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MIDEAST EDITION

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UP IN THE AIR

As airshow decision nears, F-35 fleet remains grounded over safety concerns

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla.

The entire fleet grounded since July 3, doubts remain as to whether the Joint Strike Fighter will be able to participate in a prestigious airshow next week, as the "drop dead date" approaches.

The F-35 was to make a high-profile appearance at the Farnborough International Airshow in the U.K. next week.

"We're not going to put the F-35 in the air, send it anywhere until we are absolutely convinced and know that it's safe to fly ... As to timing, I'll leave that up to the experts who will come back with us and make a recommenda-

tion," Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Thursday during a visit to Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Eglin, home to the F-35 Integrated Training Center, is a key training location for Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy Joint Strike Fighter pilots and maintainers.

Hagel did not say when a decision has to be made in order to get the Joint Strike Fighter to the U.K. in time for it to take part in the airshow. But a defense official, speaking to Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity to more freely discuss deployment timelines, said Sunday is the "drop dead date."

"Preparations continue ... I think there's still hope ... There's still a possibility it might happen," the official said.

SEE AIRSHOW ON PAGE 4

Military personnel at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., on Thursday listen to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speak about the future of the F-35 and the military. NICK TOROCCO, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Kerry visit aims to broker Afghan election resolution

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spent Friday in Afghanistan meeting with political leaders in a bid to defuse a deepening dispute over the presidential elections that threatens the future of international aid and involvement in the country.

Former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, who received the most votes in the first round but fell to second place after a runoff poll, has charged that the

election was rigged against him by election officials, current President Hamid Karzai and front-runner Ashraf Ghani.

Abdullah's supporters have called on him to form a separate government, a move that he has yet to make but that he has signaled he is considering.

Kerry has denounced the idea of splitting the government, and both he and U.S. President Barack Obama have reached out to the candidates in recent days to try to broker a resolution.

SEE BROKER ON PAGE 2



Secretary of State John Kerry shakes hands with Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Friday.

Jim Bourg/AP

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I want to give them hope when I can. I want to inspire them when I can."

— NBA star LeBron James, on his decision to return to the Cleveland Cavaliers

See story on Page 27

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MIDEAST

Broker: US officials pushing for audit of disputed ballots

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Secretary of State met with both Abdullah and Ghani, as well as Karzai, in an effort to push the message that the U.S. supports a "thorough review of all reasonable allegations of fraud" and "will not accept any extraconstitutional measures," according to the State Department.

"We want a unified, stable, democratic Afghanistan," Kerry said in a statement made before meeting with Abdullah. "It is important that whoever is president is recognized by the people as having become president through a legitimate process, and that a government be one that can unify the people and lead into the future."

Neither candidate's campaign commented on the discussions, but in statements released before the meetings, both Abdullah and Ghani welcomed Kerry's presence.

"Our commitment is to ensure that the election process enjoys the integrity and the legitimacy that the people of Afghanistan and the world will believe," Ghani said. "Therefore, we believe in the most intensive and extensive audit possible to restore faith."

Representatives of the United Nations met with Karzai on Thursday and presented a plan for a more extensive audit of the second-round results. Karzai expressed support for the idea, but an agreement between the two candidates has been elusive.

U.S. officials say they don't favor any one candidate over the other but are pushing for an audit of the disputed ballots. Facing criticism over heavy-handed measures during the last election in 2009, American authorities had taken a hands-off approach to the current process.

But Abdullah's brinkmanship, heated rhetoric by the candidate's supporters, and growing evidence of widespread fraud have led to a more active role by U.S. officials, including phone calls from Obama and visits by the top members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and now by Kerry.

"What we don't want to see is a divided Afghanistan," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a briefing in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. "We don't want to see any candidate



PHOTOS BY JIM BOURG/AP

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry meets Friday with Afghan National Security Adviser Ranganatha Spanta and Defense Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi in Kabul.



From left, Afghan National Security Adviser Ranganatha Spanta and Defense Minister Bismillah Khan Mohammadi joke over who will speak to the media alongside U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at the U.S. embassy Friday in Kabul.

or entry in Afghanistan continue down any path that would lead to a divided Afghanistan."

The United States and other countries involved in the international military mission in

Afghanistan are closely watching the election as evidence that the country is moving toward stability.

NATO is preparing to pull the last of its combat forces from Af-

ghanistan by the end of the year, and the U.S. and its allies are hoping to strike a deal that would keep thousands of troops in the country for several more years at least. Although both candidates have said they would sign the troop agreement, the lingering political crisis is threatening to derail those plans.

Afghanistan receives billions of dollars in military and economic aid, which could also be at risk if the political situation deteriorates.

"Any extraconstitutional actions which would impact the unity of Afghanistan would result in the immediate end of U.S. assistance to Afghanistan," Psaki said. "That's not our preference. That's not what we want to do, but that has certainly been communicated to the candidates."

Taliban insurgents, who staged a number of attacks before and after the vote, have dismissed the elections and vowed to continue fighting until all foreign troops pull out of the country.

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MIDEAST

Military leaders back Bergdahl prisoner swap

By JAMES ROSEN

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The nation's top military commanders unanimously support the controversial swap of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl for five imprisoned Taliban leaders, letters released Thursday show.

In the wake of criticism of the May 31 exchange, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., solicited the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

All seven members of the Joint Chiefs, who head the major military services, sent Levin letters in support of the deal.

"Each of these military lead-

ers emphasized a simple principle — America does not leave its troops behind," Levin said in a statement.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, indicated that President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel had sought his opinion before signing off on the deal. "In arriving at my military advice, I balanced the risk of transferring the detainees with the importance of returning a U.S. soldier from enemy captivity," Dempsey wrote to Levin. "I concluded the risk posed by the detainees' future activity would be less grave than breaking faith

with our forces in combat."

After almost five years in captivity, Taliban militants handed Bergdahl over to U.S. special forces in eastern Afghanistan. A video of the exchange, taken by the Taliban and released on one of its web sites, went viral immediately.

Once Bergdahl was airborne, five former officials of the deposed Taliban regime in Afghanistan were released from the U.S. military detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Army chief of staff, told Levin that he had not been consulted about the exchange beforehand but that he backs it.

"I firmly believe (that) the recovery of any American servicemember held as a captive, hostage or prisoner of war, regardless of the circumstances, is both a moral imperative and vital to keeping faith within our Army," Odierno wrote the senator.

Bergdahl was flown from Afghanistan to the Army military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany. He spent 12 days there undergoing treatment and getting debriefed before being flown to the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Bergdahl, who is still being treated on an outpatient basis at the San Antonio hospital, is the

subject of an Army investigation into his captivity and his mysterious June 30, 2009, disappearance from his outpost in Afghanistan's Paktika province near the Pakistan border just before his capture.

Some members of Bergdahl's former unit have alleged that he went AWOL or possibly even deserted the Army before the Taliban nabbed him.

Senior Army officials say Bergdahl could lose some or all of the back pay that accumulated during his captivity if the current probe finds him guilty of desertion.

Afghan interpreters' fate uncertain as US runs low on visas

By ERNESTO LONDONO

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The cases of thousands of Afghan interpreters who worked with the U.S. military and hope to relocate to the United States are in limbo because the government will soon run out of visas designated for the resettlement program, State Department officials said Thursday.

Worried about the welfare of linguists who are under threat for their affiliation with the U.S. government, State Department officials are asking Congress to allow the issuing of more visas during the remainder of the fiscal year and to extend the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program, which is set to expire in September.

About 6,000 primary applicants are in the pipeline, including about 300 whose cases have reached the final stage of the process. Congress set a cap of 3,000 visas for 2014. The State Department expects to have issued that many visas within days, well ahead of the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

"We owe these people this opportunity to be out of harm's way," Heather Higginbottom, the deputy secretary of state for management and resources, said in an interview. "This program and our commitment to them is incredibly important."

The State Department's current predicament is to a large degree one of its own making. The visa program was beset for years by derogatory debates, security concerns and bureaucratic processing delays. In the fall of 2012, for instance, the State Department had granted just 32 visas among more than 5,700 applicants for the immigration pathway, which Congress established in 2009.

Many applicants were blocked at the first step — the embassy in Kabul, where senior diplomats felt the departure of scores of ed-

ucated Afghans would accelerate the country's brain drain. Some officials also argued that the risk to interpreters was not so dire — even as they markedly tightened security for American personnel in Afghanistan.

Several cases that the embassy allowed to move forward were rejected by other government agencies as applicants who had gained the trust of the U.S. military were branded potential security threats.

"The State Department is working hard to catch up," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., who is among the lawmakers leading an effort to extend and expand the visa program. "While it has made real progress, it is still behind after years of treating the SIV issue as a low priority."

Secretary of State John Kerry demanded a thorough review of the program last year and asked his staff to find ways to streamline it.

"Some deserving people were simply falling through the cracks," Kerry wrote in an op-ed column in the Los Angeles Times last month in which he acknowledged the program's shortcomings.

In recent months, issuance of immigrant visas for linguists has increased dramatically. The State Department has been issuing roughly 400 linguist visas per month since the start of the year, and processing time has dropped to an average of eight months, cutting the wait time about in half.

While the initiative to extend the program has strong bilateral support, it remains unclear how quickly Congress could act to create more visas and how the resettlement of additional Afghans would be funded. Blumenauer and other champions of the program in the House and the Senate are trying to build support for a status-quo bill that would establish 1,000 new visas for the remainder of the year.



Michal Krumpalanz, CTK/AP

Members of an honor guard carry flag-draped caskets with the remains of four Czech servicemen killed this week in Afghanistan from an airplane Thursday at Kbely Airport in Prague.

Czechs honor troops slain in Afghanistan

The Associated Press

PRAGUE — The Czech Republic is honoring its four servicemen killed this week in Afghanistan.

The soldiers were among the 16 people killed on Tuesday after

a suicide bomber struck Afghan and foreign forces in the eastern province of Parwan.

Sirens wailed all across the country and bells tolled for three minutes at noon Thursday to commemorate the largest number of Czechs killed in a single attack in

Afghanistan.

The government said the Czechs are determined to stay in Afghanistan.

President Milos Zeman is planning to award the four victims medals for bravery later Thursday.

Separate Taliban attacks kill 13

By AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A roadside bombing targeting police officers and an attack on a convoy of deminers killed at least 13 people in Afghanistan, authorities said Friday, separate attacks blamed on the Taliban ahead of foreign troops withdrawing from the country.

In the western province of Ghor, seven police officers died in the roadside bombing Thursday in Charsada district, provin-

cial Gov. Sayed Anwar Rahmati said. Rahmati said the blast was followed by a four-hour gunbattle between Taliban fighters and police officers that killed eight suspected militants.

Rahmati said officials believe the Taliban placed other roadside bombs in the area, so supplies now would be flown into the region. Roadside bombings are a major threat to both security forces and civilians in Afghanistan.

Earlier on Thursday morning, Taliban fighters ambushed

a convoy of deminers traveling through Herat province near the Iranian border, killing six people, police chief Abdul Sami Qatra said. Militants kidnapped two deminers, Qatra said.

The deminers work for the Britain-based HALO trust, which specializes in removing hazardous mines and other ordnance left over from wars.

After 30 years of near continuous conflict and war, Afghanistan is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world.

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JON HARPER/Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, said Thursday that America has "a lot riding on this aircraft," referring to the F-35. The fleet was grounded July 3 after a runway fire here on June 23.

Airshow: Military waits for results of probe to see if F-35 is a no-show for major event

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Certainly we'd be disappointed if we weren't able to take it to Farnborough. I mean, this is something that we're looking forward to," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said Tuesday when asked about the possibility of the F-35 not being there.

The entire F-35 fleet was grounded by Air Force and Navy technical air worthiness authorities July 3 based on the initial findings from an investigation into a June 23 runway fire here.

The fire broke out on the back end of an F-35 during an aborted takeoff.

The fire was extinguished and the pilot escaped serious injury, according to the Air Force.

The incident remains under investigation, but officials suspect a problem with the engine.

"Additional inspections of F-35 engines have been ordered, and return to flight will be determined based on inspection results and analysis of engineering data," the Department of Defense said in a statement last week.

On Thursday, Hagel said the engine inspections are complete, but investigators are still looking at the data and haven't issued any recommendations yet as to when flights can resume.

"What they're doing now is taking all the information that they got from the inspections and they're putting all that together and continuing the overall investigation to see how does this all match up and what do we have," Hagel told reporters here.

This isn't the first time that the entire F-35 fleet has been grounded.

Last year, all flight operations were halted when a crack was found in a turbine blade in one of the planes' engines.

The Joint Strike Fighter — produced by Lockheed Martin — is one of the top acquisition priorities for the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel addresses troops during a visit to the primary F-35 training center at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Each service has a variant: the Navy version is modified to operate from aircraft carriers, and the Marine Corps variant can take off and land vertically like a helicopter. A number of U.S. allies are involved in the program and intend to purchase their own F-35s.

"I believe this aircraft is the future for our fight aircraft for our services. This is as big a project ... as we have at the Department of Defense, and we've got a lot riding on this aircraft, as well as eight partners around the world who have invested in this aircraft," Hagel told troops at Eglin.

But the aircraft is the most expensive acquisition program in Pentagon history and has been plagued by major cost overruns and development delays.

The services plan to purchase more than 2,400 Joint Strike Fighters over time at an estimated cost of approximately \$400 billion — paying about 70 percent more than original projections for an even larger buy.

About 100 planes have been de-

livered, but they are not yet ready for combat.

Winslow Wheeler, a military reform advocate at the Project on Government Oversight, believes the decision to assign so many combat roles and advanced technologies to a single aircraft has undermined the program and made it extremely costly.

"When you pile on" requirements with "each of those levels of technology adding a new level of complexity, you have ... a fundamentally flawed design," Wheeler told Stars and Stripes.

Wheeler says the jets are unaffordable, at least in the quantities that the Pentagon desires.

"We'll have to start shrinking the buy to fit it into the top line of available defense budgets in coming years," Wheeler said.

"The defenders of the program inside the Pentagon have drawn a line in the sand as deep as they possibly can to maintain the current buy, but at some point that's going to give."

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Military officers: 'Stand down' not ordered in Libya

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
AND DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Military officers testified that there was no "stand-down order" that held back military assets that could have saved the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans killed at a diplomatic outpost and CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, undercutting the contention of Republican lawmakers.

The Benghazi matter and the "stand-down" theory have become a rallying cry for Republicans, who have been holding congressional inquiries and hammering President Barack Obama's administration for its response in the final weeks of Obama's 2012 re-election campaign, leveling accusations of both incompetence and cover-up. Benghazi could be a big issue ahead of November's midterm congressional elections and the presidential race in 2016, especially if former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is on the ballot. Democrats contend Republicans are using a tragedy to score political points.

The "stand-down" theory centers on a Special Operations team — a detachment leader, a medic, a communications expert and a weapons operator with his foot in a cast — that was stopped from flying from Tripoli to Benghazi after the attacks of Sept. 11-12, 2012, had ended. Instead, it was instructed to help protect and care for those being evacuated from Benghazi and from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli.

