sought care at the Dorn VA Medical Center, testified about his experience with delays in the VA system that ultimately led to his death. He has colorectal, liver and lung cancers.

Navy returns seafaring family to port

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The family of four with a seriously ailing 1-year-old had already struggled for days aboard their 36-foot sailboat by the time skydiving National Guardsmen answered their distress call from hundreds of miles off the Mexican coast.

“They were elated, they were ecstatic,” when the four paramedic men jumped 1,500 feet out of an aircraft into the open sea to reach them and stabilize the child, Capt. Lejon Boudreaux, combat rescue officer for the California Air National Guard, said Wednesday after the family was delivered safely to San Diego.

Eric and Charlotte Kaufman along with their daughters Cora, 3, and Lyra, 1, had been on a round-the-world cruise when Lyra’s illness forced them to call for help.

Even with the arrival of the rescuers, their ordeal on the open Pacific Ocean was hardly over.

For the next 3½ days the family and the crewmembers huddled together on the disabled boat as 8-foot waves pounded them. The boat took on water.

By the time a Navy warship reached the Rebel Heart, strong winds and rough seas kept sailors from reaching them for hours.

A helicopter pilot from the warship the USS Vandegrift said visibility was so poor he requested a flare signal to pinpoint the sailboat.

When sailors from the Vandegrift finally reached the sailboat Sunday morning, waves forced them to offload one person at a time to a pitching rescue boat. The effort took two hours.

“Stand on top of a 6-foot ladder, have a friend throw a bucket of saltwater in your face, rinse and repeat for two hours.” Boat-swan’s Mate 2nd Class Ian Matthew Gabriel said in describing the conditions.

On the rescue boat started speeding toward the frigate, Cora



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

The Kaufman family disembarks from the USS Vandegrift on Wednesday at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego following their rescue at sea on Sunday.

began to laugh in amazement.

“The 3-year-old was having a ball. She thought it was the most fun thing ever and the rest of us were white-knuckled,” Lt. Junior Grade Chris Cheezum said. The sailboat had to be sunk. The family was able to save only a few of their belongings.

Despite their ordeal, the family looked like typical vacationers in a photo released by the Navy after the ship docked at Naval Air Station North Island. Father Eric was dressed in shorts and a baseball cap while lugging bags, and his wife walking behind, holding Lyra in a strap-on carrier and grasping Cora’s hand.

The Kaufmans’ decision to sail around the world with two young children drew accusations of recklessness from some observers and praise from others for their courageous spirit. Crit-

ics also urged the government to bill the family for the rescue expenses.

The Kaufmans first want to tend to Lyra and get some rest before talking publicly, Charlotte Kaufman’s sister, Sarah English, said.

The couple sent a statement from the ship on Sunday defending their actions, saying “when we departed on this journey more than a year ago, we were then and remain today confident that we prepared as well as any sailing crew could.”

Eric Kaufman is a Coast Guard-licensed captain.

When they first set off from San Diego on their cruise, Charlotte Kaufman was pregnant with Lyra. They stopped in Mexico for the birth.

The baby had salmonella in Mexico but her pediatrician had

assured them she was over it and safe to travel when they set off again on their voyage last month, English said.

Shortly into the trip, she started showing symptoms and did not respond to antibiotics. Then the Rebel Heart lost its steering and communication abilities. The Kaufmans used a satellite phone to call the Coast Guard for help April 3.

“She wasn’t quite on death’s door yet, but a couple more days she would’ve been,” Master Sgt. Klay Bendle, one of the paramedics, said after returning to base at Moffett Airfield in Northern California.

“They were really appreciative. They were actually surprised that America would spend the effort and the time and dollars and possible lives to go and help them out,” Bendle said.

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MILITARY

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Jungle patrol in Vietnam

The Stars and Stripes Archive Photo of the Day of the 173rd Airborne Brigade on patrol in Vietnam in 1965 struck a chord with readers on Facebook. A Stars and Stripes story about the 173rd described the jungle as "hot, sultry and dangerous; where you walk 10 yards to go forward five; where the enemy can be 30 feet away, hidden by the foliage ..."

Vietnam 1966-67 part 1968 then back again in 1970 part of 1971 total of three years and nine months.the rice paddies were awful; you sank to your chest at times ... the jungles were hot ... hard to breathe...dark as midnight ... but we were Brothers, Warriors willing to pay for the Price of FREEDOM.Blood ...Sweat and TEARS ... GOD BLESS THE USA.

— William Starnes Sr.

My husband Jerry Ferguson was with the 173rd Airborne and was KIA 13 June 1968 and our son, only child, was born 24 December 1968, a very bittersweet time ... His son looks just like him...

— Judy Wallace Ferguson Scofield

We should have honored our Vietnam vets with pride, not [made] them feel like they did wrong.

— Debbie Dumlur

Any war is a shame, but not those who fought it. That's called being a soldier and doing your job. God bless those who served and God hold those who never returned.

— James Stallions

I've heard vets from that war tearfully say the only sound on earth as sweet and comforting as a mother's heartbeat is that of the B52s coming over the horizon.

— DelRay Rokke

It was a scary time. ...Vietnam vets



MIKE MEALEY/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade slosh through a stream during a jungle patrol in South Vietnam in May 1965. A Stars and Stripes story about the 173rd described the jungle as "hot, sultry and dangerous; where you walk 10 yards to go forward five; where the enemy can be 30 feet away, hidden by the foliage; where you pick your feet up almost to your knees to keep from tripping on vines; where you sit down for a break only to be covered by insects, such as ants a quarter-inch long."

were met only by war protesters and jeers of "traitor." They also brought back physical and emotional scars; not even the military services acknowledged or recognized PTSD.

— Linda Denny

They were pretty much in a war like our veterans are right now, except this time people are behind them. It's the government we have the problem with.

— Mark A Parsons

It was a horrible war and a horrible homecoming and all we can do is say we are sorry.

— Robin Wolfinger Gioquindo

Find this and other archive photos: stripes.com/go/vietjungle

Sergeant sentenced in downrange jet fuel theft

GREENVILLE, N.C. — A U.S. Army sergeant from a Fort Bragg-based unit was sentenced to five years in prison for helping to steal more than 180,000 gallons of jet fuel from a military base in Afghanistan, according to the United States Attorney's office in eastern North Carolina.

During a 2012 deployment, Sgt. 1st Class James Edward Travis, of

the 4th Battalion in the 3rd Special Forces Group, paid another soldier to escort an Afghan driver with a tanker truck onto Forward Operating Base Sharana on multiple occasions, officials said. The other soldier would load fuel onto the tanker and escort the driver off the base, officials said. The stolen fuel had an estimated value of about \$422,000, the attorney's office said in a press release.

From wire reports

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MILITARY



ALEX WONG/AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, right, is presented with a horse as a gift Thursday by Mongolian Defense Minister Bat-Erdene Dashdenberel at the Mongolian Ministry of Defense in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Hagel seeks to boost ties with Mongolia

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia — After days of high-profile, pressure-filled meetings, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel got to horse around a bit during a short stop in Mongolia on Thursday.

Following a time-honored tradition, Mongolian Defense Minister Bat-Erdene Dashdenberel presented Hagel with a buckskin-colored horse in a ceremony in front of that country's defense ministry. Hagel, who was wrapping up a 10-day trip to the Asia-Pacific region, named the horse Shamrock.

Tradition dictates the 9-year-old gelding be named after something of importance to the recipient, Hagel said. "Shamrock was the mascot of the high school that I graduated from, St. Bonaventure in Columbus, Neb.," he said. "It was one of the most important times of my life."

Shamrock will stay in Mongolia, where he has been serving in the cavalry's honor guard battalion. No one will ever ride the horse but Hagel, officials said.

"Now you be good while I'm gone," Hagel said as he patted the stocky horse.

Hagel is the second defense

secretary in recent years to receive one of the Mongolian horses, which are bred for endurance. Then-Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld also got one when he visited Mongolia in October 2005.

The gift to Hagel reflected the congenial tone of the day, as the secretary and Bat-Erdene signed an agreement that calls for expanding U.S. military training and exercises with Mongolia. The agreement signed by Hagel noted that Mongolia "serves as a stabilizing influence in Asia and is seeking to modernize its military in a transparent fashion."

Landlocked with 2.8 million people spread over an area twice the size of Texas, Mongolia is dwarfed by China, but also relies on the Asian nation for much of its economy. It has worked to maintain its independence from Beijing and Moscow by increasing its ties to other world powers, including the U.S. and Japan.

Mongolian troops have been a visible and frequent force in Iraq and Afghanistan, often providing security at U.S. facilities. There are about 10,000 active-duty Mongolian troops, and to date, 9,500 have served in Iraq, Afghanistan or on other peacekeeping missions around the world.

NCOs: Slow compensation to save forces' readiness

By TOM PHILPOTT

Military leaders lead. Politicians can lead too, of course, but usually before sticking a wet finger into the wind to learn how political winds blow.

The contrast was evident Wednesday as top enlisted leaders delivered a kind of suck-it-up-and-punch-us message to a group of nervous senators.

The armed services personnel associations wanted to know how military quality of life would be affected if Congress votes to cap the annual pay raise again, and also to dampen housing allowance increases, to allow commissary prices to jump and to raise medical fees for families and retirees.

As background to this discussion, recall how Congress lacked the will to compromise on a grand plan to address the nation's debt crisis in 2011. Instead it adopted an automatic budget cutting mechanism — sequestration — that in 2013 began to make deep, indiscriminate cuts in defense spending, putting force readiness into a tailspin.

The message Wednesday from the enlisted leader panel, and from an earlier panel of the services' three-star personnel chiefs, was this: If lawmakers won't take the harder path to repeal sequestration, but particularly those scheduled for 2016 and beyond, they should at least ensure cuts are applied in a balanced way to protect training and readiness. Regrettably, that means taking the unpopular course military leaders lay out in the fiscal 2015 budget of slowing growth in compensation programs.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Michael P. Barrett told the subcommittee that Marines are ready to take the hits. But for gosh sakes, get on with it so there's no doubt they stay trained and ready for the next fight.

Marines aren't focused on "compensation, benefits or retirement modernization," Barrett said. They have a "bias for ac-

MILITARY UPDATE

tion" and measure quality of life by number deployments and the rigor of training.

"They want to know into whose neck do we put a boot next," Barrett said. "They want to know about what new equipment are we getting. Are we going to modernize? Just because the budget sucks, does that mean we're not going to get any more gear? Are we going to stay ahead of our competitors?"

All of that could be at risk in the current budget environment if pay raises and health benefit costs aren't kept in check, Barrett testified.

"In my 33 years, I have never seen this level of quality of life ever. We have never had it so good," he said. "And I say that,

in part, because if we don't get a hold of slowing the growth [in compensation], we will become an entitlements-based, a health care provider-based corps, and not a war-fighting organization."

He said the administration's plan to impose another 1 percent pay cap in January "makes sense because our quality of life is good."

Dampening increases to Basic Allowances for Housing the next several years, until servicemembers are paying 5 percent of off-base rental costs out of pocket, will force families to show more fiscal discipline, to adopt better spending habits and not to "be so wasteful," Barrett said.

Streamlining Tricare from three options down to one plan

will save administrative costs, he said, and cutting the commissary subsidy will encourage development of a better business model for base grocery stores.

"But in the grand scheme of things, if we don't get a hold of [personal costs], it's going to impact our war-fighting capability. It's going to impact our investment for the next challenge ... [We] might be done in Afghanistan, but the people we're fighting, they're not done with us. And we need to be more prepared for what's around the corner."

Earlier this day and in other recent hearings on the 2015 defense budget, members of armed services committee noted how sequestration required tough choices and how readiness could fall if some compensation dollars weren't used instead for training, maintenance and modernization.

Before Barrett spoke, several senators said they favored delaying any curbs on compensation until after the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission releases its report next February.

Barrett and colleagues might have swayed a few minds that waiting puts force readiness at greater risk, a point also made emphatically by Comptroller Robert Hale and other senior defense officials in recent weeks.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, told Barrett his response to the question on quality of life was "one of the best I've heard" as a senator.

"You were crisp and captured the essence of the dilemma. No body here wants to cut pay or do anything else" to military compensation, King said. "The problem is we're in a zero-sum world, and the testimony we had from the department two weeks ago was that this is a \$21 billion-year proposition — \$30 billion over five years — and that money will come right out of readiness if we don't make these changes."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, or email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.



Barrett

Family fights to protect fallen soldier's memory, identity

By C. RYAN BARBER

(Hyannis, Mass.) Cape Cod Times

SAGAMORE BEACH, Mass — On the evening of Dec. 2, Lisa Pucino Haglof logged into her Facebook account to find a cryptic message in her inbox.

"This thing tried to blind me," the message read, followed by a link to an account.

Pucino Haglof did not know the sender. But after clicking on the link, she immediately recognized the man in the photographs as Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Pucino — the younger brother she had protected all her life, the Green

Beret who had died four years earlier on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan, the youngest of the three siblings.

"I said, 'What is this?' I didn't know who the person was. I clicked on the link, and obviously it was a fake Facebook page. It had Matthew's pictures on it, but I knew it wasn't him," she said.

The next month, police in a town outside Buffalo, N.Y., arrested Brandon Ashraf, 28, who was accused of criminal impersonation, a misdemeanor, in using Pucino's identity on Facebook and on dating websites.

Family members were grateful for the Cheektowaga investiga-

tion, which police said confirmed an allegation brought by Melissa Pucino, the youngest of the three siblings.

They wanted a stiffer penalty, however, for the charge of stealing a soldier's identity. But their push to change the law in honor of their fallen brother has found one obstacle in a recent Supreme Court ruling.

A law called the Stolen Valor Act makes a federal crime out of falsely claiming to have military decorations, but it is not as broad as its predecessor. In 2012, the Supreme Court struck down a 2005 version of the law on First

Amendment grounds, prompting Congress to pass a narrower version that President Barack Obama signed last year.

The latest version applies only to cases in which there is an "intent to obtain money, property or other tangible benefit." Violators could face a fine, up to a year in prison, or both.

When he allegedly passed himself off as Matthew Pucino to two women on the PlentyOFFish dating website, Ashraf had no apparent financial motive, meaning the Stolen Valor Act did not apply. So the Pucino family pushed to have broader language returned to the

law. "This is the Stolen Valor Act," Pucino Haglof said. "It doesn't say stolen money, stolen tangible items, stolen monetary values. It's talking about Matthew and every other soldier that someone has impersonated out there."

"Their heroism, their courage, their bravery — that's what they're stealing. For someone to take Matthew's identity and steal it, to the women that he's portraying himself to, they're tarnishing his name, his memories."

"It's disgraceful. And that's why it needs to be changed."

NATION

Police seeking motive in teen's school attack

By KEVIN BEGOS
AND JOE MANDAK
The Associated Press

MURRYSVILLE, Pa. — Police are still trying to determine why a 16-year-old boy stabbed 21 students and a security guard in the crowded halls of his suburban Pittsburgh high school before an assistant principal tackled him.

At least five students were critically wounded in the attack Wednesday, including a boy whose liver was pierced by a knife thrust that narrowly missed his heart and aorta, doctors said. Others also suffered deep abdominal puncture wounds.

The rampage, which came after decades in which U.S. schools geared much of their emergency planning toward mass shootings, not stabbings — set off a screaming stampede, left blood on the floor and walls, and brought teachers rushing to help the victims.

The suspect, Alex Hribal, was taken into custody and treated for

a minor hand wound, then was brought into court in shackles and a hospital gown and charged with four counts of attempted homicide and 21 counts of aggravated assault.

He was jailed without bail, and authorities said he would be prosecuted as an adult. As for what set off the attack, Murrysville Police Chief Thomas Seefeld said investigators were looking into reports of a threatening phone call between the suspect and another student the night before. Seefeld didn't specify whether the suspect received or made the call.

The FBI joined the investigation and went to the boy's house, where authorities said they planned to confiscate and search his computer.

At the brief hearing, District Attorney John Peck said that after he was seized, Hribal made comments suggesting he wanted to die.

Defense attorney Patrick



KEITH SRANOCIC/AP

Alex Hribal, the suspect in the stabbings at Franklin Regional High School near Pittsburgh, is taken from a district magistrate after he was arraigned on charges in the attack on Wednesday.

Thomassey described Hribal as a good student who got along with others, and asked for a psychiatric examination.

Thomassey told ABC's Good Morning America on Thursday that any defense he offers would likely be based on Hribal's mental health. He said he hoped to move the charges against the teenager to juvenile court, where he could be rehabilitated.

If convicted as an adult, Hribal faces likely decades in prison.

The attack unfolded in the morning just minutes before the

start of classes at 1,200-student Franklin Regional High School, in an upper-middle-class area 15 miles east of Pittsburgh.

It was over in about five minutes, during which the boy ran wildly down about 200 feet of hallway, slashing away with knives about 10 inches long, police said.

Assistant Principal Sam King finally tackled the boy and disarmed him, and a police officer who is regularly assigned to the school handcuffed him, police said. King's son told The Associated Press that his father was

treated at a hospital, though authorities said he was not knifed.

In addition to the 22 stabbed or slashed, two people suffered other injuries, authorities said. The security guard, who was wounded after intervening early in the melee, was not seriously hurt.

"There are a number of heroes in this day. Many of them are students," Gov. Tom Corbett said during a visit to the stricken town. "Students who stayed with their friends and didn't leave their friends."

Encryption flaw highlights chaotic nature of the Internet

The Washington Post

A major flaw revealed this week in widely used encryption software has highlighted one of the enduring — and terrifying — realities of the Internet: It is inherently chaotic, built by multitudes and continuously tweaked, with nobody in charge of it all.

The Heartbleed bug, which security experts first publicly re-

vealed on Monday, was a product of the online world's makeshift nature. While users see the logos of big, multibillion-dollar companies when they shop, bank and communicate over the Internet, nearly all of those companies rely on free software — often built and maintained by volunteers — to help make those services secure.

Heartbleed, security experts say, was lodged in a section of

code that had been approved two years ago by a developer that helps maintain OpenSSL, a piece of free software created in the mid-1990s and still used by companies and government agencies almost everywhere.

While the extent of the damage caused by the bug may never be known, the possibilities for data theft are enormous. At the very

least, many companies and government agencies will have to replace their encryption keys, and millions of users will have to create new passwords on sites where they are accustomed to seeing the small lock icon that symbolizes online encryption.

"This was old code," said Christopher Soghoian, principal technologist for the American Civil Liberties Union. "Everyone de-

pends on it. And I think that just everyone assumed that somebody else was dealing with it."

The flaw could allow hackers to access encrypted data online, including user names, passwords, credit card numbers and Social Security numbers.

Companies and government agencies have been scrambling for days to correct the flaw by updating software.

Sauce plant called nuisance

The Associated Press

IRVINDALE, Calif. — A Southern California city has declared the factory that produces the popular Sriracha hot sauce a public nuisance.

The Irwindale City Council's action Wednesday night gives the factory 90 days to make changes to stop the spicy odors that prompted complaints from some residents last fall. Declaring a public nuisance will allow city officials to enter the factory and make changes if the odors persist after the deadline.

The decision came despite testimony by air-quality experts that progress was being made toward a resolution. The South Coast Air Quality Management District said its inspectors have taken air samples inside the plant, and be-

lieved the information gathered should allow the factory and the city to resolve their differences.

Attorney John Tate, who represents Sriracha maker Huy Fong Foods, Inc., said the company had been working with the AQMD on its filtration system since the complaints first arose. He was committed to finding long-term solutions by June 1.

He called the public nuisance declaration a demonstration of "the city flexing its muscle and thumbing Huy Fong in the eye."

