

COURSE CORRECTION

Hagel says nuclear sub force needs to compensate for 'drift'

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JAMES KIMBER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Rhode Island returns to base in March 2013 after three months at sea. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visited the Ohio-class USS Tennessee on Wednesday, vowing more money and attention for the nuclear submarine force to correct for "drift" in the mission.

Lawmaker: Veteran suicides 'horrible human costs' of VA dysfunction

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Iraq War veteran Daniel Somers tried desperately to get VA mental health care for years before committing suicide last summer.

Despite his diagnosed post-traumatic stress and brain injury, Howard and Jean Somers told House lawmakers Thursday, again and again their son was met with "uncaring, insensitive and adversarial" staff in the Department of Veterans

ONLINE: More coverage of suicide in the military stripes.com/suicide



Affairs, which is mired in a nationwide scandal over deep dysfunction and records manip-

ulation in its health care system.

The couple and other family members of veterans who have recently taken their own lives testified Thursday before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on the shortcomings of the VA and its suicide

prevention efforts.

The stories of tragedy came as Committee Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., prepared to introduce new legislation aimed at fixing the problems.

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FACES

'Game of Thrones' reigns over Emmy nominations

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MILITARY

IG report: Pentagon overpaid \$7,678 for individual helo gears

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WORLD

Germany asks top US intelligence official to leave over spying flap

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I knew I wanted to name my kids after New York. I love New York."

— Kimberly Tite, who along with husband Brock named their 3-year-old daughter Brooklyn and 1-year-old son Bronx, even though they've never visited New York and know it only through TV and rap lyrics

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IRAQ IN CRISIS

Hagel: Militant group a threat to US

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY, Ga. — Islamic militants who have taken control over parts of Iraq and Syria pose a direct threat to the United States, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.

"This country should not make any mistake on this, nor anyone in Congress: This is a threat to our country," he told troops at a town hall meeting here.

"This is a force that is sophisticated, it's dynamic, it's strong, it's organized, it's well-financed, it's competent ... And it is a threat

to our allies all over the Middle East, it's a threat to Europe ... and it's a threat to us."

The insurgent group, which refers to itself as the Islamic State, has said it wants to rule over much of the Middle East. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, told lawmakers last month that the militants did not pose a direct threat to the U.S. homeland but could at some point if left unchecked.

Hagel seemed to suggest that the threat had materialized sooner.

"When I talk about protecting American lives in America, I also said 'protecting our interests,'

he said. "And [the Islamic State] may not appear to be an imminent threat to the United States. It is a threat to the United States. It is ... a clear threat to our partners in that area, and it is imminent."

Hagel said the group is creating instability throughout the Middle East, but he did not elaborate why it poses a threat to the homeland.

Attorney General Eric Holder has suggested that some Europeans and Americans who are fighting with the militants could return to their home countries and carry out attacks.

The Pentagon has deployed about 650 troops to Iraq in recent weeks as the security situa-

tion has deteriorated. The Obama administration is considering airstrikes against Islamic State fighters in Iraq, and the U.S. military has teams of advisers on the ground assessing the situation and gathering intelligence.

Hagel was noncommittal about additional steps the U.S. might take, including the use of air power.

"We are getting daily assessments," he said. "And the finality of those assessments will be completed in the next few days, and we'll have a further context of what recommendations they'll make."

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Iraq's Kurds say they will boycott Cabinet meetings

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Kurds on Thursday said their politicians will stay away from Cabinet meetings and called on Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to step down, blaming him for the failure to stop the offensive by Sunni insurgents, in a further sign of the deteriorating relationship between the Shiite leader and the Kurds.

The boycott of Cabinet meetings was in protest against comments a day earlier by al-Maliki, who accused the largely autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq of harboring the Sunni militants who have overrun much of the country. The prime minister provided no evidence, and the Kurds denied the allegations.

Deputy Prime Minister Roz Nouri Shawez, the highest-level Kurdish official in the government, told reporters Thursday that "such statements are meant to hide the big security fiasco by blaming others, and we announce our boycott of Cabinet meetings."

Kurds also hold the Cabinet posts for foreign affairs, trade, health and immigration and displacement.

The move is largely symbolic because the government has continued operating in the past when the Sunni bloc fully withdrew its ministers from the Cabinet. But it underlines the deepening split between al-Maliki and the Kurds.

The presidency of the Kurdish self-rule region said al-Maliki "has become hysterical and has lost his balance."

"He is doing everything he can to justify his failures and put the blame on others for these failures," the Kurdish region's presidency said in a statement posted on its website late Wednesday. It accused al-Maliki of destroy-



People inspect the site of a car bomb attack Thursday on cars lined up at a gas station in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq.

ing the country, and demanded that the step down.

Al-Maliki's rivals and even some former allies accuse the prime minister of helping fuel the current crisis by failing to promote reconciliation with the country's minority Sunnis, who complain of being treated as second-class citizens.

Al-Maliki, whose State of Law bloc won the

most seats in April elections, has refused to heed calls to step aside, and instead has vowed to pursue a third consecutive term.

That has led to political deadlock as lawmakers attempt to form a new government that can hold the country together as it confronts the Sunni militants who have seized control of much of northern and western Iraq.

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MILITARY



An OH-58 Kiowa helicopter takes off near the Texarkana Regional Airport in Arkansas.

Report: Pentagon paid \$8,124 for a \$445 part

By TONY CAPACCIO AND JONATHAN D. SALANT
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon paid Textron's Bell Helicopter unit \$8,123.50 each for gears that should have cost \$445.06, according to a report by the Defense Department's inspector general.

The bevel gears that were marked up 18-fold were part of \$9 million in excess payments by taxpayers cited by the watchdog office.

This is the latest case in which the inspector general said Pentagon agencies allowed contractors to overcharge for parts. For decades, the Defense Department has periodically been the subject of ridicule from lawmakers, and even late-night comedians, after reports of inflated prices for items such as a coffee pot and a toilet seat.

In the Bell case, the inspector general recommended that the Defense Logistics Agency seek to recoup the excess money and analyze prices to ensure taxpayers aren't further overcharged. Otherwise, the excess payments may increase by an additional \$2.6 million under Bell's noncompetitive contract, the report found.

"The contracting officer did not sufficiently determine whether prices were fair and reasonable," according to the July 3 report, signed by Jacqueline Wiccarver, assistant inspector general for

acquisition. The report, obtained by Bloomberg News, was labeled "For Official Use Only."

Bell Helicopter "does not agree with the findings or recommendations," Andy Woodward, a spokesman for the unit of Providence, Rhode Island-based Textron, said in a statement.

"Bell Helicopter has fully complied with all applicable regulations, and continues to adhere to its policy, which ensures that the U.S. Government consistently receives the best price on commercial items acquired for its use," he said.

The alleged overcharges were incurred on Bell's 2012 sole-source, \$128 million contract to support Navy and Marine Corps H-1 and Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. The contract is in place until February 2017.

"Prices were not sufficiently determined fair and reasonable because the contracting officer did not perform an adequate analysis when procuring sole-source parts, accepting the company's pricing 'in a noncompetitive environment,' the inspector general's report found.

The agency "potentially overpaid Bell Helicopter Textron about \$9 million out of \$13.4 million on 33 of 35 sole-source spare parts" reviewed, Wiccarver wrote.

Auditors for the inspector general calculated the potential over-

payments based on cost data that Bell Helicopter provided under an administrative subpoena, according to the report.

In response to the inspector general's recommendation that the Defense Logistic Agency pursue options including a voluntary refund from Bell, Matthew Beebe, the agency's director of acquisition, told auditors that "Bell has consistently refused to provide cost data for commercial parts" it sells the Pentagon.

Agency officials do "not believe they have the ability to obtain cost data," the report said.

In June 2013, the Defense Logistics Agency asked Boeing Co., based on another audit, to refund \$13.7 million for what it called excessive prices for spare parts, including a \$10 aluminum sleeve for which the Pentagon paid \$2,286.

Chicago-based Boeing this year agreed to provide the agency with \$3.2 million in parts to settle the case.

The Bell audit found that the Defense Department paid the company \$2,355.85 for a round inner cap—an "inflated unit price that should have been \$297.08." In another case "Bell proposed and DLA accepted a unit price of \$492.17" for a \$51.67 pin.

Bell Helicopter also charged the agency \$295.57 apiece for one-inch bushings the inspector general determined should have cost an average \$25.72 each.

Littoral ships' survival capability questioned

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Navy's \$23 billion littoral combat ship is less able to survive an attack than other U.S. warships, according to the Pentagon's top weapons tester.

Revised standards adopted for the vessel intended to operate in shallow coastal waters "continue to accept the risk the crew would need to abandon ship under circumstances that would not necessitate that action" on other vessels, Michael Gilmore, of the Defense Department's director of operational testing and evaluation, said in a letter to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Gilmore, rebutting the Navy's contention that he's mistating the ship's requirements, said they are "significantly different" from those for other ships that may face enemy forces. His stance adds to previous questions about the future of the vessel being built in two versions by Lockheed Martin and Austal.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in February that he was limiting purchases to 32 vessels, instead of the 52 originally planned, until the Navy developed alternatives for a more survivable ship. He has called for a more "capable and lethal" option that could include an upgraded Littoral combat ship or a different design. Recommendations from defense contractors are due by the end of this month.

About \$12 billion has been appropriated by Congress so far for 20 vessels.

In addition to \$23 billion to build the ships, the Navy would spend \$7.2 billion to buy mission modules that are supposed to be swapped out for mine-hunting, surface warfare and anti-submarine missions.

Gilmore offered his observations about the littoral combat ship's survivability in the June 26 letter to McCain, who is critical of the program. The senator sponsored a provision in this year's defense budget that mandated a Navy and test office report on the ship.

Gilmore also submitted a report of dated June 26 outlining the

ship's evolution and the status of its warfighting equipment.

The letter to McCain was intended to rebut material the Navy submitted to lawmakers on June 6. It said Gilmore's office "inaccurately defines LCS capabilities" and "mischaracterizes the requirements to which LCS was designed" and its capabilities.

The LCS, "for military and survivability features, was constructed in accordance with Navy specifications and standards comparable to all surface combatants," the service said.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert said in a June 6 letter transmitting the service's congressionally mandated report on the ship that its survivability depended on a "total-ship concept."

The design will allow the vessel to "continue to perform its primary mission, exit the battle area under its own power or conduct an orderly abandon ship," depending on circumstances, Greenert said. "In short, LCS is a survivable ship," Greenert wrote Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., who heads the House Appropriations defense subcommittee. "Speed, maneuverability and modern weaponry aid LCS in avoiding a hit in the first place."

"If hit, LCS was designed to minimize vulnerability" and "with modern automated damage control systems" it will be able to "recover from casualties and withdraw to fight again," Greenert said.

The Navy also outlined the five-year record of equipment failures for the USS Freedom built by Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed and the USS Independence built by Henderson, Australia-based Austal. It said the number of reports for each ship "is on average consistent with other surface combatants in the fleet," the Navy said.

Gilmore wrote McCain that the Freedom and Independence were built to a standard for vessels such as patrol and logistics ships that are "not expected to be survivable in a hostile combat environment and are not intended to be employed in a manner that puts them in harm's way."



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Littoral combat ships the USS Freedom, rear, and the USS Independence maneuver during an exercise off the coast of Southern California.

EUROPE

Lakenheath patients air concerns in survey

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — A doctor with the 48th Medical Group complained of “whining” patients. Doctors don’t communicate among themselves. Doctors are overly conservative in treating ailments.

Those are some of the complaints patients made about their medical care at a Tuesday town hall meeting on RAF Lakenheath, England. Officials hosted the meeting as part of a survey of seven military hospitals to gather data for Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel’s 90-day review of the health care system. The 48th Medical Group is the only overseas facility in the survey.

Not all comments about the medical group, which oversees care for more than 35,000 pa-

tients in England and Norway, were negative. Some of the 50-odd people who attended the meeting said they were happy with the timeliness of the care they received, the ease with which referrals could be gotten and the willingness of officials to explain prescribed treatment. The overall attitude during the meeting was mixed, some participants told a Stars and Stripes reporter, who attended the town hall but was not permitted to report during it.

Master Sgt. Chris Valgardson, with the 48th Communications Squadron, has received mixed quality of care from the medical group. When he first came to Lakenheath, he had “the best doctor in my life,” Valgardson said, but that doctor changed stations. He said he then fell under the care of doctors who did not seem to care

“They just didn’t care. The attitude of the doctors was, ‘if it wasn’t bleeding, then you’re wasting my time.’”

Master Sgt. Chris Valgardson

about his well-being.

“They just didn’t care,” Valgardson told Stars and Stripes after the meeting. The attitude of the doctors was, “if it wasn’t bleeding, then you’re wasting my time.”

But Valgardson said his care has improved and that his current doctor now is pushing for him to get treatments for issues

that were passed over during the period of what he described as poor care.

The other hospitals under review are Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington state; Naval Medical Center San Diego in California; U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Clinic in Colorado; Winn Army Community Hospital in Georgia; Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia; and Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River in Maryland. About 550 people have attended the patient town hall meetings, according to the Defense Department.

A request to speak to an official from the medical group was declined by Lakenheath public affairs, which cited the ongoing review.

Officials with the military-wide health care review are not releasing any information from the

hospitals they have visited before the 90-day deadline Hagel set at the end of May, said Maj. James Brindle, a Defense Department spokesman who handles health care matters.

Hagel ordered the review to focus on access to care, quality and safety, but information about how officials are assessing each hospital in those areas was not available.

The visits to the seven hospitals are scheduled to conclude this week after officials return to Naval Medical Center San Diego on Friday for a second town hall meeting open to patients. No patients attended the first town hall meeting, a spokesman for the medical center said, noting a problem in publicizing the event.

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Col. Mary Martin takes over as commander of USAG Wiesbaden

By ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The reins of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden changed hands Thursday in a ceremony held at Clay Kaserne.

Col. Mary L. Martin, who previously served as the deputy director of Technology and Business Architecture Integration with the Army GI in Washington, assumed command of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden from Col. David H. Carstens.

Kathleen Marin, European regional director of Installation Management Command and presiding official of the ceremony, spoke of Wiesbaden Army Airfield’s rich history and its involvement in the Berlin Airlift 66 years ago, when Germany’s future was threatened by the spread of communist oppression.

“Yet here we are today in a unified Germany, a prosperous Wiesbaden, and a thriving military community made possible by a firm commitment to German-American cooperation,” Marin said.

Carstens oversaw exponential growth since taking command of the garrison in January 2012. The transformation included the completion of U.S. Army in Europe’s move from Heidelberg and into its 285,000-square-foot Mission Command Center, and the adjacent \$125 million consolidated intelligence center, scheduled to open in early 2016.

“Most important, Dave focused on serving people,” Martin said. “People turn housing units into homes and communities; people turn classrooms into places of inspiration; people help turn a move to Germany into an opportunity.”

In his post-command speech, Carstens cited a lengthy list of garrison accomplishments, but



Col. David H. Carstens embraces his wife, Aida, on Thursday after relinquishing command of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

underscored the fact that Wiesbaden is his home not because of the infrastructure, but because of the people he worked alongside and enjoyed relationships with.

“I could think of no better place I’d rather serve and raise my fam-

ily,” he said.

Carstens, who will remain in Wiesbaden, will serve as the U.S. Army in Europe inspector general.

Martin, who is no stranger to Germany, served in Wiesbaden as the deputy personnel strength manager for the 1st Armored Division in 2006-09.

“I’m happy to be back in Wiesbaden,” Martin said in her welcome speech before attempting the same in German.

“That’s my last Deutsch for this briefing,” Martin joked.

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PHOTOS BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

Col. Mary L. Martin salutes after assuming command of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden on Thursday at Clay Kaserne.

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MILITARY

Digital streaming better for Navy bases in Japan

By JAMES KIMBER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Geographic restrictions have kept many servicemembers from using the Internet to watch their favorite TV shows while posted overseas. The commander of Naval Forces Japan decided to change that for sailors posted in the country, seeing it as a growing quality-of-life issue.

Following Misawa Air Base's lead, all Navy bases and base housing communities under the CNFJ umbrella—including Japan Navy bases in Yokosuka, Atsugi, Sasebo, Okinawa and Diego Garcia—are a longer subject to such restrictions from digital streaming companies.

"Unlocking" such sites, as it's commonly called, allows overseas servicemembers and their families to access U.S.-based streaming content without paying for a Virtual Private Network or a Domain Name Service proxy.

Rear Adm. Terry Kraft recognized how wider Internet access has become a major issue for today's servicemembers. AFN's TV offerings have expanded in recent years but still are just a fraction of what anyone in the U.S. can access.

"It's important to deliver the best of the Internet to our sailors," Kraft said. "When you come to Japan, we want our sailors to have a consistent experience as they have in the U.S."

After Misawa's successful conversion, CNFJ formed a focus group — called the Stream Team — to ask the community about the base's Internet services. Based on the initial feedback, more than 100 more sailors and their families get their entertainment, communicate with loved ones and receive education online, which is what led Kraft to ask his Stream Team to have the restrictions lifted at all his bases.

"We're not stopping at lifting geographic restrictions; we also want to look into how we're delivering Internet on our bases," Kraft said. "We're looking at where we are establishing Wi-Fi hot spots, is it consistent from base to base, are we getting the bandwidth they require, whether it's in a public spot or through a private connection."

Having geographic restrictions lifted alleviates the need for base residents to subscribe to VPN services, get the bandwidth extensions, which can open up users' computers to malware and data collection. Aside from saving a few dollars and increasing security, this also frees up network bandwidth and maximizes the full speed for which they are paying.

Petty Officer 1st Class De-Shawn Oliver, a customer of the Navy Exchange-contracted Internet service provider Ameri-cable, says his family loves being able to easily access digital media in the Yokosuka home.

"I watch Netflix at home and on iPad, Xbox, whatever I'm using," Oliver said. "It's still kinda slow, so I'd like to see stronger Internet. They should really boost the speed."

Word of the lifted geographic restrictions hasn't quite made its way around Yokosuka, though. Seaman Thomas Taylor, who learned of it early last week, hoped his gadgets would work just as they did in the States.

"I've had a Netflix account for years but I haven't been able to use it since I've been out here," said Taylor, an avid gamer who uses his Internet access to download updates and stream entertainment. "This would be great because I know I live on base. I'm going to try it when I get home today."

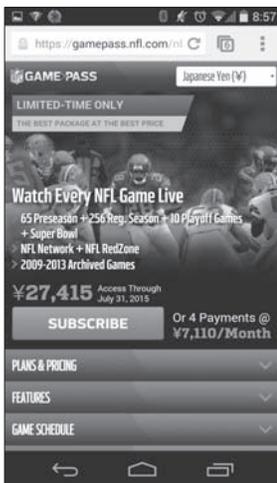
The unlocking benefits only base residents. Those who live off base still fall under the digital rights agreements between each company and the government of Japan. Additionally, anyone who lives on base and uses an alternative Internet technology like WiMAX instead of an Exchange-contracted Internet service provider or a public hot spot on base would not be able to log in directly to Netflix without extra effort.

Airman 1st Class Zachary Garten — from the 374th Maintenance Squadron at Yokota Air Base, where the geographic restrictions remain — will stick to his WiMAX service. Garten is a heavy Internet user, saying he could use 100 gigabytes of data in a week, which would put him on pace to exceed the monthly bandwidth cap set by the Exchange-contracted Internet service provider four to five times over. He also has unlimited data in his single most important usage need.

According to Garten, his WiMAX provider has speeds comparable to the Internet service contracted through his local Exchange, Allied Telesis, but is significantly slower and provides unlimited bandwidth.

Tech Sgt. David Schnabel, of the 730th Air Mobility Squadron in Yokota, would also like to see unlimited data usage at a competitive price. "Better still if they offered Internet service comparable to what the local nationals have just over the fence," he said.

Servicemembers who live off base and their Japanese neighbors typically have Internet speeds that are three to five times as fast with unlimited bandwidth for about half the price.



This screenshot shows NFL-owned GamePass after being redirected from the NFL's U.S.-based GameRewind at the fleet recreation center food court on Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, last month. Because of the process requiring each site to authorize permission to have the geographic restrictions removed, sites like GameRewind may redirect overseas users to more expensive subscriptions.

"I understand Allied Telesis is contracted and on-base utilities are not easily changed, but at the end of the day I don't care about contractual obligations," Schnabel said.

According to Julie Mitchell, a spokeswoman for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the bandwidth caps are necessary to "ensure all customers receive the same high-quality level of service and affect only a small percentage of customers."

Exchange-contracted telecommunications companies, like

Allied Telesis, provide U.S. television, telephone and Internet services in Japan with the convenience of native English-speaking customer service, contract-free service and multiple payment options, many conveniences not offered by their off-base counterparts. Additionally, the Exchange is looking to improve Internet service, but neither AAFES nor Allied Telesis could elaborate.

Stars and Stripes reporter Trevor Anderson contributed to this report. kimber.james@stripes.com
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Jurors hear sniper say Ventura's name deleted

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A military sniper whose memoir sparked a lawsuit from former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura admitted before his death that he removed Ventura's name from the book because he was afraid of being sued, jurors in Ventura's defamation lawsuit heard Wednesday.

Ventura claims "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle — a former Navy SEAL who was fatally shot last year at a Texas gun range, invented a story in his best-selling autobiography about decking Ventura outside a California bar in 2006. Kyle had said Ventura made loud disparaging comments about SEALs while Kyle was attending a wake for a fellow SEAL killed in battle.

Kyle gave a video deposition in November 2012 that jurors saw Wednesday. Near the start, Kyle told Ventura's attorney, David Bradley Olson, that he wasn't concerned about the lawsuit. Asked why, he replied, "You can't defeat the truth."

But later on Kyle, who's regarded as the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history, acknowledged he was indeed afraid of being sued. He said his co-authors, Jim DeFence and Scott McEwen, included Ventura's name in early drafts of the subchapter on the alleged incident — even calling him Jesse "The Body" Ventura, his name from his pro wrestling days.

He said it took some work to persuade them that Ventura's name should come out. The three-page passage ultimately referred to Ventura as "Scrucc Face."

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Hagel promises to focus on help for Navy sub force

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY, Ga. — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel promised Wednesday that more money and attention will be paid to the Navy's nuclear submarine force to correct for recent "drift" in the mission.

"I think over the years we've let our focus on the nuclear deterrence aspect of our national security drift a little," Hagel told sailors, Marines and Coast-guardsmen at a town hall meeting here.