The senior military officer who issued the instruction to "remain in place" and the detachment leader who received it said it was the right decision and has been widely mischaracterized. The order was to remain in Tripoli and protect anyone there with military personnel rather than fly to Benghazi some 600 miles away after all Americans there would have been evacuated. The medic is credited with saving the life of an evacuee.

Transcripts of hours of closed-door interviews with nine military leaders by the House Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform committees were

made public for the first time on Wednesday.

Republican Rep. Darrell Issa, panel chairman, has suggested that Clinton gave the order, though as secretary of state at the time, she was not in the military chain of command.

Despite lingering public confusion over many events that night, the testimony shows military leaders largely in agreement over how they responded to the attacks.

The initial, Sept. 11 assault on the diplomatic post, which killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and another American, prompted immediate action both in Benghazi and in Tripoli. Though no other known further threat, the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, was evacuated early in the morning of Sept. 12, its sensitive information and computer hard drives destroyed. Diplomats and military officials left in armored vehicles for a classified U.S. site.

Upon arrival, the head of a small detachment entrusted with training Libyan special forces told his higher-ups he wanted to take his four-member team to Benghazi. Military officials agreed when they telephone call took place, but they agree that no help could have arrived in Benghazi in time.

Republicans investigating Benghazi have clashed over whether military superiors, in effect, ordered the team to stand down. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, the Armed Services Committee chairman, has cited previous testimony from military officers that ordering the foursome to stay in Tripoli and protect embassy personnel there "didn't amount to a stand-down."

Beyond questions of timing, the testimony of Rear Adm. Brian Losey, who was then Special Operations commander for Africa, also challenged the idea the team had the capacity to bolster security in Benghazi.

Losey said there was "never an order to stand down." His instruction to the team "was to remain in place and continue to provide security in Tripoli because of the uncertain environment." He said assigning the small team to defend a perimeter wouldn't have been appropriate.

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MILITARY

Army vehicle caught in 'contractor warfare'

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — It seemed like General Dynamics' attempt to win the contract was over before it officially began. The company's protest, arguing the regulations were rigged for its competitor, was flatly dismissed by the Army even before bids were due. Then the company decided not to enter a bid.

But that doesn't mean it has bowed out of the competition. Behind the scenes, the Falls Church, Va.-based company has waged an intense lobbying campaign that it hopes will keep it in the running for at least a slice of the Army contract to build nearly 3,000 Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicles, worth about \$10 billion.

For the past few months, it has pushed legislative language that would force the Army either to reopen the bidding or to purchase some vehicles from General Dynamics. So far, the language hasn't been adopted by Congress. But now, as the issue comes before the Senate Appropriations Committee next week, the company is pushing as hard as ever, officials say, in what could be a last-ditch effort that illustrates the importance of landing big-ticket contracts as Pentagon spending tightens.

General Dynamics says its vehicle is well suited for the job, and, because it is already in production, could be ready quickly to replace the Vietnam-era M113 vehicles now in use. Company officials would not discuss their lobbying efforts, but said that the Stryker provides a quicker, smoother ride and has been used to evacuate wounded troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with great success for years.

But others say the decision to bypass the bidding and to go directly to Congress is an attempt to big-foot battle-tested Army commanders, who should be able to decide what kind of combat ambulance works best without political interference. "Unfortunately, this is a symptom of a broken system in the way the [Defense Department] acquires systems," said Todd Harrison, the director of defense budget studies at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. "It sets requirements in such excruciating detail that it basically forecloses the opportunity for real competition. And what companies like General Dynamics are doing is trying a back-door around that, through Congress."

Congress isn't usually shy about telling the Pentagon it could spend its money better, and it has intervened on at least one other high-profile Pentagon program this year. The Air Force is trying to retire its fleet of A-10 Thunderbolt II planes, known as the "Warthog," which it says are past their prime and could be replaced by better, more modern aircraft. But Congress has rallied to the Warthog's defense, and likely may save the planes for at



BAE Systems

BAE Systems says that its vehicle is the only one that meets all the Army's requirements for the Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicle.

least another year.

It's not just big-dollar plans and tanks that get Congress' attention. Earlier this year, a member of the House Armed Services Committee inserted language into the defense spending bill in an attempt to have the Army buy a certain kind of tactical ladders that were manufactured in his district.

Critics of the process say that military leaders are capable of picking out the equipment needed, and that Congress should defer to them. But others say oversight is one of Congress' most important functions, and the members provide a much-needed check, especially given the Pentagon's record of allowing some weapons programs to spiral out of control.

In the case of the armored vehicle, the dispute largely comes down to one key, if obscure, detail: whether the vehicles travel on wheels or tank-like tracks. General Dynamics' Stryker vehicle has wheels; BAE Systems' offering, a version of its Bradley fighting vehicle, has tracks.

In a statement, the Army said it conducted a "full and open competition" that did not require companies to offer tracked vehicles over ones with wheels. After meeting with industry officials, it said it relaxed some of the requirements, "which opened up the program even further to competition among multiple platforms."

But it did say that the AMPV "must be able to maneuver across the same terrain as the M1 Abrams and the M2/M3 Bradleys," which have tracks.

Now that the Army has gone through the process and has a bid, it is eager to move forward. Splitting up the buy between Bradleys and Strykers would "delay the program by at least two years" and would increase development and testing costs by \$95 million, the Army says.

But General Dynamics said that because they are already in the Army's fleet, additional Strykers could be available within a year. The vehicles break

down less often and the cost to repair and operate them is far less than a tracked vehicle, company officials said.

The language the company has been pushing could compel the Army to buy Strykers for the vehicles the Army expects to use specifically for combat medical evacuations. That comes to about a quarter of the total.

"The committee is concerned that the Army may waste time and scarce modernization funding by developing a new medical evacuation variant," the language that is circulating on Capitol Hill

says. "The committee notes that the Army already has developed a medical evacuation vehicle based on a wheeled combat vehicle and that this vehicle has successfully deployed in combat."

It then prohibits the Army from spending any money developing a new vehicle for that mission, ostensibly steering the buy to the Stryker.

BAE Systems, the only apparent bidder on the contract, has countered by saying that its vehicle is the only one that meets all the Army's requirements. It spent years working with the Army to

develop exactly what military commanders felt they needed, company officials say.

"I want to see this competition proceed on the merits of the requirements and not based on legislative influence," Mark Signorelli, BAE's vice president and general manager for combat vehicles, said in an interview in April, before the bids were due.

Congress should "perform oversight," he said. "But I've seen some language that would lead me to believe that there may be some that want Congress to engage in the selection of solutions for the Army. ... And when I see things that impact the Army's ability to take care of its soldiers unnecessarily, I find that frustrating."

So far, General Dynamics has had limited success with its attempts to insert beneficial language into law. The House has adopted language that would require the Pentagon to provide a report on "existing wheeled and tracked combat vehicles that are used for medical purposes."

But one Congressional aide said there "was no substance" to the language. "It's simply contractor warfare."

Soon, the defense spending bill will come before the Senate Appropriation Committee. In a letter to Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., the chairman of the subcommittee on defense, Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas, Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., and John Boozman, R-Ariz., urged him to move forward with the program.

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NATION

Boehner drafts suit against Obama over executive authority

By WILLIAM DOUGLAS
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner Thursday released a draft resolution of his threatened lawsuit against President Barack Obama, alleging that Obama exceeded his executive authority in delaying a key provision of the Affordable Care Act.

"The Constitution states that the president must faithfully execute the laws, and spells out that only the Legislative Branch has the power to legislate," Boehner said in a statement. "The current president believes he has the power to make his own laws — at times even bypassing about it."

In the draft, Boehner maintains that Obama exceeded his authority by delaying the employer mandate, a key provision of the 2010 health care law that congressional Republicans have aggressively sought to kill.

The House Rules Committee will hold a hearing next week on the resolution authorizing the Republican-led lawsuit.

Last July, after months of consulting with concerned employers, the administration announced it was delaying implementing the mandate until 2015. Under the law, companies with 50 or more employees would face fines as high as \$3,000 per employee if they didn't offer affordable insurance.

At the time of the delay announcement, White House special adviser Valerie Jarrett said employers needed more time to comply with the new rules.

"In 2013, the president changed the health care law without a vote of Congress, effectively creating his own law by literally waiving the employer mandate and the

penalties for failing to comply with it," Boehner said. "That's not the way our system of government was designed to work."

Though Boehner says he's aiming at the employer mandate, the resolution's language states that the Ohio Republican can "initiate or intervene" in one or more civil actions on behalf of the House of Representatives "on any provision" of the ACA.

Obama had mocked Boehner in recent days for threatening to sue him. He made light of Boehner's threat again Thursday in Austin, Texas.

"So it's not clear how it is that Republicans didn't seem to mind when President Bush took more executive actions than I did," he said. "Maybe it's just me they don't like. I don't know. Maybe there's some principle out there that I haven't discerned, that I haven't figured out."

Thursday evening, White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest issued a statement calling the draft resolution "disappointing" and "a political stunt."

"At a time when Washington should be working to expend economic opportunities for the middle class, Republican leaders in Congress are playing Washington politics rather than working with the president on behalf of working Americans," the statement read. "As the president said today, he is doing his job — lawsuit or not — and it's time Republicans in Congress did theirs."

Other Democrats were outraged. Rep. Steve Israel, D-N.Y., chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, noted that first Republicans wanted to kill ACA and now "they're spending millions to sue the president over ACA."

"This resolution is an insult to our political process, and is merely a distraction from the real problems occurring within the Republican Party," said Rep. Marcia Fudge, D-Ohio, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus.

the teen's lawyers.

When defense lawyer Jessica Harbeson Foster asked how they would obtain a photo of her client in an aroused state, she said police told her they would take him to a hospital and inject him with a drug to force an erection. Foster then obtained court permission for the teen to leave the county before the warrant could be served and the photos taken.

The case sparked anger from the boy's family and lawyers, and a national backlash on social media by those who view the time and resources spent by law enforcement on private messages between teens as excessive.

On Thursday, Prince William authorities decided to drop the warrant.

From The Washington Post



VICTOR CALZADA, EL PASO (TEXAS) TIMES/AF

Demonstrators make their way to Department of Homeland Security offices Thursday while protesting immigration policies in El Paso, Texas.

Official says immigrant children draining funds

By ERICA WERNER and ALICIA A. CALDWELL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Homeland Security agency responsible for removing immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally will run out of money by mid-August unless Congress approves President Barack Obama's emergency request for \$3.7 billion to help deal with a flood of child immigrants crossing the border illegally without their parents, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson says.

Additionally, Customs and Border Protection, whose 20,000-plus Border Patrol agents are responsible for arresting illegal border crossers, will be out of money by mid-September at the "current burn rate," Johnson told the Senate Appropriations Committee on Thursday as he defended the president's emergency budget request.

Johnson said if Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol run out of money, the Homeland Security Department "would need to divert significant funds from other critical programs just to maintain operations."

While Johnson and other administration officials made their pitch for the extra money, outlines of a possible compromise to more quickly deport minors arriving from Central America emerged. More than 57,000 child immigrants, mostly from Central America, have been caught crossing the Mexican border since Oct. 1.

Because of enormous backlogs in the immigration court system, the result in the current crisis is that minors streaming in from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala are released to relatives or others in the U.S. with notices to appear at long-distance court hearings that many of them never will attend.

Republicans demanded quicker deportations for Central American immigrant children, but the White House initially had supported but left out of its emergency spending proposal after complaints from immigrant advocates and some Democrats. On Thursday, the top House of Representatives and Senate Democrats pointedly left the door open to



RODOLFO GONZALEZ, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AF

Adriana Ortiz, 2, holds a stuffed animal July 1 as she and her mother, Dayana Ortiz, of El Salvador, wait to board a bus in McAllen, Texas, to reunite with family in Los Angeles. The mother and daughter were released on their own recognition by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Services after entering the U.S. illegally from Mexico.

rather deportations.

At issue is a law approved in 2008. Passed to give protection to sex trafficking victims, it requires court hearings for young migrants who arrive in this country from "noncontiguous" countries — anywhere other than Mexico or Canada.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell both said they didn't want to give Obama a "blank check" to deal with the crisis of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children arriving at the Texas border, many fleeing gangs and drawn by rumors they would be able to stay in the U.S.

Proponents of quicker deportations say an effective way to stem the tide of young immigrants crossing the border would be to send them back home right away, to show their parents that the trip north was wasted.

Police won't seek photo of teen's genitalia

Police in Manassas City, Va., said Thursday they would not serve a search warrant seeking to see a sexually explicit photo of a 17-year-old boy charged with sexting a video of himself to his 15-year-old girlfriend earlier this year.

The teen is facing felony counts of manufacturing and distributing child pornography. As the case was headed to trial last week, Manassas City police and Prince William County prosecutors said in juvenile court that they had obtained a warrant to photograph the teen's erect penis to compare it with the video he is accused of sending in January, according to

NATION

Federal hiring at lowest level in 9 years

By LISA REIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Hiring into federal jobs has slowed to the lowest level in nine years, new government data shows, with 76,735 new employees entering the federal workforce in fiscal 2013, a drop of more than 14.5 percent compared with the previous year.

The government-wide budget cuts known as sequestration, along with growing fiscal pressures on executive-branch agencies, are responsible for the gradually shrinking workforce, and agencies are rethinking how they operate to minimize cuts to public services.

"Many agencies looked at far-reaching employees last year," said Tim McManus, vice presi-

dent for education and outreach at the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, which compiled employment data from the Office of Personnel Management for a second consecutive year. "It's hard to hire new people in that situation."

The hiring decline comes as a wave of baby boomers and others leave the government, many after long careers and with deep expertise in their fields. McManus said most of the newcomers are replacing departing employees, rather than filling newly created jobs. Roughly 110,000 people left federal jobs in fiscal 2013, leaving about 33,000 more employees who left than were replaced.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development finally got funding this year to bring

1,000 new employees on across the agency starting this summer, after a three-year drought.

"We've been starving without these positions," said Michael Anderson, HUD's chief human capital officer. "We're trying to get ourselves back to a place where we can carry out our mission again."

Budget cuts have shrunk HUD's workforce by 6.5 percent since 2009, Anderson said, and last year just a handful of employees joined the agency. Most of the new hires will replace veteran employees who have retired or otherwise moved on, with a few new positions added.

Across government, fully one-third of the new hires are filling jobs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is hiring

doctors, nurses, mental health experts, data-entry workers and others to support a surge in returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. The agency is currently caught up in a scandal over long wait times for veterans seeking medical care. More hiring at VA is likely on the horizon. In light of the scandal, a number of lawmakers and White House adviser Rob Nabors have said hiring more medical professionals is one way to help handle the VA demand.

Another 36.2 percent of new hires are filling jobs at Department of Defense agencies, which continue to fill vacancies, particularly in the area of cybersecurity. Veterans, who have priority in the hiring process under an Obama administration initia-

tive, made up 45 percent of new employees last year, a larger percentage than they make up in the total federal workforce (31.7 percent).