Irwindale sued Huy Fong Foods last October, asking a judge to halt production at the company's factory, saying residents downwind complained that fumes from the grinding of red hot chili peppers was stinging their eyes and giving them headaches and coughing fits.

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SERVICE-RELATED INJURIES OUTSIDE OF COMBAT TAKING A TOLL ON VETERANS



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Army Sgt. 1st Class James Crowell does his morning stretches outside the barracks at Fort Benning, Ga., to alleviate pain from injuries suffered in a fall off a roof and a Humvee accident in Iraq as well as from wearing heavy body armor.

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN ■ *The Washington Post*

Army sniper James Crowell went to war 70 inches tall. He returned home an inch shorter and in constant pain, his spine compressed by the collective trauma of a rooftop fall, a Humvee accident and his heavy body armor, worn almost every day on four deployments.

Billy Birdzell spent eight years in the Marine Corps, half of them in the elite Special Operations command, "running at 8,000 rpm." Racked by insomnia and bouts of intense anger once he exited the military, he discovered that combat stress had wreaked havoc on his hormones.

Chase Villavicencio, a Marine communications specialist, tumbled off a ladder and struck his head as he sought to escape a Taliban mortar barrage in southern Afghanistan three years ago. Since then, he has been suffering from wrenching migraines, bouts of dizziness, spells of intense anger and memory loss.

Daniel Meyer, a former Air Force staff sergeant, inhaled lungful after lungful of acrid smoke as he followed orders to shoot scavenging birds inside a cavernous pit of burning trash on a base in Iraq. Now he's back home in Nevada, and his lungs are failing. He lives his days tethered to an oxygen tube.

Because their injuries were not the direct result of an enemy attack, Crowell, Birdzell, Villavicencio and Meyer were not awarded Purple Heart medals, nor do they show up in the Defense Department's tally of nearly 62,000 servicemembers wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. But their ailments, and similar nonhostile injuries suffered by legions of fellow troops, have become a profound and enduring consequence of the wars.

"War is brutal on the body," said Crowell, a sergeant first class who was stationed in some of the most dangerous parts of Iraq and Afghanistan. "I'll feel it in my back for the rest of my life."

Of the 2.6 million servicemembers dispatched to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, more than half say their physical or mental health is worse

than before they deployed, according to a poll conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation. But most of those health problems are not the result of gunshots, grenades and roadside bombs: Almost eight in 10 of those reporting health problems — about 1 million of them — say they were not seriously injured in combat.

Their wounds stem from the chaos and grind of modern war, the cost of saddling one's frame with a bulky armored vest and extra clips of ammunition, the failure to provide basic safety gear, the mistakes that occur when hulking vehicles are driven by sleep-deprived troops; the eardrum-rattling blasts of gunfire and artillery.

During the entire Iraq War, which stretched for almost nine years, the military conducted more medical evacuations by air for troops who had nonhostile

wounds than those injured in combat.

The Post-Kaiser survey found a deterioration of physical health in 43 percent of veterans and worsened mental health in almost a third. Among those who served in combat jobs, the changes are even more significant: 56 percent say their physical health is worse, and nearly four in 10 say their mental health has slipped. Rates of health problems are significantly higher in those who deployed for three or more years.

The poll is roughly in line with other research on the health consequences of the wars. A 2008 Army study of soldiers in two combat brigades who deployed to Iraq for a year found that one-third had been physically injured and that almost 44 percent met the military's criteria for post-traumatic stress.

In many cases, noncombat injuries have not impeded veterans from continuing their

military careers or pursuing fulfilling civilian lives. And they recognize that their wounds can seem like mere scratches compared with those of comrades who have lost limbs or eyes or are suffering from a severe traumatic brain injury.

But their ailments nonetheless can be life-altering — chronic pain, fits of anger, sleeplessness, incessant ringing in the ears — and have added to the ongoing cost of the wars. Of those no longer serving in the military, 45 percent have sought compensation for service-related disabilities, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Thirty-seven percent of them have been deemed disabled enough to receive lifelong payments, a figure that could increase as the department works through a mountain of unprocessed claims.

Other Iraq and Afghanistan veterans may not feel the impact of their service for years. For those who fought in the last century's major wars, requests for disability care and compensation did not peak until three decades after the conflicts ended.

“
THE ARMY
PUTS
ANOTHER
10 YEARS
ON YOU,
WHETHER
YOU LIKE
IT OR NOT.

— Army Sgt.
1st Class
James Crowell

SEE SCARS ON PAGE 11

UNSEEN SCARS

Scars: Military service's physical toll manifests itself in different ways

FROM PAGE 10

The Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts may have their own unique health legacy. Thousands of troops who walked away from roadside bomb blasts, because of luck or mine-resistant trucks or both, may nonetheless have suffered moderate brain injuries that could cause long-term health consequences.

"We don't yet know the extent" of the health effects of the traumatic brain injury, said David Cifu, the VA's national director of physical medicine and rehabilitation, who is leading a large national study that aims to measure the impact of battlefield concussions over several decades. Preliminary research, he said, suggests that troops exposed to persistent stress—as tens of thousands were in both wars—may be more susceptible to lasting damage from brain injuries.

"They're more vulnerable because they never had a chance to heal," Cifu said.

Even for those who do not claim to be injured, the wars have exacted a discernible physical toll. An Army assessment found a spike in cases of high blood pressure and elevated heart rates among incoming majors at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., most of whom are in their early 30s but have had multiple combat deployments.

"Many of them were testing a decade older than they were," said a senior Army officer who had been at the college when the tests were conducted and spoke on the condition of anonymity so he could discuss the issue candidly. "It was the stress and strain of combat."

"I used to be quite blunt with them," he said. "I told them, 'Unless you sleep better, eat better and exercise more, you're not going to have the life expectancy of an average male or female.'"

Living with a busted back

At 7:30 on a chilly Saturday morning, Jim Crowell pulled on a drab green cap, zipped up a gray windbreaker and ambled onto the empty winter-browned parade field next to his barracks at Fort Benning, Ga. With no mandatory physical training on weekends, he could have slept late in his warm room with his fellow soldier in the chow hall. But Crowell, 32, afforded himself no dispensation.

He bent forward slowly, his fingers inching toward the ground. His back tightened. Muscles burned. Joints creaked.

If he stayed inside, if he took the day off, he'd feel a little better in the morning. A sharp pain would explode in his lower back, radiating down his leg.

"I'll take 25 percent of my day," he said as he switched to a series of bend-and-reach exercises, starting with his arms raised over his head and ending with them touching the ground. "I won't be able to focus. My attention span will be there."

The pain began almost 11 years ago, on a sweltering summer night in south Baghdad. He and a fellow soldier from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division had been skulking across rooftops, tracking insurgents through their night-vision goggles, when his Kevlar helmet, unbalanced by the weight of his scope, slid down over his face. Crowell fell backward, sliding off the roof and crashing into a garbage can in the alleyway below.

He picked himself up and kept on moving, worried that a call for help would reveal his location to insurgents.

When he got back to his base the next day, he brushed off a visit to the medical tent. He



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Former Marine Capt. Billy Birdzell, now a fundraiser for the National Rifle Association, says years of service left him suffering from bouts of anger and sleeplessness as well as a bad back and sore knees.



A LOT OF OUR PSYCHOLOGY IS A FUNCTION OF OUR BIOCHEMISTRY. IF WE NUKE OUR BIOCHEMISTRY AT WAR, HOW CAN OUR PSYCHOLOGY BE CORRECT?

— Former Marine Capt. Billy Birdzell

figured the discomfort would go away.

It did, for a while. Then, a few years later, it came raging back.

He didn't want to pop pain pills, so he cobbled together his own solution. Army regulation morning stretches mixed with yoga and tai chi poses he taught himself by watching videos on the Internet. And a few unorthodox moves.

He placed his hands behind his back and pulled them down firmly. His back cracked once, then twice.

"Feels better," he sighed. "Maybe it will lead to arthritis, but I need relief. He stood up straight.

"Feel like I'm 69½ inches tall now."

He sat down, legs apart, and crawled his fingers toward his yellow-soled New Balance sneakers. His quadriceps began to sting.

"If only it was just the roof," he said.

"That was only the beginning."

A year after the roof fell, in 2004, he volunteered to join a unit heading to Ramadi, then one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq. Once again, night-vision goggles led to a battering.

He was riding in the back of an Army truck at night when the driver became disoriented by a flash of light. The truck careened into a ditch. Crowell fell backward and jammed his back on a metal pole used to mount machine guns. This time when he returned to his base, he went to see the medics.

"They said, 'Oh, you're good. You're fine.'"

Rest might have helped, but Ramadi

wasn't the place for it. He regularly had to strap on 80 pounds of gear: his flak vest, a helmet, a rifle, water and 10 magazines of ammunition because "in Ramadi, you got into firefights every day."

When he returned to the United States, a military doctor told him that he had fractured two disks in his lower back. Post-traumatic stress, fueled by the death of a platoon-mate, had fried his short-term memory and led him prone to fits of rage. Migraines sparked by blast-induced brain trauma flattened him for hours at a stretch. Counseling helped. As did sudoku puzzles. He took up sewing and spent more time pencil-sketching aircraft. But it's all for naught if he doesn't hit the field in the morning.

He twisted his back to the left, then to the right. His back popped a third time. A deep breath later, as the rising sun cast long shadows over the field, he assumed a plank pose.

"The Army puts another 10 years on you, whether you like it or not." Thirty minutes and several stretches later, he pronounced his back "as good as I'm going to get it." Not perfect. Not by far. When he sits, he has to slouch to reduce to pain. If he sits too long, his leg will fall asleep.

"Difficulty becomes the norm," he said as he walked back into the barracks. "But it could be worse."

His mind wanders to two other noncommissioned officers in the leadership course he is attending at Benning. Both lost legs in bomb blasts. He thinks of a squad-mate

in the 82nd Airborne who was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Baghdad.

"A lot worse."

Fixing body chemistry

As the needles slid into his ankles, Billy Birdzell stuck in a puff of air. "Wow. That was a good one."

Bob Duggan, his silver-haired acupuncture therapist in Columbia, Md., nodded and walked to Birdzell's side, brandishing two more pins. Duggan pushed one into Birdzell's left pectoral. Another into the right.

"You OK with those?" Duggan asked.

"It opens me up," Birdzell replied.

"Be peaceful."

That has been an elusive state for Birdzell. When he got out of the Marine Corps in 2009, he couldn't sleep. He felt hazy during the day. He picked fights at the slightest provocation. His mind raced with thoughts of war. His back and knees throbbled.

A VA doctor diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder and told him to see a psychologist. Birdzell was doubtful. He had been through grueling years in the Marines, including combat deployments to Iraq. But he questioned whether the source of his anger and insomnia was rooted in more than his brain's software. Was it, he wondered, a hardware problem?

His brother urged him to have his hormone levels checked. So Birdzell spit into four vials over the course of a day and shipped them off to a lab in Colorado.

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UNSEEN SCARS

FROM PAGE 11

The results, delivered on five faxed pages, revealed that his adrenal cortex was, as he put it, "stretched." His level of cortisol, a hormone that helps to regulate the immune system and blood sugar and is affected by stress, was abnormally low in the morning and at noon, and higher than it should be at night. Those figures, according to the lab report, helped to explain his sluggishness during the day and his inability to sleep at night.

Birdzell, then studying at the University of Virginia, took his results to a VA medical center in Richmond, Va., and asked for more tests. He said a doctor there told him that the VA would measure his levels only in the morning, not throughout the day, as he wanted. Once again, the department urged him to see a psychologist for his PTSD.

Birdzell, 34, hadn't studied biology since high school, but a few days of research on the Internet left him convinced that his cortisol levels were at least partly to blame for the symptoms the VA was calling PTSD. "It's all biochemical — a lot of our psychology is a function of our biochemistry," he said. "If we nuke our biochemistry at war, how can our psychology be correct?"

He thought about taking drugs to regulate his cortisol output but decided instead to try to rehabilitate his adrenal cortex. That required him to relax, to find internal peace after eight years of war. "I'd been running hard," he said. "I needed to rest hard."

That's how Birdzell, a show-no-weakness Marine who now works as a fundraiser for the National Rifle Association, found himself on his back, shirt open, shoes off, as Duggan, an acupuncturist who specializes in holistic health, beseeched him to spend 15 minutes meditating with pins in his feet and chest. Duggan could tell Birdzell was being up, even if he didn't know that his patient had sped there along the Capital Beltway, peeled into the parking lot of a nondescript office park and charged up the steps, that 15 minutes ago in the car, he had expressed regret for not killing more insurgents in Iraq.

After a quarter-hour, Duggan returned to the room, removed the pins and inserted clean ones in Birdzell's back, which had been aching since his last appointment, a pain he chalks up to his military service.

As more pins pierced the skin, Duggan asked Birdzell for a progress report on his attempts to relax, to deal with his flashes of anger and his insomnia, to ease the pressure in his back and the pain in his knees.

Transcendental meditation, he answered, for 20 minutes a day, at his desk at the NRA.

"I can find relaxation there," he said.

As Duggan took Birdzell's pulse at four points on his wrists, the former Marine told the acupuncturist about his latest hormone tests. His cortisol levels are closer to where they should be, leading the VA to remove PTSD from his list of ailments, but four other hormones analyzed by the Colorado lab, including his testosterone production, registered far lower than normal.

"It's my hardware, not my software," he told Duggan, who nodded in agreement.

Instead of medicating himself, Birdzell wants to try to relax his way to hormonal equilibrium. He spoke of "neuroplasticity" and "brain regeneration" — of trying to teach his brain to heal.

"I hope you show the way to other veterans," Duggan said.

"That's the plan," Birdzell replied. He buttoned his shirt, fastened his belt, laced up his black oxfords and headed to his car. The zen from his hourlong appointment remained with him down Interstate 95 and along the Beltway. Then he hit rush-hour traffic in Tysons Corner, Va., on his way home. A ribbon of brake lights lined Route 123.

He clenched the steering wheel and uttered an expletive. Then he caught himself.

"Calm," he said to himself. "I've got to stay calm."

Studying an injured brain

Sitting across from each other in the back of a laboratory at the VA medical center in Richmond, researcher David Cifu asked Chase Villavicencio when he had toppled off the ladder.

Villavicencio, 28, a Marine corporal, hunched over and began to count the months on his fingers.

"February, March, April," he whispered to himself as he pushed three fingers back.

"May," he said. "It was May of 2011." He raised his head with an apologetic gaze.

"Sorry," he said. "Sometimes I have to count the months."

The old Villavicencio never would have counted on his fingers. The old Villavicencio would have uttered the answer in an instant.

"Simple things take me a while now,"

he said. "I have to concentrate. It doesn't come naturally anymore."

Cifu nodded understandingly. But he still needed details. The circumstances of Villavicencio's concussion were essential to determining whether he should be included in a first-of-its-kind study of the long-term effects of mild and moderate traumatic brain injury.

"I remember hitting the ground," Villavicencio said.

"And then?" Cifu asked. "Were you awake?"

"I don't really remember."

"How long from la-la land to getting on your feet?"

"About an hour."

Villavicencio initially brushed off the fall. Others Marines in the area had been shot. "My reaction was, 'I'm alive,'" he said. "I really didn't think much of it."

Then he started getting headaches. He couldn't stand bright sunlight. He developed a blurry spot in his right eye. He began to forget simple details. "All of a sudden, I sound like an idiot," he said.

He still didn't seek help.

"In the Marine Corps, there's a mentality: There's a job to do," he said. "As long as you can keep moving, you keep moving."

By last fall, however, after his forgetfulness became apparent at work — "I was making calls to the same person twice to set up appointments" — his superiors realized that he needed to get help.

They sent him to the Richmond VA, which has an inpatient program that provides rehabilitation services for those with brain injury.

As the veteran completed his story, Cifu

switched into sales mode. Villavicencio, who is in the process of receiving a medical retirement from the Marine Corps, appeared to be an ideal candidate for the study, which will track 2,000 veterans for two decades or more.

"We'd love to get you enrolled in this program," Cifu said.

He explained that participants would receive an annual brain MRI, extensive blood tests and other assessments to monitor their recovery.

"What you had was a concussion — no doubt about it," he said. "We're trying to better understand what happens to people who have concussions while at war."

Villavicencio looked intrigued. He brought with him a copy of his favorite book, Cormac McCarthy's "The Road." He used to zip through it and over, struggling to grasp the meaning.

"He wonders if, one day, the words will become clearer," So does Cifu.

"We'd like to follow you for the rest of your life," the doctor said.

Coping with burned-out lungs

At half past 10 in the morning in Las Vegas, after waking from a fitful sleep, after a VA-funded home health aide has helped him out of bed and into a seated shower, after he has painstakingly pulled on a shirt and shorts, after brushing his shoulder-length gray hair and scruffy beard, Daniel Meyer guided his wheelchair to the carpeted landing in front of his bedroom door for the most complicated prosaic task of his day: heading downstairs.

SEE PAGE 13



IN THE MARINE CORPS, THERE'S A MENTALITY: THERE'S A JOB TO DO. AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP MOVING, YOU KEEP MOVING.

— Former Marine Cpl. Chase Villavicencio



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Medical researcher David Cifu, left, meets with Chase Villavicencio at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Richmond, Va. Cifu wants Villavicencio to be one of the veterans who will be tracked for a study on the long-term effects of traumatic brain injury.

UNSEEN SCARS

FROM PAGE 12

He slid onto a chairlift affixed to the banister. Then he pulled off a tube, connected to an always-whirring machine upstairs, that feeds oxygen into his nostrils.

Quickly, before running out of air, he reached for another oxygen tube, this one connected to a machine downstairs, and affixed it over his ears and under his nose. Then he began to glide to the ground floor, coiling the tube to keep it from getting kinked in the lift.

Once downstairs, he pulled himself into an electric wheelchair, motored to the living room, climbed onto a beige reclining sofa and leaned back. His bearded face flushed, he emitted a low sigh. "Just getting out of bed and coming down here — it's enough to tire me out," he said.

Before Iraq, Meyer, 29, would have bounded down the stairs and been out the door for a 5-mile run. Whippet thin, he worked with an elite rescue unit stationed at nearby Nellis Air Force Base, repairing electronic equipment on HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters designed to fly behind enemy lines and pick up downed airmen. It was a job that required him to "be in top physical condition."

In 2007, he was sent to Balad Air Base, a vast encampment north of Baghdad that housed thousands of U.S. troops and contractors. Food and water were trucked in, as were all sorts of sundries — bags of chips, tins of chewing tobacco, cans of near-beer — sold in a giant PX.

But none of the trash was trucked out. Instead, all of the plastic bags and cans, and everything else deemed garbage, were hauled to a giant pit, slathered with JP-8 jet fuel and set alight. A plume of thick black smoke often wafted over the base.

Six weeks after his unit arrived for a mission to conduct medical evacuations of wounded troops, commanders on the base grew alarmed that birds attracted by the piles of trash were striking low-flying aircraft. The concern filtered down the chain of command to Meyer, the most junior airman in his unit, who was ordered to report to the base maintenance office. He was handed a pellet gun — but no mask, goggles or respirator — and told to enter the smoky burn pit. His mission was to shoot as many birds as he could, for as long as he could.

It felt like hell to him. Half the pit was on fire. The other half, where he lurked for birds, was strewn with the detritus of war: medical waste from the base hospital, bloody uniforms, tires, crates that once carried boxes of ammunition.

He tried to cover his face with one hand as he aimed the gun with the other. "It didn't hurt," he recalled. "There was nothing I could do to keep from breathing the smoke."

When he got out 90 minutes later, his nose was bloody. He had a hacking cough. His phlegm had turned black.

A week later, he was ordered back in. And so it went, a dozen more times.

"I was the low guy on the totem pole," he said. "I sucked it up and dealt with it."