"That's somewhat understandable when we understand that for 13 years, this country has been at war in long, large land-mass wars. And because of that, priority has been put on those wars [in funding, leadership, attention. So we need to get back and pay attention here and prioritize the importance of the nuclear enterprise."

Kings Bay, the Navy's main ballistic missile submarine base on the East Coast, is home to six Ohio-class SSBNs, also known as boomers, each capable of launching 192 nuclear warheads.

Defense Department plans call for replacing all 14 boomers across the fleet with 12 modern vessels in the coming decades. Design work for the so-called Ohio Replacement is scheduled to begin in fiscal 2017. Construction of the first Ohio Replacement boat is scheduled for 2021, with a planned first patrol to start in 2031, according to the U.S. Naval Institute website.

"We have every commitment

to the projections to bring on that new class of submarines. We need a new generation of Ohio-class submarines, and we're going to prioritize that" in the budget, Hagel said.

The Ohio Replacement will be expensive, however, with the first boat costing an estimated \$12.4 billion, according to the DOD. And officials have cast doubt on whether the Navy would be able to fully execute its shipbuilding plan if sequestration budget cuts are not lifted by Congress in the coming years.

Hagel acknowledged the budget problems but insisted that Pentagon leaders "are continuing to be committed to a new generation of Ohio-class submarines."

Hagel said two separate reviews of the overall nuclear force — one internal and one conducted by outside experts — have been completed. He ordered the reviews earlier this year in the wake of cheating, drug and poor performance scandals involving Air Force personnel who were part of the nuclear enterprise.

The nuclear arm of the Navy had its own cheating scandal shortly afterward when answers to a written qualification propulsion exam were allegedly shared among some instructors at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command near Charleston, S.C. The staff members accused of cheating were required to pass the test in order to qualify to instruct students on the training reactors.

The recently completed reviews focused mainly on management and personnel problems

within the nuclear force.

"I've been briefed on the reviews. I'm in the process now working with our leaders to decide which recommendations we're going to go forward with [to] strengthen the health of the nuclear workforce, strengthen the nuclear enterprise, [and] assure all of you that you're going to have the resources you need to do your job," Hagel told the troops.

The Pentagon chief later declined to discuss any of the findings or recommendations with reporters, saying decisions will be announced in the coming weeks.

Hagel also emphasized another important change within the nuclear enterprise: the integration of women into the Navy's submarine force.

The Navy began integrating submarine crews in 2011 after the Navy officially changed the policy that had prohibited women from serving aboard submarines. More than 60 female officers now serve aboard 14 crews across the submarine community. Currently, women serve only aboard ballistic missile and guided missile submarines.

While touring the USS Tennessee at Kings Bay, Hagel held a roundtable discussion with 14 of them to talk about their experiences.

"The Navy has really broken through on so much of this," Hagel said afterward.

Thus far, female officers have been restricted to serving aboard Ohio-class submarines, and there are no enlisted sailors on any of



REX NELSON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks with Cmdr. Christopher Bohner, commanding officer of the Gold crew of the ballistic missile submarine USS Tennessee, during a tour at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Ga.

the underwater vessels. According to the Navy, plans call for female officers to start integrating into the Virginia-class attack submarine fleet in October, and

enlisted women will be allowed to serve on submarines beginning in 2016.

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Suicide: Families testify of VA system failures before loved ones took lives

FROM FRONT PAGE

A bill set to be unveiled by Miller and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America would require:

- Review of discharges for PTSD and traumatic brain injury.
- Mental health services in VA networks to be listed on centralized websites.
- New efforts to recruit VA psychiatrists.
- Annual outside reviews of mental health care and suicide prevention programs.
- A Government Accountability Office report on the transition of care for PTSD and TBI between active service and the VA.

The proposal comes on the heels of a major reform effort underway in Congress that has been spearheaded by Miller and Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and John McCain, R-Ariz. So far, it is aimed at expanding access to general care, but progress has been held up by concerns over an estimated \$50 billion annual price tag.

The stories of suicides that could have been averted with better care are part of the "horrible human costs of VA dysfunc-

tion," said Miller, whose committee has also held hearings on patient scheduling abuses and widespread department employee bonuses despite access problems throughout the health care system.

Somers, an Army sergeant who did four combat tours as a Humvee turret gunner, once went to a VA hospital emergency room in Phoenix in the grip of a panic attack and was coldly turned away, Howard Somers testified during the committee probe into department suicide prevention.

"The fact is he went into the corner, he laid down on the floor and he was crying. There was no effort made to see if he could be admitted to another facility," Somers said. "He was told, 'You can stay there and when you feel better, you can drive yourself home.'"

A series of similar experiences just became too overwhelming and finally led Daniel Somers to collapse "under the weight of his own despair," his parents said.

Suicide has become an epidemic among those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan — an estimated 22 commit suicide each day — but the testimony before the House

pointed to a mental health treatment system that has some of the same general treatment problems uncovered in the past two months at hundreds of VA hospital and clinics across the country.

Tens of thousands of veterans at more than 700 facilities in the United States wait months for care and VA staff often manipulated records to cover up the delayed treatment, a series of audits have shown.

Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder often wait until a crisis point just to approach VA hospitals in hopes of eventually getting treatment, said Josh Renschler, an Army infantry sergeant who was medically retired after suffering from a mortar blast in Iraq.

Those lucky enough to get an initial appointment within a couple of weeks are often then scheduled for another assessment — a de facto "second intake process" — that can require months more waiting, said Renschler, who now works with a non-profit group in Washington state that assists servicemembers and veterans.

Once veterans do get into the VA health care and suicide prevention system, they are passed from office to office for dis-

jointed treatment that is frustrating and inefficient at judging the full scope of a patient's mental health problems, he said during testimony.

"No one's getting the full picture, so it's likely that nobody is going to see that my life is spinning out of control," Renschler said.

At a Washington state VA facility, the department tried an interdisciplinary approach as part of a pilot program, he said. The program brought together a spectrum of VA mental health providers into a shared office and brought down waits for care, but it was discontinued due to high costs and a lack of funding.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, who sits on the committee, said he wanted to re-examine the approach as a potential solution to problems with suicide prevention.

The tragic stories of suicide victims should be a powerful incentive to push through some type of reform, O'Rourke said.

"I hope it will force us and this administration and this country to treat this issue with the respect that it deserves" he said.

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MILITARY

Tricare to restore coverage for genetic tests

By TOM PHILPOTT

The Defense Health Agency, relying on medical laboratory experts and existing authority to conduct medical “demonstrations,” will restore Tricare coverage this month for up to 40 genetic tests used in patient care.

Many of the laboratory-developed tests — also called molecular pathology tests — are viewed as medically necessary. But Tricare had stopped reimbursing for more than 100 such tests in January 2013, believing it lacked authority to pay for them when such tests are ordered by civilian physicians delivering care through Tricare provider networks.

Military treatment facilities have continued to order and pay for such tests routinely, which created a disparity of coverage between military direct care and purchased-care contracts. Senior DHA officials acknowledged the coverage gap last February and vowed to close it.

The first step to do so will occur July 18 when 30 to 40 genetic tests, those “most commonly performed” across U.S. medicine, will become reimbursable again under Tricare as part of a three-year medical demonstration project, said Army Maj. Gen. Richard W. Thomas, chief medical officer

and director of health care operations at the DHA.

Among genetic tests to be restored to Tricare coverage is one that determines if a woman who is pregnant, or desires to become pregnant, carries a genetic marker for cystic fibrosis. That marker would indicate increased risk that a newborn would have CF.

Tricare stopped paying for this and many more laboratory-developed tests, or LDTs, after the American Medical Association changed its procedural codes for such lab work and clarified that the tests are “medical devices.”

Tricare, in turn, concluded that under current support contracts, it cannot pay for medical devices if not certified as safe and effective by the Federal Drug Administration. Because the FDA doesn’t review or approve genetic tests, Tricare officials decided they had to stop coverage.

Civilian physicians continued to order such tests, but after December 2012, Tricare quietly began denying payments. For a time, many affected laboratories absorbed the costs. But for some of the more costly tests ordered, Tricare patients began receiving unexpected bills.

In a phone interview, Thomas said that the DHA earlier this year formed its own panel of experts,

MILITARY UPDATE

the Joint Lab Working Group, and began conducting a review of safety and effectiveness of genetic tests. It used forensic science and other criteria to screen LDTs. One factor was whether major health insurance companies covered the tests, Thomas said.

Restored Tricare coverage for up to 40 LDTs will occur under what DHA calls its Non-FDA-Approved Laboratory Test Demonstration Project, described in the June 18 Federal Register. A full list of genetic tests to be approved for Tricare hasn’t been released.

Coverage will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013, so laboratories and patients will be able to apply for reimbursement for newly cleared tests that they had paid for back to that date, Thomas said. The DHA already has reimbursed affected laboratories \$3.5 million, mostly for prenatal CF testing the past 18 months.

During the demonstration, the DHA would like to see Congress pass legislation to give it permanent genetic test review authority.

The Senate Armed Services Committee’s version of the fiscal 2015 defense authorization bill contains such language, so it could be enacted into law by year’s end.

Besides closing its coverage gap, the DHA plans to use the demonstration to better manage for military medicine the recent “explosion” in genetic testing, Thomas said. It will seek to hold down costs by using military labs with genetic testing capability when possible. Such labs now operate at military medical centers in Texas, Mississippi and Washington state.

The DHA also wants to impose more “discipline and clarity” on use of such testing, whether by military health care providers or network civilian doctors.

“We’ve got to be flexible enough in our system that we can address these tests and certainly offer them, as appropriate, if they have proven clinical merit, are efficacious and safe,” Thomas said.

Prenatal cystic fibrosis testing is a good example. For now, DHA will extend coverage, acknowledging that such tests are recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists). During the demonstration, military patient outcomes will be studied to determine if CF testing provides real medical benefits or

simply adds to the cost of care.

DHA officials had argued earlier this year that awareness that a fetus is at higher risk of cystic fibrosis usually has no impact on management of labor, delivery or neonatal care. Also, they noted that at birth infants are tested for a host of health conditions immediately, including CF.

Thomas described guidelines from the ACOG as “deliberately opaque” on the benefits of prenatal CF screening. Yet because the ACOG strongly recommends such screening, CF tests have become a “standard of practice” though not yet “a standard of care,” Thomas said.

Karen Ruedisueli, a health care advocate for the National Military Family Association, said the group is pleased to see Tricare restore coverage for some genetic tests, particularly prenatal cystic fibrosis screening, which represents the “bulk of genetic test denials” by Tricare since early 2013.

But the NMFA, wants to learn why the DHA panel did not clear for restored Tricare coverage more than 60 other genetic tests, she said.

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

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MILITARY

Army brass defend troubled intel system

By **KEN DILANIAN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Gen. John Campbell, the Army's vice chief of staff, appeared last year at a budget hearing on Capitol Hill, he cited his son's experiences as a soldier in Afghanistan to answer a senator's tough questions about a troubled intelligence technology system.

This week, after an inquiry by The Associated Press, the Army acknowledged that Campbell misspoke about his son's unit, omitting some key facts as he sought to defend a \$4 billion system that critics say has not worked as promised.

As the pick to lead U.S. forces in Afghanistan, pending confirmation, Campbell may get another chance to discuss the Distributed Common Ground System, known as DCGS-A. The network of crash-prone software, sensors and databases was supposed to allow troops to process and integrate intelligence from a variety of sources, from electronic intercepts to overhead imagery to spy reports.

The need is greater than ever, since gathering and making sense of intelligence in Afghanistan will remain a priority even as U.S. troops draw down.

Army leaders, including Campbell and his boss, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, have circled their wagons around the DCGS-A despite a series of independent government reports that have pointed to significant weaknesses.

When Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, visited troops in eastern Afghanistan last year, "DCGS was shut down in the corner, piled with books and papers," he said.

Equally troubling to critics is how the Army has made it difficult for commanders to use an off-the-shelf commercial product that soldiers say is more workable and user-friendly than the DCGS-A, even though the commercial system has been embraced by the Marines, special operations forces, the CIA and other government agencies.

"DCGS folks promised a solution three years ago, and they

have yet to deliver," said Col. Peter Newell, who retired last year after heading the Army's Rapid Equipping Force.

Army officials acknowledge problems with the DCGS-A. In a statement, spokesman Matthew Bourke said the Army is working to improve the system in its next generation, which is being put out for bids next year.

The DCGS-A was developed a decade ago, but the spotlight on its shortcomings grew brighter in 2010, when Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, then the top military intelligence officer in Afghanistan, said in a memo that "intelligence analysts in theater currently do not have the tools required to fully analyze the tremendous amounts of information currently available." Flynn made an urgent request for a "theater-wide, Web-based analytical platform" that sounded a lot like a product offered by a Silicon Valley startup called Palantir, which grew out of antiraid technology developed by PayPal and was valued in December at \$9 billion.

Yet over the last four years, records show, Army leaders have

made it difficult for some commanders to purchase Palantir.

Army units that have managed to obtain Palantir report that it has saved lives in Afghanistan by helping to map insurgent activity and bomb networks in ways the Army system could not. It is also far cheaper: A 2013 Government Accountability Office report estimated that the Pentagon had spent about \$35 million in recent years to equip the Marines and some Army units with Palantir, compared with \$4 billion for the DCGS-A.

Palantir can merge disparate data sets — cellphone calls, fingerprint and DNA records, photos, bomb incident reports — and array them on a map in seconds. The DCGS-A's workstations employ a mapping program that is much more difficult to master, in a system that does not allow seamless data fusion. When soldiers update a file in Palantir, that file becomes visible to every Army Palantir user, which often is not the case across the DCGS-A network.

Last April, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., confronted

Campbell with the DCGS-A's litany of troubles, including that the Army's testing lab in 2012 found the system "not operationally effective, not operationally suitable and not survivable."

Campbell said Palantir does only a small portion of what the DCGS-A is supposed to do, though he acknowledged that it is easier to work with. The Army's system, he said, "saves lives" and has access to more intelligence than Palantir's software does.

He added: "My son is a soldier in the 82nd. He's a specialist. He deployed to Afghanistan." Campbell said his son was in "one of the units that asked for DCGS — or his brigade did, not himself."

Emails obtained by the AP show, however, that the younger Campbell's unit — the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team — found the Army system unusable. The equipment failed after six men died in two roadside bombs in April and May 2012.

In a statement, the Army said Campbell "misspoke," and meant to say that his son's unit had requested Palantir, not the DCGS-A.

Pick to lead mission encouraged by Afghan troops

By **CHRIS CARROLL**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senators on Thursday pressed nominees to top military posts on how to avoid a repeat of the recent Iraq debacle — where a U.S.-trained militia collapsed in the face of a smaller insurgent force — in Afghanistan as the war there draws to a close.

Army Gen. John Campbell, who likely will become the final commander of U.S. and NATO combat troops in Afghanistan, and Army Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel, tapped to run U.S. Special Operations Command, both said Afghan forces were gaining capability. That could be seen in their effective security operations during Afghan presidential voting earlier this year, Campbell said.

But both promised senators they'd speak up if President Barack Obama administration's timelines for removal of U.S. troops from the country prove unworkable.

Obama announced earlier this year plans to maintain a force of fewer than 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after the official end of combat operations in December. By the end of 2016, the only remaining troops would be those manning the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Angus King, an independent senator from Maine, questioned how the Obama administration can be sure that Afghan forces will be ready.

"It strikes me that rather than an arbitrary date for leaving Afghanistan, it should be based on conditions on the field," King said.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

From left, Adm. William E. Gortney, Gen. John Campbell and Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel listen during their Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing Thursday in Washington.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said both of Afghanistan's leading presidential candidates have told him they're worried about basing troop levels on dates rather than conditions.

McCain said Afghan forces are unlikely to gain necessary capabilities in the areas of logistics, intelligence and aviation by 2017. Inadequate support, he suggested, could lead to an Iraqi-style collapse, where the Sunni insurgents last month sent the Iraqi

army scurrying across broad sections of Iraq.

"One year ago the president of the United States would look at the nightmare in Iraq today and the ability that we could have had to provide some stability there, and perhaps re-evaluate his decision [in Afghanistan] — not for American combat troops but for the much-needed capabilities of support and counterterrorism that we can provide, which they simply do not have," he said.

Campbell said counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan were critical.

"I believe the CT piece, if you want to just boil it down to simplistic terms, is it protects the homeland," he said.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., questioned how the Obama administration could announce plans for a normal embassy military presence of perhaps 1,000 troops if counterterrorism is crucial.

"How do we do that based on a

Kabul operation only, and how do we do that with 1,000 troops, and which part of that 1,000 people will fulfil the important mission to protect the homeland?" she said.

Campbell and Votel responded that military leaders would have to assess the situation as it develops in coming years, and potentially make recommendations on modified force levels later.

"I don't think I can answer that question accurately right now," Votel said. "I think it really depends on the situation as it evolves."

Campbell praised the overall progress of Afghan forces, and said the contenders to be the next Afghan president are eager to work with the United States.

"Everything I see, sir, is good news," he said of the developing political situation in Afghanistan, in answer to a question from Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. "I'm looking forward to getting over there, and I think we're on a positive path right now."

Senators also questioned Adm. William E. Gortney, nominated to command U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, on topics including missile defense and cyberwar.

"I think the greatest threat that we have is the cyberthreat, to our critical infrastructure, to our power grid, to our banking system," Gortney said. "And the job at NORTHCOM is to handle the physical consequences of that particular threat."

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NATION



MOHAMMAD HANNON/AP

Libyan military guards check a burned U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 14, 2012, after a deadly attack three days before.

Commanders suggest a 2nd group in Benghazi attacks

By DONNA CASSATA
AND BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly revealed testimony from top military commanders involved in the U.S. response to the Benghazi attacks suggests that the perpetrators of a second, dawn assault on a CIA complex probably were different from those who penetrated the U.S. diplomatic mission the evening before and set it ablaze, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and another American.

The second attack, which killed two security contractors, showed clear military training, retired Gen. Carter Ham told Congress in closed-door testimony released late Wednesday. It probably was the work of a new team of militants, seizing on reports of violence at the diplomatic mission the night before and hitting the Americans while they were most vulnerable.

The testimony, which The Associated Press was able to read

ahead of its release, could clarify for the first time the Sept. 11, 2012, events that have stirred bitter recriminations in the U.S., including Republican-led congressional investigations and campaign-season denunciations of the Obama administration, which made initially inaccurate statements about the attacks. The testimony underscores a key detail that sometimes has been lost in the debate: that the attacks were two distinct events over two days on two different buildings, perhaps by unrelated groups.

The U.S. government still has not fully characterized the first attack in which, according to Ham and eight other military officers, men who seemed familiar with the lightly protected diplomatic compound breached it and set it on fire, killing Stevens and communications specialist Sean Smith. A disorganized mob of looters then overran the facility.

In testimony to two House panels earlier this year, the officers

said that commanders didn't have the information they needed to understand the nature of the attack, that they were unaware of the extent of the U.S. presence in Benghazi at the time and they were convinced erroneously for a time that they were facing a hostage crisis without the ability to move military assets into place that would be of any use.

The testimony reveals how little information the military had on which to base an urgent response.

Two House panels — the Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform committees — conducted interviews with the nine officers on separate days from January to April.

Four Americans died in Benghazi, including Stevens. To this day despite the investigation, it's not clear if the violence resulted from a well-planned, multiphase military-type assault or from a loosely connected, escalating chain of events.

In IRS email affair, lawyer revises remarks

By JOSH HICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Lois Lerner's attorney on Wednesday revised recent comments he made suggesting that his client, the former Internal Revenue Service official at the center of the agency's targeting controversy, did not send any of her emails, a fact that would put her in violation of federal record-keeping laws.

The Federal Records Act requires the preservation of official emails. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen testified last month before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that IRS officials generally print hard copies of important messages,

for lack of a better system.

Koskinen indicated that Lerner followed agency protocol, saying, "She had hard-copy records."

A Politico article last month quoted Lerner's attorney, William Taylor, saying the former official didn't print emails because she didn't know she had to do so.

"If somebody is supposed to keep archived copies, that's the IT department's or her staff's responsibility," Taylor told Politico. "If she didn't [print] something, it wasn't because she tried to conceal anything."

Taylor said in a statement Wednesday that the remarks are "not entirely accurate, probably due to a misunderstanding."

He told The Washington Post, however, that he was not misquoted in the report.

Instead, Taylor said he meant to indicate that Lerner printed out some, but not all, of her emails. "During [Lerner's] tenure as director of Exempt Organizations, she did print out some emails, although not every one of the thousands she sent and received," he said in his statement.

Politico on Wednesday published an email that Taylor sent to the news organization before it published his comments last month. "Did she print out official records and file them?" Taylor asked. "Answer: No, and she did not think it was required."

Obama seeking to shift debate on border crisis

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — President Barack Obama was putting pressure on Republicans to help solve America's worsening immigration crisis, looking to shift the political debate after coming under attack for visiting the border during a trip to Texas.

Obama turned to one of his chief critics, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2016, to try to make his point on how to respond to a flood of young migrants crossing the border.

Following a meeting with Perry in Dallas on Wednesday, the president suggested there was little difference between Perry's calls for additional assistance at the border and the nearly \$4 billion request Obama sent to Congress this week to help deal with thousands of unaccompanied child immigrants who have overwhelmed the Border Patrol in Texas. He also made a public appeal for Perry to wield his influence with Texas' Republican-heavy congressional delegation to press them to back the emergency spending package.

"The only question at this point is why wouldn't the Texas delegation or any of the other Republicans who are concerned about this not want to put this on a fast track and get this on my desk so I can sign it and we can start get-

ting to work?" Obama said. He argued that opposition to the urgent spending request would be part of a pattern of obstructionism from Republicans who have also resisted moving forward on a comprehensive immigration bill.

The current problem at the border comes at a time when the White House was seeking to cement an upper hand on the issue of immigration, particularly with Hispanic voters, who are increasingly crucial to electoral success in presidential elections. After House Republicans made clear they had no plans to take up comprehensive legislation this year, Obama vowed to move forward with executive actions that would make needed changes to the nation's broken immigration system.

The border crisis has given Republicans fresh fodder to challenge that approach. Republican lawmakers have blamed Obama's 2012 decision to defer deportations for some young people in the U.S. illegally for fueling rumors in Central America that unaccompanied minors who arrive at the border would be allowed to stay.

Indeed, some of the 57,000 children who have come to the border appear to be under that impression, though many are also fleeing violence in Central America. The White House has said most of the children are unlikely to qualify for humanitarian relief that would allow them to stay.