Also, about two-thirds of new hires are coming in at entry levels, between GS-1 and GS-9. This may explain why about a quarter of the newcomers are younger than 30, roughly mirroring the percent of young workers' in the broader U.S. workforce.

Almost 77,000 new hires is a lot of new employees, but it's still relatively small in a workforce of 2 million people, especially compared with the high-water mark of recent years: 143,168 new hires in 2009. Almost 90,000 people were hired to full-time, non-seasonal executive branch jobs in fiscal 2012.

Government slow to tell its employees bad news

By JOE DAVIDSON

The Washington Post

Working for Uncle Sam can be hazardous to your health, not to mention your private information.

Consider these headlines from Thursday morning papers:

The Washington Post: "Employees fault NIH on smallpox notification."

The New York Times: "Chinese Hackers Pursue Key Data on U.S. Workers."

While other sectors also have risks, the nature of federal employment means staffers on Sam's payroll face a variety of dangers, often unseen and unheard until too late.

Compounding the situation is the sometimes slow response by management to keep workers informed. Potential exposure to smallpox is serious enough without officials lagging in their notice to employees.

The Washington Post's Lena H. Sun reports that officials failed to promptly notify 18,000 employees at the National Institutes of Health's campus in Bethesda, Md., about old vials of smallpox virus that were found there.

A small number of employees working in an adjacent room were told about the smallpox find within a day after the vials were discovered. It took about seven hours after news reports were published a week after the incident for Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Margaret Hamburg to inform staffers agency-wide. This led to some employee grumbling.

"By now you may be aware of news reports about vials of smallpox," her email began. Employees would rather get such information from management first.

Sun's story also mentioned the anthrax bacteria that was accidentally released at a Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

FEDERAL DIARY

tion facility in Atlanta in June. CDC Director Tom Frieden apologized later that month for a delay in providing information to employees.

But that's nothing compared with news about an infection that spread through the NIH clinical center in 2011. Information about that was not publicly available until a year later.

Office of Personnel Management officials certainly did better than that, yet it took them about four months to inform OPM employees of the attempted breach of an agency database in March. OPM employees received information Thursday, after the story broke the night before, about the computer break-in. An OPM spokesman said the notification did not go out in March because there was no indication that personal information had been breached.

Though the OPM holds records on employees from across the government, staffers in other agencies have not been officially notified about the "potential intrusion of our network," as the statement to OPM employees described it.

By declining requests for interviews with agency officials, the OPM missed an opportunity to provide more information, and perhaps reassurance to feds generally. Instead, it gave reporters the basic government-issue boilerplate for situations like this.

"We continue to exercise the utmost vigilance in monitoring for potential threats and protecting our information and systems," the OPM said.



DON SEABROOK, THE WENATCHEE (WASH.) WORLD/AP

Les Kile watches Wednesday as a Chelan County fire crew arrives at his house near Entiat, Wash. Despite being put on an evacuation notice, and even though fire had crested the mountain overlooking their home, he and his wife decided to stay.

Wash. wildfire grows dramatically

The Associated Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — One central Washington wildfire has burned across 28 square miles in just two days while another has broken out in hot, tinder-dry conditions.

The Mills Canyon fire near Entiat has burned across more than 18,000 acres since it started Tuesday, fire spokesman Rick Scriven said Thursday evening. Residents of about a dozen homes have been told to evacuate, while more than 200 other homes were threatened.

A 30-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 97A reopened Thursday after being closed for 24 hours by the

fire.

About 40 miles away, on the west side of Lake Chelan, the new 25-Mile Fire quickly burned across 350 acres by Thursday evening. Some residents have been told to leave their homes.

About 450 firefighters attacked the Mills Canyon blaze Thursday. None of the fire has been contained, Scriven said.

Firefighting conditions improved a little as the wind dropped.

"We had heavy wind last night, but now things have settled down," another Mills Canyon fire spokesman, Joe Anderson, said

Thursday afternoon.

"Firefighters from all over the state have come in to protect the structures," Anderson said.

No homes have burned, and there have been no injuries, he said.

Near Spokane, a wildfire near Ford in Stevens County has burned about 1 square mile but was reported 80 percent contained.

Another fire burned two mobile homes, as well as outbuildings and vehicles, near Yakima. It spread across 20 acres of brush before firefighters bulldozed a line around it Wednesday night.

NATION



Kevin Moaw/AP

Fire engulfs the top floors of a three-story apartment and business building Thursday in Lowell, Mass. Officials confirmed that seven people died in the fast-moving pre-dawn fire.

7 killed in intense fire at Mass. building

The Associated Press

LOWELL, Mass. — The building where five members of one family died along with two other victims in an intense blaze had an alarm system, yet witnesses say no warning sounded. That's one thing investigators are focusing on, along with reports that sounds of fireworks or an explosion preceded the flames.

One victim of Massachusetts' deadliest fire in 20 years had fireworks in his apartment, his brother said, but investigators have not suggested a possible cause or said fireworks may have played a role. It's illegal for individuals to possess fireworks in Massachusetts.

A police officer on routine patrol was the first to report the fire around 4 a.m., while several tenants ran about 100 yards to a fire station, Fire Chief Edward Pitta said. But the blaze was burning strong by the time firefighters arrived.

Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan said she is "deeply concerned" by reports that no fire alarms sounded. The building did not have a sprinkler system but was not required to, Pitta said.

Among the victims were Torn Sak, his longtime girlfriend, Ellen Vuong, and three of their 5 children: a 7-year-old girl, a 9-



DAVID L. RYAN, THE BOSTON GLOBE/AP

The fire ravaged the building before down, forcing tenants to jump or hand their children to safety, and leading to dramatic rescues from upper floors.

year-old boy and a 12-year-old boy, according to Torn's brother Thearan Sak.

Sak said his brother enjoyed fireworks and had some stored in his apartment.

The victims in this former mill city about 25 miles northwest of Boston were all found in units on the top floor of the building, which had a liquor store on the ground floor and apartments on the upper floors, fire officials said. Authorities have not confirmed the identities of the victims.

Sar Soth, 43, escaped from a third-floor apartment along with two stepchildren and two adults by climbing through a window and then down a firefighters' ladder. She said she was having trouble sleeping when she heard a boom, saw fire outside and

started screaming for the others to wake.

Her stepdaughter, Soriha Procuing, 11, said she yelled for firefighters to bring the ladder to their window.

"We all felt like in five minutes we were going to die," Procuing said. "I couldn't see. My eyes, my chest burned ... I just wanted to get saved."

Neighbor Sarin Chun said she awoke to screams and saw someone hand a child out a window to another person on the street. Witnesses said tenants jumped out of windows.

It was the deadliest fire in Massachusetts in two decades, state Fire Marshal Stephen Coan said. A family of seven perished in a fire in North Attleborough on Christmas Eve in 1994.

US knew of UK plan to destroy hard drives

White House had questioned destruction of NSA information leaked by Edward Snowden

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration knew in advance that the British government would oversee destruction of a newspaper's hard drives containing leaked National Security Agency documents last year, newly declassified documents show. The White House had publicly distanced itself on whether it would do the same to an American news organization.

The Guardian newspaper, responding to threats from the British government in July 2013, destroyed the data roughly a month after it and other media outlets first published details from the top secret documents leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

After news of the Guardian incident broke the following month, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said it would be "very difficult to imagine a scenario in which that would be appropriate." He had been asked whether the U.S. would ever order the destruction of a U.S. media company's computer data.

The NSA emails, obtained by The Associated Press under the Freedom of Information Act, showed that senior intelligence officials were notified of Britain's intent to retrieve the Snowden documents and that one senior U.S. official appeared to praise the effort.

"Good news, at least on this

front," the current NSA deputy director, Richard Ledgett, said at the end of a short, censored email to then-NSA director Gen. Keith Alexander and others. The subject of that July 19, 2013, email was: "Guardian data being destroyed." A paragraph before Ledgett's comment was blacked out by censors, and the NSA declined to answer questions about the documents.

The White House said Thursday the comment from Ledgett — then the head of the NSA's Media Leaks Task Force — was confined to intelligence operations because it was "good news" that classified information was recovered and "didn't reflect a broader administration view" on press freedoms.

The Guardian's hard drives were destroyed the day after Ledgett's email. Top editor Alan Rusbridger made the decision after a week of increasingly blunt threats from British officials.

In a statement to the AP, the Guardian said it was disappointed to learn that "cross-Atlantic conversations were taking place at the very highest levels of government ahead of the bizarre destruction of journalistic material that took place in the Guardian's basement last July."

"What's perhaps most concerning is that the disclosure of these emails appears to contradict the White House's comments about these events last year, when they questioned the appropriateness of the U.K. government's intervention," the newspaper said.

Police to look again at overdose 2 months before yacht death

The Associated Press

MILTON, Ga. — Twice last year, Alix Tichelman found herself alone with a man suffering from a drug overdose. The first time she called police. The second time, police say, she just walked away.

Tichelman, 26, faces manslaughter charges in California after police say the alleged high-priced prostitute calmly collected her things and left as Google executive Forrest Hayes lay dying on his yacht in November following a heroin overdose. About two months earlier in Georgia, she made a panicked call to police as her boyfriend Dean Riopelle, owner of a popular Atlanta music venue, suffered an overdose in their home.

Tichelman was never charged in Riopelle's death, but police said Thursday they're going to re-examine that case.

Police in California say that, after Hayes' death, Tichelman had done online searches for how to defend herself legally after administering a lethal dose of heroin.

Numerous social media postings, photos and other articles online suggest



Tichelman

Tichelman was pursuing a career as a fetish model and a life with Riopelle — one photo posted on her Facebook page shows her displaying

a diamond "promise ring" given to her by Riopelle.

Riopelle and Tichelman had been dating for about two and a half years and lived together, said Riopelle's sister, Dee Riopelle. In September, Tichelman and Riopelle had a domestic situation that resulted in battery charges for Tichelman. Less than two weeks later, a panicked Tichelman called police, saying her boyfriend had overdosed on something and wouldn't respond.

Riopelle died at a hospital a week later.

NATION

Road to the future

Inventor pushes solar panels as infrastructure solutions

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
The Associated Press

The solar panels that Idaho inventor Scott Brusaw has built aren't meant for rooftops. They are meant for roads, driveways, parking lots, bike trails and, eventually, highways.

Brusaw, an electrical engineer, says the hexagonal panels can withstand the wear and tear that comes from inclement weather and vehicles, big and small, to generate electricity.

"We need to rebuild our infrastructure," said Brusaw, the head of Solar Roadways, based in Sandpoint, Idaho, about 90 miles northeast of Spokane, Wash. His idea contains "something for everyone to like."

"Environmentalists like it," he said. "Climate change deniers like it because it creates jobs."

'They represent the type of creative innovation that addresses design and energy, while showcasing the diversity of solar applications.'

Tom Kimbis
Solar Energy Industries Association vice president

While the idea may sound outlandish to some, it has already got \$850,000 in seed money from the federal government, raised more than \$2 million on a crowd-funding website and received celebrity praise.

Solar Roadways is part of a larger movement that seeks to integrate renewable energy technology — including wind, geothermal and hydro power — seamlessly into society.

Solar Roadways as "niche markets" in the booming alternative energy industry.

"They represent the type of creative innovation that addresses design and energy, while showcasing the diversity of solar applications," said Tom Kimbis, a vice president of the association.

Brusaw said that in addition to producing energy, the solar panels can melt away snow and ice, and display warning messages or traffic lines with LED lights.

There are skeptics who wonder about the durability of the panels, which are covered by knobby, tempered glass, and how they would perform in severe weather or if they were covered with dirt.

"It seems like something reasonable and something that is going to be very expensive," said Lamar Evans of the National Renewable Energy Association in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Another problem would be how to store the electricity that could be generated, Evans said.

The Brusaws have produced no estimates of how much the solar panels would cost, so the financial realities of their vision remain an unknown.

To demonstrate the concept, the company has created a small parking lot at its headquarters, using 108 solar panels. Vehicles have been driven onto the space, without damaging the panels, he said.

"We'll start off small with driveways and walkways," he said.

"Once we've perfected everything, our ultimate goal will be highways," he said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOLAR ROADWAYS/AP

Scott Brusaw drives a tractor on a prototype solar-panel parking lot at Solar Roadways' headquarters in Sandpoint, Idaho. Brusaw's idea for solar-powered roads has gone viral and raised more than \$1.4 million in crowdsourced funding.

After slow start, Solar Roadways gets big boost from celebrities, crowd-funding

Scott and Julie Brusaw came up with the idea for Solar Roadways after watching "An Inconvenient Truth," the global warming movie featuring former Vice President Al Gore.

Julie remembered that Scott had long talked about the concept of electric roads.

The U.S. Federal Highway Administration gave the Brusaws \$850,000 to develop Solar Roadways over the past few years,

and build the prototype parking lot.

This year, they turned to the Indiegogo crowd-funding site to raise additional money and move to the next phase. Launched on Earth Day, the campaign got off to a discouraging start, Scott said.

Donations trickled in slowly, but two factors helped spread the company's vision: a viral YouTube video and celebrity mentions in social media. The video has

more than 14 million views.

The floodgates opened when actor George Takei of "Star Trek" fame and the TV show "MythBusters" mentioned the company. They received donations from more than 45,000 people in 50 countries.

The money will enable the company to hire staff and begin production of more panels, Scott said.

— Nicholas K. Geranios



Scott and Julie Brusaw have proposed to pave driveways, parking lots, bike trails and, eventually, highways with hexagon-shaped solar panels that will produce electricity and could even propel electric cars.

WORLD

Gaza toll tops 100; Lebanon fire hits Israel

By ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian death toll from Israel's massive air campaign in Gaza topped 100 people Friday as rockets fired by militants reached deeper into Israel — and for the first time in the fighting, struck from neighboring Lebanon.

Gaza militants already have fired more than 550 rockets against Israel in the offensive. The Israeli military says it has hit more than 1,100 targets, mostly what it identified as rocket-launching sites, bombarding the territory on average every five minutes.

In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike Friday hit the home of a well-known Islamic Jihad leader. Gaza health officials said strikes overnight killed eight people, raising the death toll to at least 98. A later strike pushed the tally over 100 to go along with some 670 wounded, officials said.

In the southern Gaza city of Rafah, residents sifted through the remains of a four-story building that was struck and scattered for cover as another airstrike landed nearby.

Rocket fire continued in earnest from Gaza toward various locations in southern and central Israel, including toward Israel's international airport. The commercial center of Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion airport also heard warning sirens Friday but these rockets were intercepted and there was no disturbance to Israel's air traffic. Hamas says it is firing rockets at the airport and warned foreign airlines to stop flying to Israel.

Israel has shot down at least 110 incoming rockets thus far with its "Iron Dome" defense system. A Gaza rocket fire struck a gas station in southern Israel, seriously wounding one person and sending large plumes of smoke into the air.

In northern Israel, rocket fire struck near the Lebanese border and the military responded with artillery fire toward the source in southern Lebanon, military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said.