On his next deployment, to southwestern



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Daniel Meyer uses a chairlift to go up and down stairs at his Las Vegas home. Meyer, a former staff sergeant in the Air Force, suffered lung damage that he and medical experts trace to his time in Iraq, when he was ordered to shoot birds in a burning trash pit.



OBVIOUSLY, YOU TAKE RISKS WHEN YOU JOIN THE MILITARY, BUT YOU NEVER THINK YOUR OWN COUNTRY WOULD POISON YOU.

— Former Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Meyer

Afghanistan, his unit was assigned to live next to a burn pit on a NATO base. Soot was everywhere. "It would snow on us, for hours, days at a time," he said.

Soon after he returned to Nevada, he began to cough up blood. It would take two years of medical tests, of struggling with military physicians for referrals to civilian experts, of skepticism and outright retribution from his superiors, who thought he was slacking off work, before he received a conclusive diagnosis of bronchiolitis obliterans. His bronchial tubes are scarring closed, making it progressively more difficult for his lungs to absorb oxygen.

To Meyer and the nonmilitary medical specialists who tested him, the cause is unambiguous: the burn pits. The doctors also believe the burn-pit exposure is responsible for a buildup of fat cells in his knees that makes it impossible for him to walk or stand upright.

"Obviously, you take risks when you join the military, but you never think your own country would poison you," he said.

Although Meyer owns a portable oxygen tank and a van with a wheelchair ramp, he spends almost every day at home, on the beige sofa, under a sign that reads, "Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much." He

watches television, plays video games and talks to his wife, Harmonie, whom he met through Match.com shortly before his Afghanistan deployment.

His doctor doesn't want him to go out in the winter, lest he get sick. Summertime is out because one of his medications makes him sensitive to sunlight. "I'm pretty much stuck here all of the time," he said.

He and Harmonie had wanted to raise four children. But they've given up on that. He's too sick to help with kids, and she wants to focus on him. She quit her job at a law firm to fix his meals, to take him to medical appointments and to keep him amused.

"I'm not going anywhere," he said. "I can't go anywhere," he replied with a laugh.

"People think we lead this big, tragic life," she said. "It's sad, but we still have a good time."

Every few hours, he pulled himself back into his wheelchair and motored to the bathroom. Each time, he appeared winded when he returned to the sofa. "The simple act of going to the bathroom wears me out," he said.

His physicians have told him that his lungs are steadily failing and that he prob-

ably will need a double-lung transplant in five to eight years. Until then, he will have to remain connected to the oxygen tube.

"I'm not angry about it," he said. "I'd do it all over again. We saved more lives in Iraq and Afghanistan than my own life is worth."

Instead of wallowing in hostility or pity, he has set his sights on trying to raise money to install a golf simulator in his house — he wants to teach other wheelchair-bound veterans how to swing a club — and he's trying to reach out to other veterans who have been sickened by burn pits. He wants them to seek out specialized medical care and apply for a full raft of benefits from the VA.

His own ailments have led to the VA's second-highest disability rating, which entitles him to a lifetime of monthly payments that cover all of his expenses. Harmonie receives additional compensation for serving as his caregiver.

"The American people are going to have to pay our disability and medical costs for decades," he said as he prepared for the return trip up the stairs to go to bed. "It's not my fault. I did what I was asked to do. But the costs will be staggering."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jury makes man forfeit house in pot grow

AK ANCHORAGE — A federal jury has forced a Palmer man to turn his home over to the government because he used it for a marijuana grow operation.

The U.S. attorney's office said Loren Kent Dodds, 48, was convicted in U.S. District Court in Anchorage of manufacturing marijuana.

Prosecutors said in a news release that he turned the lower level of his home into a hydroponic grow operation, complete with motorized lights on timers. Authorities said he also stole electricity to power the operation.

Dodds had two prior convictions for growing marijuana at the same location, in 1994 and 2008. He was still on probation for the 2008 case when authorities last year found more than 600 marijuana plants in the house.

Police link some of 13 highway shootings

MO KANSAS CITY — Kansas City police have developed information that links some of the 13 recent shootings on area highways and roadways, they said Tuesday.

Investigators won't say how many they've linked or whether they used suspect descriptions, ballistic comparisons or other means to link them.

Police discussed several additional similar shootings at a briefing Tuesday morning but don't have enough information to add those incidents to the possible pattern of 13 identified by police analysts over the weekend, said police spokesman Capt. Tye Grant, who attended the briefing.

The shootings started March 8 and apparently accelerated recently with at least one shooting reported each day from last Wednesday until Sunday night. .

All of the shootings occurred just before exit ramps or road splits, with the shooter apparently firing at the last moment before veering off in a different direction from the victim.

Three victims have been wounded, with two hit in the leg and one in the arm. Police have recovered at least five bullets from victims' vehicles and one from a victim's arm.

Mall shopper wearing bandana asked to go

MI GRANDVILLE — A shopping mall in western Michigan has apologized after a 26-year-old man was asked to remove a bandana or leave the mall.

Christopher Leach told The Grand Rapids Press he often wears a bandana or hat to keep his hair out of his face. Leach, who served in the U.S. Marines from 2006 to 2010, said he was taken aback last week after a security guard approached him and a friend.

Leach left Rivertown Crossings Mall Grandville after the incident. Randy Zimmerman, the mall's senior general manager, issued

THE CENSUS

4 The number of Smart Cars that were flipped on their sides or roofs in an apparent vandalism spree Monday in two San Francisco neighborhoods. Police said they didn't know whether the incidents were a prank or another episode in escalating tensions among some residents who blame the tech industry for rising rents and cost of living. The light-weight cars all had shattered windows and some body damage, according to Officer Gordon Shry, a police spokesman who said the culprits would face felony vandalism charges. He added that police were looking for multiple people wearing black hooded sweatshirts who were in the area at the time of the vandalism.



PHOTOS BY ERIC RISBERG/AP

Batkid throws out first pitch

Batkid Miles Scott, second from right and inset, walks to the mound with San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt Cain to throw the ceremonial first pitch before a home opener between the Giants and the Arizona Diamondbacks in San Francisco on Tuesday. In November, Miles, a Northern California boy with leukemia, fought villains and rescued a damsel in distress as a caped crusader through the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation.

a statement saying the mall "regrets that this incident occurred." Zimmerman said the business that handles security is investigating.

Leach, who lives in the western Michigan community of Wyoming, said he wants people to be aware of their rights and "stand up for themselves."

Police: Boy, 9, steals car to avoid school

FL MIAMI — A 9-year-old Miami Gardens boy was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and grand theft auto Tuesday after stealing his mother's car because he didn't want to go to school.

Miami Gardens police spokesman Michael Wright said that before taking off with the car keys about 8:15 Tuesday morning, the child threw a brick at his mother and grandmother.

"He took his mom's keys," Wright said. "He didn't want to go to school today."

The child's name and school he attends have not been released.

According to Wright, the child took the car, then drove around for about 45 minutes before pulling over when police caught up to him.

Lawsuit: Stripper did show at nursing home

NY WEST BABYLON — An 85-year-old nursing home patient was the victim of "disgraceful sexual perversion" when a male stripper gyrated in front of her against her will at the suburban New York facility, an attorney for the woman's family said Tuesday.

John Ray, the attorney for Bernice Youngblood and her family, displayed a picture of a man in white briefs dancing in front of the woman at East Neck Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in September 2012.

The photo, which Ray said Youngblood's son found during a visit to his mother, shows the woman putting money into the dancer's waistband.

Ray said Youngblood had been urged to participate and did so against her will. The family has filed suit against the nursing home seeking unspecified damages.

Ray said Youngblood, who had worked as a health aide for the elderly, had her dignity taken away when "nursing home employees subjected her to this disgraceful sexual perversion."

Howard Fensterman, an attorney representing the facility, said

a 16-member resident committee had requested the September 2012 performance and the nursing home paid the \$250 fee.

Hang gliders land unexpectedly in park

CA ARCADIA — Two hang gliders made unplanned landings in the parking lot of a Southern California horse track after being caught in unpredictable winds.

The pair were met by Arcadia police upon touching down Monday afternoon on the grounds of Santa Anita Park, the Daily News reported.

Jeff Chipman and Ron Keinawners, licensed advanced hang gliders, took off from Sylmar about 1:30 p.m. and made a stop at Mount Wilson in Angeles National Forest.

After heading east again for Crestline in the San Bernardino Mountains, they realized the wind was not being cooperative. They didn't reach their planned height of 10,000 feet.

After careful consideration, the men decided to land in the lot at Santa Anita Park.

Chipman said he eyed the direction three large flags on top of the park's main grandstand were



PHOTOS BY ERIC RISBERG/AP

blowing and used them to navigate to a safe landing spot.

They were questioned by police but not cited.

State's highway deaths drop to lowest level

PA HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania transportation officials said the number of highway deaths in the state dropped to 1,208 last year.

PennDOT said Tuesday that represents the lowest figure since highway fatality records began to be collected in 1928.

Officials said there were declines from the previous year in the number of people who did not wear seat belts, the number of speed-related fatalities and the number of single-vehicle crashes in which the operator drove off the roadway.

Highway deaths in which a driver had been drinking fell from 377 in 2012 to 342 in 2013.

Deaths involving drivers over age 75, distracted drivers and head-on or opposite direction sideswipe crashes all experienced increases last year.

PennDOT says it has spent \$50 million in the past five years on safety improvements.

From wire reports

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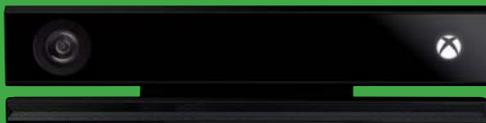
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WORLD/NATION

Possible fifth signal picked up in lane hunt

BY NICK PERRY AND KRISTEN GELINEAU
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — An Australian aircraft Thursday detected what may be the fifth signal coming from a man-made device deep in the Indian Ocean, adding to hopes that searchers will soon pinpoint the object's location and send down a robotic vehicle to confirm if it is a black box from the missing Malaysian jet.

The Australian air force P-3 Orion, which has been dropping sonar buoys into the water near where four earlier sounds were heard, picked up a "possible signal" that may be from a man-made source, said Angus Houston, who is coordinating the search of Australia's west coast.

"The acoustic data will require further analysis overnight," Houston said in a statement.

If confirmed, the signal would add further narrow the hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished on March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard.

The Australian ship Ocean Shield picked up two underwater sounds on Tuesday, and two sounds it detected Saturday were determined to be consistent with the pings emitted from a plane's flight recorders, or "black boxes."

The Australian air force has been dropping sonar buoys to better pinpoint the location of the sounds detected by the Ocean Shield in a search zone that is now the size of the city of Los Angeles.

Royal Australian Navy Commander Peter Leavy said each buoy is dangling a hydrophone listening device about 1,000 feet below the surface. Each buoy transmits its data via radio back to the plane.

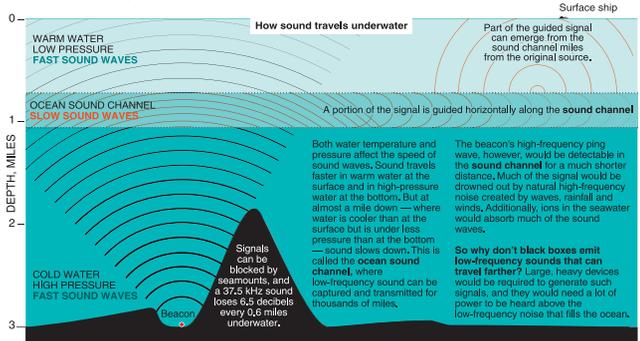
The underwater search zone is currently a 500-square-mile patch of the ocean floor, and narrowing the area as much as possible is crucial before an unmanned submarine can be sent to create a sonar map of a potential debris field on the seabed.

The Bluefin 21 sub takes six times longer to cover the same area than the pinger locator towed by the Ocean Shield, and it would take the vehicle about six weeks to two months to canvass the current underwater search zone. That's why the acoustic equipment is still being used to hone in on a more precise location, U.S. Navy Capt. Mark Matthews said.

The search for floating debris on the ocean surface was narrowed Thursday to its smallest size yet — 22,300 square miles, or about one-quarter the size it was a few days ago. Fourteen planes and 13 ships were looking for floating debris about 1,400 miles north-

A ping's distorted journey

A black box emits high-frequency signals that can create a complicated pattern of sound waves under the surface.



SOURCES: Timothy F. Duda, Ocean Acoustics and Signals Lab, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

PATTERSON CLARK, GENE THORP AND RICHARD JOHNSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

west of Perth. A "large number of objects" were spotted on Wednesday, but the few that had been retrieved by search vessels were not believed to be related to the missing plane, the search coordination center

said. An Australian government briefing document circulated among international agencies involved in the search on Thursday said it was likely that the acoustic pingers would continue to trans-

mit at decreasing strength for up to 10 more days, depending on conditions.

Once there is no hope left of the Ocean Shield's equipment picking up any more sounds, the Bluefin sub will be deployed.

Lawmaker feels heat after video surfaces

The Associated Press

MONROE, La. — A top aide to a Louisiana congressman videotaped kissing a married woman who is not his wife was one of the few people with access to the leaked security footage that exposed the dalliance.

Pressure has mounted on Republican Vance McAllister since the Monday disclosure of grainy video footage from his district headquarters. McAllister, a conservative who highlights his Christian faith and family devotion, has found few defenders among the Republican establishment he beat to win the job in a surprise special election result last year.

A written statement from McAllister's office on Wednesday offered no answers to questions about his political future or pri-

vate life that have arisen since a weekly newspaper, the Ouachita Citizen, released videotape of him kissing a woman identified as Melissa Peacock. Peacock resigned Monday from the congressional payroll.

The statement said McAllister "is focused on earning back the trust of those he has disappointed" and wants "privacy for his family during this difficult period." Separately, the congressman was quoted by the Monroe News-Star as saying that he plans to seek a full term in November. Qualifying for the Nov. 4 primary takes place in late August.

It's not known publicly how the footage made its way to the local newspaper, which said the clip was captured Dec. 23, about a month after McAllister took office.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Video released Monday appears to show Rep. Vance McAllister, shown in November, kissing a woman who is not his wife.

Bill Land, who owns and shares the building where the kissing was captured on the security tape, and one of his employees, Lance Hilton, said they are not involved in the leak.

Land and Hilton said Leah Gordon, McAllister's district office director, had reviewed videotape on multiple occasions.

Recent incidents lead to Secret Service staff swap

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Secret Service has reassigned agents from its special operations division, including the top agent there, after a pair of embarrassing incidents earlier this year.

The division has also changed the rules about when agents are allowed to drink before duty and on presidential trips.

Secret Service spokesman Edwin Donovan said the division's special agent in charge, Dan Donahue, was reassigned to another division.

The Washington Post first reported the changes Tuesday night.

The Secret Service says that in addition to transferring agents from special operations division, anyone assigned to the unit is barred from drinking within 12 hours of starting a shift. They also

are not allowed to drink within 24 hours of a president's arrival on a trip.

For now the new alcohol rules about drinking pertain only to the special operations division.

Three agents were sent home from the Netherlands last month after one was found intoxicated in a hotel before President Barack Obama arrived to meet with foreign officials.

It was the latest embarrassing incident for the Secret Service, which faced scrutiny from the White House and Congress after a prostitution scandal in South America two years ago.

Two agents were involved in a vehicle crash in South Florida earlier this year during a presidential trip. The agents involved were not charged with a crime, although it was suspected alcohol was involved.



Here is the definitive book on the Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent manhunt for the Tsarnaevs. Read the gripping story of the tragic, surreal, and ultimately inspiring week of April 15, 2013 as it highlights the bravery, resourcefulness, and resiliency of the Boston community.

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FAITH

BY RHEA YABLON KENNEDY
Special to The Washington Post

It seems as if every Passover tradition now carries a modern zing. Jews who don't eat rice during the eight-day holiday, which starts at sundown Monday, can serve quinoa, the trendy un-grain. An orange and tomato added to the Seder plate of symbolic foods acknowledge current struggles for freedom. The plate itself now comes in every form you can imagine — even in the shape of moon craters.

This is all part of one of the oldest and best-known Jewish holidays, commemorating the Israelites' exodus from ancient Egypt, led by the humble and heroic Moses. The Seder plates I've grown up with create a culinary mosaic of the holiday's key elements: karpas, a fresh herb to represent spring, usually parsley; maror, the "bitter herb" God told the Israelites to eat on Passover, often represented as horseradish root; charoset, a rendition of the mortar the slaves used in Egypt, a spiced fruit salad; a roasted egg, another symbol of spring; and a roasted lamb shank bone to acknowledge the lamb that God told Israelite families to sacrifice. (I've seen that last one appear in the form of a chicken neck or a roasted beet.) Some Seders also feature hazeret, a mild bitter vegetable usually represented by romaine lettuce.

The other staple of the Seder table is matzo, the crisped, unleavened flatbread that echoes the last loaves the Israelites formed — but never had a chance to bake — as they fled. Both tradition and the oft-repeated commandment in the Bible to eat unleavened bread make matzo a must.

Maybe it's the simplicity of those foods that has made the Passover table a palette for innovation — and is the reason I hadn't thought up a single twist that hadn't already been done.

I couldn't figure out anything different that is, until I read about chef and food scholar Moshe Basson. The owner of Eucalyptus, a restaurant just outside the Old City in Jerusalem, uses wild chichory for bitter herbs, just as he says the Israelites ate at ancient Seders. That turned on a light bulb: Go back to basics.

"I believe in the importance of preserving food traditions as well as [sharing them] with each other," Basson said. The menu at his restaurant, now in its third decade, embodies that philosophy. Diners can order heaping dishes featuring indigenous ingredients with names such as Jacob & Esau's Biblical Red Lentil Stew — a riff on the soup that cost one twin his birthright.

I researched "Passover recipes based on the Torah" and found, among other things, a savory dish of leafy greens that could pass as maror. How could I have missed that? Any tradition that replaces the sinus-clearing horseradish root with a dish that's one glazed pecan shy of a gourmet salad is appealing. So I made it. For this year's commemoration of the Israelites' escape from slavery, I would try Passover by the book. Well, make that the scroll.

The Torah's Book of Exodus, Chapter 12, offers one description of the instructions for Passover fare: "The Lord said to

Back-to-basics SEDER

Passover, with a strictly biblical flavor



PHOTOS BY DEB LINDSEY/The Washington Post

Roasted rack of lamb with barbecue rub features lamb, an important component of Seder plates in some — but definitely not all — Jewish households.



From left: Maror salad, made from ingredients available in Egypt and Israel during the first Seder; Karaites Matzo, a less-flat version of the traditional unleavened flatbread.

Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt. [Each household] shall eat [lamb] roasted over the fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs" (Jewish Publication Society translation).

Remy Pessah, of Mountain View, Calif., follows those words and long-standing family traditions each year at Passover time. Born in Egypt, the 66-year-old chemical engineer-turned-fiber artist was raised with Karaite Judaism. ("Karaite" is a form of the

Hebrew word "kara'im," or "followers of Scripture.") She joined the Karaite community in the San Francisco Bay area, which by some estimates includes more than 200 families. Pessah's Seder table reflects this Jewish movement that takes its cues directly from the Tanach: the Torah, Prophets and additional texts known as Writings.

"Our Seder is pretty much different from the rabbinical Seders," Pessah said. "The way we



read the Haggadah, the preparation of the Haggadah, the whole atmosphere."

It indeed differs, both in terms of the Haggadah, the book of readings that tells the Passover story and guides the Seder, and the meal. There are no Four Questions at a Karaite Seder. There is no fruity charoset and no wine — the latter is a fermented product. Instead, Pessah serves homemade grape juice. The rabbinical Seders that Pes-

sah referred to are what most observant American Jews know as the standard. Those Seders are based largely on the ancient rabbis' redaction of the Tanach. That redaction is called the Oral Torah. The Karaites see the Oral Torah an interpretation rather than hard-and-fast rules.