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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

Report: Chinese hackers hit OPM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chinese hackers broke into the computer networks of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management earlier this year with the intention of accessing the files of tens of thousands of federal employees who had applied for top-secret security clearances, according to The New York Times.

Senior U.S. officials say the hackers gained access to some of the agency's databases in March before the threat was detected and blocked, the Times reported in an article posted on its website Wednesday night. How far the hackers penetrated the agency's systems was not yet clear, the newspaper said.

Accusations of hacking by China and counterclaims of such activity by the U.S. government have strained U.S.-Chinese relations. Chinese hacking has been a major theme of U.S.-China discussions this week in Beijing, though both sides have publicly steered clear of the controversy.

Secretary of State John Kerry was asked about the Times report after he wrapped up his meetings in Beijing on Thursday. "At this point in time, it does not appear to have compromised any sensitive

material," he said. "I'm not going to get into any specifics of the ongoing investigation."

A Chinese government spokesman on Thursday reiterated Beijing's oft-stated position that it is "resolutely opposed" to Internet hacking and said there were parties who wanted to make China look like a cybersecurity threat.

"Some of the American media and cybersecurity firms are making constant efforts to smear China and create the so-called China cyberthreat," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular briefing. "They have never been able to present sufficient evidence. We are deeply convinced that such reports and commentaries are irresponsible and are not worth refuting."

In May, the Justice Department filed a 31-count indictment against five Chinese military officials operating under hacker aliases and accused them of penetrating computer networks of a half-dozen steel companies and makers of solar and nuclear technology to gain a competitive advantage. The Chinese government denied the allegations and suspended a working group on cyber rules that was to be part of the annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue this week.

Police: High-end hooker left Google exec to die

The Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — A Silicon Valley success story turned sordid this week with the arrest of an upscale prostitute who allegedly left a Google executive dying on his yacht after shooting him up with a deadly hit of heroin.

Forrest Hayes, 51, was found dead by the captain of his 50-foot yacht Escape last November. At the time, a simple obituary described him as a beloved husband and father of five who enjoyed spending time with his family and on his boat.

On Wednesday, that got a lot more complicated as Alix Tichelman, 26, stood handcuffed and mumbling in red jail scrubs facing manslaughter charges for her role in Hayes' death, as well as drug and prostitution charges. She is being held on \$1.5 million bail.

Surveillance footage from the yacht shows everything, police said, from when she came aboard until after Hayes collapsed. That's when Tichelman picked up her clothes, the heroin and needles, casually stepping over Hayes as he lay dying. She swallowed the last of a glass of wine, lowered a blind and walked back on the dock to shore, police said.

Santa Cruz Deputy Police Chief Steve Clark told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Hayes had hired Tichelman before, and that their Nov. 23 encounter "was a mutually consensual encounter including the introduction of the heroin."

Clark said it appears this might not have been the first time she left someone in trouble without calling police or trying to help. Without elaborating, he said his agency is cooperating with police in a different state on a similar case.

Hayes' widow has not spoken publicly and a blog created in his memory was deleted Tuesday. On the website, friends and co-workers were seemingly unaware of how he died.

The fondly described their time together, Christmas parties on his boat, traveling to China for Apple and most recently at Google, where they said he was involved in the Glass eyewear projects.

"He had life wired, he really liked his job, was spending a lot more time with his family, cruising around in his boat," a friend wrote in December. "I am really grateful that Forrest's last moments were happy ones."



BRETT COOMER, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Officers surround a shooting suspect Wednesday in Spring, Texas. After hours of waiting and negotiations, the man — suspected in the slayings of six people, including four children — emerged from his car and was arrested.

Gunman kills 6 from one family

The Associated Press

SPRING, Texas — A gunman charged Thursday in the killing of four children and their parents was dressed as a delivery man when he arrived at the suburban Houston home where the family was shot to death, officials said.

Ronald Lee Haskell, 33, is charged with multiple counts of capital murder in the killings Wednesday evening, Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman said early Thursday. He also is accused of critically wounding a 15-year-old girl in the shooting rampage.

"I have not personally in 40 years seen a tragedy in one family that is this horrific," Hickman said.

Documents introduced during a preliminary court hearing Thursday show the 15-year-old girl attempted to close the door to the home after telling Haskell her parents weren't home, according to a report by KPRC-TV in Houston. But he kicked in the door.

Haskell was estranged from a woman related to the couple, Hickman said. Authorities said

earlier that Haskell's wife lives in another state.

The children killed were two boys ages 4 and 14, plus two girls ages 7 and 9. Their parents were Kate and Stephen Stay, according to court documents. The father, a real estate agent, was 39 and the mother was 33, according to Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Gilliland.

Haskell "gathered up the children that were here and awaited the arrival of the parents," Hickman told reporters outside the home Thursday. "Sometimes later the victims were shot in the residence."

Hickman said Haskell "came in the guise of a FedEx driver wearing a FedEx shirt."

Federal Express said in a statement that Haskell had "formerly provided service" for the company, but has not done so since January.

Hickman said that after Haskell left the home the injured teenage girl — also a daughter of the murdered couple — contacted authorities telling them the shooter was en route to shoot other family members.

Law enforcement personnel

located Haskell's car and a low-speed chase ensued, ending in a cul-de-sac, Hickman said. A standoff then lasted more than three hours before Haskell exited the car, sank to his knees and surrendered.

Online jail records did not list an attorney for Haskell.

At one point during the standoff tactical officers used a large armored vehicle to ram the front of his car, disabling it. Another armored vehicle was used to ram the rear of the car, preventing any chance of escape.

The sheriff's department said precinct deputy constables were called to the house about 6 p.m. Wednesday and found the parents and three children dead. Another child later died at a hospital.

Gilliland said the teenager was in "very critical condition" at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston late Wednesday night.

Gilliland described Haskell after the standoff as "cool as a cucumber." He said that when he and other officers first approached, Haskell was "just sitting in his car looking out at us."

Federal agencies estimate \$100B in overpayments

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tax credits for families that don't qualify, Medicare payments for treatments that might not be necessary, Unemployment benefits for people who are secretly working, Federal agencies reported making \$100 billion in payments last year to people who may not have been entitled to receive them.

Congressional investigators say the figure could be even higher.

"The amounts here are absolutely staggering," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla. "It's over \$100 billion

each of the last five years. That's a staggering half a trillion dollars in improper payments."

Mica chairs the House Oversight government operations subcommittee, which held a hearing on improper payments Wednesday.

Federal agencies are required to estimate the amount of improper payments they issue annually. They include overpayments, underpayments, payments to the wrong recipient and payments that were made without proper documentation.

Some improper payments are

the result of fraud, while others are unintentional.

In 2013, federal agencies made \$97 billion in overpayments, according to agency estimates. Underpayments totaled \$9 billion. That adds up to \$106 billion in improper payments, or 3.5 percent of government payments made.

The largest sources of improper payments are government health care programs, according to agency estimates. Medicare's various health insurance programs for accounted for \$50 billion in improper payments in the 2013 budget year.

NATION

Gun control fight could mar plan to aid Dems

By Ed O'KEEFE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — This was going to be a quiet week in the U.S. Senate, one during which the majority Democrats would take the opportunity to help a colleague facing a tough re-election race.

But what was supposed to be an innocuous election-year proposal, designed to draw considerable bipartisan support, has become the first big fight over gun control in Washington in more than a year — reopening old wounds for the very Democrats it was supposed to help.

The measure would expand

access to hunting and fishing on federal lands. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., is the lead sponsor. She faces one of the most challenging re-elections this year, so she persuaded 45 other senators — including 26 Republicans — to back the bill, making it one of the most popular legislative proposals debated by the Senate this year.

Even in a badly fractured chamber where bipartisan agreement is rare, passage of the Hagan bill should be a slam dunk.

But it's now caught up in something else entirely. Both gun rights proponents and gun control advocates are now looking at the bill as a way to score political

points by adding amendments.

"I want this debate. I want an opportunity to raise important issues about gun violence and gun safety in America," Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said Wednesday. He is seeking to stiffen penalties for illegal straw purchasers, people who buy guns for others who plan to use the firearms to commit crimes.

On the other side, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., wants to overturn Washington's ban on large-capacity magazines and assault weapons and to allow gun owners to carry firearms into post offices and other federal buildings and sites.

This political gun fight comes

about 15 months after a bipartisan gun control measure was defeated in April 2013 despite the December 2012 mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., that drew national outrage and calls for new legislation.

As the fighting continues, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., began using procedural steps Wednesday to advance the hunting-and-fishing bill, leaving open a slim possibility that Democrats and Republicans will agree to votes on gun-related amendments and pass the bill. If such an agreement can't be reached, the measure could be quickly blocked and defeated.

If Reid opens the door to gun-

related amendments, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., wants to amend the bill to limit when veterans would be restricted from owning firearms because of mental illness. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, wants to expand the right to interstate transport and the sale of ammunition and firearms — proposals that are similar to language included in the bipartisan gun control measure that failed last year.

The other GOP proposals probably would spell trouble for Hagan and the other Democrats facing re-election. In the past few years, several of them have been the arbiters of whether gun legislation passes or fails in the Senate.



CHRIS DUNN, YORK (Pa.) DAILY RECORD/AP

Storms spread damage in Pa.

Saul Ridolfi, 76, stands between his tree-damaged living room and kitchen on Wednesday in New Freedom, Pa. Ridolfi said he and his wife, Lucille, were in the living room Tuesday when they saw a severe-storm warning on television and immediately retreated to their basement. Forecasters have confirmed that at least two tornadoes hit different parts of Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

Report: NSA tracked email accounts of leading US Muslims

By BRIAN BENETT
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The National Security Agency and the FBI tracked email accounts of five Muslim American leaders between 2006 and 2008, according to an NSA spreadsheet of email addresses disclosed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

The spreadsheet, which lists email addresses and dates, does not indicate how much, if any, surveillance took place. Because the spreadsheet stops in spring 2008, it also does not indicate whether any such surveillance continued after the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was amended that year, in part to restrict the George W. Bush administration's use of wiretaps, or after President Barack Obama took office in January 2009.

Parts of the document were published by the Intercept, an online news site.

The spreadsheet lists 7,485 email addresses as being moni-

tored between 2002 and 2008, of which 202 were labeled as belonging to "U.S. persons," meaning citizens or legal residents.

The Intercept report focused on five of them: Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, a leading national Muslim civil rights organization; Faisal Gill, a lawyer who served in the Department of Homeland Security under Bush and later ran for public office in Virginia as a Republican; Asim Ghafoor, a defense attorney who has taken on terrorism-related cases; Hooshang Amirahmadi, an international relations professor at Rutgers University; and Agha Saeed, who has lectured in political science at California State University, East Bay, taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and served as chairman of the American Muslim Alliance.

The five men told the Intercept that they believe they were targeted in part because of their Muslim backgrounds.

Police want graphic photos of teen boy in sexting case

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
The Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — A U.S. teenager is fighting efforts by police who want to take photos of him in a sexually aroused state to try to prove a sexting case against him.

Prosecutors in Virginia told a judge they need photos of the 17-year-old's erect penis to compare against photos he is accused of sending to his 15-year-old girlfriend at the time. The teen has been charged in juvenile court with possessing and manufacturing child pornography related to images of himself he's accused of

creating. The teen's lawyers are fighting a search warrant allowing the photographs in court. A hearing is scheduled for next week.

Defense lawyer Jessica Foster said she is unaware of any cases in which police have pursued similar photographs, particularly of minors.

"This is crazy," she said. "Nobody's even heard of something like this. ... The charges are excessive, and the means by which they are seeking evidence are outrageous."

The teen's appointed advocate, Carlos Flores Laboy, said his un-

derstanding is that police plan to do some sort of computer analysis of the photos to try to prove a similarity to the explicit photo found on the girl's phone.

He said the search warrant vividly demonstrates the importance of defending individuals' constitutional rights against invasions of privacy.

"Doing this to an adult would be traumatic. We're talking about a 17-year-old child," he said.

The lawyers said police have told them they plan to obtain the photo by taking the teen to a hospital and injecting him with a chemical that would cause an

erection.

The teen's aunt and legal guardian has sent the teen out of state for now so the warrant can't be executed.

"He's overwhelmed," she said. "He's scared. He doesn't want to be in Virginia because police could theoretically show up at any time to try to take the photographs."

The Associated Press isn't naming the teen or his aunt in accordance with a policy of not identifying juvenile suspects.

Police have been pursuing the case since January, the aunt said, when the girlfriend's mother dis-

covered the explicit content.

Police and prosecutors did not return calls Wednesday afternoon seeking comment.

The Manassas City Police later posted a statement on its website saying that it is not their policy "to authorize invasive search procedures of suspects in cases of this nature and no such procedures have been conducted in this case."

The statement added that police were contacted by the mother of the 15-year-old girl "who was sent pornographic videos" by the 17-year-old "after repeatedly being told to stop."

WORLD

Israel pounds Hamas targets

By ARON HELLER
AND NAJIB JOBAIN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel dramatically escalated its aerial assault targeting hundreds of Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip Thursday as Palestinians reported the strikes also hit a home and a beachside cafe, raising the total number of people killed in this week's offensive to at least 85. Israel's missile defense system also once again intercepted rockets fired by militants at the country's heartland.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said Israel struck more than 320 Hamas targets overnight, focusing on underground tunnel networks and rocket launching sites. In all, the military has struck 750 sites since the offensive began on Tuesday.

Israel has mobilized 20,000 reservists for a possible ground operation into Gaza, but for the time remains focused on maximizing its air campaign, Lerner said. A ground invasion could lead to heavier civilian casualties on the Palestinian side and put Israeli ground forces in danger.

Neither side is showing any sign of halting the heavy fighting since an eight-day battle in late 2012. Israel says that Hamas must cease rocket fire from Gaza for Israel to consider a truce. Militants have fired hundreds of rockets, striking across the length of Israel and disrupting life across the country.

No Israelis have been seriously harmed as the "Iron Dome" defense system has intercepted at least 70 of the projectiles destined for major cities. The system is designed to intercept rockets headed toward populated areas, while allowing others to fall in open areas.

"The ground option needs to be the last option and only if it is absolutely necessary. It is a carefully designed plan of action," Lerner said.

The Israeli security Cabinet met to discuss its next moves.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said the operation



Smoke rises Thursday following an Israeli strike on Gaza, seen from the Israel-Gaza Border. Israel escalated its aerial assault in Gaza on Thursday, hitting hundreds of Hamas targets.

LEFTIS PITARAKIS/AP

was going according to plan, with Israel targeting various Hamas interests.

"The military's successes so far have been very significant," he said. "We will continue until they understand that this escalation is not beneficial to them and that we will not tolerate rocket fire toward our towns and cities."

Palestinian medical officials said one strike early Thursday struck a home in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, killing eight members of the Al Haj family. Tractors cleared away large piles of debris from the demolished building as one man laid atop a mattress and blankets that remained.

An earlier strike killed eight people who were at a Gaza beach cafe watching the World Cup semifinal match between Argentina and the Netherlands, Mahmoud Sawah said, adding at least two of his brothers were among the dead.

The Israeli military said it was investigating both incidents. It also said it struck a car in Gaza carrying three Islamic Jihad militants involved in firing rockets. The militant group confirmed that its men were killed in the strike. Hamas officials said that the Palestinian side of its border crossing with Israel had also been destroyed in Israeli airstrikes.

The Health Ministry in Gaza has reported 85 deaths, including 22 on Thursday. It says about half were children, though the exact breakdown could not immediately be confirmed.

Israel accuses militants of de-



A Palestinian inspects a house belonging to a senior Hamas official that was damaged Thursday in a strike in Beit Lahiyah in the northern Gaza Strip.

ADEL HANA/AP

liberately endangering civilians by using homes and other civilian buildings for cover. The military has also directly targeted the offices and homes of known militants that it says are used as command centers.

The military says it contacts the families first to ask civilians to evacuate before striking.

Hamas is firing rockets from "within houses and streets and neighborhoods which are populated with civilians ... exposing these civilians to retaliation and to

backfire," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said.

After an overnight lull, militants resumed their barrage toward central and southern Israel. Remnants of a long-range rocket fired from Gaza landed in a gas station in south Tel Aviv after being shot down by the Iron Dome.

Besides firing toward Israel's two largest cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Hamas also launched a rocket that reached the town of Zichron Yaakov, more than 60 miles north of Gaza.

Germany expels US official in spy flap

By FRANK JORDANS
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany took the dramatic step Thursday of asking the top U.S. intelligence official in Berlin to leave the country, following two suspected cases of American spying and the year-long spat over eavesdropping by the National Security Agency.

The move reflects growing impatience in Germany at what is perceived as U.S. nonchalance about being caught spying on a close ally.

"The representative of the U.S. intelligence services at the United States Embassy has been asked to leave Germany," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement.

"The request occurred against the backdrop of the ongoing investigation by federal prosecutors as well as the questions that were posed months ago about the activities of U.S. intelligence agencies in Germany," he added. "The government takes the matter very seriously."

Seibert said Germany continues to seek "close and trusting" cooperation with its Western partners, "especially the United States."

The U.S. government declined to comment directly on the decision. But White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the security and intelligence relationship with Germany was very important to the United States.

"It keeps Germans and Americans safe. It is essential that cooperation continue in all areas and we will continue to be in touch with the German government in appropriate channels," she said.

Shortly before the decision was announced, Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters that Germany and the United States had "very different approaches" to the role of intelligence agencies.

In separate cases over the past 10 days, one man has been arrested and an investigation against another has been launched on suspicion that they worked for foreign intelligence. German media have reported that the men are suspected of passing secrets to the U.S.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the scope of the cases and who was involved are not yet clear, but talks are taking place with the United States at various levels.

"If the situation remains what we know now, the information reaped by this suspected espionage is laudable," de Maiziere said in a statement. "However, the price we pay for it is already disproportionate and serious."

Officials blame US for drone strike that killed 6 in Pakistan

The Associated Press

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan — A suspected American drone fired two missiles at a compound in a troubled Pakistani tribal region on Thursday, killing six militants, two intelligence officials said.

The strike happened in Datta Khel in North Waziristan, where the Pakistan army last month launched a much-awaited operation against local and foreign militants who

the region to carry out attacks in Pakistan, the officials said.

The identity of the slain men was not immediately known and the officials said they were still trying to get details.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

U.S. drone strikes are a serious source of tension between Washington and Islamabad.

The Pakistani government regularly denounces the strikes as a violation of the country's sovereignty.

Thursday's strike took place in the same region where the Pakistan army on June 15 launched a major offensive against Pakistani Taliban, al-Qaida and other militants. Datta Khel is about 30 miles west of Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan.

WORLD

Argentina's Horse whisperer

Gaicho tames with nuzzles, gentle coaxing, instead of whips

By KACEY CHERRY
The Associated Press

THIS IS NOT THE ARGENTINE you see in the movies. In San Antonio de Areco, Argentina, there is no whip in sight, no shouting or loud jabs. Not even a firm hand on the reins. Yet Martin Tatta somehow persuades his beloved Milonga to join him in acrobatic feats, from handstands to other poses that even the most understanding horses rarely display.

Through soft touches, gentle coaxing and a few tender nuzzles, it seems Tatta can sway his steeds to do just about anything.

In San Antonio de Areco, a bastion of Argentine gaucho culture outside the capital of Buenos Aires, Tatta, 33, is known as "the horse whisperer."

"For me, it's something natural," Tatta told The Associated Press. "No one taught me. I taught myself."

Eleven years ago, the horse trainer's way of "breaking" horses without aggression caught the attention of a local rancher, who encouraged Tatta to perform for tourists. Since then, he's traveled the world displaying the special skill he has with horses.

Tatta insists anyone could do this, if they were to be patient and gentle enough.

But veteran horseman Alberto Nally, who at 70 is one of the most experienced gauchos in the community, said no other gaucho has such a gentle touch.

"It hardly looks like he's even trying or doing anything — that's why it's special," Nally said. "I've seen other trainers using their reins and pulling the horse's head back and forth, but Martin, no. He is steady and soft when he works with them. He has a gift. He was born with it."

Gauchos are Argentina's version of the North American cowboy. They are distinctive for their wardrobe of beret-styled hats, silver belts and leather chaps, or their habit of drinking the region's traditional tea, yerba mate.

Tatta shows that when "breaking" or taming a wild horse, "it doesn't have to be done through this harsh or brutal force," said Andrea Vigil, who directs the town's historic gaucho museum. "Instead, it's the opposite: It can be done in a warm and intimate way that gets slightly stricter. And then, well, you saw — you can accomplish incredible things."

"It's not a fight with the animal," Tatta said. "No, it's all very serene and peaceful." "There were these visitors that came and watched me, and after I had finished, they began to cry. And she said to me 'Martin, what you do, I can't believe it.' And I said to her, 'Ma'am, please don't cry. Are you OK? Why are you crying?' And she goes, 'You don't understand what you convey when you interact with those animals.'"



PHOTOS BY NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Martin Tatta, a self-taught trainer from San Antonio de Areco, Argentina, has been showcasing his unique bond with horses through performances for 11 years.

“
It hardly looks like he's even trying or doing anything — that's why it's special.

—Alberto Nally
veteran gaucho



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man charged in dinosaur footprint theft in court

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah man accused of stealing a priceless fossilized dinosaur footprint that's never been recovered is set to be in court for a change-of-plea hearing.

Jared Ehlers, 35, of Moab, pleaded not guilty in April to charges of theft and damage to government property and destroying paleontological resources.

After that hearing, Ehlers' attorney, Tara Isaacson, said her client felt terrible about the mistake he made.

Bureau of Land Management paleontologists say the print is from the Jurassic Period and up to 190 million years old. It comes from a large meat-eating dinosaur that is likely an ancestor to dinosaurs like *Allosaurus*.

Prosecutors said Ehlers pried up the fossil Feb. 17 in the Sand Flats Recreation Area near Moab and got rid of it March 3.

Artist says police pulled weapon over a mix-up

NM SANTA FE — A well-known American Indian artist said police in New Mexico pulled a rifle on him after his dog pooped in his SUV and a woman mistook his cleanup efforts for a burglary.

Pueblo painter Mateo Romero told The Associated Press that a Santa Fe officer pointed a weapon at him during the bizarre misunderstanding Monday.

According to a police report, the officer pulled out a rifle and detained Romero after Maria Markus reported a burglary in progress at her home. Romero said he parked in her private driveway after his Shih Tzu relieved himself inside his SUV and Romero sought to clean the mess.