The Lebanese military said militants there fired three rockets toward Israel around 6 a.m. The Israelis retaliated by firing about 25 artillery shells on



Avi Roccan/AP

An Israeli firefighter tries to extinguish a gas station fire Friday after it was hit by a rocket fired from Gaza in Ashdod, Israel.

the area.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said that one of the militants firing the rockets was wounded. The Lebanese military said troops found two rocket launchers and dismantled them.

Israel launched the Gaza offensive to stop incessant rocket fire that erupted after three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped and killed in the West Bank and a Palestinian teenager was abducted and burned to death in an apparent reprisal attack.

Military chief Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz said Hamas was "sinking into its own disaster," while Israel was deploying its military might "not without reasoning, not without thinking, not without taking into account there are civilians in Gaza."

Israeli leaders are mulling whether to launch a ground assault in Gaza to target Hamas. Such a move, though, would likely involve a rise in Palestinian civilian casualties and put Israeli troops at risk as well.

Deja vu on both sides this time around

Los Angeles Times

JERUSALEM — With rockets showering down on Israel and corpses piling up in Gaza, residents on either side of the divide have been left with a dreadful feeling of déjà vu.

But the question is: Are they witnessing a rerun from 2009 or from 2012?

In January 2009, Israeli tanks withdrew from the Gaza Strip after a 22-day offensive mounted in response to rocket fire from Islamic militants. More than 1,000 Palestinians were killed, hundreds of them civilians; 13 Israelis died, most of them soldiers.

In November 2012, hostilities flared again. Israel girded itself for another ground operation; Hamas, the extremist group that

controls Gaza, vowed resistance. But an internationally brokered cease-fire meant the threatened incursion never materialized.

The current violence has shattered that truce — and left the Israeli government to ponder once again whether to launch a ground campaign that could prove costly in blood, economic resources and international opinion.

President Barack Obama spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by phone, affirming Israel's right to defend itself and offering U.S. help in negotiating a cease-fire.

The Israel government has begun mobilizing up to 40,000 reservists and deployed more troops along the Gaza border. But analysts think that, for now at least, a land assault is un-

likely. A brief ground operation would achieve few important objectives beyond showing that Israel means business, while a prolonged one could spark public opposition.

Also, the success of Israel's Iron Dome in knocking out dozens of Hamas' rockets has rendered the bombardment from Gaza slightly less terrifying.

Palestinian analyst Fayeze Abbas said the confrontation had become a faceoff between Hamas' rockets and Israel's defense shield. Israel is going to run out of missiles (for Iron Dome) before Hamas, and then what will happen? Abbas said. "Hamas knows this, and knows that it just has to continue with firing the missiles a while longer until Israel gets tired and agrees to a cease-fire."

Iraq says supplies airdropped to troops in refinery standoff

By HANNAH ALAM

McClatchy Washington Bureau

BAGHDAD — An official from Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's office confirmed Thursday that a high-stakes standoff is unfolding at the country's largest oil refinery, with details of a McClatchy report that said only 75 commandos were holed up inside and that the government wasn't sending food or reinforcements.

The Iraqi official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he isn't authorized to make official statements, said that up to 1,500 coun-

terrorism forces are inside the Beiji refinery, a sprawling, 300-acre compound about 150 miles north of Baghdad.

The official said the government is making almost daily food drops and sometimes is able to airlift backup troops to help defend the facility, which he conceded was totally cut off from Iraqi ground forces and ringed by Sunni Muslim extremists and their local tribal allies.

The Islamic State, an al-Qaida spinoff group that's seized vast areas of northern and western Iraq, is besieging the compound in cooperation with some tribes in the area, but it appears reluctant to storm in out of fear of causing irreparable dam-

age to the refinery's operating systems.

But the militants are taking shots from outside, the official said. "The attacks by the Islamic State and others are almost daily," he said.

Asked how 1,500 troops have been unable to break a siege imposed by a force that local residents say numbers 500 or fewer, the official said the troops are "responsible for protecting the refinery only." He said there's been no "concerted effort to clear the area."

The official's account differs from those of residents near the refinery and of an Iraqi politician who'd been briefed on the showdown. The locals and the politician

in Baghdad said that only about 75 Iraqi special operations forces were inside, and that the Iraqi government appeared reluctant to fly in supplies and reinforcements for the few militants who would shoot down the helicopters, as they have in other areas.

There was no way to check either version firsthand; roads to the refinery are impassable, and both sides have exaggerated battlefield gains. The official said other details were correct, including the flight of the commander of the battalion originally charged with defending the facility, and he didn't dispute that the Iraqi forces are cornered, with no clear resolution in sight.

WORLD



EVGENYI MALEOTKA/AP

Ukrainian paratroopers sit on top a vehicle in Sloviansk, eastern Ukraine, on Thursday.

Kerry heads to Germany to discuss spy claims

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's foreign minister said Friday he will tell U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry at a meeting this weekend that Berlin wants to reinvigorate the two countries' friendship "on an honest basis" after asking Washington's top spy to leave.

Thursday's decision to demand the departure of the intelligence representative at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin was "the right decision, a necessary step and an appropriate reaction to the breach of trust that

has taken place," Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters in Berlin.

It followed reports over the past 10 days that U.S. intelligence had recruited two Germans — a man who worked at the country's foreign intelligence agency and a defense ministry employee, Steinmeier said those reports were "troubling."

They added to friction and frustration over reports last year that the U.S. was intercepting Internet traffic in Germany and eavesdropping on Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone calls.

Steinmeier said he will meet Kerry on the sidelines of talks in Vienna about Iran's nuclear program.

There is "no alternative" to Germany's longstanding partnership with the United States in view of challenges in Ukraine, Iran, Afghanistan and elsewhere, Steinmeier stressed. "That is why this cooperation must be marked not just by trust but by mutual respect."



Steinmeier

Many Ukraine troops killed in attack

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Pro-Russia rebels fired missiles Friday at government troops near the Russian border, killing at least 19 servicemen, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said, adding that four other troops died elsewhere in eastern Ukraine.

The statement revised an earlier ministry report of 30 troops killed in the pre-dawn attack at a forward operating base in eastern Ukraine.

Defense Ministry spokesman Vladislav Selenzev gave the fig-

ure of 19 on his Facebook account and reported the four other troop deaths. He did not elaborate on those circumstances.

Ukrainian government troops have been fighting for more than three months against separatists in eastern Ukraine. In the last two weeks, however, they have cut the territory held by the rebels in half and forced them out of their stronghold in the city of Sloviansk. The rebels have since regrouped in Donetsk, an eastern industrial city of 1 million, and Ukraine has vowed to cordon the area.

The Defense Ministry said the troops struck in Friday's attack had been trying to secure the porous border with Russia, which Ukraine says has been crossed by large numbers of militants transporting armored vehicles and weapons. It said 93 soldiers were injured in the clash.

Rockets were fired from a Grad missile launcher around nearly 10 miles away, the ministry said.

The operating base was located near one of three border crossings whose closure Russian officials had announced Friday.

Border crossings are of par-

ticular concern to both sides. Ukraine says Russia is supporting and arming the rebels, but Russia denies the charges. The rebels have captured a few of the border crossings and Ukraine has demanded them back.

Russian news agencies quoted Vasily Maloyev, spokesman for the Federal Security Service in the Rostov region, as saying the border crossings east of Donetsk were temporarily closed late Thursday because of fighting.

Ukraine on Friday said it had regained control of one of those rebel-held crossings.

Bosnian Muslims bury 175 from '95 killing

By AIDA CERKEZ
The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — After 19 years, Hajrija Selimovic will finally have a place to mourn her family on Friday.

Selimovic was reburying her husband and two sons under white tombstones in a cemetery for victims of the Europe's worst massacre since World War II.

The three were among the 8,000 Muslim men and boys killed when Serb forces overran the eastern Bosnian town of Srebrenica on July 11, 1995. Samir was 23 and Nermin was 19 when the execution squad shot them.

The remains of Srebrenica victims are still being found in mass graves and identified using DNA technology. Every July 11, more

are buried at a memorial center near the town.

This year, Selimovic's two sons will be among the 175 newly identified victims laid to rest, joining 6,066 others including their father Hasan, who was found in 2001 but buried only last year.

"I didn't want to bury him because they found only his head and a few little bones," Selimovic said. "I waited, thinking the rest will be found and then everything can be buried at once ... but there was nothing else and we buried what we had."

The eastern, Muslim-majority town of Srebrenica was a U.N.-protected area besieged by Serb forces throughout Bosnia's 1992-95 war. But U.N. troops offered no resistance when the Serbs overran the town, rounding up the Muslims and killing the males. An

international court later labeled the slayings as genocide.

After the massacre, then-U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright waved satellite photos of mass graves at the U.N. Security Council. Washington knew where the mass graves were, she told them.

That's when Serb troops rushed to the sites with bulldozers and moved the remains to other locations. As the machines ploughed up bodies they ripped them apart, and now fragments of the same person can be scattered among several different sites.

The International Commission for Missing Persons, a Bosnia-based DNA identification project, has identified 14,600 sets of remains in Bosnia, including those of some 7,000 Srebrenica victims.



AMEL EMRICH/AP

Bosnian Muslims walk among the graves of victims of the Srebrenica massacre during memorial ceremony in Bosnia, on Friday.

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OPINION

Could Morsi defuse Israel-Palestine crisis?

By ADAM TAYLOR
 The Washington Post

Less than two years ago, the situation between Israel and the Palestinian territories seemed to be on the brink of disaster. In November 2012, Israeli airstrikes pummeled the Gaza Strip while militants fired rockets back at Israeli towns. As scores of Palestinians died and Israeli families covered, the international community seemed split and unsure about how to deal with it. Experienced international mediators looked impotent.

In fact, the one man who seemed able to step in had been a world leader only for a few months. And, unfortunately, he would be a world leader only for a few months longer.

At the time, Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi's role in the Israeli-Palestinian talks was something of a revelation. After the conclusion of the talks, all sides seemed to agree that Morsi had played the key role in solving the crisis. Here's how *The Post's* Michael Birbaumer put it in a recent column:

The end result, an agreement between Israel and Hamas, which has long refused to acknowledge each other, brokered by a neighboring Islamist government — would have been unthinkable before the Arab Spring reshaped the region less than two years ago, topping off a rat's tail by long held points of Israel at what is strengthening the hand of once-isolated groups such as Hamas.

Morsi had played a different game than his predecessor, Hosni Mubarak. Critics of the Egyptian autocrat had long argued that he had bowed to Israeli and U.S. pressure to isolate the Gaza Strip and Hamas. Morsi, of course, was part of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist movement that eventually gave birth to Hamas. Soon after entering office, he ceased travel for Palestinians across the Rafah crossing in southern Gaza, a small but clearly noteworthy change of course.

As negotiations began in November 2012, no one was surprised that Morsi came down on the side of the Palestinians. What was surprising, however, was that he seemed to be able to do so without alienating the Israelis. The Egyptian president pledged to adhere to the 1979 Israeli-Egypt peace treaty, for example, and kept lines of communication to Israel and the United States open as tensions grew. The communication and good faith proved fruitful: Just minutes before the brokered truce went into effect, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly said that he wanted to express his "appreciation for the efforts of Egypt to obtain a ceasefire."

Times have changed, and Morsi isn't around to help mediate today's Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Egypt's first democratically elected leader was forced out of office a year ago; he is facing a number of criminal charges related to his time in office. Morsi was eventually replaced by Egyptian military leader Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi in an election this year that left many international observers underwhelmed.

Exactly what el-Sissi makes of the Palestinian situation is unclear. On the one hand, since his election, he has significantly tightened the borders with the Gaza Strip. However, before he was elected, he said he would not receive an Israeli prime minister without concessions to Palestinians. Egypt's ambassador to the Palestinian territories, Wael Nasr El-Din, attended the funeral of the Palestinian teenager allegedly killed by Israeli extremists last weekend, and there is talk of some kind of Egypt-brokered deal happening. Hamas is certainly not a natural ally for Egypt's new government, but, as Palestinian political scientist Ali Jarbawi noted in an op-ed for *The New York Times*, el-Sissi does appear to be trying to move his foreign policy away from U.S. interests into a more independent direction. More support for Palestinian causes may be a way for him to show Egypt's geopolitical clout in the face of other regional giants such as Turkey and Iran.

Would Morsi have been able to defuse the current tensions between the Israelis and the Palestinians? Perhaps not — this situation is different from the one in 2012 and arguably far more complicated. But it's hard to deny that with the military coup that ousted Morsi, one of the glimmers of hope in the Middle East diplomacy appears to have been extinguished just before we needed it most. And we're still not entirely sure what has replaced it.

Adam Taylor writes about foreign affairs for *The Washington Post*. Originally from London, he studied at the University of Manchester and Columbia University.

How the World Cup disaster could change Brazil

By ISHAAN THAROOR
 The Washington Post

It was the most shocking defeat in the history of the World Cup. Brazil's 7-1 semifinal annihilation in Belo Horizonte at the hands of a far less German side brought the host nation's tournament to a shuddering, horrifying end. After billions of dollars spent on stadiums, after years of buildup and preparation, after so much accrued expectation for soccer's most famed national team, no one could have conceived that it would suffer its worst ever World Cup loss. But it did.

The reaction in Brazil has been a mix of anger and despair. The front page of one of its leading dailies on Wednesday, bluntly read, "Shame, Grief, Humiliation."

Another headline read "Historic disgrace." The impact of such a monumental blow will likely echo for months and years to come. Here's how.

It buried the Maracanazo

The Brazilian story ahead of the World Cup focused entirely on the trauma of 1950. The last time Brazil hosted the tournament. A surprise 2-1 defeat to Uruguay in Rio de Janeiro in what was basically the final (the tournament followed a different structure then) led to a moment of national reckoning: The team that lost was vilified and shamed. Brazil was so haunted by that upset that the team did away with its customary white shirt in favor of its now iconic yellow one. Despite winning more World Cup titles than any other nation, the entire buildup to this tournament seemed to be about Brazil burying the ghost of 1950 — the Maracanazo, named after Rio's main stadium.

And now the Maracanazo may be forgotten, but only because it has been replaced by the far more ghoulish Mineiratzen.

It could topple the president

Elections are scheduled for later this year, and President Dilma Rousseff, while still



SILVIA LEQUEROE/AP

A Brazil soccer fan cries after the team lost the World Cup semifinal match in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Tuesday.

ahead in the polls, may have real cause to lament the loss. The Brazilian government hedged its bets with the World Cup, hoping victory in the tournament could boost popular goodwill for the government and quiet the chorus of protesters, angry at wasteful spending and the country's inability to provide much-needed improvements on infrastructure, health care and education.

There's a long history of statesmen and acrobats looking to the World Cup to burnish their own image. Now, after the horror and shock of the defeat recedes in Brazil, one wonders if it will refocus attention on what ails Brazilian society.