Some of the several thousand Karaites in the United States, especially those far from the Bay Area enclave, practice a mixture of Karaite and rabbinical traditions. The biggest Karaite community resides in Israel, and another pocket lives in Turkey.

Pessah's Passover meals reflect the strong thread of food culture woven into Karaite tradition. Jews from Ashkenazi rabbinical movements, which include Conservative and Reform, tend to avoid serving lamb on Passover because it too closely resembles the paschal lamb sacrifice, a practice that ceased with the destruction of the holy Temple. But grilled lamb is an important part of Pessah's Passovers, filling her home with aromas from childhood.

"That's the first thing you would smell, definitely," she said. "That and... za'atar, that is mixed with garlic and parsley. We use it with the jam. We also make homemade matzo for the holiday."

Biblical and mouthwatering. Sign me up.

I decided to test a few Karaite recipes, starting with the flatbread so central to the holiday.

"Making your own matzo is a wonderful way for any family to experience the holiday," said Shawn Lichaa, the co-author of "As It Is Written: A Brief Case for Karaism" and founder of the Karaite blog A Blue Thread. He adds sunflower oil, salt and coriander to the flour and water that make up most of the kosher-certified matzo sold at the grocery store.

Another alternative to the boxed matzo is Ethiopian kita, a soft, yeastless flatbread similar to a crepe. Ethiopian Jewish tradition, which also closely adheres to literal biblical rules, turns to this bread during Passover.

But I wanted to understand, on a technical level: Why not the standby store-bought flatbread?

"Because it tastes like cardboard," Lichaa said.

Karaites can jettison the packaged matzo because the rules that were followed in order to certify, say, a Streit's box of matzo as kosher for Passover came from the Oral Torah. Those rules include that a mashgiach (a rabbi specially trained in kosher law) must supervise the processing of the wheat from field to production facility and oversee that the baking of the matzo took no longer than 18 minutes.

Religious implications aside, the Karaite recipes blew me away. The maror was tangy and fresh, while the Karaite version of matzo — not so flat, by the way — had a satisfying, savory crunch. While observant rabbinic Jews seek only kosher for Passover matzo for the holiday, the Karaite recipe is worth considering for the rest of the year.

I plan to make at least a few batches and to try my hand at kita.

FACES



Colbert to take over 'Late Show'

Los Angeles Times
Comedian Stephen Colbert will be the next host of "The Late Show."

"Simply being a guest on David Letterman's show has been a highlight of my career," Colbert said in a press release Thursday. "I never dreamed that I would

follow in his footsteps, though everyone in late night follows Dave's lead."

CBS said "The Colbert Report" star will take over hosting duties for the long-running late-night talk franchise when Letterman retires in 2015.

Colbert and the network have

reached a five-year agreement, the broadcaster said.

Letterman, who has hosted the show for 21 years, announced his retirement last week.

CBS did not give any details on the creative direction of the new show. Colbert, 49, takes over, nor did it say where the series will be

produced. "Stephen Colbert is one of the most inventive and respected forces on television," CBS Corp. Chief Executive Leslie Moonves said in a statement.

Colbert has hosted his satirical Comedy Central show since 2005.

Hollywood, NFL team up to make 'Draft Day'

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK
Los Angeles Times

In its ascent up the mountain of American popular culture, the NFL has studiously protected its brand, turning down many Hollywood offers to collaborate and limiting the extent of the partnerships it has forged.

So much for all that. The NFL's famously cautious mindset gets the way of leather helmets with the release of "Draft Day," a film from, by and about professional football. The movie thrusts the league into the world of big-time movies and sets a new standard for cooperation between a professional sports entity and entertainment-world heavyweights.

Directed by comedy veteran Ivan Reitman and starring sports-movie fixture Kevin Costner, "Draft Day" blurs the ideas of movie plot and league showcase to such an extent that many viewers may be unable to separate the two. NFL personalities such as Ray Lewis, Jim Brown, broadcaster Rich Eisen and even commissioner Roger Goodell populate the fictional film, which locates scenes at various team facilities and sets and shoots its climax at the annual springtime draft of college players at Radio City Music Hall.

By doing this, "Draft Day" — based on a script from newcomers Rajiv Joseph and Scott Rothman — offers a level of behind-the-scenes authenticity rarely attempted in a scripted film about American pro sports. But as critics will point out, that also means the film can veer into infomercial territory and scrub out foot-

ball's less savory and more controversial aspects.

Unlike most sports dramas, "Draft Day" takes the action off the field and into the war room as it follows Costner's fictitious Sonny Weaver, the Cleveland Browns general manager, as he wheels and deals in the pressure-cooker hours leading up to the big event. After mortgaging the team's future in a trade with the Seattle Seahawks for the top overall pick, Weaver must grapple with questions about the player he should select and manage the delicate politics of coach, owner and players.

"This is one man's story on a particularly complicated day when both personal and professional things are coming at him very fast," Reitman said. "And it's about the effect of a draft on hundreds of kids looking to fulfill a lifelong dream who must also meet the expectations of a lot of people."

That kind of stress isn't foreign to the NFL, either.

In an office at the league's sleek midtown headquarters, Tracy Perlmutter recounted the decision to go in on the movie. The NFL vice president for marketing and entertainment and its point person on "Draft Day" Perlmutter and her fellow executives decided to move well beyond the occasional placement deal so it could serve a larger strategy.

Even with the NFL's ratings the envy of rival leagues — playoff games can top 50 million viewers — it is looking for new avenues of growth. This coming season it will expand to Thursday night games on CBS. And it continues to try to fuel even more interest in the draft, formerly an

inside-the-Beltway affair centering on arcane physical attributes but now a hotbed of analysis and drama that is covered in breathless detail on ESPN. "We believe this movie elevates the brand, it elevates the (draft) time period and it opens us up to new fans," Perlmutter said.

Outgoing and possessing a keen sense of the NFL's appeal, Perlmutter kept a watchful eye on "Draft Day." The raw footage known as dailies was sent to her from the Ohio set, and she would watch it, sometimes passing along material and questions to different league divisions for their response, sometimes coming back with questions herself. Much of this was done, as she puts it, "just to get the facts right" — such as the way trades or picks were made, which Reitman was eager to learn.

But there was also scrutiny for other reasons. In a more fraught moment, Perlmutter and the league nixed a moment in which Seahawks fans can be seen, after a questionable draft move, expressing their displeasure. "We had what I thought was a pretty funny bit where this one other looks out the window and sees he's being burned in effigy. And they just didn't want that," Costner said in an interview during CinemaCon in Las Vegas last month. "And I thought, 'Come on.'"

Perlmutter nodded knowingly when asked and allowed a small smile. "Yes, Kevin called me. I understood where he was coming from, but we just couldn't have that in the movie." (For his part, Reitman said he thought "it would have gotten a big laugh" but "they were worried and it was a small change, so we said OK.")



ROLLING STONE/AP

The cover of the April 24 issue of Rolling Stone features actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus. The misplaced John Hancock on her lower back has caused a stir.

Rolling Stone flubs Constitution tattoo

The Associated Press

Julia Louis-Dreyfus better hope her latest tattoo is a temporary one.

The cover image of next month's Rolling Stone magazine featuring the "Veep" star depicts a nude Louis-Dreyfus with a tattoo of the U.S. Constitution signed by John Hancock across her back. The problem is that Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution. Louis-Dreyfus jokingly blamed the blunder on Mike McClintock, the fictional "Veep" character played by Matt Walsh who serves as communications director to Louis-Dreyfus' Vice President Selina Meyer on the HBO comedy series.

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia mocked the flub by tweeting a photo of the cover alongside such founding fathers as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in Signers' Hall with the words, "Thanks for the shoutout but no Hancock here."

Rolling Stone spokeswoman Melissa Bruno said the Declaration of Independence is on the other side of Louis-Dreyfus' body, but they couldn't fit in the signatures.

Big Sean calls off engagement

Rapper Big Sean and actress Naya Rivera are no longer engaged.

A spokeswoman for the rapper announced Wednesday that he has canceled plans to marry the "Glee" star. Publicist Tracy Nguyen said Sean hopes the two can continue to work through their issues privately. Rivera, 27, and Sean, 26, whose real name is Sean Anderson, announced their engagement in October. Messages left for Rivera's representatives were not immediately returned.



Summit Entertainment

Denis Leary, Frank Langella and Kevin Costner star in the movie "Draft Day." Costner plays Sonny Weaver, the Cleveland Browns general manager, in the movie about the annual NFL draft.

MILITARY

Out in the cold

Navajo veterans struggle with suitable housing on reservation

By CINDY CARCAMO
Los Angeles Times

FARMINGTON, N.M.

In World War II he served as a Navajo Code Talker, one of the Marines who became legendary by using their native tongue to transmit messages the enemy could not decipher. Years later, to express its appreciation, the Navajo Nation built Tom Jones Jr. a house.

These days Jones, 89, struggles to keep warm during winter because the only heat inside his house emanates from an antique wood stove in the living room. The electricity doesn't work in his bathroom and the floor has worn away, exposing plywood beneath his feet.

Jones is one of many Navajo veterans, Code Talkers as well as those who served in Afghanistan or Iraq, who live in homes that are often as ruined as those they saw in battle. Some have no electricity or running water. The hallway in Jones' home is too narrow for his wheelchair.

"My desire is a house where I can be able to get around, to have a heating system so I can sleep well and enjoy life," Jones said in the Native language of Dine, with which he spoke for the Allies through the war. "This is how I would want it."

The living conditions of Navajo veterans highlight not just the never-ending battle against poverty on the 27,000-square-mile reservation, but the failings of a tribal effort to provide housing for those who served in the military.

Nearly 9,000 veterans live on the reservation that straddles the New Mexico-Arizona border, more than half of them in what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says is substandard housing. For years, few funds were allocated for reservation housing for veterans, and much of what was allocated did not reach its intended targets because of mismanagement, U.S. and tribal officials say. Federal veterans' home loan guarantees cannot be used to build homes on tribal land.

"There is a huge crisis taking place in our nation at the present time," said Rick Abasta, spokesman for Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly. "If you travel through the reservation, you'll even see some families living in storage sheds due to the housing situation."

The tribe began constructing homes for veterans in the

1980s, and a \$6 million trust fund for Navajo veterans created by the tribe allowed the launch of a home-building program in 1998.

The aim was to provide houses — free of charge — to veterans in need or help them pay for home repairs. Outside the Navajo Nation, the VA provides myriad services for veterans, but a free house is unheard of.

"These veterans, they deserve housing — decent and sanitary housing — for the services that they provided this country. And that would probably go even more so with our Navajo Code Talkers," Abasta said.

It's unclear how many homes the Navajo Department of Veterans Affairs has built for veterans, in part because record-keeping problems have left tribal administrators without good data. David Nez, who heads the agency, says he believes it was in the hundreds, but in recent years the effort has been troubled with inefficiencies and money troubles, resulting in few new homes and incomplete maintenance of existing houses such as Jones'. Not one home was built last year.

In February, however, Navajo leaders signed a contract with Home Depot in Farmington to purchase building materials for veterans' housing throughout the reservation.

It's part of a \$1.9-million project, paid for by the Veterans Trust Fund, which Shelly approved in the fall. That's only enough for 75 homes. There is a long list — in the hundreds — of veterans who are waiting for housing, according to Navajo Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

There is only so much the tribe can do, Abasta said, because of limited funding. "We meet with congressmen about these issues, but most often it falls on deaf ears," he said.

Navajo veterans and their supporters say the program is run poorly.

Etta Arviso, who is lobbying to obtain better housing for several Code Talkers, said veterans tell her they face too much red tape in the application process. Others are discouraged by the wait.

"Now you can see how our Navajo Code Talkers are treated," Arviso said. At Jones' house she has erected a sign out front: "Navajo Code Talker Needs a New Home."

Above the door are black scorch marks

left by a lightning strike two years ago. Navajo tradition holds that one should not live in a dwelling where lightning has struck. It could lead to bad luck, sickness or worse. Jones' wife, Alice Mae, died about a year after the lightning hit.

Jones couldn't afford to move. He still can't.

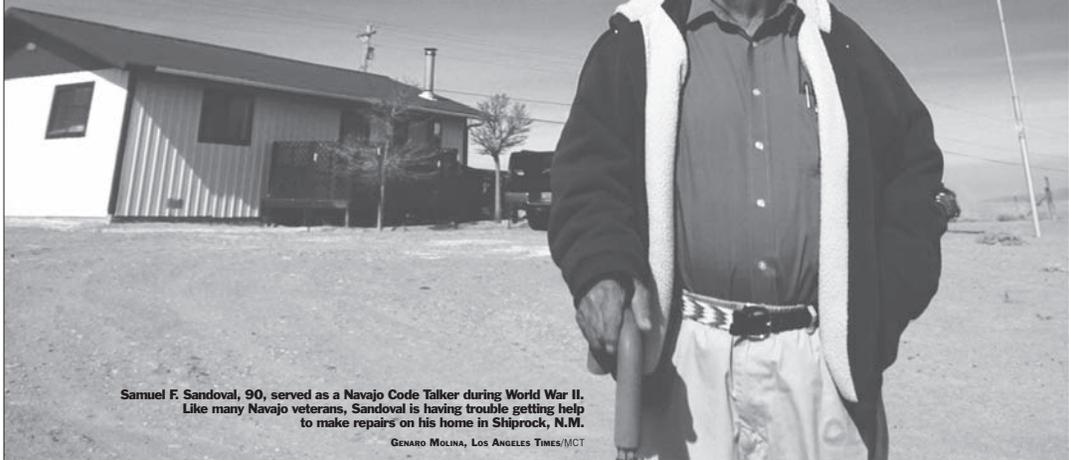
He spends most of his time in the living room, since he can't get his wheelchair through the hallway leading to his bedroom or bathroom. His caretaker or a family member has to carry him to other parts of the home.

When he was recruited into the military 73 years ago, Jones said, he was told that he would have whatever he needed after the war. He served as a corporal in the 3rd Marine Division from 1943 to 1945 — a good portion of the time on the front lines, including at Iwo Jima.

When he returned home, he said, he was able to provide for himself, at one point working in the uranium mines. When he was younger he never asked for hand-outs, he said proudly.

"I was strong," he said. "I would haul wood. I didn't have problems money-wise."

When his health took a downturn in 2007, he could no longer provide for himself. Jones has end-stage renal disease and undergoes dialysis twice a week. He has a hard time hearing and can barely talk. His Marines cap emblazoned with the Stars and Stripes seems to overwhelm his small frame.



Samuel F. Sandoval, 90, served as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II. Like many Navajo veterans, Sandoval is having trouble getting help to make repairs on his home in Shiprock, N.M.

GENARO MOLINA, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US auto recalls on pace to set record

By Tom Krisher and Dee-Ann Durbin
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Big U.S. recalls by General Motors and Toyota have put the auto industry on a record pace as companies try to avoid bad publicity and punishment from an increasingly aggressive government.

On Wednesday, Toyota announced it was recalling nearly 1.8 million vehicles in the U.S. to fix a spate of problems, including

air bags that might not inflate. It's part of a worldwide recall of 6.4 million cars and trucks.

So far this year, automakers have recalled about 9 million vehicles in the U.S. If that pace continues, the nation would break the record of 30.8 million recalled vehicles set in 2004.

Most of the recalls are from Toyota and General Motors, two automakers that are under government scrutiny and facing bad publicity and allegations that they

concealed safety issues.

Toyota's latest recalls were announced before the company even developed specific repairs. They come two weeks after the Justice Department skewered the Japanese automaker for covering up problems that caused unintended acceleration in some cars starting in 2009. Toyota agreed to pay \$1.2 billion to settle that case, but federal prosecutors can resurrect a wire fraud charge if the company fails to comply with the

terms of the settlement.

Toyota's actions come as rival GM recalls 2.6 million small cars for defective ignition switches the company links to at least 13 deaths. Of those, 2.2 million are in the U.S. As that crisis unfolded, GM announced recalls of another 3.4 million U.S. vehicles.

GM is facing a Justice Department investigation, and last week its new CEO was grilled by Congress over its handling of the ignition recalls.

EXCHANGE RATES

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Military rates | \$1.4223 |
| Euro costs (April 11) | €0.7031 |
| Dollar buys (April 11) | ¥93.172 |
| Japanese yen (April 11) | 99.00 |
| South Korean won (April 11) | 1,008.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Commercial rates | |
| Bahrain (Dinar) | 0.3770 |
| British pound | \$1.6768/0.5964 |
| Canada (dollar) | 1.0909 |
| China (Yuan) | 6.2150 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 5.3831 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 6.9773 |
| Euro | \$1.3869/0.7210 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.7553 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 220.04 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.4679 |
| Japan (Yen) | 101.75 |
| Kuwait (Dinar) | 0.2812 |
| Norway (Krone) | 5.9236 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 44.35 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 31.00 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7505 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.2477 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1,026.35 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8781 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 32.25 |
| Turkey (New Lira) | 0.0088 |

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

MARKET WATCH

April 9, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials +181.04
16,437.18

Nasdaq composite +70.91
4,183.90

Standard & Poor's 500 +20.22
1,872.18

Russell 2000 +15.73
1,159.96

EUROPE GAS PRICES

| | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Country | Super E10 | Super unleaded | Super plus | Diesel |
| Germany | \$3.63 | \$4.06 | \$4.16 | \$4.19 |
| Change in price | +1.7 cents | +2.6 cents | +2.4 cents | -1.6 cents |
| Netherlands | -- | \$4.82 | \$5.04 | \$5.07 |
| Change in price | -- | +7.0 cents | +6.4 cents | +2.7 cents |
| U.K. | -- | \$3.94 | \$4.10 | \$4.13 |
| Change in price | -- | +2.6 cents | +2.4 cents | -1.6 cents |
| Azores | -- | -- | \$4.82 | -- |
| Change in price | -- | -- | no change | -- |
| Turkey | -- | -- | \$3.851 | \$4.19 |
| Change in price | -- | -- | no change | no change |
| Italy | -- | -- | \$4.45 | \$4.064 |
| Change in price | -- | -- | no change | -1.6 cents |
| Spain | \$3.36 | -- | \$4.29 | -- |
| Change in price | no change | -- | no change | no change |

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| Country | Unleaded | Super unleaded | Super plus | Diesel |
| Japan | \$3.759 | -- | \$3.949 | -- |
| Change in price | -- | +2.0 cents | -- | -2.0 cents |
| Okinawa | \$3.589 | -- | \$3.949 | -- |
| Change in price | +2.0 cents | -- | +2.0 cents | -2.0 cents |
| South Korea | \$3.849 | -- | \$4.179 | -- |
| Change in price | +2.0 cents | -- | +2.0 cents | -2.0 cents |
| Guam | \$3.849** | \$4.019 | \$4.129 | -- |
| Change in price | +2.0 cents* | +3.0 cents | +3.0 cents | -- |

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of April 12-18

INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Prime rate | 3.25 |
| Discount rate | 0.08 |
| Federal funds market rate | 0.08 |
| 3-month bill | 0.03 |
| 30-year bond | 3.57 |

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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