Romero said Markus spotted him in her driveway, boxed him in with her vehicle and called 911. He said Markus refused to talk to him before police arrived.

Teen dies after jumping on iPhone thief's car

CA SANTA ANA — A 15-year-old Southern California girl died of her injuries after she jumped onto the speeding car of a robber who snatched her iPhone, and detectives are asking for the public's help in finding two suspects.

Rubi Rubio briefly fell onto the trunk of the car before falling off and hitting her head July 3 in Santa Ana, Police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna told the Orange County Register.

"According to witnesses, the vehicle was swerving in an attempt to get her off," Bertagna said.

Rubio, a student at Godinez Fundamental High School, died from her injuries Saturday while surrounded by her family at a hospital, the newspaper said.

Investigators said the man took the phone from the teen while she was walking her 7-year-old sister home from school. He ran to the car, which was driven by another person, with Rubio giving chase.

The iPhone was later found by a resident not far from the scene.

THE CENSUS

35

The number of pizzas a Frontier Airlines pilot bought for passengers when the Denver-bound plane was stuck on the runway a couple of hours after being diverted to Cheyenne, Wyo. Cheyenne Domino's Pizza manager Andrew Ritchie said he got a call Monday night from pilot Gerhard Bradner who said he needed to feed 160 people — fast. Ritchie and his crew made about 35 pizzas and delivered them within 30 minutes to the airport, where they handed them off to Frontier flight attendants. The plane left Cheyenne shortly after the pizzas arrived.



DANIEL HEARS, THE DETROIT NEWS/AP

Mudder and daughter

Jody Thomas and her daughter, Kailyn, 3, float in the mud pit at the annual Wayne County Parks Mud Day at Hines Park-Nankin Mills Area in Westland, Mich., on Tuesday, Kailyn's birthday.

Lawyers fired over Facebook remarks

FL FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Two Broward County assistant public defenders were fired Tuesday for Facebook comments calling Palestinians "cockroaches" and "filthy swine."

Bruce Ratcoff and Gary Sheres both lost their jobs, as outrage built after the Sun Sentinel published an article including the Facebook comments a week ago, Public Defender Howard Finkelstein said.

The remarks from the two men's personal Facebook accounts last week were posted under an item about Palestinians allegedly celebrating the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teen boys. The killings were blamed on the Islamic militant group Hamas.

"They are the filthy swine they don't eat," Sheres posted.

Sheres said later that he was only labeling as "filthy swine" the Palestinians who murder people or celebrate murders. Ratcoff said he hadn't written the comments at all, that someone had accessed his Facebook account and posted under his name.

Man's draft notice arrives 102 years late

PA KENNERDELL — A Pennsylvania woman said her late father has received notice to register for the nation's military draft — some 102 years too late.

Martha Weaver, now in her 80s, told The (Oil City) Derrick that the Selective Service System notice arrived Saturday in Rockland Township, Venango County.

Her father's name was Fred Minnick, though the notice misspelled the last name "Minnick" and warns that failure to register is "punishable by a fine and imprisonment."

Her father was born on June 12, 1894, which means he would have turned 18 in 1912.

Weaver suspects the confusion was spawned by the incorrect birth date on the form, which lists the birth year as 1994.

Farmer's lost phone finds its way to Japan

OK TULSA — An Oklahoma farmer's iPhone

that was lost when it fell into a grain elevator has been returned to him unscathed after it was found in Japan.

Kevin Whitney lost the phone in October when it slipped out of his shirt pocket as he was unloading grain from a truck into a silo in Chickasha. The load traveled to a depot in Convent, La., and then loaded onto a ship bound for the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

A worker at the Japanese facility phoned a counterpart in Louisiana, who then called Whitney in late May asking if he lost an iPhone.

NYPD: Drone came within 800 feet of helo

NY NEW YORK — Police have arrested two people for operating a drone over the George Washington Bridge that came within 800 feet of a police helicopter.

They said the helicopter pilot spotted the small unmanned aircraft near the bridge at 12.21 a.m. Monday. The drone continued to circle the bridge, forcing the chopper to change course to avoid it.

The pilot notified the 34th Precinct after observing the drone

land on a parked vehicle.

When police arrived, they recovered two drones with remote controls. Police arrested Wilkins Mendoza and Remy Castro, both of Manhattan, on reckless endangerment charges.

3 human skulls found in Goodwill donations

WA SEATTLE — Three human skulls turned up last month among the donations to a Goodwill store in Bellevue.

Employees at the store found the skulls in a donation bin. Two were placed in boxes, and one was wrapped in a striped scarf. Once workers realized the skulls were human, they reported the find to the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

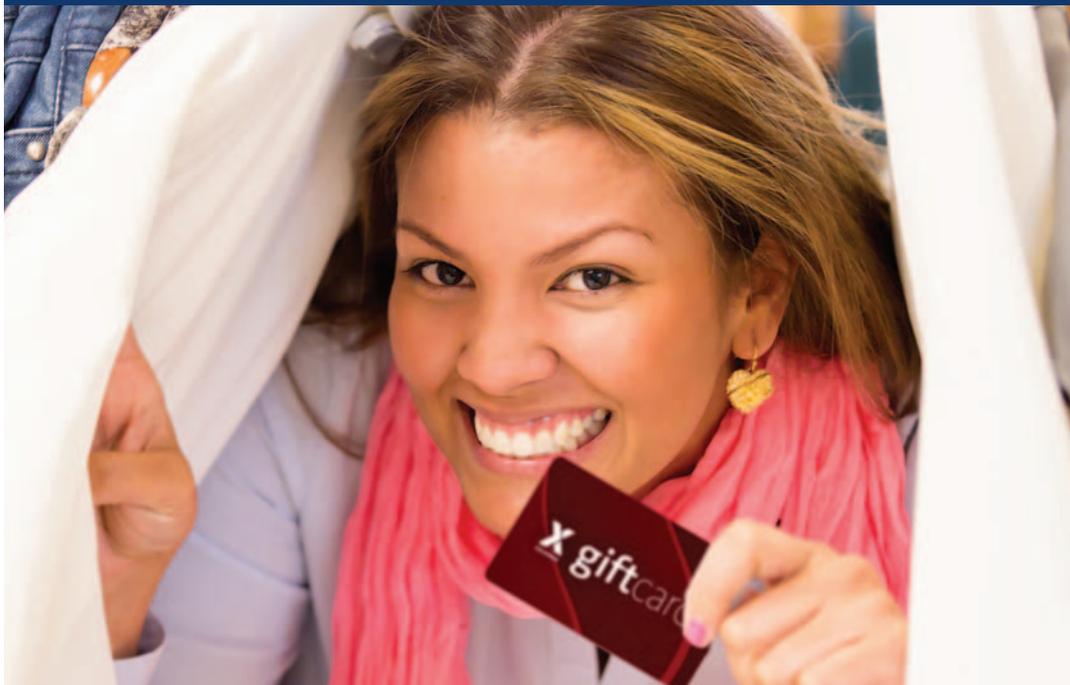
"We get a lot of unusual donations," Goodwill spokeswoman Katherine Bourry said. "We get people's ashes in the urn. We get people's gold teeth. And on a more positive note, last year we had someone bring in a Louis Vuitton trunk, but this is the first human skull I can remember."

From wire reports

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NATION

The rise in popularity of Brooklyn as a name for girls parallels the borough's renaissance through the gentrification of neighborhoods and in influx of business and entertainment.



David and Victoria Beckham's son Brooklyn, below, and model-actress Brooklyn Decker, right, are among those credited with fueling the rise in popularity of the borough-inspired name.

AP photos

BROOKLYN

Naming kids after borough is a hit — everywhere except NY

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maybe it's the ultimate sign that New York City's up-and-coming borough has finally arrived. Brooklyn is now one of the nation's most popular baby names.

Over the past two decades, Brooklyn as a name for girls has surged from No. 912 to the top 30 in each of the last three years. Some credit soccer star David Beckham and his wife, Victoria, for naming their son Brooklyn. Some cite model and actress Brooklyn Decker. Others point to "Girls" and the many other TV shows and movies that tap into the borough's gritty, cool vibe.

But one thing is clear: Of the 41 states where Brooklyn is now the most popular girl's name beginning with B, New York is not among them. Real Brooklynites say naming your child Brooklyn is strictly for out-of-towners.

"It's almost like a magical place far away that doesn't exist to them," says parent Heath Farnsworth-Williams. "For us, Brooklyn is home, and we'd have a hard time trying to make the identity of our home coexist with the identity of our child."

More than 6,600 girls born in the U.S. in 2013 were named Brooklyn, making it the 28th most

6,600

The number girls born in the U.S. in 2013 who were named Brooklyn, making it the 28th most popular girls name.

popular girls name ahead of stalwarts Samantha, Allison and Sarah, according to recently released Social Security Administration data.

Brooklyn beat out such place names as Savannah (No. 37) and London (No. 85), but trailed Madison (No. 9) and Charlotte (No. 11). Brooklyn as a boy's name is still rare, having never cracked the top 1,000.

"People want more creativity, many for the better, some for the worse," says Pamela Redmond Satran, co-founder of the baby naming website Nameberry.com, who notes Brooklyn is often favored as a unique-sounding mashup of the more conventional Brooke and Lynne.

Brooklyn Presta says her parents in Kansas were thinking unique, not New York, when they named her. Now 26 and living in Brooklyn, Presta says she

often gets questions about whether she changed her name to fit her chosen borough.

"It's kind of crazy to be Brooklyn in Brooklyn," Presta says.

The popularity of the Brooklyn name parallels the renaissance of the borough of 2.6 million, with the gentrification of its leafy brownstone neighborhoods, a thriving arts scene and the return of big-league sports with the Brooklyn Nets.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, seeking to capitalize on that spirit of cool, recently pitched Brooklyn — not Manhattan — as potential host for the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

"There's no greater way to show admiration for a borough than to name your child after it," says Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. "You don't see too many people calling their children Manhattan or the Bronx."

Kimberly and Brock Tite, of Marion, Ill., are that rare exception.

Even though they've never visited New York and know it only through TV and rap lyrics, they named their 3-year-old daughter Brooklyn and 1-year-old son Bronx.

"I knew I wanted to name my kids after New York," Kimberly Tite says. "I love New York."

NATION

Disabled's voting rights debated

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — At a time when election officials are struggling to persuade more Americans to vote, advocates for the disabled say thousands of people with autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy and other intellectual or developmental disabilities have been systematically denied that basic right in the nation's largest county.

A Voting Rights Act complaint to be filed Thursday with the U.S. Justice Department goes to a politically delicate subject that states have grappled with over the years: Where is the line to disqualify someone from the voting booth because of a cognitive or developmental impairment?

The complaint by the Disability and Abuse Project argues that intellectual and developmental disabilities, including conditions such as Down syndrome, are not automatic barriers to participating in elections. It seeks a sweeping review of voting eligibility in Los Angeles County in such cases, arguing that thousands of people with those disabilities have lost the right to vote during the last decade.

"We want these past injustices to be corrected, and we want the judges and court-appointed attorneys to protect, not violate, the rights of people with developmental disabilities," Thomas F. Coleman, the group's legal director, said.

At issue in the California case is access to the ballot box for adults who enter so-called limited conservatorships, legal arrangements in which parents or guardians assume the right to make certain decisions for people who lack the ability to manage their financial and medical af-

All but about a dozen states have some type of law limiting voting rights for individuals based on competence. How those laws are enforced varies widely, advocates say.

airs. In the course of taking that step in court, voting rights are routinely voided, according to the advocacy group.

California has more than 40,000 such cases, and those covered by the arrangements usually live with their families or in group homes. A recent sample of 61 cases by the advocacy group in Los Angeles County found that 90 percent of the people covered by limited conservatorships had been disqualified from voting.

The complaint says judges in Los Angeles Superior Court use literacy tests to determine if adults in limited conservatorships should have voting rights, a violation of the federal Voting Rights Act. It also says that judges and court-appointed attorneys violate federal laws that allow people with disabilities to have assistance to complete voter-registration forms and cast ballots.

"Autism is a broad spectrum, and there can be low skills and there can be high skills," Teresa Thompson, whose son has autism and whose case helped prompt the complaint, said in a videotaped statement. "But what I ob-

served was that people tend to just dismiss it as though they have no skills."

Los Angeles Superior Court spokeswoman Mary Eckhardt Hearn said she had not seen the complaint and declined comment.

The complaint could trigger an investigation by the Justice Department. It also asks Superior Court to rescind thousands of voter-disqualification notices it has issued in those cases over a decade.

For years, advocates brought attention to the obstacles to voting faced by the physically disabled. More recently, the focus has shifted to the mentally or developmentally disabled, who advocates say have long been stigmatized in the voting process.

All but about a dozen states have some type of law limiting voting rights for individuals based on competence. How those laws are enforced varies widely, advocates say.

A 2007 report for the American Bar Association concluded that "excluding the broad and indefinite category of persons with mental incapacities is not consistent with either the constitutional right to vote... or the current understanding of mental capacity."

The California complaint could create a testing ground for such cases. State election law says a person is considered mentally incompetent and disqualified from voting if he or she cannot complete a voter-registration form, which the complaint argues is an illegal literacy test.

"This is a constant struggle to make sure everyone can vote privately and independently, regardless of disability," said Curtis Decker, executive director of the National Disability Rights Network.

Dems seek Hobby Lobby remedy law

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats vowed Wednesday to bypass the Supreme Court decision in the Hobby Lobby case, unveiling new legislation that would require all employers to pay for contraception as part of the health care mandates included in the Affordable Care Act.

The legislation comes a week after the high court ruled that many private companies — including plaintiff Hobby Lobby craft stores — were within their rights to seek an exemption from the contraception mandate if they cite a religious objection to providing health plans that include some kinds of birth control.

The ruling outraged Democrats and women's groups, who vowed to seek legislation that would require all employers to cover contraception.

The legislation, being introduced by Democrats in both the Senate and the House, would require all employers to abide by the contraception mandate included in the Affordable Care Act — even if they claim religious objections. It would include an exemption for houses of worship and an accommodation for religious nonprofits.

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FACES

'Game of Thrones' plays to win

Fantasy series earns leading 19 Emmy nods

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

The fantasy saga "Game of Thrones," defying the Emmy Awards' grudging respect for genre fare, emerged as the leader in the nominations announced Thursday with 19 bids, including best drama series.

Other top nominees included a pair of ambitious miniseries, "Fargo," with 18 bids, and "American Horror Story: Coven," with 17. The AIDS drama "The Normal Heart" received 16 nominations, including best TV movie. The meth kingpin drama "Breaking Bad" got 16 bids for its final season.

The 66th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony will have big-screen star power to spare. This year's Academy Awards best-actor winner Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club") and nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years a Slave") are both nominees for TV projects, as is past Oscar winner Julia Roberts.

In the competitive best-drama series category, "Game of Thrones" will compete with "Breaking Bad," "Downton Abbey," "House of Cards," "Mad Men" and "True Detective."



HBO/AP

"Game of Thrones" was nominated for a best drama Emmy.

The awards

The 66th Primetime Emmy Awards will be Aug. 25. Seth Myers will host the event.

Whether "Game of Thrones" can take home the top trophy is another question: Only one genre series, "Lost," has ever captured it, according to Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys" and organizer of the Gold Derby awards site.

Netflix's "House of Cards," which made a breakthrough last year as the first online series nominated for a major award, has the chance again to grab Emmy gold. "Orange Is the New Black," also from Net-

flix, leaped that barrier on the flip side this time around with a bid for best comedy series, along with a nod for star Taylor Schilling.

Also competing for best comedy honors are "The Big Bang Theory," "Louie," "Silicon Valley," "Veep" and "Modern Family," a four-time winner that has the chance to tie "Frasier" as the all-time winning sitcom with one more award.

"Orange Is the New Black," a prison-set hybrid dramedy, could have been entered in either the drama or comedy category, and the decision to go for the latter paid off.

Another category-buster is "True Detective," the drama that starved McConaughey. It was entered in the series category although it had a close-ended story and its stars have indicated they don't plan on returning. But the crime anthology qualifies as a series because of the "created by" credit given to Nic Pizzolatto by the Writers Guild of America, said John Leverage, the TV academy's senior vice president for awards.



FOX/AP

Bieber pleads no contest in case

After pleading no contest Wednesday to throwing eggs at his former neighbor's home in Calabasas, Calif., Justin Bieber is "glad to get this matter resolved and behind him," a representative said.

Under a plea deal reached with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, the pop star pleaded no contest to misdemeanor vandalism in the incident and was ordered to pay \$80,900 in restitution. Authorities said the damage totaled \$20,000, which could have qualified him for a felony.

Outside court, prosecutor Alan Yochelson described Bieber's behavior in the incident as "extremely immature."

Bieber, who did not appear in court, also was ordered to serve two years' probation, complete a 12-week anger-management program and five days of community service and stay away from his former neighbor, Jeffrey Schwartz, and his family for two years.

The restitution amount was ordered after Yochelson said Schwartz and his family spent a large amount of money to repair their "dream home."

Bieber was charged earlier Wednesday on the misdemeanor vandalism count after he threw eggs at the home on Jan. 9.

His attorney, Shawn Holley, declined to comment about the plea deal. But a representative issued a statement Wednesday evening saying Bieber was "glad to get this matter resolved and behind him. He will continue to move forward focusing on his career and his music."

Lifetime orders 'Clan of the Cave Bear' pilot

The Lifetime TV channel says it has ordered a drama pilot based on the best-selling works of the author of "The Clan of the Cave Bear." Lifetime said Wednesday that the project's executive producers include filmmakers Ron Howard and Brian Grazer.

The pilot is titled "The Clan of the Cave Bear." Lifetime says the TV project is aimed at a potential 2015 launch.

From wire reports

Select nominees for the Emmy Awards



'This list of nominees [for comedy actress] would also be the list for the best dinner party in history.'

Lena Dunham

Emmy nominee for actress in a comedy

Drama series

- "Breaking Bad" (AMC)
- "Downton Abbey" (PBS)
- "Game of Thrones" (HBO)
- "House of Cards" (Netflix)
- "Mad Men" (AMC)
- "True Detective" (HBO)

Comedy series

- "The Big Bang Theory" (CBS)
- "Louie" (FX)
- "Modern Family" (ABC)
- "Orange Is the New Black" (Netflix)
- "Silicon Valley" (HBO)
- "Veep" (HBO)

Miniseries

- "American Horror Story: Coven" (FX)
- "Bonnie and Clyde" (A&E)
- "Fargo" (FX)
- "Luther" (BBC America)
- "Treme" (HBO)
- "The White Queen" (BBC America)

Actor in a drama

- Bryan Cranston ("Breaking Bad")
- Jeff Daniels ("The Newsroom")
- Jon Hamm ("Mad Men")
- Woody Harelson ("True Detective")
- Matthew McConaughey ("True Detective")
- Kevin Spacey ("House of Cards")

Actress in a drama

- Lizzy Caplan ("Masters of Sex")
- Claire Danes ("Homeland")
- Michelle Dockery ("Downton Abbey")
- Julianne Margulies ("The Good Wife")
- Kerry Washington ("Scandal")
- Robin Wright ("House of Cards")

Actor in a comedy

- Louis C.K. ("Louie")
- Don Cheadle ("House of Lies")
- Ricky Gervais ("Derek")
- Matt LeBlanc ("Episodes")
- William H. Macy ("Shameless")
- Jim Parsons ("The Big Bang Theory")

Actress in a comedy

- Lena Dunham ("Girls")
- Edie Falco ("Nurse Jackie")
- Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Veep")
- Melissa McCarthy ("Mike & Molly")
- Amy Poehler ("Parks and Recreation")
- Taylor Schilling ("Orange Is the New Black")

Actor in a miniseries or a movie

- Chiwetel Ejiofor ("Dancing on the Edge")
- Martin Freeman ("Fargo")
- Billy Bob Thornton ("Fargo")
- Idris Elba ("Luther")
- Mark Ruffalo ("The Normal Heart")
- Benedict Cumberbatch ("Sherlock: His Last Vow")

Actress in a miniseries or a movie

- Jessica Lange ("American Horror Story: Coven")
- Sarah Paulson ("American Horror Story: Coven")
- Helena Bonham Carter ("Burton and Taylor")

- Minnie Driver ("Return to Zero")
- Kristen Wiig ("The Spoils of Babylon")
- Cicely Tyson ("The Trip to Bountiful")

Reality-Competition program

- "The Amazing Race" (CBS)
- "Dancing with the Stars" (ABC)
- "Project Runway" (Lifetime)
- "So You Think You Can Dance" (FOX)
- "Top Chef" (Bravo)
- "The Voice" (NBC)

Variety Series

- "The Colbert Report" (Comedy Central)
- "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" (Comedy Central)
- "Jimmy Kimmel Live" (ABC)
- "Real Time with Bill Maher" (HBO)
- "Saturday Night Live" (NBC)
- "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (NBC)

— Los Angeles Times

Full list of nominees at emmys.com



'I'm crazy grateful that the TV Academy has acknowledged our show in these ways.'

Kerry Washington

Nominee for actress in a drama. Co-stars Joe Morton and Kate Burton were also nominated.



SHIZUO KAMAYAKI/AP

Godzilla in Japan

Actor Ken Watanabe poses for photographers at the Tokyo premiere of his movie "Godzilla" on July 10. The movie, which opened in the U.S. in May and has already made more than \$465 million globally, opens in Japan on July 25.

FAITH



MARYJANE FALEFA PORTER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, commander of U.S. Army Reserve Command, thanks Sgt. Zoe, a support dog, for his service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in New Windsor, N.Y., on Feb. 9. Zoe is accompanied by Chaplain Karen Hallett.

The chaplain with the dog

From Afghanistan to Texas, Maj. Karen Hallett puts a canine in service to forming bonds

By DAVID BURGE
El Paso (Texas) Times

S he is known simply as the “chaplain with the dog” to the many soldiers she has served with at Fort Bliss and Afghanistan and even to the people she meets in the El Paso community.

Chaplain Maj. Karen Hallett has a sidekick she is seen almost everywhere with — her dog, Sgt. Zoe, a psychiatric service dog who is trained to help people dealing with post-traumatic stress.

Hallett, 49, from Vernon, N.J., has had Sgt. Zoe since February 2012 and uses her as a way to break down barriers and provide additional support to the soldiers in her unit and around the Army.

Her dog can often be seen in the doorway of her office at West Fort Bliss, beckoning visitors.