Rousseff's opponents, including some prominent economists, suggest her defeat in the election may be a boon to the country's economy. There have been reports throughout the tournament of anti-Rousseff chants flooding the stadiums, but it's worth noting that most of the Brazilians who could afford tickets to the matches — affluent and overwhelmingly white — represent a demographic that is largely opposed to Rousseff's welfare populism.

It could alter Brazilian soccer

Ultimately, the defeat will have its greatest impact on the sport in Brazil, where, like a religion, it fuels nationalism, provides a badge of identity and is a vessel for popular hopes and aspirations. The team's stars, like the wallich (and injured) Neymar, are megarich icons, backed by myriad corporate sponsorship deals. Yet they caved under pressure — a total "blackout" where Germany's intense, ruthless pressing and passing simply ripped the Brazilian dream apart.

But that Brazilian dream did not really represent the magical "jogo bonito" that made the nation famous on the global stage in the 1960s and 1970s — and it has not done so for decades. In 1982, Brazil's most admired side suffered a heart-breaking defeat. Its style and flair had captured the world's imagination. Here's how an Argentine coach described watching Brazil then, as quoted by *The BBC's* Tim Vickery:

The ball arrived on one part of the field and disappeared to reappear again in the form of a rabbit and then a dove, and then hide again as the opponents rushed about trying to find it, all of us in the stadium looked at our watches with the intention of making time stand still because we wanted the game to go on for ever ...

The ball arrived on one part of the current Brazilian team, which under its conservative coach Luis Felipe Scolari, was numbingly pragmatic, perhaps even cynical, in its approach. Ever since losing in 1982, Brazil shifted its ethos to match the physicality and toughness of European opponents, stocking its teams with sturdy, unimaginative defensive midfielders. But perhaps the pendulum has swung too far in that direction, suggest some commentators, and this defeat will present another inflection point like 1982. Many Brazilians will hope that's the case.

Ishaan Tharoor writes about foreign affairs for *The Washington Post*. He previously was a Senior Editor at Time, based first in Hong Kong and later in New York.

OPINION

GOP needs true conservative temperament

BY MICHAEL GERSON

WASHINGTON

A few recent developments have revealed the tea party temperament in its most distilled, potent form. Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin called for the impeachment of President Barack Obama on the theory that his border policies are “the last straw that makes the battered wife say, ‘No mas.’” Excavating the layers of mixed metaphor — the straw that broke the camel’s back is somehow causing an abused woman to surrender in Spanish — Palin demands the ousting of an American president on the constitutional theory that “enough is enough.”

Republicans who disapprove of this plan, according to Palin, lack “cojones” and true conservatives should “vehemently oppose any politician on the left or right who would hesitate in voting for articles of impeachment.” Opponents are identified not just by disagreement (and by a lack of male sex glands) but by hesitation. In adopting the succession practices of a banana republic, and in elevating Vice President Joe Biden to power, those who are reflective and deliberate are natural enemies.

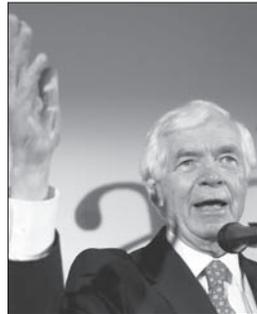
At the same time, failed tea party Senate candidate Chris McDaniel claims that his party’s opponent, Thad Cochran, “stole” the election — a serious charge made with out serious evidence — and equates overturning his 7,700-vote loss with preserving “the torch of liberty.” Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, has embraced McDaniel’s legal challenge, blaming the “D.C. machine” for “stealing the election.”

The tea party movement, of course, is more than the sum of its Palins. Both major political parties have and need a base of enthusiastic populists. And some of the Republican Party’s brighter policy lights, including Sens. Marco Rubio, of Florida, and Mike Lee, of Colorado, emerged from tea party-backed caucus events.

But it is clearly not Rubio’s anti-poverty proposals or Lee’s child tax credit increase that brings tea party crowds to their feet. The movement has developed a characteristic tone and approach. It is often apocalyptic. The torch of liberty sputters. The



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Left: Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., emerged from a tea party background. **Above:** Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., won a runoff against a tea party-backed opponent.

country is on the verge of tyranny. Yet, without apparent cognitive dissonance, the movement’s goals are often utopian. The nation’s problems can be solved by passing 10 amendments to the Constitution or by impeaching the president. And those who don’t share a preference for maximal (sometimes delusional) solutions — those who talk of incrementalism or compromise — are granted particular scorn.

The tea party temperament is often accompanied by an easily reducible political theory. “The word ‘education,’” McDaniel has argued, “is not in the Constitution. Because the word is not in the Constitution, it’s none of their (the federal government’s) business.” Neither are the phrases “health care,” “retirement assistance,” “disaster relief,” “food safety” or “cancer research.” And there goes much of the modern state.

These habits of mind — desperation, utopianism, purifying zeal and ideological simplicity — have their uses throughout history. But they can’t be called conserva-

tive. This is one theme of a careful, instructive essay by Philip Wallach and Justus Myers in *National Affairs* that ought to be required reading for conservatives. The authors describe the attributes of the conservative temperament — humility, an appreciation for what is worthy in our society, a preference for incremental reform, a distrust of abstraction — and contrast them to the “misguided radicals of the left and right.”

Progressives, in their view, have created complex and ungovernable public systems by “doubling down on centralization and technocracy.” But “some on the right seek to break with the past in a very different manner — repudiating 80 years of institutional development and reinventing America as a nation that rejects the substantive role for regulation or a social safety net. Though they are often labeled as ‘conservatives,’ their ambitions, and especially their rhetoric, embody the need for a sharp break with many features of our

current governing institutions.” The alternative is a more empirically grounded and practical conservatism, which displays a “deep interest and knowledge of our starting place and the plausible means of making improvements.”

This advice is timely. Precisely because Obama’s progressivism is exhausted and increasingly discredited, Americans will give the GOP another look. They will be either impressed or frightened by what they see. A party that is genuinely excited about conservative anti-poverty proposals, the child tax credit and other reforms — rather than impeachment and the abolition of modern government — might even be judged worthy of the presidency again.

The most urgent requirement for conservative success is the recovery of a conservative temperament.

Michael Gerson is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Obama’s global challenge bigger than his vision

BY DAVID IGNATIUS

WASHINGTON

In President Barack Obama’s sometimes maddeningly cautious foreign policy, you can see him struggling to answer what a nation has developed question of his presidency: How should the United States project power in a disorderly world without making the same mistakes it did in Iraq and Afghanistan?

Obama, whose deliberative approach often resembles that of a Supreme Court justice rather than a politician, has developed a conceptual framework for combating terrorism and instability. It looks good, on paper. But the problem is that he hasn’t yet applied this framework successfully in dealing with the challenges that have arisen on his watch: civil wars in Libya, Yemen and Syria, and the emergence in Iraq of the Islamic State.

Obama is emphatic about what he doesn’t want to do. He wants to avoid “boots on the ground” with U.S. troops; he wants to avoid unilateral actions that isolate the United States; he prefers quiet partnerships that shield America and its allies from domestic political criticism. He is willing to use what he has to protect his interests. Instead of significant U.S. military inter-

vention, Obama seeks a network of partnerships stretching from Morocco to South Asia. America would provide training and other support for the security forces and militaries of nations across this belt. Where governance has vanished and terrorism reigns — as is the case now in parts of Syria and Iraq — the U.S. would fill the gaps, using surveillance drones, armed drones and special operations forces.

It’s a strategy in which Obama, despite his legalistic temperament, plays a role I’ve described as “covert commander in chief.” He relies on the two instruments of national power he most trusts: the CIA and its armed forces and “special activities,” overseen by Director John Brennan, one of his closest aides; and Special Operations Command’s “Global SOf Network,” developed by Adm. William McRaven, the architect of the Osama bin Laden raid and perhaps Obama’s favorite military adviser.

This framework has some obvious conceptual holes: It assumes that countries such as Libya and Yemen can be put back together and turned into functioning allies after near-death experiences. It extends partner status to countries such as Egypt and Turkey, which are perilously close to being autocratic dictatorships despite their

long history of friendship with the United States. And it ignores altogether the role, positive or negative, of Iran.

Obama has posited the counterterrorism strategy in two major speeches, in May 2013 at the National Defense University and May 2014 at West Point. Further explanation was offered by Ben Rhodes, Obama’s speechwriter, deputy national security adviser and the closest thing he has to a chief strategist.

This “CT architecture,” as Rhodes calls it, sounds good in principle but is hard to accomplish. Just look at Syria: The U.S. has been debating covert support for the Syrian rebels since mid-2012; it has had an actual CIA-led training program since 2013, with little effect. It has sought to coordinate regional partners, in earnest, since last September, again with little effect. Meanwhile, a one-time al-Qaida affiliate has morphed into a deadly adversary that controls one-third of Iraq and part of Syria.

America’s prospective partners seem wary of the role Obama envisions. Jordan fears blowback from the CIA covert program for Syria, and it likes a proposed overt version employing SOf trainers even less. Among the other countries that ring Iraq and Syria, you see similar skittishness or outright paralysis. It’s like trying to

build a fortress out of putty. The enterprise would be difficult even for a president who was strong politically, at home and abroad. For Obama, it may be impossible.

The best example of a mobilization similar to what Obama is imagining in his counterterrorism partnership was the global covert action launched by President Ronald Reagan against the Soviet Union. Under the generalship of CIA Director William Casey, the U.S. ran operations in Nicaragua, Angola, Cambodia and Poland, not to mention Afghanistan. But even Reagan and Casey stumbled (and eventually, retreated) when they confronted a few hundred disciplined terrorists in Lebanon. This isn’t as easy as it may sound, in other words.

Obama has the right concept in creating a global network of special operations forces and intelligence services that can combat the frightening evolution of al-Qaida into new and potentially more toxic offshoots. But someone at the White House needs to drive this policy every day, and make sure it’s happening on the ground, in Syria and Iraq and all the other potential ungoverned places on Obama’s new map.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pregnant woman attacked by rabid fox

NY NEDROW — A pregnant upstate New York woman is recovering from an attack by a rabid fox.

Shannon Edwards, 30, of Nedrow, just south of Syracuse said the attack happened two weeks ago in the afternoon after she had returned home from a doctor's appointment with her 3-year-old son.

Edwards said the fox was chasing her cat in circles outside her house, then looked at her and started biting her legs. Edwards, who is six months pregnant, kicked the fox, started running up her driveway and fell, and the fox bit her right wrist. She said the fox bit her at least seven times before she and her son escaped inside.

An Onondaga County Sheriff's deputy shot and killed the animal after a neighbor called 911.

Tube riders say river is being trashed

TX NEW BRAUNFELS — Some tubers packing the popular Comal River over the weekend say the experience is being tainted by trash in the river.

A recent report from the city of New Braunfels backs that up showing litter is up 438 percent from last year and 356 percent over 2012.

A so-called anti-litter "can ban" that prohibited tubers from carrying beer and other throw-away food and beverage containers within city limits was in effect those years.

But a judge earlier this year, acting on a lawsuit filed by tubing and tourism firms, found the prohibition unconstitutional and ordered the city not enforce it.

Divers recovered 242 pounds of trash during the Memorial Day weekend. Last year on the same weekend, the haul was 45 pounds.

3 human skulls donated to thrift store

WA SEATTLE — Officials in Washington state are searching for the person who donated three human skulls to a thrift store in a Seattle suburb.

The King County medical examiner said in a statement on Wednesday that two of the skulls were from adults and appeared to have been used in a medical clinic or for instruction.

The third is very old and appears to have belonged to a Native American child.

State law requires the Native American skull be returned to its tribe. The medical examiner is asking whoever donated the skulls to provide some details, without penalty, so that can happen.

The skulls were donated last month to the Goodwill store in Bellevue.

Jumping jack to become official state exercise

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Arms up! Legs out! The jumping jack is about to

THE CENSUS

40

The length in feet of a shark that produced giant teeth that are among more than 500 fossils found at a dam construction site in Fremont, Calif. The teeth, estimated to be 20 million years old, and portions of what could turn out to be an entire whale skeleton are among the fossils uncovered at the Calaveras Dam replacement project that date to the Miocene Epoch, when the ocean extended as far inland as Bakersfield.



TED SCHURTER, THE (SPRINGFIELD, ILL.) STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER/AP

Hog wash

Owen White, 5, impatiently tells the pig he's washing to turn around so he can finish the project Wednesday at the Morgan County Fair in Jacksonville, Ill. White's family was showing the pig and others at the fair Thursday.

become Missouri's official state exercise.

Gov. Jay Nixon signed legislation Thursday adding the jumping jack to a list of more than two dozen official symbols and things.

The jumping jack was championed as the official state exercise by students from Pershing Elementary School in St. Joseph. They lobbied for it as a way to honor Gen. John J. Pershing.

The Missouri-born general led U.S. forces in World War I and is credited with inventing the jumping jack as a training drill for cadets when he taught at West Point in the late 1800s.

Veterinarian says cat virus tough to stop

HI WAILUKU — The Maui Humane Society's top veterinarian says there's no way to contain a deadly cat virus that has hit eight felines on the island since May.

The Maui News reported Thursday that the latest case of feline panleukopenia was confirmed in a cat from populated central Maui.

Director of Veterinary Service Miyo Miyasaki-Kim of the Maui Humane Society said the case in the highly populated area means

that there's no way to contain the virus.

She said the first three confirmed cases were in an isolated area, but hopes to contain it were a long shot.

The virus that can lead to death attacks white blood cells. Animals spread it through direct contact or contact with contaminated food dishes, bedding or people who have treated infected cats.

Pig threatens children walking through woods

ME OAKLAND — Police in the Maine town of Oakland are looking for a pig that threatened two children walking through the woods.

Capt. Rick Stubbart said that the children were walking along a trail in the wooded area between the local middle school and the high school about 1:45 p.m. Tuesday when the pig confronted them, "screaming at the kids and chasing them."

The children were so frightened they flagged down a police officer. Police did not disclose their ages.

Officers, including animal control, responded to the scene, and although they found tracks that confirmed the pig was real, they didn't find the animal.

Suspect in 7 bank robberies arrested

TX FORT WORTH — A North Texas woman has been accused of being the so-called "wig bandit" linked to at least seven bank robberies by a woman wearing fake hair.

Fort Worth police on Thursday announced the arrest of Jessica Renee Stell, 23, of Lake Worth.

Stell, in a jailhouse interview Wednesday with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram said she robbed banks to pay for her heroin habit.

Cpl. Tracey Knight said Stell, who was arrested June 23 at her home, has confessed to seven holdups since January. Nobody was hurt. Detectives with a search warrant recovered undisclosed evidence.

Police said Stell remains in custody facing parole violation and drug warrants. Federal bank robbery charges are pending.

Man gets prison in Craiglist tickets scam

PA PITTSBURGH — A Pittsburgh man has been sentenced to 18 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution for scamming about 200 people out of \$53,000 by selling

concert tickets he didn't own.

Daniel Isabella Jr., 30, was sentenced Wednesday on four counts of wire fraud. His brother, David Isabella, 23, pleaded guilty to similar charges in March and is awaiting sentencing.