Friday's US temperatures

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|-------|------------------|----|----|-------|----------------------|----|----|-------|----------------|----|----|-------|-----------------|----|----|-------|-------------------|----|----|-------|
| City | Hi | Lo | Wthr | Chatanooga | 76 | 50 | Pcldy | Fort Wayne | 62 | 38 | Pcldy | Louisville | 67 | 54 | Rain | Pocatello | 71 | 39 | Cir | Sioux City | 74 | 43 | Pcldy |
| Ablene, Tex | 87 | 58 | Cir | Cheyenne | 70 | 37 | Cir | Fresno | 87 | 59 | Pcldy | Lubbock | 83 | 51 | Pcldy | Portland, Maine | 59 | 40 | Cir | Sioux Falls | 71 | 41 | Pcldy |
| Akron, Ohio | 56 | 43 | Cldy | Chicago | 63 | 40 | Pcldy | Goodland | 75 | 42 | Cir | Macon | 78 | 45 | Cir | Portland, Ore. | 63 | 43 | Cir | South Bend | 62 | 36 | Pcldy |
| Albany, N.Y. | 62 | 42 | Pcldy | Cincinnati | 62 | 51 | Rain | Grand Junction | 74 | 42 | Cir | Madison | 66 | 36 | Pcldy | Providence | 61 | 44 | Cir | Spartanburg | 63 | 42 | Pcldy |
| Albuquerque | 79 | 48 | Pcldy | Cleveland | 51 | 38 | Pcldy | Grand Rapids | 62 | 36 | Pcldy | Medford | 78 | 45 | Cir | Pueblo | 77 | 40 | Cir | Springfield, Ill. | 68 | 43 | Pcldy |
| Allentown, Pa. | 64 | 50 | Cldy | Colorado Springs | 73 | 40 | Cir | Great Falls | 62 | 38 | Cir | Memphis | 77 | 59 | Cir | Raleigh-Durham | 77 | 48 | Pcldy | Springfield, Mo. | 72 | 53 | Pcldy |
| Amarillo | 80 | 48 | Cir | Columbia, S.C. | 81 | 48 | Cir | Green Bay | 61 | 35 | Pcldy | Miami Beach | 81 | 70 | Pcldy | St. Petersburg | 72 | 36 | Cir | Washington | 71 | 53 | Rain |
| Anchorage | 40 | 16 | Cir | Columbus, Ga. | 78 | 49 | Cir | Greensboro, N.C. | 75 | 48 | Pcldy | Midland-Odessa | 94 | 59 | Pcldy | Reno | 78 | 46 | Cir | Tallahassee | 79 | 43 | Pcldy |
| Asheville | 74 | 41 | Pcldy | Columbus, Ohio | 60 | 49 | Rain | Hartford | 69 | 49 | Cldy | Milwaukee | 65 | 49 | Cldy | Richmond | 78 | 51 | Pcldy | Tampa | 82 | 60 | Pcldy |
| Atlanta | 75 | 50 | Cir | Concord, N.H. | 62 | 37 | Pcldy | Hartford Springfield | 63 | 44 | Cldy | Mpls-St Paul | 65 | 42 | Cir | Rochester | 76 | 48 | Cir | Tucson | 92 | 60 | Pcldy |
| Atlantic City | 67 | 50 | Cir | Corpus Christi | 80 | 65 | Pcldy | Helena | 66 | 38 | Cldy | Missoula | 63 | 33 | Cir | Rochester | 58 | 40 | Pcldy | Topeka | 75 | 47 | Pcldy |
| Austin | 80 | 50 | Pcldy | Dallas-Ft Worth | 79 | 59 | Pcldy | Honolulu | 93 | 68 | Cir | Mobile | 68 | 49 | Cir | Rockford | 65 | 38 | Pcldy | Tulsa | 79 | 50 | Pcldy |
| Baltimore | 70 | 51 | Rain | Dayton | 60 | 47 | Cldy | Houston | 80 | 60 | Cldy | Montgomery | 78 | 49 | Pcldy | Sacramento | 80 | 53 | Pcldy | Tucson | 92 | 60 | Pcldy |
| Baton Rouge | 83 | 53 | Pcldy | Daytona Beach | 78 | 58 | Cir | Huntsville | 76 | 51 | Cir | Nashville | 75 | 53 | Cldy | St. Louis | 70 | 49 | Cir | Tulpeo | 78 | 50 | Pcldy |
| Bilings | 67 | 38 | Pcldy | Denver | 77 | 43 | Cir | Indianapolis | 64 | 47 | Cir | New Orleans | 77 | 59 | Cir | St. Thomas | 86 | 77 | Pcldy | Waco | 78 | 60 | Pcldy |
| Birmingham | 75 | 49 | Pcldy | Des Moines | 71 | 44 | Cir | Jackson, Miss. | 78 | 51 | Pcldy | New York City | 65 | 50 | Pcldy | Salem, Ore. | 64 | 40 | Pcldy | Wilmington, Del. | 68 | 52 | Cir |
| Bismarck | 65 | 30 | Pcldy | Detroit | 61 | 38 | Pcldy | Jackson, Miss. | 78 | 51 | Pcldy | Newark | 65 | 49 | Pcldy | Salt Lake City | 77 | 51 | Pcldy | W. Palm Beach | 80 | 68 | Pcldy |
| Boise | 71 | 43 | Pcldy | Duluth | 54 | 33 | Cldy | Juneau | 44 | 29 | Pcldy | Norfolk, Va. | 74 | 52 | Pcldy | Salt Lake City | 77 | 51 | Pcldy | Wichita | 77 | 49 | Pcldy |
| Boston | 61 | 45 | Cldy | El Paso | 88 | 61 | Cir | Kansas City | 71 | 46 | Pcldy | North Platte | 74 | 37 | Cir | San Angelo | 91 | 58 | Pcldy | Wichita Falls | 85 | 58 | Cir |
| Bridgport | 60 | 45 | Rain | Elkins | 85 | 48 | Rain | Key West | 81 | 71 | Cir | Oklahoma City | 82 | 56 | Pcldy | San Antonio | 86 | 60 | Pcldy | Wichita Falls | 85 | 58 | Cir |
| Brownsville | 82 | 67 | Pcldy | Erie | 39 | 35 | Pcldy | Knoxville | 75 | 49 | Pcldy | Omaha | 73 | 44 | Cir | San Diego | 72 | 60 | Cir | Wilkes-Barre | 57 | 49 | Cir |
| Buffalo | 56 | 38 | Pcldy | Eugene | 64 | 38 | Cir | Lake Charles | 77 | 60 | Pcldy | Orlando | 82 | 58 | Pcldy | San Francisco | 66 | 52 | Cir | Wilmington, Del. | 68 | 52 | Cir |
| Burlington, Vt. | 58 | 38 | Pcldy | Evansville | 67 | 53 | Rain | Lansing | 63 | 36 | Pcldy | Paducah | 70 | 55 | Cir | San Jose | 72 | 51 | Cir | Youngstown | 57 | 42 | Cir |
| Caribou, Maine | 50 | 35 | Pcldy | Fairbanks | 39 | 5 | Cir | Las Vegas | 88 | 67 | Cir | Pendleton | 69 | 39 | Pcldy | Santa Fe | 76 | 37 | Cir | | | | |
| Casper, Wyo. | 68 | 34 | Cir | Fargo | 50 | 33 | Pcldy | Lexington | 66 | 52 | Rain | Phoenix | 66 | 52 | Rain | St. Marie | 47 | 28 | Cir | | | | |
| Charleston, S.C. | 77 | 52 | Cir | Flagstaff | 69 | 34 | Cldy | Lincoln | 73 | 43 | Pcldy | Philadelphia | 69 | 52 | Cir | Savannah | 79 | 52 | Cir | | | | |
| Charleston, W.Va. | 70 | 50 | Rain | Flint | 65 | 34 | Pcldy | Little Rock | 75 | 55 | Cir | Phoenix | 96 | 71 | Pcldy | Seattle | 61 | 45 | Cir | | | | |
| Charlotte, N.C. | 78 | 49 | Cir | Fort Smith | 81 | 55 | Pcldy | Los Angeles | 73 | 56 | Cir | Pittsburgh | 62 | 46 | Rain | Shreveport | 78 | 57 | Pcldy | | | | |

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 101, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 7, Mount Washington, N.H.

Frazz



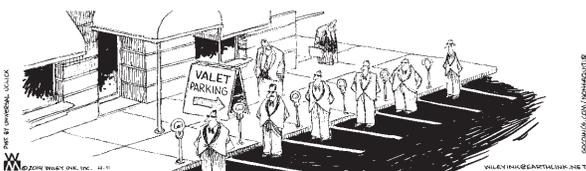
Dilbert



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 | | | | | | 54 | | | | | 55 | |
| 56 | | | | | | 57 | | | | | 58 | |

ACROSS

- 1 Cistern
- 4 Cambridge sch.
- 7 Having a BAC of zero
- 12 "— Blue?"
- 13 Expert
- 14 Jack
- 15 Lemon
- 16 Brought up
- 18 Work with
- 19 Concerning
- 20 Londoner's letters
- 22 Bobby of hockey
- 23 Cruise vessel
- 27 Opposite of bellum
- 29 Incite
- 31 Visitor from Venus?
- 34 Classroom array
- 35 Mourn
- 37 Solifidy
- 38 "Zounds!"
- 39 Honest politician?
- 41 Woman
- 45 Leaves at the altar
- 47 Fib
- 48 Kreskin, for one
- 52 Eggs
- 53 Hunter in the sky
- 54 Pigs' digs
- 55 Yon maiden
- 56 "Inferno" author
- 57 Fenway squad, familiarly
- 58 Pompous one

DOWN

- 1 Capital of Liechtenstein
- 2 Entertain
- 3 — over (helped temporarily)
- 4 First word, perhaps
- 5 Old-style fridge
- 6 Saxophone range
- 7 Revue segment
- 8 Yoko of music
- 9 Prohibit
- 10 Enos' granny
- 11 Roulette bet
- 17 Sod
- 21 Race
- 23 Bloodhound's clue
- 24 Cock and bull?
- 25 Squid squirt
- 26 Score units (Abbr.)
- 28 Raggy one
- 30 Rhythmic tribute
- 31 Hearty quaff
- 32 Trail the pack
- 33 "— Little Teapot"
- 36 Cow's fly swatter?
- 37 Reaches
- 40 Ecstasy
- 42 Wahine's welcome
- 43 Seedy bars
- 44 Quite some time
- 45 Tarzan's mate
- 46 Charon's river
- 48 Chic, in the 1960s
- 49 Historic time
- 50 Dianist Anais
- 51 Youngster

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-11

CRYPTOQUIP

B GUNOK'RJ JLZUFJK PJBLH
 DMMBHLJK ATJ VODMMBV
 LURJO "NOFMMJM," PNA B
 GDML'A HBRJL ATJ ZUFVJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I PURCHASED THAT PRICEY SPACE HEATER FOR YOUR WINTER COMFORT. DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARM YOU!
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals S

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OPINION A recourse to budgetary inaction

By GEORGE F. WILL

From the Goldwater Institute, the fertile frontal lobe of the conservative movement's brain, comes an innovative idea that is gaining traction in Alaska, Arizona and Georgia, and its advocated may be to pass 45 other states' legislatures. It would use the Constitution's Article V to move the nation back toward the limited government the Constitution's Framers thought their document guaranteed.

The Compact for America is the innovation of the Goldwater Institute's Nick Dranias, who proposes a constitutional convention carefully called under Article V to enact a balanced-budget amendment written precisely enough to preclude evasion by the political class. This class has powerful and permanent incentives for deficit spending, which delivers immediate benefits to constituents while deferring a significant portion of the benefits' costs. Here's what the compact's amendment would stipulate:

Total federal government outlays shall not exceed receipts unless the excess of outlays is financed exclusively by debt which initially shall be no more than 15 percent of outstanding debt on the date the amendment is ratified. Congress may increase the authorized debt only if a majority of state legislatures approve an unconditional, single-subject measure proposing the amount of such increase. Whenever outstanding debt exceeds 98 percent of the set limit, the president shall designate for impoundment specific expenditures sufficient to keep debt below the authorized level. The impoundment shall occur in 30 days unless Congress designates an alternative impoundment of the same or greater amount. Any bill for a net increase in federal revenue tax shall require a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress — except for a bill that reduces or eliminates an existing tax exemption, deduction or credit, or that "provides for a new end user sales tax which would completely replace every existing income tax levied by" the U.S. government.

Now, leave aside questions about this tax policy, or about the wisdom of constitutionalizing any tax policy. Do you believe a balanced-budget amendment is a required response to the nature of today's politics and governance, now that courts neglect to



do their duty in enforcing Congress' adherence to the Constitution's enumeration of its powers? If so, the compact's amendment is remarkably resistant to evasion.

Congress, which relishes deficit spending, would not, unilaterally and unprompted, send this amendment to the states for ratification. Hence the Goldwater Institute's recourse to Article V.

It provides, in the same sentence, two amendment procedures, one of which has never been used — the calling of a convention by two-thirds of the state legislatures. Many prudent people, however, would closely confine a convention. State legislatures can form a compact — a cooperative agreement — to call a convention for the codified, one-item agenda of ratifying the balanced-budget amendment precisely stipulated in advance.

The Constitution's Article I, Section 10 says, "No state shall, without the consent of Congress ... enter into any agreement or compact with another state." But court precedent makes clear that states do not need congressional consent for compacts that exercise state power without displac-

ing federal power, such as the constitutionally stipulated power to apply for an Article V convention. States can join the Goldwater Institute's compact without waiting for Congress' approval.

Article V says Congress has no discretion — it "shall" call a convention "on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states." A convention called in accordance with the institute's compact would adopt its limited agenda with the force of federal and state law, any deviation from which would render the convention — which is limited to a 24-hour session — void. The compact designates as the sole delegates to the convention the governors of participating states, officials who will not run the political risk of wrecking the convention by ignoring the law.

In the 85th and final of the Federalist Papers written to persuade Americans wary of centralized power to ratify the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton said: "We may safely rely on the disposition of the state legislatures to erect barriers against the encroachments of the national authority."

States would be the prime movers of, and would be substantially empowered by, the institute's amendment-by-compact plan. Members of this nascent movement to use Article V have a name: Fivers.

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

For the Internet, it's the next logical step

By JOHN CARY SIMS

There's a reason we all love to "reply" to emails we receive, while striving to avoid an inappropriate "reply all." Internet addresses can be so messy, and even the tiniest error misdirects our communication. Soon the Internet addressing challenge will be even more difficult, as "Top Level Domains" mushroom from a handful of familiar ones (.com, .org, .gov, .uk) to a flock of hundreds, many written in unfamiliar alphabets.

But typographical challenges are not what have been troubling would-be latecomers. The major excitement came a few weeks ago when the Commerce Department announced that the United States will soon relinquish its oversight of the Internet itself.

There is no reason to view the contemplated Internet revisions as any threat to the interests of the U.S. or the openness or efficiency of the Internet. Far from being a bombshell, the plan announced by the Commerce Department is simply the logical continuation of a process that has been underway for a long time. Yes, the U.S. created the Internet and nurtured its growth, but the U.S. has not exercised unilateral control, or attempted to, even amid dramatic changes

in the Internet and worldwide battles over the right of oppressed people to access it.

As a practical matter Internet management was spun off in 1998 to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN. That's the nonprofit organization that assures all Internet addresses are unique and coordinates the complicated technical standards needed to keep the Internet efficient, secure and reliable. ICANN carries out these vital functions under a contract with the Commerce Department that expires in 2013.

The Commerce Department has now announced that in the future ICANN will report, not to it, but to some other entity. The exact details remain to be worked out, and the Commerce Department has indicated that the transition will not take place until an appropriate institution is ready to take over.

While the structure of the new oversight body remains to be developed, governments that would like to exercise greater control over the Internet will be disappointed if they think the U.S. will agree to intergovernmental control. The Internet has grown and thrived precisely because it is not directly controlled by or dependent on the diplomatic and bureaucratic processes that

so often hobble the United Nations and international bodies like it.

While critics see the coming change in formal Internet governance as a slight to U.S. pride and a wound to the nation's power, in reality, the Internet is and long has been internationalized. If the policy preferences of the U.S. could have been imposed on ICANN, the controversial "xxx" Top Level Domains for porn sites probably would not have been approved, and the proliferation of other TLDs would be slower because of concerns about possible copyright infringement, criminal activity and consumer fraud.

Sen. John D. Rockefeller, D-W.Va., chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, is correct when he describes the planned change in formal governance not as a radical implementation of U.S. power, but rather as a change that will "preserve and advance the current multi-stakeholder model of global Internet governance."

John Cary Sims is a professor of law at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. He has published articles in the Journal of National Security Law & Policy and currently serves as a senior editor. He wrote this for The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Deny radical Iranian's visa Savannah (Ga.) Morning News

In 1979, Hamid Abutalebi was among the Iranian radicals who illegally seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans for 444 days.

Today, he wants a U.S. visa so he can enter this country and serve as Iran's ambassador to the United Nations.

This request is an insult to America. President Barack Obama shouldn't just deny it. He should send back Abutalebi's application form in tiny little pieces.

Many younger Americans weren't alive when Iranian demonstrators burst through the doors at the American embassy and took everyone inside hostage. President Jimmy Carter correctly called these captives "victims of terrorism and anarchy." Some were beaten and tortured. Others were forced to undergo mock executions or play Russian roulette.

Not surprisingly, Abutalebi argues he was an interpreter and negotiator. Not someone who had a pistol or rifle in his hand.

But there's no difference between these roles. He was a terrorist who was part of this criminal mob. He has no business in this country.

This week, a bipartisan group of 29 U.S. senators sent Obama a letter, urging that the State Department reject Abutalebi's request. It included liberals like Chuck Schumer, of New York, and conservatives like Ted Cruz, of Texas. Georgia senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss have signed it as well. ...

None of the hostage-takers is welcome on American soil. They are goons, not diplomats.

Abutalebi's selection as Iran's envoy to the U.N. is an obvious slap in this country's face. Obama must return the favor.

Keep spy out of Mideast talks The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

The release of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard seemingly comes up in the context of every round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in the mistaken belief that freeing a man who is quite simply a traitor to his country will make Israel more amenable to a U.S. view of how those talks should evolve.

Secretary of State John Kerry recently floated the possibility of Pollard's release. The idea was that freeing Pollard would somehow keep the talks, which are preliminary talks about holding more talks, going. But before the issue could be sent to the White House for the necessary presidential approval, the preliminary negotiations fell apart on their own.

That made it increasingly unlikely that the parties would come up with anything substantive before the April 29 deadline to decide whether to pursue further talks.

Pollard, 59, was a civilian analyst for the U.S. Navy when he began spying for Israel. He was arrested in 1987 and his wife sought asylum at the Israeli embassy in Washington. Israel at first disavowed him, but he became something of a national hero in that country and was awarded Israeli citizenship in 1995.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked — at every meeting with a U.S. president going back to Ronald Reagan — that his spy be released. Each one has said no.



MOLLY RILEY/AP

Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., speaks after a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington on April 3 as the panel voted to approve declassifying part of a secret report on Bush-era CIA interrogations of terrorism suspects.

Pollard is eligible for parole next year, but there's no guarantee he'll get it. If he must be released, it should be as a reward for specific, concrete accomplishments that benefit both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian talks, not as an inducement for two sides who don't much want to work with each other to keep on talking.

Exposing the CIA's 'dark side' Los Angeles Times

More than a year after it approved a report critical of the CIA's interrogation and detention policies, the Senate Intelligence Committee has voted to make a portion of the document public. It's now up to President Barack Obama to ensure that the agency doesn't mount a rear-guard attempt to censor or sanitize the committee's findings in the name of national security.

Thanks to news reports and a report by the CIA's inspector general, Americans long have been aware of both the broad outlines and some abhorrent details of the Bush administration's mistreatment of suspected terrorists after 9/11. We know that suspects were transported for questioning to "black sites" abroad, and that two suspected Al Qaeda operatives, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Abu Zubaydah, were subjected to waterboarding. We have read the memos in which Bush administration lawyers used contorted reasoning to justify torture.