“Here is how it works,” Hallett said. “Someone comes by. Zoe is laying out in the hallway. She’s cute. They stop. They pet her. I have a chance to say, ‘Hey, how are you doing? What’s going on?’”

“Very often, they will come in and sit down and talk about whatever. It opens a door that wouldn’t be open to me normally.

“I almost can’t get work done in my office, which is why what we want as a chaplain,” she told the El Paso Times. “We want people to stop by.”

Hallett, a nondenominational Christian chaplain, has been the brigade chaplain for 402nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army, Division West at Fort Bliss since

April 2013.

Before that, she served as the brigade chaplain for the 411th Engineer Brigade, a reserve unit out of New York state. While with the 411th, she deployed to Afghanistan and brought the dog with her.

Zoe, an adorable black Labrador, was a huge hit with the troops in Afghanistan — at Bagram Airfield and anywhere else the pair traveled.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” Hallett said. “I can’t tell you the number of ways she impacted my ministry there. I would literally get calls and emails from people: ‘Are you the chaplain with the dog and can you come over to our unit?’”

Hallett said she has hundreds of stories of how Sgt. Zoe has helped reach soldiers. They were flying back to Bagram in Afghanistan and the flight crew for the airplane they were on wanted a photo with the dog when they landed.

“The pilot is standing there and we’re chatting,” Hallett said. “Everyone has gotten off the plane. That couple of minutes turned into a two-hour counseling for the pilot who was devastated because his mar-

riage was falling apart.”

If not for her dog, she would have never had the chance to break the ice with that pilot who needed her help, Hallett said.

At Fort Bliss, Hallett is responsible for providing religious support to about 400 soldiers and their families who are part of the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade. The brigade runs the Mobilization Training Center at Fort Bliss and is responsible for training National Guard and Reservists before they deploy.

The brigade also does the in-processing work for these troops when they return from deployments. Counting those soldiers, Hallett can be responsible for the spiritual needs of up to 4,000 troops, depending on the time of year.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Karen Meeker, the 1st Armored Division chaplain at Fort Bliss, said the installation is blessed to have both Hallett and Sgt. Zoe.

“Zoe, a constant companion by the side of Chaplain Hallett, expresses the love and care of God for soldiers,” Meeker said. “There is nothing like the loyalty and affection of a friendly dog like Zoe to make anybody feel a little better.”

Hallett got the idea for incorporating a dog into her ministry during her first deployment to Afghanistan in 2010-11 when she went as a chaplain in support of the 101st Airborne Division “Air Assault.”

Bagram Airfield had a detachment of mine dogs that would be brought out for base functions like fun runs, Hallett said. She saw how the soldiers, who were so far away from their families, flocked to the dogs.

That gave her the inspiration to bring

a dog with her when she returned to Afghanistan with her next unit, the 411th Engineer Brigade.

Her brigade commander then, Brig. Gen. David Weeks, told her that whatever she felt she needed for the deployment, to go and get it.

So Hallett contacted Puppies Behind Bars, a nonprofit organization out of New York City, which uses inmates to train psychiatric service dogs.

Puppies Behind Bars gave Hallett a dog to take to Afghanistan and incorporate into her ministry. “They thought it was a great idea for a chaplain to have a dog,” she said.

Hallett has a different background than many Army chaplains. She is a 1988 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and served as a commissioned ordnance officer from 1988 to 1992. She then left the Army and took what she described as an “18-year corporate break.”

During that time, she ran her own business, building and managing cellphone towers. She was also involved as a minister at various churches including being an associate pastor from 1998 to 2006 at Glenwood Baptist Church in New Jersey. She then went to seminary and graduated from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., with a master of divinity in 2008.

She commissioned into the Chaplain Corps in 2009 and began her second stint in the Army.

“Being an Army chaplain is a good fit for me,” Hallett said. “I’m a very hands-on minister. I just can’t stand church committees.

“For me, being active in the Army was a much better way to go.”

‘There is nothing like the loyalty and affection of a friendly dog like Zoe to make anybody feel a little better.’

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Karen Meeker
1st Armored Division

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Recipe for sales: Add fiber, cinnamon

By Candice Choi
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — General Mills hopes a pinch of cinnamon and a dash of fiber will be a recipe for stronger sales.

The Minneapolis-based company is doing things like adding more cinnamon to its Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal and rolling out fiber-packed "better for you" cookies to boost the performance of its brands, which include Pillsbury dough, Betty Crocker bak-

ing mixes and Progress soups. General Mills executives sat down with The Associated Press this week to discuss those and other ways the company is trying to boost sales, which was essentially flat in the last fiscal year. The company, which last month announced a cost-cutting plan that will include a review of its manufacturing plants, is working to adapt its offerings as it grapples with the changing eating habits of Americans.

The surging popularity of Greek yogurt in recent years, for instance, blindsided the company's Yoplait yogurts. And the move toward foods that people think are fresher has hurt Hamburger Helper, which last year was renamed "Helper" in a nod to people who prefer chicken.

General Mills is entering the cookie aisle for the first time with a "better-for-you" cookie. Its new Fiber One cookie has 5 grams of fiber and 120 calories. A

Pepperidge Farm chocolate chip cookie, by contrast, has no fiber and 140 calories.

General Mills also is adding more cinnamon to Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal and reformulating Trix cereal to make it taste better. The tweaks will be broadcast in TV ads this summer. "What consumers often need is a reminder to come back and try brands they've always loved," said Sen O'Grady, senior vice president of sales at General Mills.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 11)	\$1,3990
Dollar buys (July 11)	€0.7148
British pound (July 11)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (July 11)	99.00
South Korean won (July 11)	987.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7122/\$1.5841
Canada (dollar)	1.0670
China (Yuan)	6.2066
Denmark (Krone)	5.4822
Egypt (Pound)	7.1515
Euro	\$1.3600/7.353
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	278.30
Israel (Shekel)	3.4300
Japan (Yen)	101.22
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2824
Norway (Krone)	6.1673
Philippines (Peso)	43.43
Poland (Zloty)	3.105
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2426
South Korea (Won)	1,015.95
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8927
Thailand (Bath)	32.18
Turkey (New Lira)	1,1285

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.981	\$4.152	\$4.218	\$4.216
Change in price	-3.6 cents	-2.3 cents	-2.1 cents	-0.7 cents
Netherlands	..	\$5.110	\$5.405	\$5.113
Change in price	..	-7.1 cents	-7.2 cents	-11.2 cents
U.K.	..	\$4.206	\$4.288	\$4.186
Change in price	..	-4.1 cents	-2.1 cents	-0.7 cents
Azores	\$4.264	..
Change in price	-2.1 cents	..
Guam	..	\$4.188	\$4.296	\$4.343
Change in price	..	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	\$4.682	\$5.042*
Change in price	+0.8 cents	+7.3 cents
Italy	\$4.203	..
Change in price	\$4.088
no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	..	\$3.039	..	\$3.899
Change in price	..	-2.0 cents	..	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.689	\$3.899
Change in price	no change	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.899	..	\$4.139	\$4.039
Change in price	-2.0 cents	..	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.789**	\$3.969	\$4.129	..
Change in price	-3.0 cents*	-2.0 cents	-2.0 cents	..

* Diesel EFD ** Mildgrade
For the week of July 11-17

MARKET WATCH

July 9, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+78.99
16,985.61	
Nasdaq composite	+27.57
4,419.03	
Standard & Poor's 500	+9.12
1,972.83	
Russell 2000	+1.66

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	8.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.38

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	89	67	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	81	58	Clr	Louisville	88	65	Clr	Pocatello	92	59	Cldy	Siox City	85	69	Cldy	
Ablene, Tex	95	72	Pcldy	Cheyenne	80	58	Cldy	Fresno	97	67	Clr	Lubbock	92	67	Clr	Portland, Maine	77	55	Cldy	Siox Falls	85	69	Cldy	
Akron, Ohio	80	57	Cir	Chicago	80	62	Cldy	Goodland	94	65	Pcldy	Macon	91	70	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	91	60	Cldy	South Bend	80	57	Pcldy	
Albany, N.Y.	85	57	Cir	Cincinnati	83	61	Pcldy	Grand Junction	92	67	Cldy	Madison	77	61	Cldy	Providence	82	66	Cldy	Spartanburg	93	61	Cir	
Albuquerque	92	69	Pcldy	Cleveland	78	58	Cir	Grand Rapids	80	58	Cir	Medford	93	68	Pcldy	Pueblo	95	64	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	80	63	Cldy	
Allentown, Pa.	85	61	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	88	62	Pcldy	Great Falls	84	56	Pcldy	Memphis	91	70	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	86	69	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	89	69	Cldy	
Amarillo	92	67	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	91	71	Cldy	Green Bay	78	58	Cldy	Miami Beach	88	78	Pcldy	Rain	Roanoke	84	64	Pcldy	Syracuse	86	62	Cldy
Anchorage	85	54	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	92	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	86	64	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	91	71	Pcldy	reno	92	65	Cir	Tallahassee	94	73	Rain	
Asheville	82	61	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	82	59	Cir	Harrisburg	85	63	Pcldy	Milwaukee	95	73	Cldy	Richmond	88	69	Cldy	Tampa	91	77	Rain	
Atlanta	84	66	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	81	62	Pcldy	Hartford	85	64	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	67	Cir	Rochester	78	53	Cldy	Topeka	96	73	Pcldy	
Atlantic City	84	66	Cldy	Corpus Christi	93	78	Cldy	Helenia	88	57	Pcldy	Missoula	91	59	Cldy	Rockford	78	60	Cir	Tucson	99	79	Pcldy	
Austin	85	62	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	99	79	Pcldy	Honolulu	88	75	Cir	Mobile	72	72	Cldy	Rockford	78	60	Cir	Tulsa	97	75	Cir	
Baltimore	85	69	Pcldy	Dayton	81	58	Cir	Houston	95	76	Pcldy	Montgomery	94	71	Pcldy	Sacramento	87	59	Cir	Tulsa	97	75	Cir	
Baton Rouge	92	73	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	88	76	Pcldy	Huntsville	91	67	Pcldy	Nashville	90	66	Cir	St Louis	85	68	Cldy	Tupelo	92	68	Pcldy	
Biloxi	87	60	Pcldy	Denver	80	63	Pcldy	Indianapolis	83	61	Pcldy	New Orleans	91	76	Pcldy	St Petersburg	90	78	Rain	Waco	97	74	Pcldy	
Birmingham	90	70	Pcldy	Des Moines	84	66	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	95	68	Pcldy	New York City	85	69	Pcldy	St Thomas	91	80	Cir	Washington	90	74	Pcldy	
Bismarck	83	63	Cir	Detroit	80	60	Cir	Jacksonville	91	74	Rain	Newark	85	68	Pcldy	Salem, Ore.	82	59	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	87	77	Cldy	
Boise	87	67	Rain	Fort Worth	73	59	Rain	Juneau	70	48	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	85	72	Cldy	Salt Lake City	94	71	Cldy	Wichita	96	72	Cir	
Boston	80	65	Pcldy	El Paso	96	75	Pcldy	Kansas City	91	71	Cldy	North Platte	88	66	Cldy	San Diego	95	70	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	100	75	Cir	
Bridgport	83	65	Pcldy	Elkins	82	55	Pcldy	Key West	91	82	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	98	73	Pcldy	San Antonio	95	74	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	83	56	Cir	
Brownsville	91	75	Cldy	Erie	77	57	Cir	Knoxville	88	66	Pcldy	Omaha	86	69	Cldy	San Diego	76	67	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	87	66	Pcldy	
Buffalo	78	56	Cir	Fairburn	87	56	Cldy	Lake Charles	92	75	Pcldy	Orlando	91	75	Cldy	San Francisco	71	57	Cldy	Youngstown	87	66	Cldy	
Burlington, Vt.	79	53	Cir	Evansville	86	61	Pcldy	Lansing	79	56	Pcldy	Paducah	88	63	Pcldy	San Jose	78	58	Cir					
Caribou, Maine	78	50	Cir	Fairbanks	76	56	Cldy	Las Vegas	104	83	Pcldy	Pendleton	96	60	Cir	Santa Fe	90	60	Cldy					
Casper	87	56	Pcldy	Fargo	85	63	Pcldy	Lexington	86	63	Cir	Peaslee	80	60	Cir	St. St. Marie	74	49	Pcldy					
Charleston, S.C.	90	74	Cldy	Flagstaff	80	53	Cldy	Lincoln	90	70	Pcldy	Philadelphia	87	68	Pcldy	Savannah	91	74	Cldy					
Charleston, W.Va.	86	59	Cir	Flint	81	54	Cir	Little Rock	93	72	Cldy	Phoenix	106	86	Cir	Seattle	87	60	Cldy					
Charlotte, N.C.	87	70	Cldy	Fort Smith	94	73	Cir	Los Angeles	82	68	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	82	59	Cir	Shreveport	95	74	Pcldy					

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OPINION

I watched Israeli police beat my cousin

By TAMARA ESSAYYAD

The scene opens with two masked men kneeling over what looks like a rice sack, one man holding it down, the other man repeatedly raising his right fist and pounding it. The fistied man stands up, giving us a clearer view, and begins stomping on the figure. Then it moves and we see a head and small body writhe in pain. The rice sack is a person. Long after the figure goes limp, the men continue the assault.

The unmovable rice sack was my cousin, 15-year-old Palestinian-American Tarek Abu Khdeir, from Tampa, Fla. The two masked men are Israeli police officers.

Videos and pictures of Tarek hit international mainstream and social media within hours — perhaps because he is tied to the brutal revenge kidnapping and murder of his cousin, 16-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir, or perhaps because he is an American. Tarek's family, who live in communities across the United States and in Jerusalem, was lucky. Calls from journalists about what high school he goes to and what his hobbies are) helped get him released from an Israeli jail and sent to a hospital.

The problem is that Tarek is not alone. This week's violent attacks on two teenage boys, and an entire Jerusalem village, are not outliers. This is how Israeli security forces work, both inside and outside the Palestinian Territory. State-sanctioned Israeli brutality toward local Palestinian populations is a regular occurrence in Israel and the West Bank. As a result of the disappearance of three Israeli teens hitchhiking in the West Bank (they were later murdered), Israel's response was to kill six Palestinians, arrest some 700, invade 1,600 homes, schools and

Palestinian children are the only children in the world required to ensure the security of their occupier.

businesses and bomb more than 30 sites.

Though the Israeli authorities, with security coordination from the Palestinian Authority, had rampaged through the West Bank in search of suspects, rhetoric still oozed from Israel government statements and calls for revenge flooded social media. Those calls for unencumbered violence send a clear message to settlers and other Israelis who called for "Death to the Arabs" that lynch mobs targeting Palestinians were and are acceptable. Message received: One group kidnapped a teenage Palestinian boy, beat him to within an inch of death and then set his body on fire.

If you drive through Jerusalem neighborhoods or occupied Jerusalem today, Arabic graffiti covers the walls warning against Israeli attacks: "Beware of child kidnappers." "Hide your children." From family reports, many of the individuals sent to the hospital or arrested as a result of funeral processions for Mohammed were under age 18. And now there's the video of Tarek's 15-year-old limp body being dragged away by grown men, hiding their faces behind a mask for (one can only hope) shame of being identified.

Is one child's life more valuable in the eyes of humanity than another's? According to the statistics and the silence of the international community (including and especially the United States), the ongoing and systematic attacks, night raids and arbitrary arrest of Palestinian children indicate the answer is yes.

Defense for Children International-Palestine, a children's rights organization that documents and reports human rights violations against children worldwide, has documented the killing of more than 1,400 Palestinian children by Israeli soldiers and settlers since 2000. That translates to the killing of one Palestinian child at the hands of Israelis every three days for the past 13 years. In addition, there are 214 children in Israeli detention, 32 of whom are between 12 and 15. Human rights groups estimate that in the past five years, some 2,500 Palestinian children have been detained by Israel, some as young as 5.

Imagine sending your son or daughter to the corner store, only to have him or her hunted by violent fundamentalists systematically attacking a local ethnic population. This is Trayvon Martin, en masse.

Israeli children are not subject to night raids by masked men with automatic weapons, nor are they required to always carry documents attesting to their identity and residency. There is no such thing as separate but equal schools, neighborhoods or roads — they are inherently separate and unequal. The Palestinian child's reality is a gruesome one punctuated by constant control by arbitrary Israeli directives and the whims of teenage soldiers just out of high school themselves.

Palestinian children are simply that — children — and are the only children in the world required to ensure the security of their occupier. The U.S. government, the provider of more than \$3 billion in military aid to Israel every year, should be more assertive in standing up for the rights of those children.

Tamara Essayyad is a Palestinian-American attorney and advocacy commentator based in Washington. This column first appeared in the Washington Post.

Men really need to stop calling women crazy

By HARRIS O'MALLEY

AUSTIN, Texas thought experiment: Imagine how people might react if Taylor Swift released an album made up entirely of songs about wishing she could get back together with one of her exes.

We'd hear things like: "She can't let go. She's clingy. She's irrational. She's crazy." Men would have a field day comparing her to their own "crazy" exes.

Yet when Robin Thicke released "Paula" — a plea for reconciliation with his ex-wife Paula Patton disguised as an LP — he was called incoherent, obsessed, heartfelt and, in particular, creepy.

But you didn't hear him calling him "crazy" — even though he used it as the title of one of his tracks.

No, "crazy" is typically held in reserve for women's behavior. Men might be obsessed, driven, confused or upset. But we don't get called "crazy" — at least not the way men reflexively label women as such.

"Crazy" is one of the five deadly words guys use to shame women into compliance. The others: Fat. Ugly. Slutty. Bitchy. They sum up the supposedly worst things a woman can be.

"Crazy" is such a convenient word for men, perpetuating our sense of superiority. Men are logical; women are emotional. Emotion is the antithesis of logic. When women are too emotional, we say they are being irrational. Crazy. Wrong.

Women hear it all the time from men.

"You're overreacting," we tell them. "Don't worry about it so much, you're over-thinking it." "Don't be so sensitive." "Don't be crazy." It's a form of gaslighting — telling women that their feelings are just wrong, that they don't have the right to feel the way that they do. Minimizing somebody else's feelings is a way of controlling them. If they no longer trust their own feelings and instincts, they come to rely on someone else to tell them how they're supposed to feel.

Small wonder that abusers love to use this c-word. It's a way of delegitimizing a woman's authority over her own life.

Most men (#notallmen, #irony) aren't abusers, but far too many of us reflexively call women crazy without thinking about it. We talk about how "crazy girl sex" is the best sex while we also warn men "don't stick it in the crazy." "How I Met Your Mother" warned us to watch out for "the crazy eyes" and how to process women on the "Crazy/Hot" scale. When we talk about why we broke up with our exes, we say, "She got crazy," and our guy friends nod sagely as if that explains everything.

Except what we're really saying is: "She was upset, and I didn't want her to be."

Many men are socialized to be disconnected from our emotions — the only small feelings we're supposed to show are stoic silence or anger. We're taught that to be emotional is to be feminine. As a result, we barely have a handle on our own emotions — meaning that we're especially ill-equipped at dealing with someone else's.

That's where "crazy" comes in. It's the

all-purpose argument ender. Your girlfriend is upset that you didn't call when you were going to be late? She's being irrational. She wants you to spend time with her instead of out with the guys again? She's being clingy. Your wife doesn't like the long hours you're spending with your attractive co-worker? She's being oversensitive.

As soon as the "crazy" card is in play, women are put on the defensive. It derails the discussion from what she's saying to how she's saying it. We insist that someone can't be emotional and rational at the same time, so she has to prove that she's not being irrational. Anything she says to the contrary can just be used as evidence against her.

More often than not, I suspect, most men don't realize what we're saying when we call a woman crazy. Not only does it stigmatize people who have legitimate mental health issues, but it tells women that they don't understand their own emotions, that their very real concerns and issues are secondary to men's comfort. And it absolves men from having to take responsibility for how we make other feel.

In the professional world, we've had debates over labels like "bossy" and "brusque," so often used to describe women, not men. In our interpersonal relationships and conversations, "crazy" is the adjective that needs to go.

Harris O'Malley is a dating coach who provides advice for his blog Page One Dr. Nerdllove, the Dr. Nerdllove podcast and The Good Men Project. This column first appeared in the Washington Post.

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.

Obama's statesmanship deficit Orange County (Calif.) Register

How the mighty have fallen. In a recent poll by Quinipiac University, a plurality of voters declared President Barack Obama the worst man to hold the highest office in the land since World War II.

That's a decidedly ingenuous distinction considering the failings — real or perceived — of several of the presidents that preceded Obama.

George W. Bush steered the nation into two separate wars, producing nearly 5,300 U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq and costing American taxpayers more than \$4 trillion. Bill Clinton disgraced himself by having an adulterous affair with a White House intern young enough to be his daughter, which contributed to his dishonor of being the second president in U.S. history to be impeached. Jimmy Carter is remembered for his ineptness in securing the release of 52 American diplomats and others held hostage 444 days by the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, and for presiding over the worst economy since the Great Depression. Richard Nixon was brought down by the Watergate scandal, becoming the first and only president to resign.

Yet none of those former presidents is held in as low esteem as the current occupant of the Oval Office.

Indeed, 53 percent of those surveyed disapproved of Obama's job performance; 54 percent say his administration is incompetent and lacks the skill of statesmanship. Better yet, 51 percent of those surveyed believe better off if Mitt Romney was in the White House.

So what explains the precipitous decline in the president's standing? Well, we think it attributable in no small part to Obama's almost total lack of statesmanship.

Yes, we understand the president's frustration that his second-term agenda hasn't gotten much traction on Capitol Hill, where the House is in the hands of Republicans. But it's almost as if Obama expected the House GOP to rubber-stamp his proposals as House Democrats did during 2009-10, when the president's so-called American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with next to no Republican support. Now Obama finds he needs the support of at least some members of the loyal opposition to get legislation passed — a condition that the president has not bargained with House Republican leaders.

Instead, he has tried to bend House Republicans to his will by demagoguing those who differ with him on such policies as climate change — as he did during his presidential campaign — and by threatening to bypass the duly elected representatives of more than half the electorate by issuing executive orders and directives.

Bush, Clinton, Carter, Nixon and other of Obama's predecessors may have left some presidential traits to be desired. Undoubtedly, none were less statesmanlike than the nation's current chief executive.