The brothers advertised non-existent tickets on Craigslist and instructed people to send or wire them money.

Explorers find 1952 plane wreck in lake

NY OSWEGO — Underwater explorers say they've found the wreck of a U.S. Air Force twin-engine plane that crashed into Lake Ontario more than 60 years ago.

The C-45 flew for miles on its own after its three-man crew and two civilian passengers bailed out when one of the engines failed during a flight over central New York in 1952. The aircraft flew on automatic pilot for more than an hour before it crashed into the lake off Oswego.

A team of Rochester area explorers say Tuesday that they located the nearly intact plane in deep water while searching for historic shipwrecks on the lake's eastern end.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



KATHERINE ROTH/AP

Uyen Nguyen poses with her origami work, "Resistant Prism," at Cooper Union college in Manhattan on June 19. Nguyen, 22, organized the exhibit, "Surface to Structure" which was held last month at the school, and featured more than 130 works of origami from 88 artists.

Origami

NYC exhibit shows an art form unfolding

By KATHERINE ROTH
The Associated Press

An origami exhibit held at Manhattan's Cooper Union college June 19 through July 3 featured the work of 88 artists from around the world, revealing the outer limits of paper folding and its breathtaking range of possibilities.

Timed to mark the 55th anniversary of a pioneering origami exhibit in the United States, also shown at Cooper Union, "Surface to Structure" illustrated just how far the art form has come.

Showstoppers included undulating, robotic origami triggered by wall-mounted motion sensors; large, modular, pleated panels and sculptures; clothing; folded sculptures in stainless steel and cast-bronze; and even two polymer-gel micro-origami figures, less than a millimeter in size and displayed using a photographic technique that allows a 3-D shape to be reconstructed from a series of 2-D fluorescent images.

While traditional origami entails folding and then unfolding to see the crease on the page, many of these works use mathematical algorithms and computer-aided designs to create complex crease patterns first. The folds come later.

Other works featured a technique called wet-folding: wiping the paper with a wet sponge or cloth before folding. The moisture loosens the paper fibers, allowing for smooth curves instead of the more traditional sharp creases.

"The curves are a lot softer and the creases actually stronger with wet-folding," explained Uyen Nguyen, 22, who curated the show and made one of the works featured.

Wet-folding allows for the voluptuous curves of a lion's shaggy mane or the billows surrounding a unicorn that appears to be standing in the wind,



"Constrained Bowl," by Linda Smith, of the U.S.



"Asymmetry," by Erik and Martin Demeine, of the U.S.

and also works of elegant simplicity like "Dreamer," by Vietnamese-American artist Giang Dinh, or "Lying Woman," by Vietnamese artist Nguyen Tu Tuan.

Other pieces featured an improvisational technique using crumpled tissue paper. Known as "le crimp," it allows for a rich and detailed texture, exemplified by the work "Cierbol," by Spanish artist Victor Coeurjoly of Spain. The figure of a deer whose neck gives way to gnarled tree branches instead of an antlered head is roughly textured and made from dark brown paper; the result is virtually indistinguishable from tree bark.

"It's totally different from traditional origami techniques, which are all about deliberate precision," Nguyen said.

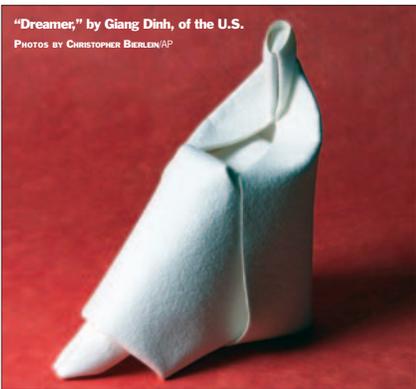
The fashion submissions, however, were the ones that surprised her most. "I hadn't even expected to include a fashion section, but it ended up being an important part of it," she said.

Included were several origami dresses and hats, a delicately folded parasol, two handbags, jewelry, and even an ornate, fingerless glove made of laser-cut, tessellated snakeskin by American artist Adrienne Sack. Tessellation, an origami technique developed in the 1970s, consists of a large sheet of paper folded to construct a relative flat geometric pattern. Only recently has origami tessellation been taken to a more three-dimensional level.

In the show's science section, one wall featured a work entitled "Oribotics (The Future Unfolds)," by Austrian artist Matthew Gardiner.

The undulating robotic origami flowers opened and closed only when a viewer came near.

"Dreamer," by Giang Dinh, of the U.S.
PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER BERLEN/AP



"St. Michael - The Archangel," by Tran Trung Hieu, of Vietnam

"Shakti," by Joel Cooper, of the U.S.



"Cierbol," by Victor Coeurjoly, of Spain

VIDEO GAMES

Lack of leading ladies haunts game industry

By DERRIK J. LANG ■ *The Associated Press*

Where the ladies at? At last month's Electronic Entertainment Expo, video game developers hyped upcoming titles featuring super-soldiers, assassins, bank robbers and secret

agents. They all had one thing in common: They're men. The continued lack of female protagonists in games shown off at E3 highlighted an issue that continues to loom over the video game industry. Why is it still such a dude fest?

"It's boring that we're continuing to have this conversation," said Belinda Van Sickle, president and CEO of the advocacy group Women in Games International. "I started in the industry 17 years ago and it seems like we're having the same conversation with the same responses from industry insiders, gamers and the media. It needs to be more substantive."

While there were a few notable exceptions at this year's E3 — like thrill-seeker Lara Croft in "Rise of the Tomb Raider" and sci-fi survivor Amanda Ripley in "Alien: Isolation" — male characters still far outnumber female protagonists in video games.

Everyone has a different answer as to why the issue persists. "The more women we have playing games, the more we will be able to have a balance between women and men in the games," said Yves Guillemot, CEO of Ubisoft.

Ubisoft came under the most fire at E3 after revealing that the playable characters in the co-op adventures of both its historical modes "Assassin's Creed: Unity" and shoot-'em-up "Far Cry 4" would all be men. Despite the fact previous installments of those series featured female avatars, the developers cited technical limitations for the lack of girl power.

"Any character you create requires extra resources, gender aside," explained Eric Hirschberg, CEO of Activision Publishing. "Any character that has a different look, voice, mechanics or way of moving, requires more work ... "But that's not a reason not to do something. We create lots of different characters with lots of different movements."

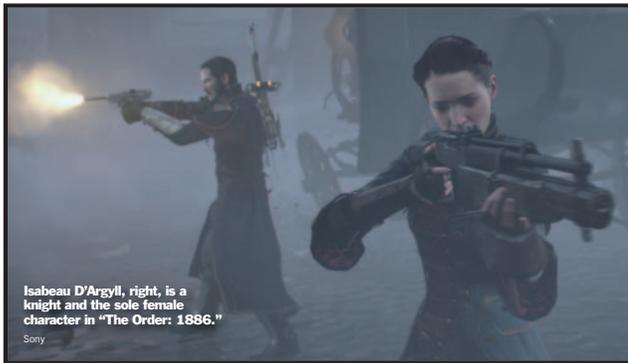
He noted Activision's "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," the latest installment in the military shooter franchise, will feature a vital female character in the single-player campaign, as well as the return of playable female avatars in the multiplayer mode.

In addition to technical issues, the reasons given for gender imbalance in the game world can include psychology, financial justifications and perhaps sexism. Yet such excuses don't hold up



EA Studios boss Patrick Soderlund believes that the lack of female protagonists in video games, like Lara Croft of the "Tomb Raider" series, is due to the fact that games are designed by a mostly male workforce.

Square Enix



Isabeau D'Argyll, right, is a knight and the sole female character in "The Order: 1886."

Sony



"Alien: Isolation" follows Amanda Ripley as she investigates her mother's disappearance.

Sega

when one considers the state of the industry: audiences for games are changing; the latest generation of consoles is more powerful than before; games have ballooned into a \$21 billion business.

"Our industry is strongest when it appeals to the broadest possible audience," said Michael Gallagher, president and CEO of the Entertainment Software Association, which organizes the E3 trade show. "The clearest path to appealing to the world as an audience is to make sure you're diverse in your game creators. That's the path we're committed to at ESA."

Many in the industry believe the problem stems from the game-makers themselves, who are mostly men. Van Sickle of Women in Games International said that 12 to 18 percent of the industry is women and many game developers and publishers have problems finding and retaining female employees. Van Sickle said change is happening, but it's slow going.

"My thesis is that it's a male-dominated business," said Patrick Soderlund, executive vice president at EA Studios. "I'm not sure that flies, but I think it overall may have something to do with it — that boys tend to design for boys and women for women. I'm just happy that we have a game with a female heroine, the parkour-style adventure game "Mirror's Edge."

When female characters did appear in games promoted at this year's show, many were part of a team, such as trapper Maggie in the monster hunting game "Evolve" and knight Isabeau in "The Order: 1886," a moody adventure game that finds the Knights of the Round Table battling supernatural forces.

"Developers have a tendency to paint female characters in very specific, stereotypical lights," said "The Order" creative director Ru Weerasuriya. "We wanted someone who was grounded in reality, but in actuality is sometimes a better knight than the others. There's no reason why that shouldn't be the case in games. That's the case in the real world, right?"



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

HEALTH & FITNESS

Stroke can strike at any age

Incidents increasing among adolescents, young adults

By GRACIE BONDS STAPLES
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

After a fun night out with her girlfriends late last year, Bianca Cooper arrived home with a "killer" headache.

That wasn't all that unusual, but she soon started to lose feeling on her left side and was unable to walk. She knew something wasn't right. She called her girlfriend.

"I think I'm having a stroke," she told her.

Cooper was 29 and as far as she knew as healthy and strong as an athlete.

Her experience, however, is a powerful reminder that strokes are increasingly occurring in young people. In fact, Georgia Hospital Association figures show that roughly the same number of people under 65 as over 65 experienced strokes each year.

Doctors at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta say the trend, while in some respects is surprising, is visible among the patients they treat. The number of young stroke patients aged 15-40 admitted to the Shepherd Center has tripled in the past eight years.

The center's rehabilitation program for younger patients takes a more aggressive approach than general stroke programs, which typically treat older patients. Shepherd patients participate in more hours of therapy and training, and the intensity level of the therapy is greater.

"Stroke is typically thought of as something that affects older people, but more and more young people are having them and we see that time and again reflected in the patients we admit," said Dr. Ford Vox, a staff physician at Shepherd. "Here, the average age of patients in our stroke program is 31."

Vox attributes much of the increase to Americans' sedentary lifestyle.

"This would not have happened 30 years ago," he said. "We're eating more processed foods, more salts and raising the fruits of that. Problems that used to develop in older adults such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity, we're now seeing in people as young as 14."

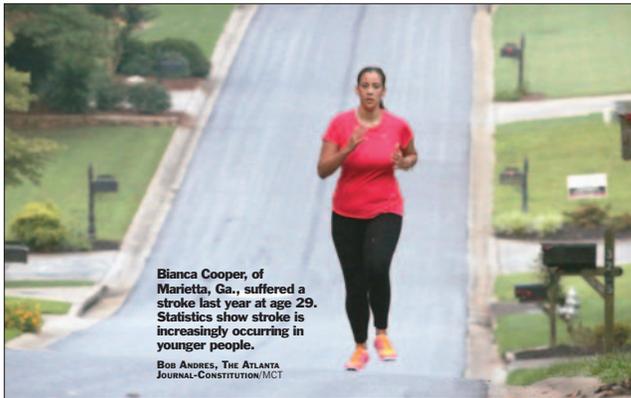
Vox, who specializes in brain injury rehabilitation medicine, said the main driver of these strokes is hypertension, and any point above normal — 120 over 80 — significantly increases the risk for stroke.

While there is some debate about how vigorously hypertension should be treated, Vox maintains doctors should err on the side of aggressively.

Same with diabetes and obesity, both of which, he said, suggest problems with patients' vascular system.

For instance, Vox said, diabetes, which people think of simply as elevated sugar, damages the blood vessels, says Vox.

Still, there are plenty of strokes



Bianca Cooper, of Marietta, Ga., suffered a stroke last year at age 29. Statistics show stroke is increasingly occurring in younger people.

BOB ANDRES, THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT

What to watch for

If you observe these signs, call 911 immediately.

Face. The smile is not equal on one side droops.

Arms. The person cannot raise both arms equally.

Speech. There might be sudden slurring of speech or inability to talk and swallow.

Time. The time lost is brain time. Think "Brain Attack" like heart attack.

Symptoms

- Sudden severe headache
- Confusion
- Numbness or weakness on one side of the face, arms or legs
- Loss of balance or trouble walking
- Trouble seeing

— Source: Shepherd Center

Resources

Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association: braininjurypeer-visitor.org

National Stroke Association: stroke.org

American Stroke Association: strokeassociation.com

The Brain Attack Coalition: stroke-site.org

National Aphasia Association: aphasia.org

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, ninds.nih.gov

that can't be prevented, such as a carotid artery dissection, which can occur spontaneously or because of trauma to the body.

"Everybody wants to know why it happens, but we don't always have an answer for that," Vox said.

"We have seen many cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, which in some cases is due to a patient's blood clotting too easily. It can also occur in patients who don't have that problem."

A stroke is typically defined as either ischemic or hemorrhagic, Vox said. Ischemic strokes, caused by a blockage in an artery, are by far the more common type, causing more than 80 percent of all strokes. Hemorrhagic strokes are caused by a tear in the artery's wall that produces bleeding into or around the brain.

Cooper never saw hers coming, and neither did Wes Varda.

One moment he was hitting the snooze button on his alarm clock, Varda said, "and the next thing I knew I was in ICU."

That was in December 2008. He was 31. He worked out three or four times a week. He didn't smoke or drink.

"I was in great shape," he said.

After the stroke, caused by a hole in his heart, Varda said he had to relearn everything. How to

'Stroke is typically thought of as something that affects older people, but more and more young people are having them. ... Here, the average age of patients in our stroke program is 31.'

Dr. Ford Vox
Shepherd Center

walk and talk. How to feed himself. And even what a stroke was.

"I knew the word, but that's about all," he said.

After months of intensive therapy at Shepherd, Varda, now 37, is back at work as a construction services buyer, living in his own and driving. Every Monday for the past five years, he has come back to Shepherd, where he volunteers.

Seeing the patients, he says, has made him realize how lucky he is.

"I didn't know how devastating it could be," he said. "Now I see it all the time. I see the struggles."

The consequences of a stroke, the type of functions affected, and the severity, Vox said, depend on where in the brain it has occurred and how much brain tissue has been lost or damaged.

"Two people can have a stroke in the same part of the brain, and one can lose more brain tissue," he said for instance.

In addition, he said, one medical problem can cascade into many, including pneumonia and muscle wasting, which impacts both a patient's length of stay in a hospital and his rehabilitation process.

Doctors told Cooper she had had a massive hemorrhage on her brain. Her entire left side was paralyzed.

After a week at Kennestone Hospital, she was transferred to the Shepherd Center.