But the Intelligence Committee's 6,200-word report, based on a review of millions of pages of documents, contains additional accounts of abuse, including (according to a Washington Post report) the alleged repeated dunking of a terrorism suspect in tanks of ice water at a site in Afghanistan. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the Intelligence Committee chairwoman who aggressively has sought its declassification, said the report "exposes brutality that stands in stark contrast to our values as a nation."

More important, those who have read the report say it concludes that waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation techniques" yielded little valuable intelligence that couldn't have been obtained by other means.

Last week the committee voted to declassify the report's 480-page executive summary along with 20 findings and conclusions, but that represents only the beginning of the disclosure process. The

executive branch will now determine which portions of the document must be redacted to protect sensitive national security information.

The Central Intelligence Agency has promised that it will do its part to ensure that the declassification review proceeds "expeditiously." But the agency complained that a previous version of the report contained serious errors — a charge echoed by the committee's Republican vice chair — and it has a vested interest in suppressing information that would sully its reputation. That is why the president, who has sent mixed signals about the importance of confronting the abuses of the past, must take thorough and timely declassification of this report a personal priority.

Legacies of Rwanda genocide The New York Times

On Monday, Rwanda commemorated the victims of a genocide unleashed 20 years ago by Hutu extremists in power then. More than 800,000 people, mostly Tutsi men, women and children, were systematically hunted down and brutally murdered over a period of just 100 days. The world stood by and let the blood bath happen.

Over the past two decades, Rwanda has done an impressive job of rebuilding its institutions and economy. To bring perpetrators of the genocide to justice, the United Nations has conducted more than 70 tribunal cases, Rwanda's courts have tried up to 20,000 individuals, and the country's Gacaca courts have handled some 1.2 million additional cases. Incredibly, Tutsis and Hutus, survivors and former killers, now live side by side. The government of President Paul Kagame has transformed Rwanda into an island of order and relative prosperity in a poor and politically volatile region.

Despite this, the genocide has left a legacy of unanswered questions and uncorrected failures. It is time to face them. The international community cannot hide behind euphemisms. The reluctance to use the word "genocide" because of the moral horror it carries and the intervention it demands does not change realities on the ground.

It did not spare the United States accusations of shameful paralysis during the Rwandan genocide, and it will not protect the international community from the judgment of history for mass murder now

or in the future. Recognizing the need to respond appropriately to such situations, President Barack Obama created the Atrocities Prevention Board in 2012. But as events in the Central African Republic, Syria and Sudan make clear, the United Nations, regional organizations and allied countries also need to set up international contingency plans to deal with mass atrocities.

It is time for France to open its records to public examination. France had close relations to the Hutu-dominated government that planned and incited the genocide. A lack of clarity about France's role has poisoned its relationship with the Kagame government and hampers France's actions in Mali and the Central African Republic.

Kagame must also be held accountable for abuses in Rwanda and outside its borders, where he has gone after critics in Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and Europe. Civil and political rights in Rwanda are severely restricted. Dissidents and opposition political leaders are subject to harassment, detention and torture. Several have disappeared or been killed.

Addressing the poisonous legacies of Rwanda's genocide is the only way to avert future tragedy, and it is the best way to honor Rwanda's dead.

Give Mideast talks a rest Chicago Tribune

Secretary of State John Kerry sounds frustrated and exhausted. No wonder. He has shuttled time and again to the Middle East to meet a self-imposed late April deadline for a "framework" that could lead to an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

But talks are on the verge of collapse. Let them.

"There are limits to the amount of time and effort that the United States can spend if the parties themselves are unwilling to take constructive steps in order to be able to move forward," Kerry told reporters last week. We're at those limits.

Kerry's warning came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu balked at releasing Palestinian prisoners because, he said, the Palestinians hadn't agreed to extend the negotiation deadline past the end of this month.

And after the Palestinians moved to join 15 international conventions and agreements, defying Israel and the U.S.

And after the U.S. foolishly created the possibility of releasing convicted spy Jonathan Pollard in a transparently desperate bid to keep the Israelis at the table.

Last week, Kerry said the peace process needs a "reality check." We'd say it also needs the U.S. to substitute tough love for denial of the obvious. What would happen if Kerry told the Israelis and Palestinians, Call us when you're ready to make the serious compromises necessary for a deal. Otherwise, we have pressing issues elsewhere in the world.

Secretary Kerry, let's say exactly that.

Everyone knows the broad outlines of a deal — the necessary land swaps and security arrangements. And everyone knows the formidable obstacles. The Palestinians have yielded to the Obama single political banner, with Fatah and Hamas jockeying for advantage. Hamas terrorists rule Gaza and could veto a peace deal with violence.

The U.S. may find a way to hold the parties at the table beyond the latest deadline. But that just means another deadline will arise ... likely to be broken. The U.S. can't broker a deal in the absence of strong motivation from both sides to surmount formidable, historic hurdles.

The U.S. has devoted enough energy to trying, at least for now. Whether it's a quest for peace in the region, or for history's warm smile, or for ultimate credibility as diplomats, American presidents and secretaries of state have been mesmerized, and ultimately demoralized, by searching for this elusive goal. Time to step back.

NHL

Scoreboard

| Eastern Conference | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|---------|
| Atlantic Division | | | | | | |
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF/GA |
| z-Boston | 79 | 53 | 18 | 8 | 114 | 254 171 |
| x-Montreal | 80 | 45 | 27 | 8 | 98 | 214 202 |
| x-Tampa Bay | 80 | 43 | 24 | 9 | 95 | 232 211 |
| Metropolitan Division | | | | | | |
| y-Pittsburgh | 80 | 51 | 24 | 5 | 107 | 243 200 |
| x-N.Y. Rangers | 80 | 34 | 34 | 2 | 79 | 197 219 |
| x-Philadelphia | 79 | 41 | 29 | 9 | 91 | 225 222 |
| Wild Card | | | | | | |
| x-Detroit | 80 | 37 | 15 | 9 | 91 | 218 228 |
| x-Columbus | 80 | 42 | 31 | 7 | 91 | 226 211 |
| Washington | 79 | 36 | 30 | 13 | 85 | 226 237 |
| New Jersey | 79 | 34 | 36 | 16 | 84 | 191 201 |
| Toronto | 80 | 38 | 34 | 8 | 84 | 202 251 |
| Ottawa | 79 | 34 | 31 | 14 | 82 | 230 262 |
| Carolina | 79 | 34 | 31 | 11 | 79 | 197 219 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 79 | 31 | 37 | 13 | 73 | 216 262 |
| Florida | 80 | 38 | 44 | 8 | 64 | 190 263 |
| Buffalo | 80 | 49 | 30 | 1 | 91 | 152 238 |

| Western Conference | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|---------|
| Central Division | | | | | | |
| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF/GA |
| x-St. Louis | 79 | 52 | 20 | 7 | 111 | 246 181 |
| x-Colorado | 79 | 51 | 21 | 7 | 109 | 243 210 |
| x-Chicago | 80 | 46 | 19 | 15 | 107 | 262 209 |
| Pacific Division | | | | | | |
| x-Anaheim | 80 | 45 | 28 | 9 | 125 | 204 |
| x-San Jose | 80 | 49 | 22 | 9 | 124 | 217 |
| x-Los Angeles | 80 | 42 | 28 | 7 | 97 | 200 170 |
| Wild Card | | | | | | |
| x-Minnesota | 80 | 42 | 26 | 12 | 96 | 200 197 |
| Dallas | 80 | 39 | 31 | 11 | 89 | 231 226 |
| Phoenix | 79 | 36 | 28 | 15 | 87 | 212 225 |
| Nashville | 80 | 35 | 32 | 10 | 82 | 200 234 |
| Vancouver | 79 | 35 | 33 | 11 | 87 | 213 |
| Winnipeg | 80 | 35 | 30 | 10 | 80 | 220 223 |
| Calgary | 80 | 35 | 38 | 7 | 77 | 205 231 |
| Edmonton | 80 | 28 | 43 | 9 | 65 | 198 265 |

Notes: Top three teams from each division and the next two teams from each conference with the most points qualify for the playoffs. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for overtime loss, x—clinched playoff spot, y—clinched division, z—clinched conference.

Wednesday's games
 Pittsburgh 4, Detroit 3, 3O
 Calgary 4, Los Angeles 3, 3O
 Chicago 3, Montreal 2, OT
 Columbus 3, Dallas 1

Thursday's games
 Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers
 Washington at Carolina
 N.Y. Islanders at Montreal
 New Jersey at Ottawa
 Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
 Toronto at Florida
 Phoenix at Nashville
 St. Louis at Minnesota
 Boston at Winnipeg
 Los Angeles at Edmonton
 Colorado at Vancouver

Friday's games
 Chicago at Washington
 Carolina at Detroit
 Columbus at Tampa Bay
 N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
 St. Louis at Dallas
 Winnipeg at Calgary
 Colorado at San Jose

Saturday's games
 Buffalo at Boston
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
 N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
 Toronto at Ottawa
 Columbus at Florida
 Chicago at Nashville
 San Jose at Phoenix
 Vancouver at Edmonton
 Anaheim at Los Angeles



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby (87) collides with Detroit's Danny DeKeyser (65) in their second period Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

Wednesday Penguins 4, Red Wings 3 (3O)
 Detroit 1, 1-1 0-3
 Pittsburgh 0, 2-1 0-4

Pittsburgh won shootout 1-0
First Period—1, Detroit, Jurco 5 (Alfredsson, Heini), 10:41
Second Period—2, Pittsburgh, Neal 2 (Crosby, Martin), 9:03 (pp.), Detroit, Kindl 2 (Tatar, Nqvist), 14:22, 4, Pittsburgh, Neal 2 (Niskanen, Martin), 16:42 (pp.)
Third Period—5, Pittsburgh, Jokinen 2 (Leung, Niskanen), 5:17, 6, Detroit, Sheahan 7 (Kromvald), 18:25

Shootout—Detroit 0 (Alfredsson NG, Datsyuk NG, Tatar NG), Pittsburgh 1 (Neal NG, Crosby NG, Jokinen G)

Shots on Goal—Detroit 13-9-12-3-37, Pittsburgh 4-6-10-4-24

Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 2; Pittsburgh 2 of 4

Goalies—Detroit, Gustavsson 16-5-4 (24 shots-21 saves), Pittsburgh, Fleury 39-18-4 (37-34)

A—18,620 (18,387), T—2:35.

Flames 4, Kings 3 (5O)
 Los Angeles 0, 2-1 0-3
 Calgary 1, 2-1 0-4

Calgary won shootout 2-1
First Period—1, Calgary, Gallardi 4 (Cammalleri, Hudler), 11:58
Second Period—2, Calgary, Monahan 21 (Gallardi), 4:00, 3, Calgary, Stajan 14 (Agostino), 15:28, 4, Los Angeles, Stoll 8 (Vovnov, Pearson), 16:09, 5, Los Angeles, Koptiw 26 (Gaborik, Vovnov), 16:33
Third Period—6, Los Angeles, King 15 (Muzzin), 12:18

Shootout—Los Angeles 1 (Koptiw NG, Gaborik G, Carter NG, Richards NG), Calgary 2 (Colborne NG, Cammalleri NG, Hudler G, Monahan G)

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 11-15-13-5-44, Calgary 6-6-9-4-18

Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 0; Calgary 0 of 0

Goalies—Los Angeles, Quick 27-17-13 (44-41), Calgary, Ramo 17-13-4 (44-41)

A—19,289 (19,289), T—2:40.

Blue Jackets 3, Stars 1
 Columbus 3, 0 0-3
 Dallas 1, 0 0-1-1

First Period—1, Columbus, Hossa 5 (Cavert, Wisniewski), 00:2, Columbus, Anisimov 22, 1:33, 3, Columbus, Letestu 11 (Johansen, Savard), 13:27 (pp.)
Third Period—4, Dallas, Daley 8 (A. Bern, Seguin), 8:38 (pp.)

Shots on Goal—Columbus 12-11-2-25, Dallas 8-8-18-34

Power-play opportunities—Columbus 1 of 3; Dallas 1 of 4

Goalies—Columbus, Bobrovsky 31-20-5 (34 shots-33 saves), Dallas, Thomas 18-25-4 (25-23)

A—16,125 (18,532), T—2:22.

Blackhawks 3, Canadiens 2 (OT)
 Montreal 0, 0 2 0-2
 Chicago 0, 0 2 1-3

Third Period—1, Montreal, Weise 6 (Gorges, Bourque), 7:31, 2, Chicago, Morin 4 (Brookbank), 10:34, 3, Montreal, Bouillon 2 (Vaneck, Desharnais), 10:56, 4, Chicago, Hossa 29 (Sharp, Handzus), 19:12

Overtime—5, Chicago, Sharp 34 (Keith, Hossa), 4:43

Shots on Goal—Montreal 13-10-6-1-30, Chicago 11-6-10-1-28

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 0; Chicago 0 of 2

Goalies—Montreal, Budaj 10-8-3 (28 shots-25 saves), Chicago, Crawford 32-15-4 (25-23)

A—21,571 (19,717), T—2:26.

Ducks 5, Sharks 2
 San Jose 1, 3 0-2
 Anaheim 1, 3 1-5

First Period—1, San Jose, Demers 5 (Beleskey), 18:17, 2, Anaheim, Perry 4 (Selanne, Perreault), 3:32, 4, San Jose, Couture 22, 7:23, 5, Anaheim, Maroon 10 (Selanne, Lindholm), 16:46
Third Period—1, Anaheim, Silfverberg 10 (Cogliandro), 18:22 (en-sh)

Shots on Goal—San Jose 12-11-15-38, Anaheim 11-12-7-30

Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 5; Anaheim 0 of 1

Goalies—San Jose, Niemi 38-17-17 (19 shots-15 saves), Stalock 35-35 second, 10-9; Anaheim, Gibson 2-0-0 (38-36)

A—11,722 (17,174), T—2:33.

Leaders

| Scoring Through April 9 | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|-----|
| GP | G | A | Pts |
| 79 | 36 | 67 | 103 |
| 76 | 31 | 56 | 87 |
| 78 | 47 | 87 | 93 |
| 82 | 43 | 79 | 87 |
| 77 | 27 | 54 | 81 |
| 80 | 37 | 43 | 80 |
| 80 | 44 | 78 | 88 |
| 75 | 50 | 27 | 77 |
| 80 | 38 | 77 | 77 |
| 80 | 34 | 43 | 77 |
| 80 | 29 | 49 | 70 |
| 79 | 20 | 52 | 72 |
| 71 | 23 | 50 | 70 |

Goaltending

| GP | SV | GA | GAA |
|----|-------|-----|------|
| 69 | 690 | 46 | 1.65 |
| 30 | 679 | 53 | 1.96 |
| 44 | 1,075 | 87 | 2.00 |
| 48 | 1,159 | 97 | 2.05 |
| 57 | 1,616 | 114 | 2.06 |

Roundup

Wings' playoff streak extended to 23 years

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Detroit Red Wings pulled off a spectacular finish to earn a 23rd straight trip to the playoffs.

Riley Sheahan scored with a minute to spare in regulation, securing the Red Wings the one point they needed to advance, but they lost 4-3 to the Pittsburgh Penguins in a shootout on Wednesday.

"It was a pretty good feeling to get that point and give us a chance in the playoffs," Sheahan said.

James Neal scored two power-play goals in regulation — his 25th and 26th of the season — for Pittsburgh, which got the 26-year-old Kris Letang back after missing 26 games since suffering a stroke in January.

"He's been out a long time and he looked pretty darn good there during that time when he's been out," Bylsma said. "He made a difference."

Tomas Jurco, Jakub Kindl and Sheahan scored for the Red Wings. Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury had 34 saves through overtime and stopped all three shootout attempts, including an acrobatic glove save on Daniel Alfredsson for the win.

On the winning goal, Jonas Gustavsson poked the puck off Jokinen's stick but it caromed high over the Detroit goalie and into the net.

"He lost the puck and it started rolling so I was going to touch it," Gustavsson said. "It took a funny bounce and lobbed over me. It was a lucky break for that."

With the scored tied 2-2, Letang set up the go-ahead goal with 10:43 remaining in the third, his shot squeezing through Gustavsson before Jokinen fired the loose puck to put Pittsburgh in front. It was Jokinen's 19th goal of the season.

Sheahan forced overtime and put the Red Wings in the playoffs when he scored his seventh of the year with 1:15 left in regulation.

Blue Jackets 3, Stars 1: Artem Anisimov and Mark Letestu added goals to the one his team already had when the make-up game started and Columbus clinched the second playoff berth in franchise history with a victory over host Dallas.

The Blue Jackets had a 1-0 lead when the puck dropped because that was the score March 10, the night the original game was postponed after Dallas forward Kirk Peeverly collapsed on the bench with an irregular heartbeat.

Columbus set a franchise record with 42 wins, beating the previous mark from its only other playoff season in 2008-09.

Ducks 5, Sharks 2: Patrick Maroon scored two goals, John Gibson made 36 saves in his second NHL start and host Anaheim beat San Jose to clinch its second straight Pacific Division title.

Cory Perry scored his 43rd goal as the Ducks topped the second-place Sharks with a three-goal third period to earn their first back-to-back division titles.

Matt Beleskey also scored for the Ducks as they pushed a point ahead of St. Louis for the Western Conference lead.

Blackhawks 3, Canadiens 3 (OT): Patrick Sharp set up Marian Hossa's tying goal in the final minute of regulation and then scored the game-winner 43 seconds into overtime to lift Chicago over visiting Montreal.

Flames 4, Kings 3 (5O): Sean Monahan scored his 21st goal and then got the shootout winner as host Calgary beat Los Angeles for its fourth straight win.

T.J. Galiardi and Matt Stajan also scored in regulation for Calgary, which has won seven of 10.



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NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

Roundup

Pacers rest starters, pass Heat for first

The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — When Indiana Pacers coach Frank Vogel benched his starters for the entire game against the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday night, it meant extended playing time for the team's reserves.

Chris Copeland made sure to take advantage. Copeland scored a season-high 18 points and made a difficult driving layup with 1.2 seconds remaining, giving the Pacers a hard-fought 104-102 that moved them back into first place in the Eastern Conference.

"It's big for our confidence, the second unit," said Copeland, who came in averaging three points. "Just to get the opportunity out there. A lot of us have been waiting for that all year. So it was very cool for us to get out there and get a win and show the starters that we've got their backs when they need rest."

Even without the starters, Indiana moved a half-game ahead of the Heat heading into Friday's matchup in Miami.

Copeland also tied a career high with four three-pointers and matched a season high with 17 minutes of playing time.

Following a pair of timeouts, the Pacers inbounded the ball to Copeland, who drove hard to the basket for the winning shot.

"I tried to rip through to the basket and tried to use my size," Copeland said. "I saw help coming, so I shot it."

Celtics 107, Heat 102: Zach Randolph had 25 points and 11 rebounds, Marc Gasol added 20 points and 14 rebounds and host Memphis kept its playoff hopes alive with a victory over Miami.

LeBron James led the Heat with 37 points, connecting on 14 of 23 shots, including three of five from beyond the arc. Rashard Lewis scored 17 and Chris Bosh finished with 13 points. Mario Chalmers scored 12 points for the Heat.

Meanwhile, the loss, coupled with the Indiana's victory, dropped the Heat into the second spot in the Eastern Conference.

Mike Conley finished with a team-high 26 points and handed out six assists as Memphis remained one game behind the Phoenix Suns for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. The Suns defeated New Orleans 94-88 also on Wednesday night.

Bobcats 94, Wizards 88 (OT): Kemba Walker made the only field goal for either team in overtime, and visiting Charlotte won its fifth straight and moved into position for the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference with a win over Washington.

Walker made a three-pointer and a pair of free throws in the extra session, and Al Jefferson added two free throws to account for all of the Bobcats' post-regulation scoring. Washington was 0-for-8 in OT and got its only point from a free throw by John Wall with 34 seconds remaining.