Jobs growth is encouraging The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

Unemployment in the United States fell in June to 6.1 percent from 6.3 percent in May, the lowest rate since the fall of 2008. That's when financial giant Lehman Brothers collapsed, taking with it in house-of-cards fashion other Wall Street firms and a



ARIEL SCHULTZ/AP



HATEM MOUSSA/AP

Left: Residents look at damage caused by a rocket fired by Palestinians from inside the Gaza Strip after it hit in Netivot, southern Israel, on Thursday. Right: Palestinians inspect the rubble of a house after it was hit by an Israeli missile in Gaza City on Thursday.

good chunk of the auto industry, along with a lot of other luckless companies.

That prompted an unprecedented government bailout that pumped billions of dollars into banks and businesses and continues even to this day, in much-diminished form, through the Federal Reserve's bond buying program. Now, thanks to the robust economic recovery, that program may be nearing its end.

The economy added 288,000 jobs last month and 2.5 million jobs in the last 12, the fastest annual growth since 2006. According to The Associated Press, the 200,000-plus monthly job gains over the past five months have been the best stretch since the 1990s tech boom — although we must hope this growth comes to a better ending than the subsequent tech bust.

Job gains were spread across all sectors — factories, retailers, financial firms, restaurants and bars all added substantial jobs to their payrolls. And employment got a boost from another surprising quarter — government hiring, which began to tail off in 2007 and began shedding employees every year from 2009 to 2013. Public-sector hiring has increased by 54,000 jobs so far this year, good news for hollowed-out local and state governments. ...

There are two anomalies that are perhaps cause for worry. Wage growth has remained at an anemic 2 percent a year during the recovery, well below the historical average of 3.5 percent. The U.S. economy depends heavily on consumer spending and 2 percent a year is not going to do much to help that. ... The other anomaly is that workforce participation — the number of Americans working or actively looking for work — is stuck at a low of just over 62 percent. The problem is no longer purely economic; the jobs are there, and employers are hiring. It might be structural: workers stuck in the wrong place or with the wrong skills. Or it could be societal: older workers who lost their jobs and are content to scrape along until retirement age and Social Security or desperate workers who are willing to work off the books. ...

A booming economy solves all kinds of problems and ultimately these may be two of them.

Must learn about al-Baghdadi Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

For years, it seemed that we all knew everything we needed to know about Osama bin Laden, including, importantly, what he looked like. We want to know what our foe looks like.

And, at least in simple terms, we understood Osama's goal was to punish the U.S. and other Westerners (and their values) for representing what he perceived as a threat to his religious, cultural and political beliefs.

But until recently we knew next to nothing

about the man behind today's most dangerous threat to global peace, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State. His organization claims to have recruited fighters from Britain, France, Germany and other European countries, as well as the United States, the Arab world and the Caucasus. This is no longer a local group with a grudge.

Al-Baghdadi, who last week called on all the world's Muslims to pledge their allegiance to him, is not yet a household name. There are few photographs of him, so it was big news last weekend when a video purportedly showing him leading prayers in Mosul surfaced. Iraq security forces are analyzing the tapes.

Al-Baghdadi may be a shadowy figure. But given the way the Islamic State is destroying its way of life in every part of the U.S. and its allies tried, at such a high cost, to create in Iraq, namely a well-functioning democracy with well-trained and disciplined security forces — surely his name should become as familiar as that of any previous international terrorist leader.

Al-Baghdadi preached and taught at various mosques and apparently led several smaller militant groups before he was promoted to a more prominent role in the Islamic State, the Guardian reported.

And by now, while there remains a certain mystique surrounding him, as the Guardian notes, there is "no mystery about what [al-Baghdadi] wants."

It is his belief that all Muslims should live under one Islamic state ruled by sharia law, and he believes he made the first step toward that by declaring the creation of a caliphate spanning Syria and Iraq. ...

In a very real sense, al-Baghdadi is a more dangerous threat to American and European security than even bin Laden was because, for all the evil he represented, bin Laden never ruled over a broad geographic area the way al-Baghdadi will if his merciless mission is not repelled. ... We'd better get to know him a lot better than we do now.

Iran's hand in Gaza weapons The Wall Street Journal

More than 200 Palestinian rockets have descended on Israel in recent days, triggering an Israeli counteroffensive. But as the drama plays out in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel, it's worth noting the role Iran — now under new and allegedly moderate leadership — has played in this latest spasm of violence.

In March, Israeli naval commandos interdicted a Panamanian-flagged ship, the Kios C, off the Sudanese coast in the Red Sea. The ship's cargo contained 40 M-302 surface-to-surface rockets, 181 mortar shells and some 400,000 rounds of 7.62-caliber ammunition — all concealed under

bags of Iranian cement. The weapons were almost certainly intended for Iran's terrorist clients in Gaza.

Tehran denies any role in the shipment. But a recent classified report from the U.N. Security Council's Sanctions Committee effectively confirms it, and we've seen the pertinent portions. ... The panel concluded: "The shipment of arms and related material found aboard the Kios C is a violation of Iran's obligations under paragraph 5 of resolution 1747," referring to an embargo on Iranian arms transfers imposed by the Security Council in 2007.

The Obama administration and some of its European allies are openly contemplating a partnership with the Iranian regime to help stabilize the Middle East and deter groups like the Islamic State. The U.N. report is a fresh reminder, if one were needed, that the Islamic Republic abets the very terrorism and instability it is now being enlisted to stop.

Killing children is a new low Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Israeli-Palestinian situation is approaching the point where the United States and other countries must ask how long can this destructive course continue before intervention is needed.

Talks between the Israelis and Palestinians were underway, launched by President Barack Obama in his first year in office, then halted on the basis of different views on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. The talks were resumed in his second term with a burst of energy from new Secretary of State John Kerry, then torpedoed again by the participants a few months ago. ...

Things are getting really nasty now. Three Israeli teenagers, including one with dual U.S. citizenship, were kidnapped and murdered in the West Bank. Although the killers have yet to be caught or identified, some Israelis assume and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims they were identified with Hamas. A Palestinian teenager was subsequently captured and burned alive, and three Israeli suspects confessed to the crime on Monday. Netanyahu has promised they will face "the fullest extent of the law."

The killings of the Israeli and Palestinian teenagers has been followed by, but not recently, 20 rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza, and Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Matters are at a sorry state when two teenagers are reduced to killing each other's children. ...

For now, Washington is deploring the killing, but not stepping up an effort to relaunch the talks. The risk is that the situation will deteriorate into a third intifada, extended violent street confrontation between the Israelis and Palestinians, as began in 1987 and 2000.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Pro soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
D.C.	8	5	4	28
Portland	7	7	2	23
San Jose	7	7	2	25
Toronto FC	6	6	5	21
Montreal	6	6	5	26
Columbus	4	5	8	20
Houston	4	5	8	20
Philadelphia	4	4	8	18
Chicago	3	4	10	18
Montreal	3	8	10	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	11	4	2	35
Real Salt Lake	10	4	2	28
Colorado	7	5	5	26
FC Dallas	7	5	5	24
Portland	6	3	7	26
Los Angeles	5	3	7	21
Portland	5	3	7	21
Chivas USA	5	7	5	17
San Jose	5	7	5	16

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

Frida's game
D.C. United at San Jose

Saturday's games
Colorado at Philadelphia
Toronto at Montreal
Columbus at New York
Chicago at New England
Sporting Kansas City at Montreal
Chivas USA at Vancouver
Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles

Sunday's game
Portland at Seattle

Wednesday's games
New York Philadelphia vs. Sporting Kansas City at Columbus
Vancouver at Toronto FC
New England at Los Angeles

NWSL

Team	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	13	0	42
FC Kansas City	10	3	33
Western New York	10	3	33
Washington	7	7	23
Portland	7	7	23
Portland	6	4	22
Bay FC	6	4	22
San Jose	4	10	19
Chicago	4	10	19
Boston	3	11	21

Friday's game
Chicago 1, Portland 1 tie

Saturday's game
Boston at Houston

Sunday's games
Washington at Western New York
Seattle FC at Chicago
Western New York at Portland
Portland at Chicago
Washington at Houston

Monday, July 14
FC Kansas City at Western New York

Tuesday, July 15
Boston at Portland
Washington at San Jose FC

Boxing

Fight schedule
July 11
At Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, W.V., Francisco Vargas vs. Jonathan Borzonski, 10, for the Continental Americas Lightweight title; Zou Shiming vs. Luis De La Cruz, 10, flyweights; Gilberto Ramirez vs. Tomok Kamezawa, 10, super middleweights; Ian Mullaney vs. Jonathan Malco, 10, for the WBO International Super lightweight title.

July 12
At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Erlyndy Lara vs. Canelo Alvarez, 12, junior middleweight; Abner Lopez vs. Jonathan Ouendo, 10, featherweights; Johan Persson vs. Gennadiy Golovkin, for the interim WBA World junior welterweight world championship; Juan Manuel Marquez vs. Francisco Vargas, for the WBO International super featherweight title; Tomok Kamezawa vs. Paulino for Super 12, for Kamezawa's WBO bantamweight title.

July 13
At Hyogo, Japan, Tetsuya Ite vs. Teiru Kinoshita, 12, for the vacant IBF super flyweight title.

July 14
At the Paramount Theatre, Huntington, N.Y., Karim Mayfield vs. Emmanuel Tuohy, 10, junior welterweights.

July 15
At San Francisco (FSJ), Ricardo Gesta vs. Juan Carlos, 10, lightweights.

July 19
At Macao, Guillermo Rigondeaux vs. Bob Kokietynski, 12, for Rigondeaux's WBA Super World-WBO super bantamweight titles; Zou Shiming vs. Luis De La Cruz, 10, flyweights; Gilberto Ramirez vs. Tomok Kamezawa, 10, super middleweights; Brian Viloria vs. Jose Alfredo Zúñiga, 10, flyweights.

Golf

Champions Tour statistics
Through June 29

Scoring Average (Actual)
1. Bernhard Langer, 68.2, 28 Haas, 68.47, 33 Colman, 68.82, 62 Friedl Couples, 68.94, Kirk Triplett, 69.28, 5, Mike Morfitt, 69.44, 5, Kenny Perry, 69.46, 10, Jory Burdick, 69.81, 3, Tom Lehman, 69.70, 10, Jory Burdick, 69.81, 3, Tom Lehman, 69.70, 10

Driving Distance
1. John Regier, 293.42, 4, Fred Couples, 291.8, 3, Kenny Perry, 288.3, 4, Doug Garwood, 287.3, 5, Sandy Lyle, 282.1, 6, Duffy Waldorf, 7, Brad Linder, 8, Andrew Short, Jr., 279.4, 9, Marco Dawson, 279.3, 10, Tom Pernice Jr., 279.1, 11

Greens in Regulation Percentage
1. Jory Durant, 83.67%, 2. Jeff Hart, 80.79%, 3. Fred Funk, 80.58%, 4. Bob Gilder, 79.69%, 5. Morris Hahne, 79.40%, 6. Colin Browne, 79.39%, 7. Tom Watson, 79.12%, 8. Peter Senior, 78.78%, 9. 75%, 10. Barry Sanders and Mark McNulty, 78.57%

Greens in Regulation Percentage
1. Bernhard Langer, 80.38%, 2. Tom Lehman, 79.89%, (tie), Steve Pate and Kenny Perry, 75.87%, 5. Jory Durant, 75.79%, 6. Jay Haas, 75.39%, 7. John Cook, 75.39%, 8. Jeff Sluman, 74.76%, (tie), Bill Glasson and Scott Dunlop, 74.52%

Total Drives
1. Jory Durant, 18, 2. Bernhard Langer, 23, 3. Russ Cochran, 34, 4. Marco Dawson and 33, 5. Tom Lehman, 39, 6. Michael Allen, 47, 7. Kirk Triplett, 49, 8. (tie), John Regier and Greg Chapman, 10, 10. Barry Sanders, 51

Putting Average
1. Jay Haas, 1.712, 2. Fred Couples, 1.717, 3. Bernhard Langer, 1.724, 4. David Rickman, 1.725, 5. Tom Lehman, 1.727, 6. Kirk Triplett, 1.728, 7. Michael Allen, 1.730, 8. (tie), Jory Durant and Doug Garwood, 1.739, 10, 2 tied with 1.748

Birdie Average
1. Bernhard Langer, 4.28, 4. Fred Couples, 4.34, 5. Doug Garwood, 4.56, 2. Colin Reimold, 4.42, 3. Jay Haas, 4.45, 6. Michael Allen, 4.31, 7. Kenny Perry, 4.25, 8. Tom Lehman, 4.18, 9. (tie), Steve Elkington, 4.11, 10. Steve Elkington, 4.11, 10

Eagles (Holes per)
1. Kirk Triplett, 0.43, 2. Jory Durant, 0.39, 3. Bernhard Langer, 0.38, 4. Fred Couples, 0.38, 5. Kenny Perry, 0.38, 6. Jory Durant, 0.38, 7. Tom Lehman, 0.37, 8. (tie), John Regier and Greg Chapman, 0.37, 10. Steve Elkington, 0.37, 10

Sand Save Percentage
1. Jay Haas, 69.57%, 2. Fred Faxon, 66.67%, 3. Chien Sui, 64.71%, 4. Marco Dawson, 63.16%, 5. Duffy Waldorf, 62.91%, 6. Tom Lehman, 62.84%, 7. Marco Dawson, 60.61%, 8. Bobby Clampett, 60.58%, 9. Jim Gallagher, 58.10, 10. Jim Thayer, 57.14%

Longest Par 3
1. Bernhard Langer, 90.2, 2. Jay Haas, 93, 3. Tom Lehman, 94, 4. Jory Durant, 125, 5. Fred Couples, 136, 6. Kenny Perry, 138, 7. Colin Montgomerie, 147, 8. Barry Sanders, 152, 9. Kirk Triplett, 164, 10. Jeff Sluman, 172, 9

Champions Tour Charles Schwab Cup leaders
Through June 29

Player	Points	Money
1. Bernhard Langer	2,480	\$1,176,142
2. Jay Haas	2,181	\$979,229
3. Colin Montgomerie	1,263	\$899,229
4. Fred Couples	1,087	\$868,604
5. Jeff Sluman	1,087	\$889,125
6. Tom Lehman	781	\$780,000
7. Tom Lehman	780	\$739,363
8. Michael Allen	780	\$739,363
9. Tom Triplett	759	\$739,363
10. Russ Cochran	597	\$562,328
11. Jory Durant	597	\$562,328
12. Mark Cavendish	530	\$457,793
13. Tom Pernice Jr.	468	\$633,677
14. Jory Durant	468	\$633,677
15. Barry Sanders	445	\$451,063
16. Duffy Waldorf	429	\$388,600
17. Jeff Moggiert	392	\$388,600
18. Colin Montgomerie	344	\$380,413
19. Rocco Mediate	338	\$347,783
20. Fred Funk	338	\$347,783
21. Tom Lehman	308	\$249,565
22. Mark Brooks	304	\$249,565
23. Tom Lehman	294	\$207,000
24. Miguel A. Jimenez	274	\$130,082
25. Bill Glasson	264	\$130,082
26. Doug Garwood	256	\$304,580
27. Mark McNulty	256	\$304,580
28. Steve Stricker	256	\$304,580
29. Billy Andrade	211	\$342,195
30. Corey Pavin	209	\$342,195
31. Tom Lehman	209	\$342,195
32. Esteban Toledo	175	\$322,660
33. Tom Lehman	175	\$322,660
34. John Cook	158	\$206,996
35. Tom Lehman	158	\$206,996
36. Steve Elkington	139	\$170,737
37. Kiyoshi Murata	130	\$150,757
38. Tom Lehman	128	\$150,757
39. Peter Dinklage	102	\$51,000
40. Tom Lehman	74	\$23,413
41. Mike Brady	74	\$23,413
42. Bob Gilder	70	\$14,972
43. Tom Lehman	66	\$36,347
44. Morris Hahne	66	\$36,347
45. Roger Hattaway	55	\$102,884
46. Tom Lehman	55	\$102,884
48. Bobby Clampett	53	\$130,395
49. Bill Wood	53	\$130,395
50. Fred Funk	50	\$195,776
51. Tom Byrum	50	\$140,767
52. Tom Lehman	49	\$109,257
53. Scott Hoch	48	\$67,181
54. Loren Boren	44	\$17,057
55. Tom Lehman	34	\$109,257
56. Tom Lehman	34	\$176,748
57. Andy North	34	\$35,220

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES = Designated RHP Julio DePaula for assignment. Assigned RHP Ramon Ramirez outright to Norfolk. Reinstated RHP Bud Norris from the 15-day DL. Agreed to terms with RHP Ryan Howard for a rehab assignment on minor league contracts.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
BRANDON WORKMAN = Options RHP Brandon Workman to Pawtucket (IL). Designated C A.J. Pierzynski for assignment. Reinstated RHP Ryan Rua to 15-day DL. Released C and Christian Vazquez from Pawtucket.

DETROIT TIGERS = Agreed to terms with RHP Artie Lunde, Whit Mayberry and Adam Ravelle on minor league contracts. Sent OF Andy Dirks to Lake Erie for rehab assignment.

HOUSTON ASTROS = Released RHP Jeff Johnson.

LOS ANGELES ANGELES = Options RHP Matt Moore to Tacoma (PCL). Reinstated RHP Cam Bedrosian from Arkansas (AL).

NEW YORK YANKEES = Placed RHP Masahiro Tanaka on the 15-day DL. Recalled OF Zoilo Alcantara from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

SEATTLE MARINERS = Options RHP Tim Lincecum to Tacoma (PCL). Reinstated RHP Stephen Fryar from Tacoma.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS = Placed OF Cole Gillespie on the 15-day DL. Reinstated Monday. Recalled C Erik Kratz from Buffalo. Reinstated OF Greg Glenn outright to Buffalo.

CHICAGO CUBS = Placed 2B Darwin Barney on paternity leave. Recalled INF Ryan Searles from the 15-day DL. Reinstated OF Beier from Iowa (PCL). Options LHPs Justin Upton and Ryan Searles.

CINCINNATI REDS = Options LHP David Ross to Louisville (PCL).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS = Agreed to terms with OF Roger Bernadina on a minor league contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS = Sent RHP Jim Kautz to the minors.

NEW YORK METS = Options RHP Daniel Murphy to Las Vegas (PCL). Reinstated RHP Dillon Gee from the 15-day DL. Sent C Will Nieves to Clearwater.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES = Placed RHP Gerrit Cole on the 15-day DL. Reinstated RHP Brandon Compton from Indianapolis (IL). Selected the contract of 1B Matt Hague from the minors. Designated RHP Walker for assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Gabe Hersh on a minor league contract and assigned him to the GCL Pirates.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
NBA = Kaseem Parsiani, chief marketing officer.

PRO FOOTBALL
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS = Named Fred Green chief operating officer.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS = Agreed to terms with coach Greg Popovich on a multiyear contract extension.

NEW YORK LIBERTY = Acquired F Swim Coach Tom Attanasio from Delisha Milton Jones.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS = Suspend Washington S Tard Jackson indefinitely for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS = Agreed to terms with F's Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane on eight-year contract extensions.

MINNESOTA WILD = Signed F Cody Altamirano to a one-year contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS = Signed D Mike Fisher to a one-year contract.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS = Re-signed G Oleg Shternin to a multi-year contract.

LOUIS BRICKS = Signed D Ryan Shields to a one-year, two-way contract.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS = Signed G Edward Pasquale to a one-year, two-way contract.

MOTORSPORTS
SCCA PRO RACING = Announced the retirement of president and CEO Tom Campbell, effective last year.

SOCER
MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER
SPORTING KANSAS CITY = Recalled G Jory Benichou from Iowa to OKC Energy FC.

PARMOUTH COLLEGE
PARMOUTH COLLEGE = Accepted the resignation of softball coach Jose Negroni. Promoted Stefanie Pellegrino to head softball coach.

CHESTNUT HILL = Named Andy Edwards athletic director.

HIGH POINT = Named Connor Scarborough athletic director.

LEHMAN = Named Tom Gojovic men's soccer coach and Amanda Popoli women's soccer coach.

LIMESTONE = Named Mike Smith athletic director.

BRIDGEMAN = Announced the resignation of women's tennis coach ASI Annalisa.

SOUTH CAROLINA-AIKEN = Named Demetric Doddles men's assistant baseball coach.

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN = Named Tom Howe defensive ends coach.

Tennis

World Team Tennis

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	1	1	1/2	—
Philadelphia	1	1	50%	3/4
Boston	0	2	0	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Austin	3	1	75%	—
San Diego	2	1	66%	—
San Antonio	2	1	66%	—
Springfield	0	3	0	3

Tuesday's games
Austin 19, Springfield 20
San Diego 20, San Antonio 19
Springfield 19, Austin 20

Wednesday's games
Washington 25, Boston 8
Austin 20, San Diego 18

Thursday's games
Springfield at Washington
Texas at San Diego

Hall of Fame Championships

Wednesday
At the International Tennis Hall of Fame
Wrestling
Super \$537.50 (W7250)
Nicolae Măgureanu (R) vs. Steve Johnson (6), United States, def. Tatsuma Ito, Japan, 6-0, retired.
Super \$537.50 (W7250)
Nicolae Măgureanu (R) vs. Franko, def. Luke Sawley, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.
Argentina, def. Malek Jazayr, Tunisia, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3).
Friday's games
Australia, def. Ante Pavic, Croatia, 6-2, 6-2.
Jack Nicklaus (P), def. Ravi Shankar (I), def. Rajeev Ram, United States, 7-5, 6-2.
Dudi Sela, Israel, def. Adrian Manariu (R), Romania, 6-4, 6-4.
John Iser, 1, United States, def. Austin Hebert (2), United States, 6-3, 6-3.
Ivo Karlovic (2), Croatia, def. Sergiy Stakhovych (U), Ukraine, 5-7, 7-5 (3).

Doubles
First Round
Daniel Nelyk and Ugo Panatta (2), Canada, def. Philipp Marx and Gary Muller (2), Germany, 6-4, 6-4.
Sanchai and Sonchat Ratiwatana, Thailand, def. Peter Polansky, Canada, 7-5, 10-5.
Giaccone and Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Ryan Harrison, United States and Michael Venus, New Zealand, 6-3, 6-4.