Six months later, she said, "I still have deficits but I'm pretty sure-footed. I still have balance issues, but I can walk. I don't droop anymore."

The fact that she could have a stroke at age 29, Cooper said, is still shocking. "I knew it could happen, but you hear about them more in older people," she said.

7 habits of highly fit people

By KIMBERLY GARRISON
Philadelphia Daily News

Everybody knows that in order to accomplish something, you must set a goal. It doesn't matter if the goal is to lose 10 pounds, to eat healthier or to work out consistently.

Although we probably all agree that goal-setting is necessary, the real problem is not setting the goal, but sticking with it. Talk is cheap, and if you really want to achieve your goals, fitness or otherwise, you really need a plan.

To help you get it right, here are my seven habits of highly fit people:

1. Set a goal. You must set quantifiable fitness and health goals. For example, if your cholesterol is 250, give yourself the goal of getting it down to 200 by your next checkup. Take concrete steps, like limiting or eliminating your consumption of high-cholesterol foods. If weight loss is also a goal, commit to a number and figure out how many meals and snacks it will take you to safely reach your goal.

2. Write it down. Write down every single thing you would like to accomplish to improve your health, diet and workouts. You are far more likely to reach your goals if you write them down.

3. Avoid portion distortion. Many people mistakenly think that working out is a license to eat not only whatever they want, but also unlimited quantities. Nothing could be further from the truth. With or without exercise, if you consume more calories than you burn each day you will gain weight.

4. Make fitness a priority. If you plan to get fit, you must not fitness a priority and plan a daily date for a workout. Also, I'll let you in on another little secret: You're more likely to get it in if you do it in the morning. The later it gets in the day, the more likely you'll blow off your exercise routine.

5. Follow the Boy Scouts. "Be Prepared!" Preparation is 90 percent of your success. Prepare the night before, pack your lunch, and leave your gym bag at the front door.

6. Exercise effectively. If you are not getting the results you want, then it is likely time to increase either the speed, length or the intensity of your training program, and/or to shake up your diet.

7. Set realistic goals. Don't expect to lose 50 pounds in five weeks or expect to look like an elite athlete after only four weeks of training. Focus on the tangibles, like preparing healthy meals, getting stronger, increasing stamina, getting more muscle and losing body fat.

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LIFESTYLE

From beer to doggy biscuits

Brewers get creative with spent grain

By MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
The Associated Press

When you crack open and drain a craft beer, you probably don't leave much behind. The same can't be said for the process of making those brews, which yields a pound or more of leftover grain per six-pack.

But the industry is getting increasingly crafty about how to get rid of the grain and hops left after brewing, turning the byproducts and the beer itself into everything from bread and dog treats to lip balm and soap.

In basic terms, individual breweries may use tractor trailer loads — or roughly 50,000 pounds — of grain every day to brew tens of thousands of gallons of beer. That grain is soaked in warm water, which extracts starch that turns into fermentable sugars. Once that's done, the grain is separated and discarded, and the brewing process continues.

Because of the sheer amount of spent grain in beer-making, the majority of it ends up on farms for animal feed or compost. Federal officials last month backed off proposed livestock feed rules that beer makers feared would cost \$13.6 million per brewery if they wanted to sell grain left from making beer to ranchers and dairy farmers.

But there's no shortage of ways brewers are disposing of the fruits of the fruits of their labor.

In Virginia, Devils Backbone Brewing Co.'s pub serves bread made with spent grain and works with other artisans in the state to make sausage and cheese using its beer. The Alaskan Brewing Co. in Juneau last year installed a unique boiler system furnace that burns the company's spent grain to create steam that powers the majority of the brewery's operations. Oskar Blues, which operates breweries in Colorado and North Carolina, has "beer-blessed" lip balm made from hops and barley.

"Innovation has long been a hallmark of craft brewers, where the brewers are always looking for new things they can create that haven't been made before," said Paul Gatzka, director of the Brewers Association, a Colorado-based trade group for the majority of U.S. brewing companies. "It's attractive to the consumer that, 'Oh, there's another use for what's going into my beer.'"

Blocks away from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, Trophy Brewing Co. uses some of its spent grain to make granola and cookies, as well as the dough for the pizza it serves, including "The Daredevil," which has ghost chili pepper salami, fire-roasted tomato sauce, mozzarella blend, fresh jalapenos, caramelized onions and Sriracha hot sauce. The spent grain provides a nutty flavor and hearty texture for the dough.

"When you bite into a piece of that crust and you get a little bit of that malt, it adds another depth to the flavor profile," said Trophy's co-owner Chris Powers. "People definitely wonder what makes our pizza different. We try to get great beer into all aspects of your experience at Trophy."

Other companies also are cashing in on the spent grain such as Re-grained, a California-based company that uses it in granola bars. In brewery-heavy San Diego, Green Flash Brewing Co., Stone Brewing Co., Societe Brewing Co. and others supply their spent grain to David Crane, a home brewer whose small company makes "Doggie Beer Bones" out of the beer leftovers mixed with peanut butter, barley flour, eggs and water. They're sold in breweries and pet stores nationwide and on the Internet. But don't worry, Fido, won't get drunk off of them — they don't contain alcohol or hops, which are harmful to dogs.

From Crane's perspective, the amount of grain he gets from the breweries is huge, but admittedly, from the breweries' perspective, "it's probably a drop in the bucket."



Doggie Beer Bones Courtesy/JP



“Innovation has long been a hallmark of craft brewers, where the brewers are always looking for new things they can create that haven't been made before. It's attractive to the consumer that, “Oh, there's another use for what's going into my beer.””

Paul Gatzka
Brewers Association director

MOVIES

Keri Russell goes 'Ape' over new movie role

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Keri Russell has been working most of her life, but she can't remember a time when acting was more fun thanks to her work on the FX series "The Americans" and in the big summer blockbuster "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes." "I am enjoying acting more now. I feel more comfortable now with acting than I ever have," Russell says. "It's really interesting. I love 'The Americans'; it's so bizarre and weird. And, it was so special to get to work with ['Apes'] director Matt Reeves" again. I just feel like things are getting better. I hope things keep getting better with age."

Russell, who is 38, seems like she should be older because she started working when she was 15 on "The All New Mickey Mouse Club." She made waves at age 21 as star of the college drama "Felicity," which was co-created by Reeves and J.J. Abrams.

It wasn't the special effects and big battles that attracted Russell to "Dawn." She was more interested in the human drama that she knew Reeves would bring to the story, such as her character being a member of the medical community that couldn't stop the

epidemic that wiped out most of the world's human population. Russell's character also deals with the death of her daughter and trying to connect with the son of the man she loves.

"That's what I think is special about this movie. It's the combination of Matt's sensibility with an action movie like this," Russell says. "Matt told me he wanted to make a movie about these people and intimate moments. There are heavy-duty action scenes, but the film also has a lot to say about our own tendencies and capacities for empathy for communities that are not our own."

Russell is always happy to find stories that deal with family relationships.

"The loudest and most profound relationship you are in is usually with your family—either your parents or your kids. Both the cable show and the film have these strong relationships," Russell says.

She loves that a central theme in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is the compassion that must be maintained even in the darkest and most difficult battles for survival.

"When we meet these characters, they have lost everything. So there's this tremendous sense of loss in all of the individuals. But, to have been able to stay alive means they have a strength, a pretty tough person to get through all of this," she says.

"When it comes to the roles I like to do, it all comes down to the material. I don't care if it's a TV show, movie of the week, whatever. I just wanted to be moved by it. I want to feel something."

In "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," Keri Russell plays Ellie, a former nurse with the CDC and deeply determined caregiver.

ANOR KROPP, INVISION/AP



... There are heavy-duty action scenes, but the film also has a lot to say about our own tendencies and capacities for empathy for communities that are not our own.

Authentic look helps 'Planet of the Apes' evolve

By NOELEN CLARK
Los Angeles Times

A troop of men in skin-tight motion-capture suits darted across a sparse set inside a Manhattan Beach studio on a late October morning. A grid of more than 50 cameras recorded their movements as they grunted and screeched their way toward a gray platform where Andy Serkis crouched. The 49-year-old actor snarled and flared his nostrils, stretching the white markers painted on his face.

Anyone watching the scene unfolded on the bank of computer monitors tended by the Weta Digital visual effects team, however, would have seen not weirdly attired actors but a tribe of chimpanzees scampering by.

"Good, OK, let's keep rolling, and let's do one more even more territorial," called out director Matt Reeves as he worked on "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes." "Just a little harder, a little louder."

When it comes to helming the sequel to 2011's breakout hit "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," Reeves' mission is to raise the stakes for the next installment in the Fox franchise.

Set 10 years after the earlier movie, a re-boot of the sci-fi franchise inspired by Pierre Boulle's 1963 novel that brought in more than \$480 million at the worldwide box office, the new film posits a world in which apes have now developed electrical power to San Francisco and human sightings are rare.

Several survivors—including Jason Clarke's Malcolm, a single father and former architect; Keri Russell's Ellie, a nurse; and Gary Oldman's Dreyfus, the leader of the human colony in the ruins of San Francisco—seek to restore electrical power to San Francisco. There, they come into conflict with the rapidly expanding tribe of apes, led by Serkis' Caesar, the orphaned offspring of a laboratory chimpanzee who has evolved into the leader of his own expanding tribe.

Reeves envisions a society in which there is complete equality between orangutans and chimpanzees and gorillas," Serkis said. "There are a set of beliefs that they've collectively imposed, and there are strict tenets of what they should and shouldn't do. He's an egalitarian leader."

It's an ape-point-of-view movie," added Reeves. "The apes are still coming into being,

so it has a kind of majestic but also primitive, tribal aspect to it. ... Once you kind of get into that world, then all of a sudden you realize, 'Oh, there are some humans left.' The story really is about who will inherit the Earth. This is the one moment where it could have been 'Planet of the Humans and the Apes.'"

To immerse audiences in the ape-centric world, Reeves pushed performance-capture technology to new terrain. Traditionally, motion-capture movies are filmed in a studio on a stage called a "volume," with actors' performances digitally enhanced by animators and visual effects technicians. "Dawn," however, was filmed almost entirely on location, with cast and crew trading through the sweltering humidity of New Orleans and the freezing forests of Vancouver, Canada.

"We're in the woods; we're not creating the woods," Reeves said. "It was crazy hard, but what's going to be cool about the aesthetic is that you're going to feel very grounded in the real world, so just the one fantasy is that they're intelligent apes. No one has done that yet to the level that we did, so it should have a really distinctive feel and look."

Evolution of 'Planet of the Apes'

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is the latest big-screen version of the tale of man vs. apes based on the 1963 French novel "La Planète des singes" by Pierre Boulle. Since the first film in 1968, there have been several film and TV offerings based on the "Apes" tale.

Here's a look at the history of the "Apes."



"Planet of the Apes" 1968

Charlton Heston stars in this first look at a world ruled by 'dirty' apes.



"Beneath the Planet of the Apes" 1970

Crew of second spacefish finds mutants living underground. James Franciscus stars.



"Escape from the Planet of the Apes" 1971

Three apes travel back to 1973. The ape evolution begins.



"Conquest of the Planet of the Apes" 1972

Apes being used as slaves in the early '90s stage a revolt. Roddy McDowall stars.



"Battle for the Planet of the Apes" 1973

Tale of efforts to cultivate peace between the apes and humans is told in flashback from the year 2670.



"Planet of the Apes" 1974

Only 14 episodes of this CBS series based on the first film. Ron Harper and McDowall star.



"Return to the Planet of the Apes" 1975

The 13 animated episodes show the apes living in a modern society.



"Planet of the Apes" 2001

Tim Burton directs this CBS series based on the first film. Ron Harper and McDowall star.



"Rise of the Planet of the Apes" 2011

First offering in the series robot shows how the apes begin to evolve into what will become the ruling species. James Franco stars.



"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" 2014

Showdown between apes and humans is the beginning of the war that will change the planet. Gary Oldman, Keri Russell star.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Amazon sued over kids' app charges

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Federal Trade Commission is suing Amazon over charges that the company has not done enough to prevent children from making unauthorized in-app purchases, according to a complaint filed Thursday in federal court.

The move had been expected since last week, when Amazon said it wouldn't settle with the FTC over the charges. Amazon said in a letter to the FTC last week that it had already refunded money to parents who complained and was prepared to go to court.

On Thursday, Amazon said its statements in the letter still apply and did not comment further.

The dispute is over in-app charges in children's games on Kindle devices, where it can sometimes be difficult to differentiate whether users are spending virtual or real currency to acquire virtual items. When it introduced in-app charges in 2011,

One woman cited in the FTC complaint said her daughter racked up \$358.42 in charges while playing a game.

a password was not required to make any purchase, from 99 cents to \$99. That changed in 2012, when Amazon required a password for charges over \$20. In 2013, the company updated password protection again, but in a way that allowed windows of time where children could still make purchases, according to the FTC complaint.

One woman cited in the complaint said her daughter racked up \$358.42 in charges while playing a game.

FTC Consumer Protection Director Jessica Rich said in a media call that thousands of consumers had been affected and the unauthorized charges totaled in the millions of dollars.

"A central tenet in consumer

protection is that you need to obtain consumer consent before placing charges on their bills," she said. "That applies all places, from brick-and-mortar stores to app stores."

The lawsuit seeks a court order requiring refunds to consumers for unauthorized charges. It also seeks to ban Amazon from billing account holders for in-app charges made without their consent.

Last week the FTC announced a similar lawsuit against T-Mobile. Federal regulators urged consumers to go through their phone bills line by line after the agency accused T-Mobile US of wrongly charging customers for premium services, like horoscope texts and quirky ringtones, the consumers

never authorized. The FTC settled with Apple over a similar matter for \$32.5 million in January.

Amazon said last week its parental controls already go beyond what the FTC required from Apple as part of the settlement.