Cavaliers 122, Pistons 100: Dion Waiters scored 22 points and host Cleveland played one of its best games this season, routing Detroit before being eliminated from contention for all of the playoffs. **Hawks 105, Celtics 97:** Jeff Teague scored 19 points. Kyle Korver added 17 and host Atlanta held its playoff chances with a victory over Boston.



Tom Lynx/AP

Indiana Pacers' Donald Sloan drives to the basket against Milwaukee Bucks' Ramon Sessions during the second half on Wednesday in Milwaukee.

With four games remaining in the regular season, Atlanta increased its lead to two games over the New York Knicks for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

Trail Blazers 100, Kings 99: Dorell Wright hit a three-pointer with 7.9 seconds left as host Portland held off Pacific division rival Sacramento.

Ray McCallum missed a 21-foot jumper as time ran out for the Kings and Portland's Robin Lopez grabbed the rebound and held it tight for the victory.

Bulls 102, Timberwolves 87: D.J. Augustin scored 21 points and Joakim Noah posted his league-leading fourth triple-double of the season, leading visiting Chicago over Minnesota.

Noah had 15 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists to move into a tie with Indiana's Lance Stephenson for the most triple-doubles in the NBA this season. The Bulls hit 11 of 21 three-pointers to stay right on Toronto's heels for the third seed in the Eastern Conference.

Suns 94, Pelicans 88: At New Orleans, Gerald Green scored 21 points, as Phoenix, which is clinging to the final playoff spot in the Western Conference, won its third straight game.

Nuggets 123, Rockets 116: Randy Foye scored 24 of his 30 points in the second half, and host Denver hung on to beat Houston.

Raptors 125, Wizards 114: Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 12 rebounds to lift host Toronto over Philadelphia less than three days after he was charged with drunken driving.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto with 29 points in his first game back after missing three with a bruised kneecap.

Magic 125, Nets 111: Arron Afflalo scored 25 points, E'Twaun Moore added 17 and host Orlando held off a late rally to beat Brooklyn, which played without injured starters Paul Pierce and Shaun Livingston.

Tobias Harris added 16 points and eight rebounds, and Jameer Nelson had 14 points and seven assists for Orlando, which won its second straight.

Joe Johnson scored 31 points and Mirza Teletovic had 17 as the Nets had a three-game winning streak stopped.

Briefly

Prosecutor: Pistorius untruthful, an egotist

The Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — Oscar Pistorius' credibility was consistently questioned at his murder trial Thursday as the chief prosecutor argued that the star athlete had a string of unlikely excuses why he wasn't to blame in the three gun charges he faces on top of murder for the shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Prosecutor Gerrie Nel, in cross-examining Pistorius for a second day, questioned Pistorius' honesty, which goes to the heart of the case, asserting that the double-amputee Olympian wouldn't "accept responsibility for anything" and reacted incredulously to Pistorius' explanation of why a gun he was handling fired under a table in a packed restaurant.

Pistorius said the gun, a Glock pistol, went off while he was holding it but insisted it happened without him pulling the trigger. The incident happened just weeks before model Reeva Steenkamp was shot to death by Pistorius on Feb. 14, 2013. A police expert testified earlier at the trial that the gun couldn't be fired without the trigger being pulled.

Nel said, "We have you in possession of the gun, a shot went off, but you didn't discharge the gun? ... I'm putting it to you, you fired that gun. There is no other way," Nel said. "You are lying."

"I respect Mr. Nel's comment," Pistorius replied, "but I didn't pull the trigger on that firearm."

Pistorius also said two witnesses, a former girlfriend and a friend, were both lying about an incident in 2012 when the runner is alleged to have fired his gun out the sunroof of a moving car.

"You just don't want to accept responsibility for anything," Nel said to Pistorius. Pistorius' answers to the accusations were forward short denials.

By attacking Pistorius' credibility on the other three charges, Nel was pushing the prosecution's argument that Pistorius, a celebrated disabled athlete, is also lying about killing his girlfriend by mistake in the pre-dawn hours of Valentine's Day last year.

Pistorius, 27, says Steenkamp's death was a terrible accident after he mistook her for an intruder and fired four times with his licensed 9 mm pistol through a toilet door

and into a cubicle. Prosecutors say he intended to kill the 29-year-old after a loud argument heard by witnesses and charged him with premeditated murder — for which he faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted.

Pistorius insisted again Thursday, the second day of his cross-examination by Nel — that the shooting was an accident and he did not intentionally fire four shots.

"I didn't have time to think about if I wanted to or didn't want to," Pistorius said.

Hamilton out 6-8 weeks with torn thumb ligament

SEATTLE — Josh Hamilton's attempt to beat out an infield grounder with a headfirst slide into first base landed him on the bench for up to two months.

The 2010 AL MVP was placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday by the Los Angeles Angels with a torn ligament in his left thumb. He was hurt trying to hustle down the line and beat out a grounder in the seventh inning of Tuesday night's loss to Seattle. Hamilton was thrown out, but the consequences of his decision ended up being far greater.

"The news sucks. Anytime you play and you're playing hard and having fun, the last thing you want to do is do something that is going to cause you to miss time and maybe hurt your team in the long run," Hamilton said. "If I could see the future, obviously, I wouldn't do it."

Los Angeles said an MRI Wednesday revealed a complete tear of the thumb's ulnar collateral ligament.

In other baseball news:

■ Oakland manager Bob Melvin says the Athletics will move forward with a closer-by-committee approach while they work to get the struggling Jim Johnson back on track.

Melvin made the announcement to A's beat writers on Thursday before his team wrapped up a three-game series against the Minnesota Twins. Johnson is 0-2 with an 18.90 ERA in five appearances this season. He blew a save on Wednesday against the Twins, and Melvin said Johnson needs some time away from the role to get straightened out.

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NLB SCOREBOARD

American League

Table with columns: East Division, Pct, GB, Cincinnati, Red Sox, Cardinals, St. Louis, Tampa Bay, Boston, New York, Detroit, Cleveland, Kansas City, Chicago, Minnesota.

Table with columns: West Division, Oakland, Los Angeles, Texas, Houston.

National League

Table with columns: East Division, Pct, GB, Washington, Atlanta, Miami, New York, Philadelphia.

Table with columns: West Division, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Colorado, Pittsburgh, Arizona.

Wednesday's games

Table with columns: Oakland @ Minnesota, Kansas City @ Tampa Bay, Boston @ Texas, Baltimore @ N.Y. Yankees, Toronto @ Houston, Detroit @ Seattle, Cleveland @ St. Diego, St. Louis @ Chicago, Los Angeles @ Cleveland, Washington @ Miami, Milwaukee @ Philadelphia, Atlanta @ N.Y. Mets, Chicago @ Pittsburgh, St. Louis @ L.A. Dodgers, Arizona @ San Francisco.

Thursday's games

Table with columns: Boston @ N.Y. Yankees, Toronto @ Toronto, Cleveland @ Chicago, Miami @ Washington, Philadelphia @ Philadelphia, Arizona @ San Francisco, Boston @ N.Y. Yankees, Toronto @ Toronto, Cleveland @ Chicago, Miami @ Washington, Philadelphia @ Philadelphia, Arizona @ San Francisco.

Friday's games

Table with columns: Boston (Lester 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 1-1), Toronto (McGowan 0-1) at Baltimore (Norris 0-1), Houston (Feldman 2-0) at Texas (Darvish 1-0), Oakland (Carrasco 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Sale 2-0), Kansas City (B.Chen 0-4) at Minnesota (Cabrera 2-0), Oakland (Milone 0-0) at Seattle (Lincecum 2-0), Miami (Fernandez 2-0) at Philadelphia (Burnett 0-1), Toronto (Parker 1-0) at Cincinnati (Cuezo 1-1), Washington (Roche 1-0) at Atlanta (Teheran 1-1), Pittsburgh (Liriano 0-1) at Milwaukee (W.Peralta 0-1), Chicago Cubs (Sarmadzeja 1-0) at St. Louis (McDonald 1-0), L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 1-1) at Arizona (Mets 0-0), N.Y. Mets (Ge 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Skaggs 1-0), Pittsburgh (Porcello 1-0) at San Diego (Cashner 1-0), Cleveland (De La Rosa 0-1) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 1-0).

Wednesday

Athletes 7, Twins 4 (11)

Table with columns: Oakland, Athletics, Minnesota, Field, D'Armentis, Dronin, Barton, Cepeda, Johnson, Jaso, Rodriguez, Reddick, Pantoja, Putsch, Totals.

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Athletes 7, Twins 4 (11)

Table with columns: Oakland, Athletics, Minnesota, Field, D'Armentis, Dronin, Barton, Cepeda, Johnson, Jaso, Rodriguez, Reddick, Pantoja, Putsch, Totals.

T-3=41, A-22,973 (39,021).

Reds 4, Cardinals 0

Table with columns: Cincinnati, St. Louis, BtHm/cf 4 2 3 0, Phillips 5f 5 2 1 0, Volte lf 4 0 0 0, Bruce rf 3 0 0 0, Frasier lf 4 0 0 0, Heisey if 4 1 2 0, J.Perez ss 2 0 0 0, R.Santuz ss 4 0 1 0, Neshek p 0 0 0 0, Lepp p 3 0 0 0, Hendrix p 0 0 0 0, MParr p 0 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 0, DP--McDonald (1), SF--Bruce.

Nationals 10, Marlins 7

Table with columns: Miami, Washington, Yellich lf 4 3 3 1, Span cf 4 1 2 0, Dietch 2b 4 0 2 1, Lendon 2b 4 2 2 0, Jones lf 4 0 3 2, LaRoch lf 5 1 1 0, Gentry lf 4 0 1 0, Campnr p 0 0 0 0, Dobbz ph 1 0 0 0, Harper if 4 1 1 1, Sillmch c 4 1 1 0, Zimrn p 0 0 0 0, Quiza cf 0 0 0 0, Htchc p 5 1 2 0, Dettwjr p 0 0 0 0, Hand p 2 0 0 0, Frdnsh p 1 0 0 0, Lopez p 0 0 0 0, Diggins p 0 0 0 0, Clpprd p 0 0 0 0, Sattalbmachia (1), Werth (1), Harper (1), Rsrin p 0 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Nationals 10, Marlins 7, DP--Stanton (1), Dietrich (1), Ozuza (2), Zimmerman (2), HR--Hechavarría (1), Rendon (1), HR--Dietrich (1), Sattalbmachia (1), Werth (1), Harper (1), SB--Yellich (2), SF--GJones.

Royals 7, Rays 3

Table with columns: Tampa Bay, Kansas City, Deyess lf 4 0 0 0, Aoki if 4 1 1 1, Warr 2b 4 0 0 0, Joyce dh 3 0 1 0, Hsmer lf 4 2 2 0, Longbr 3b 2 0 1 0, BtHm/cf 4 1 1 0, Acord 2b 4 0 0 0, Doney lf 4 0 0 0, S.Perez c 3 0 1 0, Myers if 4 2 2 0, L.Cain if 3 1 0 0, Haignc p 4 0 1 0, AEscors p 4 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Tampa Bay 3, Kansas City 7, DP--Barnes (1), Kansas City 1, LOB--Tampa Bay 6, Kansas City 4, HR--Gowdy (1), DeCarab (1), SF--Aoki (1), HR--DeJennings (1), Gordon (1), CS--A.Jennings (1), AEscobar (1), SF--Glawie-walsh (1).

Pittsburgh 7, Pirates 5

Table with columns: Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Marte lf 4 0 0 0, Bonafaci 5 2 2 0, Snider rf 4 1 1 0, Sbrnc 5 0 1 0, Palkw 4 2 2 0, Ruzick 3b 5 2 1 0, NAWrk 3b 3 0 0 0, Lake lf 4 1 2 1, Ikhshb id 4 0 0 0, Castillo c 3 0 2 0, W.Rodriguez 4 2 0 0, Barney 2b 4 0 0 0, WRkd p 1 0 0 0, Hamm p 2 0 0 0, G.H. 2b 0 0 0 0, Strop p 0 0 0 0, JGonz p 0 0 0 0, HRnd p 0 0 0 0, Putsch p 0 0 0 0, J.WuJw p 0 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 5, DP--Luttrell (1), LOB--Pittsburgh 1, Philadelphia 2, Balfanz (1), R.Martin (2), Olt (2), Lake (1), SF--Hammel.

Cubs 7, Pirates 5

Table with columns: Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Marte lf 4 0 0 0, Bonafaci 5 2 2 0, Snider rf 4 1 1 0, Sbrnc 5 0 1 0, Palkw 4 2 2 0, Ruzick 3b 5 2 1 0, NAWrk 3b 3 0 0 0, Lake lf 4 1 2 1, Ikhshb id 4 0 0 0, Castillo c 3 0 2 0, W.Rodriguez 4 2 0 0, Barney 2b 4 0 0 0, WRkd p 1 0 0 0, Hamm p 2 0 0 0, G.H. 2b 0 0 0 0, Strop p 0 0 0 0, JGonz p 0 0 0 0, HRnd p 0 0 0 0, Putsch p 0 0 0 0, J.WuJw p 0 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 5, DP--Luttrell (1), LOB--Pittsburgh 1, Philadelphia 2, Balfanz (1), R.Martin (2), Olt (2), Lake (1), SF--Hammel.

Chicago 2B, White Sox 4

Table with columns: Chicago, Colorado, Eaton cf 4 1 2 1, Blckm/cf-rf 5 2 3 1, Gomez lf 4 0 0 0, Abreu lf 4 0 2 0, Gonzalez if 5 1 3 2, Gattuso lf 4 0 0 0, Barney 2b 4 0 0 0, Gilgasi 3b 4 0 1 2, Mornz lf 2 1 2 0, AGarcif 1 0 0 0, Stobs pcf 1 1 0 0, (1), Acia 1 0 0 0, Alrnzss 4 1 1 0, Culersen 3 0 0 0, R.Rosen 2 0 0 0, Erhps 3 0 0 0, Nicasp 2 0 0 0, Elrns p 0 0 0 0, Belsie p 0 0 0 0, Ottavp 0 0 0 0, Belsie p 0 0 0 0, Kernph 1 0 0 0, Rutelgh 1 1 1 1, Hwks p 0 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Chicago 2, White Sox 4, DP--Cabrera (1), SF--Sarmez (1), HR--Gonzalez (1), Mornz (1), LeMahieu (1), SB--Sarmez (1), SF--Culberson.

Chicago 2B, White Sox 4

Table with columns: Chicago, Colorado, Eaton cf 4 1 2 1, Blckm/cf-rf 5 2 3 1, Gomez lf 4 0 0 0, Abreu lf 4 0 2 0, Gonzalez if 5 1 3 2, Gattuso lf 4 0 0 0, Barney 2b 4 0 0 0, Gilgasi 3b 4 0 1 2, Mornz lf 2 1 2 0, AGarcif 1 0 0 0, Stobs pcf 1 1 0 0, (1), Acia 1 0 0 0, Alrnzss 4 1 1 0, Culersen 3 0 0 0, R.Rosen 2 0 0 0, Erhps 3 0 0 0, Nicasp 2 0 0 0, Elrns p 0 0 0 0, Belsie p 0 0 0 0, Ottavp 0 0 0 0, Belsie p 0 0 0 0, Kernph 1 0 0 0, Rutelgh 1 1 1 1, Hwks p 0 0 0 0.

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Nationals 10, Marlins 7

Table with columns: Miami, Washington, Yellich lf 4 3 3 1, Span cf 4 1 2 0, Dietch 2b 4 0 2 1, Lendon 2b 4 2 2 0, Jones lf 4 0 3 2, LaRoch lf 5 1 1 0, Gentry lf 4 0 1 0, Campnr p 0 0 0 0, Dobbz ph 1 0 0 0, Harper if 4 1 1 1, Sillmch c 4 1 1 0, Zimrn p 0 0 0 0, Quiza cf 0 0 0 0, Htchc p 5 1 2 0, Dettwjr p 0 0 0 0, Hand p 2 0 0 0, Frdnsh p 1 0 0 0, Lopez p 0 0 0 0, Diggins p 0 0 0 0, Clpprd p 0 0 0 0, Sattalbmachia (1), Werth (1), Harper (1), Rsrin p 0 0 0 0.

Table with columns: Totals, Nationals 10, Marlins 7, DP--Stanton (1), Dietrich (1), Ozuza (2), Zimmerman (2), HR--Hechavarría (1), Rendon (1), HR--Dietrich (1), Sattalbmachia (1), Werth (1), Harper (1), SB--Yellich (2), SF--GJones.

Blue Jays 7, Astros 3

Table with columns: Houston, Toronto, Fowler cf 3 1 1 0, McCarr if 5 1 2 0, Presley rf 4 1 1 2, Izuris 2b 4 2 2 1, Krasco c 4 0 0 0, Bautist rf 3 2 2 1, Altuve 2b 4 0 1 0, Encnc lf 4 0 0 0, Krauss lf 4 0 2 0, Lind dh 3 0 1 1, Gass 3b 3 0 0 0, Lawrie 3b 4 1 1 2, Villar ss 3 0 0 0, Rasmis cf 3 0 0 0, HR--Presley (2), Lawrie (1), SB--Gass (1).

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MLB



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Washington Nationals' Jayson Werth, center, celebrates his game-winning grand slam with Anthony Rendon, right, and Nate McLouth during the eighth inning of Wednesday's 10-7 victory over the Miami Marlins at Nationals Park in Washington. The blast was Werth's first home run of the season.

NL roundup

Werth blasts Nats by Marlins

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Jayson Werth entered Washington's eighth game of the season with two homers and a grand total of one RBI.

Bryce Harper* He also came into Wednesday without a long ball and hadn't driven in a run. He was hitting .160, had nearly three times as many strikeouts as hits and was dropped to seventh in the batting order.

They both got going in a hurry. Werth delivered a go-ahead grand slam in the eighth inning off Carlos Marmol after Harper's uppercut three-run homer started a comeback from an early deficit, and the Nationals beat the Miami Marlins 10-7 Wednesday night.

"Crazy game. Back and forth," said Werth, who violently tossed his bat after making contact on his homer. "One of those games where you play that long, you want to win."

Helped by 3 1/3 innings from

Craig Stammen after Jordan Zimmermann produced his shortest start in the majors, Washington overcame deficits of 5-0 and 7-6. Werth's shot off Marmol (0-1) came with one out, after the reliever allowed a single, hit a batter, then intentionally walked Anthony Rendon to load the bases.

"Knowing Jayson, if the pitcher looks at him wrong, he'll take that personally," Stammen said. "So them blatantly walking to get to him — typically they don't walk to get to your 3-hole hitter, especially a veteran guy that's proven he can get big hits. But they chose to, and it worked out in our favor this time."

Werth helped make a winner of Tyler Clippard (1-1), who yielded Garrett Jones' tiebreaking RBI double in the top of the eighth after walking a pair of batters. Rafael Soriano, Washington's sixth pitcher, worked the ninth for his second save.

Reds 4, Cardinals 0: Billy

Hamilton had three hits and his first two steals to support a four-hit inning from Mike Leake (1-0) in Cincinnati's win over St. Louis, avoiding a series sweep.

Cubs 7, Pirates 5: Jason Hamel (2-0) threw seven strong innings and Anthony Rizzo had four hits as host Chicago beat Pittsburgh despite allowing five solo home runs.

Braves 4, Mets 3: Ervin Santana (1-0) allowed only three hits over eight scoreless innings in his debut, Jason Heyward homered and drove in two runs and Atlanta held off visiting New York.