Bucharest Open

Wednesday
At Arene Baneasa
Women's Singles
Super \$250,000 (Intl)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Kiki Bertens (Netherlands), def. Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania), 6-0, 3-6, 6-2.
Francesca Schiavone (Italy), def. Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania), 6-0, 6-4.
Theodoros Panagiotou (Greece), def. Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania), 6-3, 6-2.
Lara Arrauzurqui (Spain), def. Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania), 6-3, 6-2.
Second Round
Lara Arrauzurqui (Spain), def. Cagla Buyukyayk (Turkey), 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (5).
Francesca Schiavone (Italy), def. Cristina Dinu (Romania), 6-2, 6-3.
Polona Herczeg (6), def. Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania), 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (4).
Monica Niculescu (Romania), def. Elita Kostova (Bulgaria), 6-3, 6-2.
Doubles
First Round
Raluca Olaru (Romania) and Valeria Salavea (Romania), def. Lara Arrauzurqui (Spain) and Irina-Camelia Begu (Spain), 3-6, 6-3, 11-9.

Quaterfinals

Monday
Paula Kania (Poland) and Anna Tatishvili (United States), def. Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania) and Aleksandra Krunic (Serbia), 7-5, 3-6, 10-7.

Wednesday
Hondra Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Fla.
April 13 - Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, Calif.
April 26 - Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama, Talladega, Ala.
May 10 - Grand Prix of Indianapolis (May 10-11)
May 25 - Indianapolis 500 (Ryan Hunter-Reay)
May 30 - Chevrolet Indy Dual (Race 1) (Waverly)
June 1 - Chevrolet Indy Dual (Race 2) (Hello Castrolnes)
June 28 - Shell-Pennzoil Grand Prix of Houston, Texas
July 6 - Shell-Pennzoil Grand Prix of Indy, Indianapolis
July 20 - Shell-Pennzoil Grand Prix of Indy, Indianapolis
July 27 - Pocono INDYCAR 500, Long Point, Pa.
August 3 - Mobil 1 Indy 300, Phoenix, Ariz.
July 12 - Honda Indy Toronto (Newton, Ont.)
July 19 - Honda Indy Toronto (Race 1) (Newton, Ont.)
July 26 - Honda Indy Toronto (Race 2) (Newton, Ont.)
August 2 - GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma, Calif.
August 30 - MAVTV 500, Fontana, Calif.

Mercedes Cup

Wednesday
At TC Waisenhof
Super \$660,500 (W7250)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
First Round
Daniel Gimeno-Traver (Spain), def. Peter Gojovic (Germany), 7-5, 6-3.
Benjamin Becker (Germany), def. Henri Laaksonen (Finland), 6-4, 6-4.
Yann Marti (Switzerland), vs. Henri Laaksonen (Finland), 6-4, 6-4.
Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (6), Spain, def. Marco Cecchinato (Italy), 6-4, 1-6, 7-5.
Luka Lorensen (Ireland), def. Igor Siingis (Netherlands), 6-4, 6-1.
Lias Rosol, Czech Republic, def. Alexander Zverev (Germany), 7-6 (7), 7-6 (9).
Santiago Giraldo (7), Colombia, def. Mate Delic (Croatia), 6-4, 6-2.
Philipp Davidovic (Russia), def. Blaz Rola (Slovenia), 6-4, 7-6 (8).

Swedish Open

At Bastad Tennis Stadium
Bastad, Sweden
Super \$660,500 (W7250)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Second Round
Dusan Lajovic (Serbia), def. Jerzy Janowicz (4), Poland, 6-4, 6-4.
Joao Sousa (5), Portugal, def. Elias Ymer (Sweden), 6-4, 6-4.
Pablo Cuevas (Uruguay), def. Tommy Lindstedt (Sweden), 4-6, 6-7 (6), 6-3.
David Marrero (Spain), def. Cristian Panabaz (Spain), 6-4, 6-3.
First Round
Jeremy Chardy (France) and Oliver Maroch (Austria), def. Pablo Andujar (Spain) and Pablo Carreno Busta (Spain), 7-6 (5), 6-4.
David Marrero (Spain) and Fernando Verdasco (1), Spain, def. Rameez Junaid (Australia) and Christopher Kras (Germany), 6-7 (5), 6-2, 12-10.
Dustin Brown (Germany) and Dusan Lajovic (Serbia), def. Andrej Pavic (Croatia) and Igor Zelenay (Slovakia), 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
John Brunstrom (Sweden) and Nicholas Pietrangeli (Italy), def. Andrej Pavic (Croatia) and Michael Klukhish (Kazakhstan), 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Andrej Martin (Slovakia) and Robert Lindstedt (2), Sweden, def. Paul Hanley (Australia) and Jonathan Marrin (Brit. Isl.), 6-2, 6-4, 11-9.

Gastin Ladies

Wednesday
At TC Wetsi
Bastad, Sweden
Super \$250,000 (Intl)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Second Round
Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic), def. Ana Bogdan (Romania), 6-2, 7-5.
Frances Mihi (United States), def. Irina Falcone (Italy), 6-3, 6-2.
Andrea Petkovic (4), Germany, def. Dinara Semeonova (Russia), 6-1, 6-3.
Stefanie Vogele (Switzerland), def. Elena Yatchewskaya (Bulgaria), 6-2, 6-7 (5).

Doubles
First Round
Lisa-Maria Siekora (Austria) and Laura Siegemund (Germany), def. Demi Schuurs (Netherlands) and Irina Falcone (Italy), 6-7 (2), 10-8.
Lara Arrauzurqui (Spain) and Maria Teresa Torro-Flac (5), Spain, def. Andrea Hlavackova (Czech Republic) and Elina Svitolina (Ukraine), 6-3, 6-2.
Polona Herczeg (6), def. Irina Falcone (Italy) and Irina-Camelia Begu (Romania), 6-3, 6-2.
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Doubles
First Round
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Quaterfinals

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May 30 - Chevrolet Indy Dual (Race 1) (W

TOUR DE FRANCE/SPORTS BRIEFS



LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

Germany's Andre Greipel crosses the finish line Thursday to win the sixth stage of the Tour de France, which stretched 120.5 miles from Arras to Reims, France.

Germany's Greipel wins sixth stage in a sprint

BY JAMEY KEATEN
The Associated Press

REIMS, France — Andre Greipel of Germany won the sixth stage of the Tour de France in a sprint as the pack entered Champagne country and Vincenzo Nibali of Italy retained the yellow jersey on Thursday.

The German champion collected his sixth career Tour stage victory by outpacing Norway's Alexander Kristoff in second and France's Samuel Dumoulin in third at the end of the 120-mile ride from Arras to Reims.

The Lotto Belisol rider burst out of the pack with less than 1,000 feet left, and clenched his fists, shouting, at the finish. His job was made a bit easier because Marcel Kittel, a fellow German who has won three stages and dominated the sprint finishes, got a flat tire right before the end.

"I had really good punch today, I am really happy," said Greipel, who turns 32 next Wednesday. "Of course I'm not looking at Kittel. I don't need to hide. I am still one of the fastest in the bunch."

"There was a lot of pressure on us, on my shoulders," for a win, he added. "It's a big relief for us."

The peloton faced intermittent drizzle over the mostly flat course, which was well suited for

sprinters.

The top standings didn't change, as most of the contenders for victory in the three-week race trailed close behind the muscular Greipel. He was not a challenger for the overall title; like many sprinters, he does not fare well on the climbs that are crucial to winning in Paris. He's 37½ minutes behind Nibali.

Overall, Nibali has a two-second lead over teammate Jakob Fuglsang of Denmark. Peter Sagan of Slovakia was third, 44 seconds back.

Two-time Tour champion Alberto Contador, a day after losing about 2½ minutes to Nibali, was dealt another setback on Thursday: His Saxo-Tinkoff teammate Jesus Hernandez dropped out after a crash.

Among other possible contenders, Richie Porte of Australia — who inherited the role of Team Sky leader after the withdrawal of injured defending champion Chris Froome on Wednesday — was 1 minute, 54 seconds back in eighth place. American Andrew Talansky, winner of the Criterium du Dauphine last month, was ninth, 2:05 back. Spaniard Alejandro Valverde was 10th, 2:11 back, and compatriot Contador was in 18th, 2:37 behind.

The Tour has another mostly flat Stage 7, a 146-mile trek from Eprenay to Nancy — the second longest stage — on Friday.

Briefly

Tanaka put on DL with swollen elbow

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Masahiro Tanaka was placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday, perhaps the biggest blow yet to the New York Yankees' battered rotation.

The rookie sensation from Japan is sidelined with inflammation in his right elbow. He had an MRI in New York and then was headed to Seattle to be examined by Dr. Christopher Ahmad, the team's head physician. Ahmad is in Seattle for a conference.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi acknowledged he's concerned about Tanaka's prognosis.

"You're always worried when you have a guy go back for an elbow MRI," he said. "It would be a big loss. Anytime you lose a starting pitcher, they're hard to replace. And what he's done for us, the innings and the wins and the quality of starts, it's hard to replace."

The Yankees, who have also lost pitchers CC Sabathia, Michael Pineda and Ivan Nova to injuries, are 46-44 and trail first-place Baltimore by three games in the AL East.

Tanaka allowed five runs and 10 hits — both career highs — over 6⅓ innings in a 5-3 loss to the Indians on Tuesday night. The All-Star is 12-4 with a 2.51 ERA in 18 starts, but has lost three of his past four outings.

"It goes without saying how important he's been for us," Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter said. "He's been our go-to guy."

The Yankees signed the 25-year-old Tanaka to a \$155 million, seven-year contract in January after he had a standout career in Japan. New York also paid \$20 million to his Japanese team, the Rakuten Golden Eagles, for his rights.

In other baseball news:

■ The squabble between the Chicago Cubs and the owners of the rooftop venues that peek over the walls of Wrigley Field is heading back to City Hall.

The Cubs will ask the city's landmarks commission Thursday to approve a massive \$500 million renovation project that is even more extensive than the project that the same commission and then the City Council approved last year.

The Cubs are pushing for five more signs to go with the Jumbotron and another video board in the outfield.

Rooftop owners are expected to oppose the proposal. The signs would affect views of the field that the businesses depend on, and potentially violate the revenue-sharing contract the rooftop owners have with the team.

Devils give Schneider 7-year, \$42 million deal

NEWARK, N.J. — The New Jersey Devils signed goaltender Cory Schneider to a seven year, \$42 million contract extension.

"The first word that comes to mind is excitement," Schneider said on Wednesday. "I always wanted to be a New Jersey Devils goaltender for a long time. I think it's something we both wanted to get done."

The 28-year-old Schneider would have been an unrestricted free agent at the end of the 2014-15 season, but this contract keeps him with New Jersey through the 2021-22 season.

Schneider is replacing Martin Brodeur as the Devils' top goalie. The 42-year-old Brodeur is still an unrestricted free agent.

In other NHL news: ■ The Anaheim Ducks signed left wing Dany Heatley to a one-year deal, returning the 33-year-old unrestricted free agent to the Pacific Division.

Heatley spent last season with the Minnesota Wild. He played for San Jose from 2009-11, compiling 65 goals and 81 assists in 162 games for the Sharks.

■ The Nashville Predators have signed restricted free-agent defenseman Mattias Ekholm to a two-year, \$2,075 million contract.

■ The Nashville Predators have signed restricted free-agent defenseman Mattias Ekholm to a two-year, \$2,075 million contract.

Wimbledon champion Djokovic gets married

PODGORICA, Montenegro — Four days after winning Wimbledon, Novak Djokovic married his pregnant fiancée Thursday in a private ceremony in Montenegro.

Djokovic and longtime girlfriend Jelena Ristic were wed in an upscale resort on the Adriatic coast. Local media say the ceremony was attended by family, friends and guests, but away from the public eye.

Djokovic and Ristic first met in high school.

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NBA

AP sources: LeBron sits down with Riley

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Pat Riley made his pitch. And now, LeBron James wants time to think.

The Miami Heat president met with the four-time NBA MVP on Wednesday afternoon in Las Vegas, two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because neither side publicly disclosed details of the meeting. James, his agent Rich Paul, Riley and Heat executive Andy Elisburg were at the meeting, said one of the people.

James has not made a decision and would not make any announcements before Thursday, a person said, adding, "He wants to meet with his family."

As he weighs his options, James will not meet with any other teams, the person added.

So now, Miami waits. So does Cleveland. So, too, does just about the entire NBA — because once James picks the Heat or the Cavaliers, the teams believed to be serious suitors for his services, the domino effect of other free agent moves will surely follow.

The meeting in Las Vegas lasted for more than an hour and took place more than two weeks after James opted out of his contract and elected to become a free agent, and the day before free agents may begin signing contracts.

James spent part of his day before the meeting at his annual skills academy with some of the nation's top high school and college players, interacting and observing workouts. That was part of the reason why Riley had to fly across the country to make the meeting happen, with hopes that he would return to Miami from the gambling haven with a huge win — keeping James in Heat colors for at least another season.

He returned to the camp after the meeting, jumping into some games with the high school players. James spent a few minutes on each court during the evening session, high-fiving the kids as he played. And when Shake Milton of Owasso, Okla., hit the deck on one play, James shouted, "Hold on, I got you, stay down," then promptly helped his teammate to his feet. Another highlight came when James showed off his passing skills, throwing a no-look assist to Jayson Tatum of St. Louis for a two-handed slam.

When his night of play was over, James got stretched out, had icepacks strapped to his knees and back, then went to the stands and sat with Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski — his Olympic coach — for about five minutes. James then exited the building.

Several teams have met with Paul during the free-agent process, but it appears James has only one decision to make: Cleve-



JOHN LOCHER/AP

LeBron James met with Miami Heat president Pat Riley on Wednesday in Las Vegas, according to two people familiar with the situation. Now Miami, Cleveland and the rest of the league await his decision.

land or Miami, the same choice he pondered four years ago when he decided play with the Heat. With James, the Heat won four Eastern Conference titles and two NBA championships.

The Cavaliers didn't sit idle waiting for James and Riley to meet.

Cleveland created salary-cap space earlier Wednesday with a three-team trade with the Boston Celtics and Brooklyn Nets, ensuring they have enough to offer the James a maximum contract.

Sterling says he won't sell team, calls wife pig

By LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A raging Donald Sterling denounced his wife, her lawyers and the NBA from the witness stand Wednesday, saying he would never sell the Los Angeles Clippers and vowing a lifetime of lawsuits against the league.

"Make no mistake today," Sterling shouted toward the end of his second day of testimony in the trial to determine his wife's right to make a \$2 billion deal to sell the Clippers. "I will never ever sell this team and until I die I will be suing the NBA for this terrible violation under antitrust."

He was followed to the stand by wife Shelly, who tried to approach him in the front row of the courtroom after she was done for the day.

"Get away from me, you pig!" Sterling shouted.

The judge then admonished him to make no further comments.

Sterling began his testimony by saying he loved his wife, but then denounced her. He said she told him to have psychiatric and neurological exams only because he had turned 80, and she was concerned for his health.

"She deceived me. I trusted her," Sterling said. "I never thought a wife wouldn't stand for her husband."

Donald Sterling's lawyers are challenging the authority of Shelly Sterling under the family trust to unilaterally cut a deal for the team with former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer.

Before she made the deal, two doctors examined Donald Sterling and declared him mentally incapacitated and unable to act as an administrator of the Sterling Family Trust, which owns the Clippers.

Sterling said he was certain his wife had never read the family trust because it was too complicated for her to understand.

During examination by his own lawyer, Maxwell Blecher, Sterling was asked about his wife's position in the trust if he were to be disqualified as a trustee.

"She has no rights whatsoever. She has no stock. She has no standing whatsoever," Sterling said.

He also lashed out at the NBA, saying, "My wife was terrified. She's frightened to death. She thinks the NBA will take away everything she worked for. She was scared out of her mind."

The NBA banned Donald Sterling for life and moved to force him to sell the Clippers after a recorded conversation in which he made racist statements came to light earlier this year.

He denied he was a racist from the witness stand when asked Wednesday.

NBA owners are scheduled to vote on the Ballmer deal on July 15. It's also the day that Ballmer's offer is set to expire — and there is no deal without the judge's approval of the sale.

If the sale isn't completed by Sept. 15, the league said it could seize the team and put it up for auction.

Briefs

Spurs coach Popovich agrees to multiyear extension

The Associated Press

While the rest of the NBA waits for LeBron James and Carmelo Anthony to decide where they are going to play next season, the San Antonio Spurs keep quietly making sure the band is getting back together for a run at a second consecutive title.

In the middle of the James hysteria on Wednesday, the Spurs issued a two-sentence press release announcing that coach Gregg Popovich had agreed to a multi-year contract extension. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

After beating the Miami Heat for the franchise's fifth championship last month, the Spurs quickly found out that Tim Duncan would indeed return next season. Deals with Patty Mills and Boris Diaw ensured that the roster would remain largely intact, so there was little doubt that the 65-year-old Popovich would return for a 19th season on the Spurs bench.

Popovich is 1,116-533, including the playoffs, in a career that started in 1996. He is the longest-tenured coach in any of the four major American pro sports and has led the Spurs to at least 50

wins 16 times, including 15 in a row.

Salary cap increases to all-time high \$63.1M

The NBA has set the 2014-15 salary cap at \$63.1 million, an all-time high. The cap is a 7.5 percent increase from last season's \$58.7 million.

The league also said Wednesday that the tax level jumped 7.1 percent to \$76.8 million. Teams exceeding that will have to pay a luxury tax.

Raptors re-sign Lowry to multiyear deal

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors have re-signed Kyle Lowry to a multiyear contract.

The deal was agreed to last week but couldn't be made official until Thursday, when the NBA's moratorium on free-agent signings ended. Terms weren't disclosed, but Yahoo Sports had reported it was for \$48 million over four years.

The 6-foot point guard posted career highs with 17.9 points and

7.4 assists per game in helping the Raptors to a club-record 48 victories and their second Atlantic Division championship.

The Raptors acquired Lowry from the Houston Rockets in July 2012. In his two seasons with Toronto, Lowry has averaged 15.0 points and 6.9 assists in 147 regular-season games.

Farmar, Hawes sign with Clippers

LOS ANGELES — Jordan Farmar is moving down the hall at Staples Center, leaving the Los Angeles Lakers to sign with the Clippers, who have signed center Spencer Hawes on Thursday.

Farmar averaged 10.1 points, 4.9 assists and 2.5 rebounds in 41 games for the struggling Lakers last season. The free agent guard won NBA titles in 2009 and 2010 with the Lakers, who drafted him out of UCLA in 2006. The deal allows the 27-year-old Los Angeles native to stay home and become the backup to Chris Paul after UCLA alum Darren Collison chose to leave and sign with Sacramento.

Farmar was bothered by a torn left hamstring and a strained right groin that cost him half of last season.

Hawes averaged 13.2 points, 8.3 rebounds and 3.0 assists in 80 games with Cleveland and Philadelphia last season. The 26-year-old big man has also played for Sacramento during his seven-year career.

Carter-Williams: Rehab 'ahead of schedule'

ORLANDO, Fla. — Reigning NBA Rookie of the Year Michael Carter-Williams says his rehabilitation from offseason shoulder surgery is "going good" and doctors say he is ahead of schedule.

The 76ers point guard was in Orlando on Wednesday to watch Philadelphia's summer league team. He is not playing this week as he continues to rehab after surgery in May to repair his right labrum.

He says he's able to shoot with full extension, but that he's not yet allowed to scrimmage or participate in full-contact drills.

Carter-Williams will also be in

Las Vegas for its five-day summer league, but will only be there to participate in team workouts.

The 11th overall pick in last year's draft, he was the first player picked 10th or lower to win Rookie of the Year since 1987.

Other signings

■ The Milwaukee Bucks have signed first-round draft pick Jabari Parker to his rookie contract. Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but Parker is guaranteed a minimum of about \$8.5 million in the first two years before Milwaukee has team options on his third and fourth seasons. Parker was the second overall selection in this year's draft behind Andrew Wiggins, who was taken by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

■ The Toronto Raptors have signed first-round draft pick Bruno Caboclo. Caboclo, an 18-year-old Brazilian forward, is under contract through the 2015-16 season, with two team option years to follow. Financial terms of the deal Wednesday were not disclosed. The Raptors selected Caboclo with the 20th overall pick of the draft.

MLB

Giants spoil debut of Hammel for A's

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — As awful as the San Francisco Giants have played for most of the last month, they are back in an enviable position: first place in the NL West.

Beating their Bay Area rivals to get back there was a nice bonus, too.

Hunter Pence homered and drove in two runs, Matt Cain tossed six strong innings and the Giants spoiled Jason Hammel's debut for Oakland with a 5-2 victory over the Athletics on Wednesday night.

San Francisco, which had lost 20 of 27, moved percentage points ahead of the Dodgers in the division.

"If you look at how things have gone, you find that amazing," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "It's all from the good work that happened earlier. We've got to get back on track."

For one night, they did.

Cain (2-7) allowed two runs and five hits for his first win since May 15 against Miami. He struck out four and walked two to help the Giants snap major league-leading Oakland's six-game winning streak.

"Felt really good," Cain said. "Guys came up with some big, clutch hits when we needed them. Guys kept putting pressure on those guys, which is always nice."

Santiago Casilla got three quick outs for his fourth save.

Hammel, acquired by the A's along with fellow right-hander Jeff Samardzija from the Chicago Cubs last week for three top prospects, had anything but a clean opener with Oakland.

He pitched with runners on base for most of the night, and his left thumb on his glove hand cramped up and looked disoriented at one point. He left after giving up six hits and three runs — two earned — in five innings, striking out three and walking three.

Hammel said his thumb was fine afterward and he was bothered more by his performance.

"Tonight was a grind and they

grinded me pretty good," he said. Stephen Vogt homered and Jed Lowrie had an RBI single for Oakland.

The A's shut down the Giants 5-0 and 6-1 in the first two games of the Bay Bridge Series in Oakland and looked every bit like a team with the best record in baseball while doing it.

Back in the comforts of glitzy AT&T Park, though, the Giants offense finally showed signs of life. San Francisco finished with 10 hits and took advantage of most of its scoring opportunities.

With one out in the second inning, Yoenis Cespedes bobbled Joe Panik's single in left field for an error. By the time the strong-armed Cespedes corralled the ball and threw home, Gregor Blanco had crossed the plate.

Buster Posey's RBI single gave the Giants a 2-0 lead in the third.

Vogt homered leading off the fourth, sending a slider from Cain over the stands in right and onto the walkway outside the ballpark for his third long ball this season.

Pence came back with his own long ball in the fourth to put the Giants up 3-0. It was Pence's 12th home run and first since June 21 at Arizona.

"It was a pretty clean game," Posey said.

While the Giants finally got the bats going, Cain kept finding ways to minimize the A's rallies.