Brewers 9, Phillies 4: Ryan Braun hit a two-run triple during a four-run eighth inning rally to lead Milwaukee over host Philadelphia for its fifth straight victory.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 3: Paul Goldschmidt hit a three-run homer and a sacrifice fly to pound Tim Lincecum again as Arizona beat host San Francisco.

AL roundup

O's rally past Yanks in Tanaka's debut

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Masahiro Tanaka made Adam Jones look silly in his first two at-bats. Still, the All-Star center fielder who is always at the ready with a not-so-safe opinion wasn't all that impressed by the young Japanese pitcher:

"Nick Markakis had an RBI single in the ninth inning against fill-in closer Shawn Kelley, and the Baltimore Orioles rallied for a 5-4 victory over the New York Yankees Wednesday after wasting a three-run lead against Tanaka."

"We're not the same hitters he faced over there. We groove, we hack," said Jones, who struck out twice before getting a single in his three at-bats off Tanaka.

Jonathan Schoop hit a soaring three-run homer off Tanaka in the second inning of the right-hander's first start at Yankee Stadium but Carlos Beltran and Koji Yohjima connected against Miguel Gonzalez in the bottom of the inning.

"He just made a mistake, kept a slider up," Schoop said. "I tried to make adjustments as he tried to elevate me, and then he made a mistake."

The Orioles, who managed only seven hits while striking out 10 times against Tanaka in seven innings, lined four straight hits to center field off Kelley, pitching the ninth for the second time in place of the injured David Robertson.

Ryan Flaherty and Schoop each lined 9-2 pitches from Kelley (0-1) and Markakis singled in Flaherty and, after Delmon Young got his third hit of the night, Chris Davis made it 5-3 with a sacrifice fly.

"I felt like they did a good job getting the barrel to some good pitches," Kelly said. "If I bounced some off Smith, maybe they're swinging and misses."

Tommy Hunter gave up two hits to start the ninth and a sacrifice fly to former Oriole Brian Roberts before getting Yanervis Solarte to ground into a double play for his third save, finishing off the Orioles' second straight win over New York. Brian Matz gave two outs (1-0) for the win.

Angels 2, Mariners 0: Albert Pujols homered for the second straight game while Garrett Richards (2-0) and two relievers combined on a one-hitter as Los Angeles beat host Seattle.

On the day the Angels lost Josh Hamilton for potentially up to two months to injury, Pujols provided the biggest blow, a two-run homer in the third off Seattle starter Roenis Elias (0-1).

Red Sox 4, Rangers 2: David Ortiz hit a three-run homer high over the Pesky Pole in the eighth inning as Boston rallied to beat Texas.

Andrew Miller (1-0) won despite allowing the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth, and Koji Uehara pitched the ninth for his second save.

Athletics 7, Twins 4: Derek Norris hit a three-run homer in the 11th inning off Jared Burton (0-1) as Oakland bounced back from another blown save by new closer Jim Johnson to beat host Minnesota.

Royals 7, Rays 3: Alex Gordon hit a three-run homer and matched a career high with four RBIs as host Kansas City beat Tampa Bay.

Jeremy Guthrie (2-0) held the Rays to four hits over seven innings.

Blue Jays 7, Astros 3: Brett Lawrie hit a two-run homer and Brandon Morrow (1-1) won for the first time in almost 11 months as Toronto beat visiting Houston.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 28

Red Sox 4, Rangers 2

| Texas | ab | r | h | bi | Boston | ab | r | h | bi |
|------------|----|---|---|----|---------------|----|---|---|----|
| Choo if | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Siems if | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Andrus ss | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | Przyby pl | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Felder dh | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Carew ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rios rf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | Pedroia 2b | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Clayton lf | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | D.Ortiz dh | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| D.Mrsh 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Napoli lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| L.Martin c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Boggs ss | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chirich c | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Nava rf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adduci ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | RKorts 3b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| J.Owens 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | Wright 1b | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kemmer ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | J.Herrr 3b | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Bryant cf | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Totals | 30 | 2 | 5 | 2 | Brewer 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Texas | | | | | 001 000 110-2 | | | | |
| Boston | | | | | 001 000 03x-4 | | | | |

R-Ross (1), DP—Texas 3, LOB—Tex 4, Boston 4, 2B—Choo (2), Andrus (2), D.Ortiz (2), HR—Moreland (1), D.Ortiz (2), SB—Rios (2), CS—Choo (1), Bogaerts (1), SF—Rios.

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|--------------|-------|---|---|----|----|----|
| R.Ross | 5 1/2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 4 |
| Clayton L.O. | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Cotts B.S.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Boston

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|----------------|-------|---|---|----|----|----|
| Peavy | 6 2/3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Tzuwaa | 1/3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| A.Miller W.1-0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Uehara S.2-2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

T—257, A—33,585 (37,071).

Interleague roundup

Padres win pitcher's duel to split with Indians

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — San Diego manager Bud Black was finally able to smile after a long, cold day at the ballpark.

The Padres, who were blanked 2-0 in the first game Wednesday against Cleveland, managed to grind out a 2-1 win in game two for a split of the doubleheader.

Robbie Erlin allowed one run in six innings and Chase Headley's single in the sixth drove in the go-ahead run as San Diego salvaged something from a day that saw temperatures plunge near the freezing mark.

"Obviously, we needed a well-pitched game and Robbie stepped up after a very tough loss in game one to pitch us to victory," Black said.

Cleveland's pitching dominated a 2-0 victory in the first game. Zach McAllister pitched 7 1/3 scoreless innings and Jason Kipnis hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

Erlin (1-0) held the Indians to four hits, struck out six and didn't walk a batter. Three relievers blanked the Indians, including Huston Street, who pitched the ninth for his third save.

"We've seen the development of a young pitcher," Black said of Erlin. "He's still got a way to go, but if you look back to last year and look at today, it was great to see."

San Diego scored in the first, thanks in part to a call on the field that was ruled a no-catch by first base umpire Bob Davidson, even though Indians right fielder Elliot Johnson appeared to have made

the play on a ball hit by Chris Denryna. Indians manager Terry Francona used his challenge to have the play reviewed, but replay officials in New York upheld the call on the field.

Trevor Bauer (0-1), added to the roster to start the game, allowed two runs and struck out a career-high eight in six innings.

In the sixth, Everth Cabrera led off with a single and, with one out, Bauer hit Smith with a pitch and walked Yonder Alonso. Headley lined a single into left field to give San Diego the lead.

Eric Stults (0-2) took a shutout into the sixth, but third baseman Alexi Amarista's throwing error was followed by Kipnis' first home run of the season. **Rockies 10, White Sox 4:** D.J. LeMahieu's two-run single broke

a tie in a six-run eighth inning, sending host Colorado to a win over Chicago.

LeMahieu finished with three hits, including an RBI double in the sixth that tied the game at 4.

Colorado broke open the game in the eighth with its biggest inning this season. Justin Morneau started the rally with a single off Scott Downs (0-2). The Rockies sent 11 batters to the plate, with LeMahieu coming up with a big hit to center.

Pitch-hitter Josh Rutledge and Michael Cuddyer added run-scoring singles, while Carlos Gonzalez hit a two-run double down the line.

Rex Brothers (1-0), who got two outs in the eighth as the Rockies took two of three in the series from the White Sox.

MLB



PAUL BEATY/AP

Minnesota's Josh Willingham, left, slides into home plate safely in front of Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers on Thursday. Some managers have complained about confusion over the implementation of baseball's new rule against catchers blocking home plate. MLB intends to clarify the rule.

Collision rule confusion?

Astros' Porter says clarification needed on plate-blocking

By Ian Harrison
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Major League Baseball's new rule on home plate collisions is causing some confusion.

Houston Astros manager Bo Porter had a telephone conversation Wednesday with Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa, currently a special assistant to baseball commissioner Bud Selig. Porter said La Russa told him the league intends to clarify its rule on blocking the plate, and how such calls are challenged and reviewed.

"My understanding is there will be a memo coming out that will bring some more clarity to it," Porter said before the Astros played the Blue Jays on Wednesday night.

MLB spokesman Michael Teven said he wasn't aware of any plans for a new memo.

Porter telephoned La Russa after Astros outfielder L.J. Hoes was called out at the plate on an infield grounder in the eighth inning of Tuesday's 5-2 loss.

That made him the second manager in four days to pick up the phone after a call at home plate. On Saturday, Yankees manager Joe Girardi spoke to Joe Torre, an MLB executive vice president, over his concern there was "confusion to the rule." New York's Francisco Cervelli was called out trying to score against Toronto, even though Blue Jays catcher Josh Thole was straddling the plate before receiving the ball.

"I believe this is going to be the toughest overall for (umpires) to

get right all the time," Girardi said after Saturday's 4-0 loss to Toronto. "To me, it's a vague interpretation of what blocking home plate is and I think it needs to be in writing."

In January, baseball adopted a new rule on plate collisions on an experimental basis for this year. Under the rule, catchers are prevented from blocking a runner's path to the plate unless they have possession of the ball.

"It's a rule that was ... agreed to late, and I don't know if everything has been completely ironed out," Girardi said Sunday.

Porter said he planned to speak to the umpiring crew during the exchange of lineup cards before Wednesday's game to ask for their interpretation of the rule, and the challenge process on those plays.

Fall: Drug policy violators finding home crowds more forgiving than those on road

FROM BACK PAGE

Cruz, Ryan Braun and Jhonny Peralta each served hefty suspensions in 2013 for violations of baseball's drug agreement following the sport's investigation of Biogenesis of America, a now-defunct rejuvenation clinic. At home games, it seems all is forgiven. On the road, opposing fans won't let them forget.

Braun responded to jeering Philadelphia fans Tuesday by hitting three homers and driving in seven runs.

"All I can do is focus on things I can control," Braun said.

Aided by the support of his new teammates, Cruz easily made the transition into the next stage of his career after leaving the Texas Rangers for Baltimore.

"It was a hard decision. You had a chance to be in one place for a long time," Cruz said. "But I made the right call. I'm happy I made it."

Braun, who stayed with Milwaukee after a 65-game suspension, was cheered by Brewers fans at the home opener and jeered later that week in Boston. Peralta, now with St. Louis after serving a 50-game suspension with Detroit, heard boos in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh before getting a warm reception from Cardinals fans in his home debut Monday.

"When we're playing Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, fans are going to talk no matter what," Peralta said. "But I don't try to pay attention to people when they say a lot of stuff. I try to play the game and try to forget about the past."

That's what's great about baseball, Cruz said.

"What you do in the past is over, whether you have good or bad moments," he said.

On his way to hitting a major league-leading 53 home runs last year, Orioles first baseman Chris Davis openly criticized those who use

performance-enhancing drugs. But he welcomed Cruz to Baltimore and is one of his most vocal supporters.

"Obviously, when a guy tests positive, you're not happy about it. But at the same time, there has to be some point in time when we forgive and move on," Davis said. "The biggest thing to remember is: How did he handle it? Did he try to run away from it? Or did he stand up and say: 'I'm going to serve my suspension. I'm going to come back and rebound from it.'"

After explaining that he used a banned substance to treat a gastrointestinal infection in 2012, Cruz accepted the suspension with the words, "I made an error in judgment that I deeply regret, and I accept full responsibility for that error."

"They supported not only him, but what he stands for," Davis said. "The guy plays hard. He has a good time. He's going to give you everything he's got. I think the fans appreciate that, and seeing them get behind him was pretty awesome."

Cruz was cheered again when he homered in Baltimore's second game. He received no reaction, positive or negative, during the Orioles' opening road series in Detroit.

Peralta was batting .074 through Tuesday, but Cardinals fans are treating him as one of their own.

"The fans here, they're pretty good with me," he said. "What's happened is in the past and I'm trying to put this away and trying to focus on 2014."

As with Cruz and the Orioles, Peralta and the Cardinals made peace with his teammates soon after his arrival.

"Everybody around here had their conversations, and he had the ones he needed to have around here," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "After that, we just moved forward."

Martinez lifts Tigers to win

By Joe Resnick
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Victor Martinez helped the Detroit Tigers overcome the struggles of Joe Nathan.

The Detroit Tigers' closer blew a three-run lead in the ninth inning Wednesday night against the Dodgers.

But Martinez picked him up in a big way with a leadoff home run in the 10th against Los Angeles closer Kenley Jansen, and Detroit pulled out a 7-6 victory in which both pitching staffs made a combined 382 pitches during the 4 hour, 16-minute marathon.

Kenley Jansen is filthy, but Victor Martinez is a professional hitter," Tigers outfielder Torii Hunter said. "He's at the plate,



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

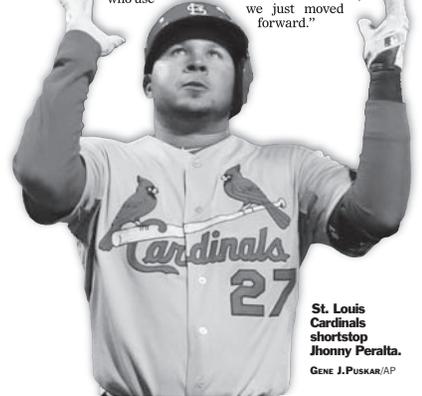
The Detroit Tigers' Victor Martinez hits a solo home run off Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Kenley Jansen.

just trying to figure you out, and I think he figured out how Jansen's ball moves.

"He was able to get inside of it and hit it out of the ballpark and come up with another clutch hit. That's what this team is capable of doing. We have some veteran guys who have good at-bats and can get the job done."

Martinez drove a 2-2 pitch deep into the seats in right-center to make a winner of Nathan (2-0).

"Vic takes hitting very seriously, and I think his main focus is to just try to get the barrel of the bat to the ball," manager Brad Ausmus said. "If you watch him on a regular basis, he's fighting to do that. And if a pitcher is trying to get him out, Victor is going to make it very difficult for him — especially with men on base."



St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Jhonny Peralta.
GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

MASTERS



PHILAN M. EBENACK/AP

Tiger Woods, left, and Arnold Palmer share a laugh during the trophy presentation after Woods won the Arnold Palmer Invitational on March 25, 2013 in Orlando, Fla. Fifty years ago, Arnold Palmer won the Masters for the fourth and final time.

Inevitable comparisons

Reflecting on Palmer's career brings questions about Woods

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Arnold Palmer never had an easy time winning majors until the last one.

This is the 50th anniversary of Palmer going wire to wire in the 1964 Masters to win by six shots, giving him a record four green jackets. It was his seventh major, significant because it tied him with some of the greats in the game: Harry Vardon, Bobby Jones, Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead. Two more and he could have tied Ben Hogan. Four more majors would have put him alongside Walter Hagen.

Palmer was only 34. He was the King. He was on a roll, winning roughly one of every three majors.

He never won another one. "Well, of course you never think you're going to be at your last stop," Palmer said last week. "But it was great. I suppose that psychologically I had accomplished maybe more than I even realized by winning the Masters and walking up the 18th hole comfortably. That was something that was truly great for me."

Tiger Woods was 32 when he won his last major.

Through all these years, Woods has only been linked with Jack Nicklaus when the conversation turns to the majors. They are the only players to win the career Grand Slam three times over. The endless chatter

is whether Woods will break the Nicklaus benchmark of 18 majors.

Is it even remotely possible that Woods already has won his last major?

Woods captured his 14th major in the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. That was six years ago, and so much has happened since, on and off the golf course. The knee surgery. The collapse of his marriage and change in his appeal. Another swing change under a third coach. More injuries.

Woods has won 14 times, two Jack Nicklaus awards as PGA Tour player of the year and one FedEx Cup title since his last major. He is still No. 1, not only in the world ranking but in the eyes of his peers.

Speculation about his future in the majors is fueled by this being the golden anniversary of Palmer's last major at Augusta National, and the fact Woods isn't here. He had surgery last week on his back to relieve a pinched nerve that has been bothering him.

What made it tougher on Palmer, more than anything, was the arrival of Nicklaus.

There is no one like Nicklaus — other than Woods, of course — in today's game. Rory McIlroy is the best player in golf when he puts his game all the way back together. But that would be comparing a 24-year-old McIlroy with a 38-year-old Woods who will be coming off the disabled list this summer for the second time in three years.

Celebrating a few key anniversaries

75 years ago (1939): Ralph Guldahl technically became the first winner of The Masters because the name of the tournament was changed in 1939 from the Augusta National Invitation Tournament. The opening round was postponed by rain, leading to a 36-hole Sunday. Guldahl, a runner-up at Augusta each of the previous two years, had a 33 on the back nine and closed with a 69 for a one-shot win over Sam Snead. Guldahl finished at 279, the first sub-280 performance in a 72-hole major.

50 years ago (1964): The fourth and final Masters that Arnold Palmer won was by far his easiest. After one-shot victories in 1958 and 1960, and a playoff win over Gary Player in 1962, Palmer went wire-to-wire (including a tie in the first round) to win by six shots. Three rounds in the 60s gave him a five-shot lead over Bruce Devlin, and Palmer closed out victory with a 70. He won by six shots over Dave Marr and defending champion Jack Nicklaus. Palmer set the record with four green jackets, which Nicklaus surpassed with his fifth win in 1975. It was the last major Palmer won.

25 years ago (1989): Nick Faldo rallied from five shots back in the final round with a 7-under 65 to force a playoff, which he won on the second extra hole against Scott Hoch. Faldo had to return Sunday morning due to rain and wrap up a 77 in the third round. He switched putters before returning for the final round, and it paid off. In the playoff, Faldo hit into a bunker on No. 10 and made bogey. Hoch had a chance to win with a par, but he famously missed the 3-foot putt. When they went to No. 11, where Faldo won the first of his three green jackets by holding a 25-foot birdie putt.

20 years ago (1994): Jose Maria Olazabal had 14 wins in Europe and a successful partnership with Seve Ballesteros in the Ryder Cup. He came into his own at Augusta National, closing with a 3-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Tom Lehman. Olazabal was tied for the lead when his second shot to the par-5 15th narrowly stayed up, and he held a 30-foot eagle putt from the fringe. For the week, the Spaniard had 30 one-putt greens, chipped in twice and saved par all six times he was in the bunker. He was the sixth European winner in seven years.

10 years ago (2004): Finally, Phil Mickelson won his first major championship when he made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to end a tense duet with Ernie Els. Mickelson made five birdies on the last seven holes for a 31 on the back nine and closed with a 3-under 69. Els closed with a 67, narrowly missing a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole. The South African was on the putting green preparing for a playoff when he heard the enormous roar for Mickelson's winning birdie putt. Until that day, Mickelson had been 0-for-42 as a professional in the majors. He went on to win majors each of the next two years.

— Doug Ferguson, The Associated Press



ROBERT DUVOS, SUN SENTINEL/MCT

The arrival of Rory McIlroy on the scene could make it even more difficult for Tiger Woods to win more majors.

SPORTS



Major similarity?

Palmer's career could serve as warning to Woods | **Page 31**

MLB

After the fall

Braun, Cruz, Peralta try to move on from Biogenesis case

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Nelson Cruz was branded a cheater and punished accordingly. As he waited to be introduced on his first opening day in Baltimore, the former All-Star wondered how Orioles fans would react in the aftermath of the 50-game suspension he received last year for using performance-enhancing drugs.

"As a new player, you don't know what to expect," Cruz said. "You hope for the best."

He couldn't have asked for more. The sellout crowd collectively yelled, "Cruuuuuuzee!" as the slugger ran across the orange carpet, and after Cruz hit the tiebreaking home run to propel Baltimore past the defending champion Boston Red Sox, the chant was even louder.

"It was very, very nice to have that kind of reception," Cruz said.

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Orioles OF
Nelson Cruz
Patrick Semansky/AP

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Brewers outfielder
Ryan Braun

Elise Amendola/AP

Red Wings extend playoff streak to 23 years | **NHL, Page 25**

Thunder hold off Clippers in possible playoff preview | **NBA, Page 26**