The right-hander got Coco Crisp to ground out with two runners on in the fifth, which came after he misfired to second base on a potential double-play ball earlier in the inning. And after Lowrie's two-out single sliced San Francisco's lead to 3-2 in the sixth, Cain got Derek Norris to ground out, stranding two runners.

Oakland got a brief scare in the fifth when Hammel's left thumb somehow bent awkwardly in the middle of Blanco's at-bat. An A's trainer worked on the thumb for several minutes, then the pitcher got Blanco to ground out.

Pence hit an RBI single in the sixth before lefty Eric O'Flaherty's wild pitch helped the Giants score another run to go ahead 5-2.



PAUL SANCYA/AP

The Detroit Tigers' J.D. Martinez, right, slides safely into home plate under the tag of Los Angeles Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis during the fourth inning of Wednesday's game in Detroit. The Tigers won 4-1.

Scherzer outduels Greinke as Tigers get by Dodgers

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — When Max Scherzer is on the mound, the Detroit Tigers have a chance to win pretty much any game — even without their top two sluggers.

Scherzer pitched seven impressive innings, outdueling Zack Greinke and helping the short-handed Tigers beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-1 on Wednesday.

Detroit was without Miguel Cabrera, who was given a day off, and Victor Martinez, who is dealing with a lingering back issue.

"Baseball's that type of game," Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said. "Even without your best player, you can go out there and win."

The AL Central-leading Tigers scored two runs in the first inning against Greinke, and Scherzer (11-3) made the lead hold up.

The All-Star right-hander allowed a run and four hits. He struck out seven and walked two.

Joba Chamberlain struck out two in the eighth, and Joe Nathan struck two in a perfect ninth for his 18th save in 23 chances.

Greinke (11-5) allowed three runs and seven hits in seven innings. He struck out eight without a walk.

"You look at their lineup today, and you think you are getting a break with Cabrera and Victor being out," Greinke said. "But they were putting up great at-



PAUL SANCYA/AP

Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Max Scherzer allowed one run on four hits over seven innings in the win over Los Angeles.

bats all day. I was throwing good pitches."

Miguel Rojas of the Dodgers hit his first career homer in the fifth.

Scherzer escaped a first-inning jam thanks to some impressive fielding behind him. Yasiel Puig hit a one-out triple, but with the infield in, Hanley Ramirez hit a sharp grounder to Eugenio Suarez, and Detroit's rookie shortstop threw quickly to third to catch Puig off the base.

"That was a great play," Scherzer said. "He just made an instinct play — saw Puig was off the base, and made a quick little snap throw. That just helped keep the game where it was."

Rajai Davis made a sliding catch in left field for the third

out.

Austin Jackson opened the bottom of the inning with a triple and scored on Ian Kinsler's single. Kinsler advanced to second on a wild pitch and scored on a two-out single by Don Kelly off Greinke.

"You let a guy like that settle in, it can be a long day," Jackson said. "For us to kind of get something going there that first inning, that definitely sparked us."

Greinke was sharp after that. Detroit scored again in the fourth on an RBI single by Nick Castellanos, but the Los Angeles right-hander retired the last nine hitters he faced, striking out the final four.

But the Dodgers couldn't overcome Scherzer. They put men on first and second in the third, but Puig hit into a double play. In the sixth, Puig hit a leadoff double, but the next three batters couldn't hit the ball out of the infield.

"I like where I'm at," said Scherzer, the reigning American League Cy Young Award winner. "I feel like my curveball is improved from where it was at the beginning of the year. I feel like it's more consistent from start to start. At this point in time, I feel like I'm a better pitcher than I was in April."

Matt Kemp went hitless with three strikeouts. He's now 0-for-21 against Scherzer.

Torii Hunter's sacrifice fly in the eighth gave Detroit another run.



BEN MARSHOT/AP

The San Francisco Giants' Joe Panik hits an RBI single off the Oakland Athletics' Jason Hammel in the second inning on Wednesday in San Francisco. The Giants won 5-2 to move back into first in the NL West.

MLB

NL roundup

Reds' Simon wins NL-best 12th game

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Alfredo Simon leads the National League in wins. He's still hoping to be added to the All-Star team.

Simon became the NL's first 12-game winner and Billy Hamilton added to his sensational series with a tiebreaking triple Wednesday night, sending the Cincinnati Reds to a 4-1 victory over the trade-depleted Chicago Cubs.

The Reds won their fifth in a row—matching their season high—and moved a season-best seven games over .500. After winning the first four games of the series, they'll try for their first five-game sweep since 1976 on Thursday.

Cincinnati moved within 2½ games of first-place Milwaukee in the NL Central, its smallest deficit since April 7. The Reds were a season-high 8½ out on June 22.

Simon (12-3), left off the NL All-Star roster Sunday, became the first Reds pitcher to win 12 games before the break since Edinson Volquez also went 12-3 in the first half of 2008. The reliever-turned-starter gave up four hits in 6⅓ innings, including Anthony Rizzo's third homer in four games.

If another pitcher has to pull out of the All-Star game next week, Simon would be considered.

"I'm really happy with myself," he said. "I think I have the numbers, but it's not on the All-Star team. I don't know what's going to happen. They told me to stand by."

Hamilton tripled home a run and scored during a three-run fifth against Dallas Beeler (0-2), who has lost his first two starts in the majors. Cubs manager Rick Renteria was ejected during the inning for arguing a foul ball call with third base umpire Andy Fletcher.

Hamilton is 7-for-15 with three triples, three walks, two steals and seven RBIs during the series. On Tuesday night, his ninth-inning single completed the Reds' comeback from a five-run deficit to a 6-5 win and a doubleheader sweep.

Hamilton fled out in his last at-

bat and left the game because his left hamstring was tight. He expects to miss a few games.

"It's been bothering me for the past couple of days," Hamilton said. "I knew something was happening. On the last at-bat, I stepped down and I felt it pull when I started running."

Simon has been one of the majors' biggest surprises. Moved into the rotation when Mat Latos tore knee cartilage in spring training, the 33-year-old pitcher is having by far the best year of his career, ranking among the league leaders in several categories.

The right-hander walked two, matched his season high with eight strikeouts and threw 119 pitches, retiring 13 in a row during one stretch.

Aroldis Chapman struck out the side in the ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances.

Mets 4, Braves 1: Dillon Gee pitched into the eighth inning after two months on the disabled list and Travis d'Arnaud hit a two-run homer as host New York beat Atlanta for its first four-game winning streak in a year.

Diamondbacks 4, Marlins 3 (10): Paul Goldschmidt doubled in the last two of his team's three runs in the 10th inning, giving Arizona a comeback victory against visiting Miami.

Rockies 6, Padres 3: Troy Tulowitzki hit two of Colorado's five home runs in a win over visiting San Diego.

Drew Stubbs, Charlie Blackmon and Wilin Rosario also went deep for the Rockies.

Phillies 4, Brewers 1: Jimmy Rollins and Chase Utley homered to support Roberto Hernandez's solid start as Philadelphia beat host Milwaukee for its third straight win over the NL Central leaders.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 2: Lance Lynn reached double figures in wins before the All-Star break for the third consecutive year and Kolten Wong homered for the second game in a row, helping St. Louis beat visiting Pittsburgh.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

The Washington Nationals' Adam LaRoche, right, watches his sacrifice fly in front of Baltimore Orioles catcher Caleb Joseph and home plate umpire Dan Iassogna in the fifth inning of Wednesday's game in Baltimore. Danny Espinosa scored on the play as the Nationals won 6-2.

AL roundup

Nats blast 3 HRs, beat O's in battle of division leaders

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — The Washington Nationals made themselves right at home at Camden Yards in an interleague duel between cross-town rivals and division leaders.

Doug Fister allowed two runs over seven innings and Washington hit three solo homers in a 6-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

The Nationals usually win with pitching, and Fister was more than efficient. But on this night Washington beat the hard-hitting Orioles at their own game, using home runs by Wilson Ramos, Ian Desmond and Jayson Werth in win this matchup between teams located 40 miles apart.

"This is a good ballpark to hit home runs in," Nationals manager Matt Williams said. "All you need to do is look at the other dugout to see that."

Fister (8-2) scattered seven hits, walked two and struck out three. He is 8-1 in his last 11 starts and 52-52 for his career; the first time the right-hander has been at .500 since 6-6 in 2010.

"He was pretty good," said Orioles catcher Caleb Joseph, who hit into two double plays. "He sinks the ball so well and he's got that curveball, he didn't bust it out until the second or third time around. And he's got a good enough slider to hit one off the barrel."

Fister has earned the right to be considered the ace of a staff that includes Stephen Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez and Jordan Zimmerman. But, Williams said, "Everybody has pitched very well.

To throw labels on guys isn't fair. They have all pitched very well; sometimes it just doesn't come out as a win."

Each team has one win in the rain-shortened, home-and-home showdown that concludes Thursday night. Baltimore is 7-2 in its last nine games and Washington has won eight of 10 overall.

"We're getting some momentum together and that's kind of where we're at right now," Fister said. "That's good going into the break."

Manny Machado went 3-for-4 with a homer for the Orioles and Chris Davis had two hits and an RBI. Machado is 12-for-21 in four games since returning from a five-game suspension.

"I feel fine at the plate, seeing the ball well," Machado said. "I'm just trying to keep this going."

Orioles starter Bud Norris (7-6) gave up five runs and six hits in four-plus innings in his first appearance since June 21. He won four straight starts before going on the disabled list with a right groin strain.

"As much as you do side work and (simulated) games and stuff like that, there's no substitute for the adrenaline and the challenge of facing major league hitters," Baltimore manager Buck Showalter said. "Especially ones as good as Washington has. So it will get better. We've seen what he's capable of."

It was Norris' shortest outing of the year, and the five runs and two home runs he allowed matched season highs.

"I felt pretty good," he insisted. "Got a little achy there at the end, but I'm happy with the results and it's kind of out of my head now. I'll get a couple more bullpens in and just go from there and into the break and feel good going into the second half."

Yankees 5, Indians 4 (14): Jacoby Ellsbury's two-out homer in the 14th inning sent visiting New York to a victory over Cleveland.

Ellsbury hit his sixth home run of the season on an 0-2 pitch from Vinnie Pestano (0-1).

Red Sox 5, White Sox 4: Daniel Nava doubled home the tying run in the ninth inning and scored on Brock Holt's single as host Boston rallied from a four-run deficit to beat Chicago and snap a four-game losing streak.

Angels 8, Blue Jays 7: Albert Pujols hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning and Kole Calhoun also connected as host Los Angeles beat Toronto.

Royals 5, Rays 4: Salvador Perez hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the ninth inning to lift Kansas City over host Tampa Bay.

Astros 8, Rangers 4: Robbie Grossman snapped an 0-for-28 slide with a career-high four hits as Houston climbed out of last place in the AL West, completing a three-game sweep with a victory over All-Star pitcher Yu Darvish and host Texas.

Twins 8, Mariners 1: Kendrys Morales knocked in three runs and Kyle Gibson pitched six shut-out innings to lead visiting Minnesota past Seattle.



AL BEHRMAN/AP

The Cincinnati Reds' Billy Hamilton, right, is tagged out by Chicago Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro while trying to steal second base in the third inning on Wednesday in Cincinnati.

WORLD CUP

No last-minute swap this time for Van Gaal

Dutch coach used up subs before shootout

By MIKE CORDER
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Louis van Gaal's luck finally ran out at the World Cup.

The Netherlands coach appeared to have a golden tactical touch in Brazil. He switched systems during matches to force victories, brought on substitutes who scored within minutes, posted a striker on defense and — most amazingly of all — swapped goalkeepers for a penalty shootout victory.

But in the semifinals against Argentina on Wednesday, he ran out of substitutes before he could pull that trick again and his team was eliminated in a shootout after Jasper Cillessen failed to stop any of Argentina's four penalties following a 0-0 draw.

"I'd have subbed him again if I'd had the chance," Van Gaal said. "But I didn't have the chance."

On Wednesday, his substitutions may have ultimately cost the Netherlands the game, and a place in the World Cup final.

He took off defender Bruno Martins Indi, captain Robin van Persie and midfielder Nigel de Jong.

That meant not only that he couldn't replace Cillessen with Tim Krul ahead of the shootout as he did so successfully against Costa Rica, but also that Van

'If you don't score, every substitution is wrong.'

Louis van Gaal
Dutch coach

Persie, the designated first penalty taker in shootouts, had to watch from the bench as central defender Ron Vlaar's lead-off spot kick was saved.

Van Gaal said he asked two other players — before turning to Vlaar, the Aston Villa center back who had an outstanding match against Argentina. He would not name those players.

Vlaar agreed and shot it too close to Sergio Romero and at a height that made it easy to save. The Netherlands was immediately behind in the shootout and never recovered.

Van Gaal didn't say why he didn't let more experienced players take their penalties first and leave Vlaar until last.

"Van Persie usually takes the first one but he was substituted so [Van Gaal] asked me and I said yes," Vlaar said. "I felt good. But if you take one you have to score and it didn't happen."

After the match, Van Gaal defended each change. Martins Indi was having a tough time defend-



FRANK AUGSTEN/AP

Netherlands head coach Louis van Gaal, second left, instructs his players, from left, Arjen Robben, Dirk Kuyt and Georginio Wijnaldum during Wednesday's semifinal.

ing Enzo Perez and had picked up a yellow card. He didn't want De Jong, just back from a groin injury from the second-round win over Mexico, to rejoin himself. And Van Persie was "on his last legs" and he thought substitute

Klaas Jan Huntelaar had more chance of scoring.

"But if you don't score, every substitution is wrong," the 62-year-old coach said.

Now Van Gaal has only what he considers a meaningless third-

place match to prepare for before he heads to England to begin rebuilding Manchester United as its manager.

The Old Trafford faithful must be eagerly awaiting his arrival after this World Cup.

Saves: Dutch contain Messi, but offense can't break through

FROM BACK PAGE

goalkeeper Tim Krul in the last seconds of extra time to replace Jasper Cillessen and Krul saved two spot kicks.

This time, Van Gaal had used up all three substitutions by the end of extra time and Cillessen had to face the shootout. Van Gaal said he would have made the same keeper swap if he'd had a substitution left.

The young Ajax goalkeeper got a hand to Rodriguez's decisive powerful shot, but could only deflect it into the roof of the net, and then collapsed onto his knees and sank onto his back. Krul walked across the pitch to console him.

Van Gaal said he even had a hand in Romero's heroics, having trained him at AZ Alkmaar in the Dutch league.

"Penalties are always a matter of luck," he said. "And I taught Romero how to stop penalties so that hurts."

Many of Argentina's players stripped off their shirts in the rain at the Itaquerao Stadium and danced in front of their fans.

Argentina reached its fifth final, and its first in 24 years. It won the title in 1978 — beating the Dutch — and in 1986. It lost the championship matches in 1930 and 1990. It played West Germany in both the '86 and '90 finals.

The Netherlands, which has never won the World Cup, was seeking to reach its fourth final.

The tournament's second semifinal had been billed as a showdown between Messi and Arjen Robben, but both star dribblers were subbed. Instead it was midfield controllers Nigel de Jong and Javier



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Dutch goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen reacts after being scored on by Argentina's Maxi Rodriguez during a penalty shootout on Wednesday in Sao Paulo. Argentina defeated the Netherlands 4-2 on penalty kicks after a 0-0 tie through extra time.

Mascherano who stood out as both sides' defenses marked two of the World Cup's biggest stars out of the game.

When Robben finally broke free in stoppage time, Mascherano's perfectly timed sliding tackle blocked his shot at the near post.

De Jong, who recovered from a groin injury to start, lasted just over an hour before being replaced by Feyenoord midfielder Jordy Clasie, who made his World Cup debut.

After scoring 10 goals in three group matches, the Dutch scoring dried up in the

knockout rounds. The team managed two late strikes against Mexico but failed to find the net before eliminating Costa Rica in the quarterfinal shootout.

"The issue in a championship like this one is that you score one more goal than your opponent, which we didn't do," Van Gaal said. "We didn't create very much."

Argentina also had found goals hard to come by in Brazil, not winning any of its matches by more than a one-goal margin and recording back-to-back 1-0 wins over Switzerland and Belgium in the knockout stages.

The two sides' attacking impotence was highlighted by a 73rd-minute free kick by Messi from the right corner that sailed over everybody and out of play. Dirk Kuyt followed suit a minute later by sending a long ball off the other end of the pitch.

Argentina tried to finish the match in the second half of extra time, but when the chances came Rodrigo Palacio headed tamely at Cillessen and Maxi Rodriguez missed a volley.

"Argentina didn't create very many opportunities, if any," Van Gaal said. "So there was a balance in the match."

WORLD CUP

Romero seals victory with help from foe

Netherlands coach Van Gaal taught Argentina keeper how to stop penalties

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Louis van Gaal took some credit for showing Argentina's Sergio Romero how to stop penalties, advice that cost the Netherlands coach dearly on Wednesday.

Romero stopped two spot kicks as Argentina beat Van Gaal's team 4-2 in a penalty shootout in the World Cup semifinals, advancing to the final against Germany.

"I taught Romero to stop penalties, so that hurts," said Van Gaal, who worked with Romero at Dutch club Alkmaar in 2007-2009.

Romero praised his former coach for helping him adapt when he arrived in the Netherlands as a 20-year-old, though he said winning the shootout came down to chance.

"It's luck, that's the truth. You can dive (the right way) and not make it, like happened to their goalkeeper," Romero said. "I had confidence. Thank God things turned out."

Romero, who isn't even a starter in his current club team Monaco, now has three straight clean sheets in the World Cup, and has only conceded three goals in the tournament.

Scoreboard

Semifinals	
Tuesday, July 8	
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil	
Germany 7, Brazil 1	
Wednesday, July 9	
At Sao Paulo	
Argentina 0, Netherlands 0, Argentina advances on penalty kicks, 4-2	
Third place	
Saturday, July 12	
At Brasilia, Brazil	
Brazil vs. Netherlands	
Championship	
Sunday, July 13	
At Rio de Janeiro	
Germany vs. Argentina	

The 27-year-old goalkeeper said a lot of thoughts were running through his mind before the shootout.

"I had my colleagues with the bench helping me where each player could shoot," Romero said.

He stopped Ron Vlaar's penalty kick by diving right and Wesley Sneijder's by diving to the left.

"I was thinking, Sneijder was going to shoot there," Romero said. "I was also thinking that (Arjen) Robben was going to shoot to my left and then he ended up shooting to the other side and



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero saves a penalty attempt from the Netherlands' Ron Vlaar during their semifinal match Wednesday at the Itaquero Stadium in Sao Paulo. Argentina advanced to Sunday's final against Germany with a 4-2 win in the shootout.

that's why I was so mad."

Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella said Romero keeps a folder of information on other teams and their players and where they normally aim their penalties.

Before the World Cup, Sabella insisted he still considered Rome-

ro as his top choice despite his lack of playing time in the French league.

Romero said he had learned a lot both from Sabella and Van Gaal, and that he went to greet the Netherlands coach in the dressing room after the game.

"He is someone that helped me a lot when I arrived in Holland, in a completely different country with different customs," Romero said. "I will be forever grateful to the coach for helping me out in a country that is so different from ours."

Mascherano, Zabaleta play on despite head blows

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Javier Mascherano and Pablo Zabaleta both played on for Argentina on Tuesday after being knocked down by blows to the head.

Mascherano looked discombobulated after he clashed heads with Georginio Wijnaldum in the first half of Argentina's World Cup semifinal win over the Netherlands.

Holding his head, he took a few steps and then slumped to the ground. After receiving medical attention, he returned to the game and played a key defensive role to keep the Netherlands from scoring.

"It's good, good," Mascherano said after his team advanced to the final with a 4-2 shootout win. "I had a little bit of a headache. But now good."

Zabaleta went down bleeding from his mouth after smashing his face into Netherlands wingback Dirk Kuyt's shoulder in extra time.

He also played on after team doctors put a piece of tissue in his mouth.

Earlier in the tournament, the world players' union accused FIFA of failing to protect Uruguay midfielder Alvaro Pereira after he stayed in the match following a hard blow to the head.

Although Pereira acknowledged he was briefly knocked unconscious and then felt dizzy, FIFA said the responsibility lies with the team doctor, who allowed him to continue playing.

Argentina's Pablo Zabaleta, left, played in extra time with bleeding in his mouth after smashing his face into the shoulder of Netherlands wingback Dirk Kuyt during their World Cup semifinal match on Wednesday. Javier Mascherano, right, looked discombobulated after he clashed heads with the Netherlands' Georginio Wijnaldum in the first half. After receiving medical attention, he returned to the game.

Photos by Manu Fernandez and Eraldo Peres/AP



SPORTS



Taking his time
LeBron meets with Riley,
but no decision yet | Page 26

WORLD CUP



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Argentina goalkeeper Sergio Romero, right, saves a penalty from the Netherlands' Wesley Sneijder during a shootout Wednesday in Sao Paulo. Argentina won the shootout 4-2.

Romero saves Argentina

Goalie blocks two Dutch penalties to earn spot in final against Germany

By **MIKE CORDER**
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Goalkeeper Sergio Romero saved two penalties Wednesday to send Argentina into the World Cup final with a 4-2 shootout win over the Netherlands after the game finished in a 0-0 stalemate.

A day after Germany lit up the World Cup with its clinical 7-1 destruction of host Brazil, the Netherlands and Argentina could not manage a goal between them in 120 minutes before the shootout.

Romero — thought to be a weak link in this Argentine team and not even a starter for his Monaco club most of last season — blocked penalties by Ron Vlaar and Wesley Sneijder. For Argentina, Lionel Messi, Ezequiel Garay, Sergio Aguero and Maxi Rodriguez all converted their spot kicks.

"It's luck, that's the truth. You can dive (the right way) and not make it, like happened to their goalkeeper," Romero said. "I had confidence. Thank God things turned out well."

In a matchup of two of football's powerhouse nations, two-time champion Argen-

tina will play three-time winner Germany in Sunday's final at the Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

That means an extra bitter end to the tournament for Brazilians, who will have to watch their fiercest rivals play for the world title in their most hallowed stadium against a team that humiliated their nation in the semifinals.

It was the second straight penalty shootout following a 0-0 draw for the Dutch. Against Costa Rica in the quarterfinals, coach Louis van Gaal brought on substitute

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- Luck runs out for Van Gaal Page 30
- Argentinians play on after taking hits to their heads, Page 31



FIFA WORLD CUP
Brasil

Scherzer tops Greinke in pitching duel

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Yankees put rookie sensation Tanaka on DL

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