The complaint was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Amazon's stock slipped \$2.05 to close at \$327.92 in Thursday's trading.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 14)	\$1.3968
Dollar buys (July 14)	€0.7159
British pound (July 14)	\$1.175
Japanese yen (July 14)	99.00
South Korean won (July 14)	992.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7118/0.5842
Canada (dollar)	1.0704
China (Yuan)	6.2064
Denmark (Krone)	5.4801
Egypt (Pound)	7.1515
Euro	\$1.3607/0.7349
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7505
Hungary (Forint)	227.94
Israel (Shekel)	3.4264
Japan (Yen)	101.29
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1673
Philippines (Peso)	43.58
Poland (Zloty)	3.1027
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2408
South Korea (Won)	1,019.67
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8922
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.15
Turkey (New Lira)	1,1200

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

MARKET WATCH

July 10, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials -70.54
16,915.07

Nasdaq composite -22.83
4,396.20

Standard & Poor's 500 -8.15
1,964.68

Russell 2000 -11.95
1,161.86

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

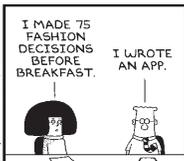
Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlene, Tex	98	73	Cldy	Chatanooga	92	69	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	81	63	Rain	Louisville	90	67	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	83	61	Cldy	Chicago	82	67	Rain	Goodland	98	66	Cldy	Lubbock	92	68	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	85	68	Pcldy	Cincinnati	88	63	Cldy	Grand Junction	94	66	Pcldy	Madison	81	66	Rain
Albuquerque	91	69	Pcldy	Cleveland	83	62	Cldy	Grand Rapids	78	64	Rain	Medford	100	66	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	87	60	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	83	60	Pcldy	Great Falls	86	55	Pcldy	Memphis	94	74	Pcldy
Amelia	85	68	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	93	71	Pcldy	Green Bay	78	64	Cldy	Miami Beach	80	78	Cldy
Anchorage	62	54	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	92	71	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	89	65	Pcldy	Midland-Odesa	93	70	Cldy
Ashville	84	62	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	87	63	Cldy	Hartford	86	55	Pcldy	Milwaukee	77	64	Rain
Atlanta	89	71	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	82	55	Cldy	Harrisburg	88	65	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	82	67	Cldy
Atlantic City	82	63	Cldy	Corpus Christi	93	75	Pcldy	Helena	88	58	Pcldy	Missoula	94	54	Cldy
Austin	91	71	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	100	78	Cldy	Honolulu	98	75	Cldy	Mobile	92	72	Cldy
Baltimore	86	66	Pcldy	Dayton	85	63	Cldy	Houston	96	75	Pcldy	Montgomery	94	72	Cldy
Baton Rouge	93	74	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	87	74	Cldy	Huntsville	94	67	Cldy	Nashville	93	67	Cldy
Bilings	86	69	Pcldy	Denver	82	62	Cldy	Indianapolis	84	66	Cldy	New Orleans	93	77	Pcldy
Birmingham	92	71	Cldy	Des Moines	84	72	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	68	Cldy	New York City	83	68	Pcldy
Bismarck	82	59	Pcldy	Detroit	82	64	Cldy	Jacksonville	91	74	Cldy	Newark	88	67	Pcldy
Boise	88	68	Cldy	Des Moines	78	58	Pcldy	Janeau	66	52	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	89	71	Pcldy
Boston	81	64	Cldy	El Paso	93	76	Pcldy	Kansas City	92	74	Pcldy	North Platte	86	66	Cldy
Bridgport	84	64	Cldy	Elkins	84	56	Pcldy	Kearney	84	64	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	90	73	Cldy
Brownsville	92	77	Cldy	Erie	83	62	Cldy	Knoxville	91	67	Pcldy	Omaha	85	72	Cldy
Buffalo	84	63	Pcldy	Eugene	93	58	Pcldy	Lake Charles	93	76	Cldy	Orlando	92	73	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	85	57	Cldy	Evansville	91	68	Cldy	Lansing	78	63	Cldy	Paducah	82	70	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	83	53	Cldy	Fairbanks	72	54	Cldy	Las Vegas	104	81	Cldy	Pendleton	100	64	Cldy
Casper, Wyo.	84	57	Cldy	Fargo	79	60	Pcldy	Lexington	89	63	Pcldy	Peoria	83	65	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	90	73	Cldy	Flagstaff	84	53	Cldy	Lincoln	88	73	Pcldy	Philadelphia	88	67	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	88	60	Pcldy	Flint	82	61	Cldy	Little Rock	96	73	Pcldy	Phoenix	110	87	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	90	70	Pcldy	Fort Smith	95	73	Cldy	Los Angeles	83	66	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	86	61	Pcldy
Chicago	82	67	Rain	Fort Worth	94	74	Pcldy	Madison	81	66	Rain	Portland, Ore.	94	66	Pcldy
Cincinnati	88	63	Cldy	Grand Rapids	78	64	Rain	Midland-Odesa	93	70	Cldy	Providence	82	63	Rain
Cleveland	83	62	Cldy	Green Bay	78	64	Cldy	Milwaukee	77	64	Rain	Reno	96	64	Cldy
Colorado Springs	83	60	Pcldy	Harrisburg	88	65	Pcldy	Missoula	94	54	Cldy	Richmond	88	68	Pcldy
Columbia, S.C.	93	71	Pcldy	Helena	88	58	Pcldy	Mobile	92	72	Cldy	Rochester	85	62	Pcldy
Columbus, Ga.	92	71	Cldy	Honolulu	98	75	Cldy	Montgomery	94	72	Cldy	Rockford	81	67	Cldy
Columbus, Ohio	87	63	Cldy	Houston	96	75	Pcldy	Nashville	93	67	Cldy	Sacramento	91	58	Cldy
Concord, N.H.	82	55	Cldy	Huntsville	94	67	Cldy	New Orleans	93	77	Pcldy	St. Louis	94	74	Cldy
Corpus Christi	93	75	Pcldy	Indianapolis	84	66	Cldy	New York City	83	68	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	91	80	Pcldy
Dallas-Ft Worth	100	78	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	68	Cldy	Newark	88	67	Pcldy	St. Thomas	85	79	Cldy
Dayton	85	63	Cldy	Jacksonville	91	74	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	89	71	Pcldy	Salem, Ore.	94	61	Pcldy
Daytona Beach	87	74	Cldy	Janeau	66	52	Cldy	North Platte	86	66	Cldy	Salt Lake City	96	70	Pcldy
Denver	82	62	Cldy	Kansas City	92	74	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	90	73	Cldy	San Angelo	97	71	Cldy
Des Moines	84	72	Cldy	Kearney	84	64	Pcldy	Omaha	85	72	Cldy	San Antonio	96	74	Pcldy
Detroit	82	64	Cldy	Knoxville	91	67	Pcldy	Orlando	92	73	Cldy	San Diego	77	68	Pcldy
Des Moines	84	72	Cldy	Lake Charles	93	76	Cldy	Paducah	82	70	Pcldy	San Francisco	71	57	Cldy
Dayton	82	64	Cldy	Lansing	78	63	Cldy	Pendleton	100	64	Cldy	San Jose	79	57	Cldy
Daytona Beach	87	74	Cldy	Las Vegas	104	81	Cldy	Peoria	83	65	Pcldy	Santa Fe	89	60	Cldy
Denver	82	62	Cldy	Lexington	89	63	Pcldy	Philadelphia	88	67	Cldy	St. Marie	81	56	Cldy
Des Moines	84	72	Cldy	Little Rock	96	73	Pcldy	Phoenix	110	87	Cldy	Savannah	91	73	Cldy
Detroit	82	64	Cldy	Los Angeles	83	66	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	86	61	Pcldy	Seattle	88	63	Cldy
Des Moines	84	72	Cldy	Madison	81	66	Rain	Portland, Ore.	94	66	Pcldy	Shreveport	97	73	Pcldy
Dayton	82	64	Cldy	Midland-Odesa	93	70	Cldy	Milwaukee	77	64	Rain	Sioux Falls	80	69	Rain
Daytona Beach	87	74	Cldy	Milwaukee	77	64	Rain	Roanoke	88	65	Pcldy	South Bend	79	66	Rain
Denver	82	62	Cldy	Mobile	92	72	Cldy	Rochester	85	62	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	89	70	Cldy
Des Moines	84	72	C												

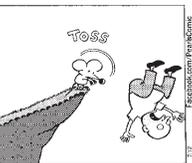
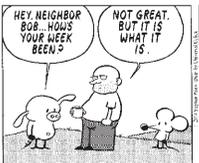
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Utah city
- 6 Fischer's game
- 11 Lowered in temperature
- 12 List
- 14 Claim
- 15 Gene variant
- 16 Zero
- 17 Expiate
- 19 Churchill gesture
- 20 Thing
- 21 — Lanka
- 22 Transmit
- 24 Antitoxin
- 26 1971 Woody Allen movie
- 28 Sgt.
- 30 Young fellow
- 31 Half a Faulkner title

DOWN

- 1 Courteous
- 2 Paint applicator
- 3 Flamenco cheer
- 4 Old Chevy subcompact
- 5 "Waiting for Lefty" writer
- 6 Skull-related
- 7 Pit
- 8 Immigrant's course (Abbr.)
- 9 Aerosmith's Tyler
- 10 Venus' sister
- 11 — Major (Sirius' constellation)
- 13 Marsh flora
- 18 Sphere
- 21 Wall art
- 23 Nasser's successor
- 25 Blanc or Brooks
- 27 Apprehend
- 29 Wall art
- 31 As cross as —
- 32 Voter's slip
- 33 Tar
- 34 — jong
- 36 Great with a gesture
- 37 Got a goal
- 38 Playful water critter
- 41 Uses an old phone
- 44 Paradise
- 45 Hoofbeat sound
- 48 Actress Thurman
- 50 Whopper

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

7-12

CRYPTOQUIP

KJQAQ DNJWI D MAYEJK'E
 N D I I Q A I J E I J M W E X K F
 Z A Y I D X K Z J L L A A D H H X I X O A E :

"I J B D Q L - D K H - B D Q L K J I."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I BUMPED INTO MY GOOD BUDDY FROM WAY BACK ON THE SLOPES, I CRIED "LONG TIME NO SKI!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Cycling

Tour de France

Friday
At Nancy, France
Seventh Stage
A 145.6-mile time trial from Epemay to Nancy, with a pair of Category 4 climbs near the finish.

- 1. Matteo Trentin, Italy, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, 5 hours, 18 minutes, 39 seconds.
- 2. Peter Sagan, Slovakia, Cannondale, same time.
- 3. Tony Gallopin, France, Lotto Belsol, same time.
- 4. Tom Dumoulin, France, Giant-Shimano, same time.
- 5. Geraint Thomas, Australia, Orica GreenEDGE, same time.
- 6. Daniel Oss, Italy, BMC Racing, same time.

Friday
At Nancy, France, Europcar, same time.
1. Cyril Gaudin, France, Europcar, same time.
2. Jean-Christophe Pato, France, IAM Cycling, same time.
3. Sep Vanmarcke, Belgium, Belkin Pro Cycling, same time.
4. Greg Van Avermaet, Belgium, BMC Racing, same time.

Also
26. Christopher Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, same time.
71. Andrew Talansky, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 20.

96. Danny Pate, United States, Sky, 3:46.
114. Peter Stetina, United States, BMC Racing, 6:08.

130. Alex Howes, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 6:08.
136. Benjamin King, United States, Garmin-Sharp, same time.
164. Matthew Kelly, United States, Trek Factory Racing, 12:16.

175. Overall Standings (After seven stages)
1. Vincenzo Nibali, Astana, 29 hours, 57 minutes, 4 seconds.
2. Jakob Fuglsang, Denmark, Astana, 2 seconds behind.

3. Peter Sagan, Slovakia, Cannondale, 40.
4. Michal Kwiatkowski, Poland, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, 50.
5. Tony Gallopin, France, Lotto Belsol, 1:14.

6. Richie Porte, Australia, Sky, 1:54.
7. Andrew Talansky, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 2:05.
8. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 2:20.

9. Roman Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.
10. Rui Costa, Portugal, Lampre-Merida, same time.

Also
86. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 3:14.
24. Christopher Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, 4:14.
113. Peter Stetina, United States, BMC Racing, 5:47.

139. Benjamin King, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 43:47.
150. Danny Pate, United States, Sky, 46:26.

62. Alex Howes, United States, Garmin-Sharp, 47:16.
103. Matthew Kelly, United States, Trek Factory Racing, 56:02.
120. Tom Van Den Broek, United States, Cannondale, 1:16:35.

John Deere Classic

PGA Tour
Thursday
At TPC Deere Run
Sevens, 18 holes
Purse: \$4.7 million
Yardage: 7,268; Par: 71 (39-36)

First Round	Second Round
Zach Johnson	33-30-63-8
Justin Rose	31-32-63-8
Brian Harman	32-31-63-8
Todd Hamilton	32-32-64-7
Stewart Cink	32-32-64-7
William McGirt	32-32-64-7
Jason Day	32-32-64-7
Kevin Tway	31-35-65-6
Davis Love	34-31-65-6
Julian Bradley	34-31-65-6
Charles Howell III	31-35-66-5
Ben Martin	33-32-65-6
Justin Wagner	32-34-66-5
Jerry Kelly	32-34-66-5
Austin Hill	31-34-67-6
Trevor Immelman	32-34-66-5
Harold Green	33-32-65-6
Jo Van Pelt	33-34-67-4
Nicholas Thompson	35-32-67-4
Rudaulo Gray	31-36-67-4
West Roach	32-35-67-4
Scott Brown	33-34-67-4

33-35-68-4
35-34-69-4
36-34-70-2
33-37-70-2
36-35-71-1
35-36-71-1
35-36-71-1
37-36-72
37-36-72
34-38-72
35-37-72
36-36-72
34-38-72
35-37-72
35-37-72
34-38-72
35-37-72
35-37-72
36-36-72
35-37-72
35-37-72
36-36-72
35-37-72

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE						
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
D.C. United	9	5	23	24	18	
Sporting KC	7	5	23	23	18	
New England Revolution	7	5	23	22	17	
Toronto FC	6	5	23	22	18	
New York Red Bulls	5	8	20	20	26	
Philadelphia Union	5	8	20	19	23	
Houston Dynamo	4	10	18	18	34	
Chicago Fire	4	10	18	20	30	
Chivas USA	2	4	10	16	24	27
Montreal Impact	2	4	10	16	24	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle Sounders	7	3	28	27	23
Real Salt Lake	7	3	28	27	23
Colorado Rapids	6	7	26	24	18
FC Dallas	7	7	25	30	29
Vancouver Whitecaps	6	7	25	26	29
Los Angeles Galaxy	6	7	25	26	29
Portland Timbers	4	5	21	30	30
San Jose Earthquakes	5	5	20	17	25
San Jose Earthquakes	4	7	14	15	16

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

Friday's game

D.C. United at San Jose
Saturday's games
Colorado at Philadelphia
Houston at Toronto FC
Columbus at New York Red Bulls
Chicago at New England
Sporting Kansas City at Montreal
Chivas USA at Vancouver
Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles

NWSL

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle Reign	13	0	42	34	13
FC Kansas City	7	3	24	23	13
Western New York Flash	7	8	23	20	22
Portland Thorns	6	6	24	21	18
Chicago Red Stars	6	6	24	21	18
Portland Thorns	4	6	4	22	22
Sky Blue FC	4	6	4	17	28
Houston Dash	1	11	2	16	17

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

Friday's game

Boston at Houston
Saturday's games
Washington at Western New York
Seattle at Chicago
Sunday's game
FC Kansas City at Vancouver
Thursday, July 17
Portland at Chicago
Friday, July 18
FC Kansas City at Western New York
Sunday, July 20
Boston at Washington at Sky Blue FC
Chicago at Seattle FC

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta Dream	15	5	75.2%
Connecticut Sun	9	12	42.9%
New York Liberty	9	12	42.9%
Washington Mystics	8	12	40.0%
New York Liberty	5	17	29.6%

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix Mercury	16	6	73.1%
Minnesota Lynx	11	9	55.0%
San Antonio Stars	10	11	38.9%
Los Angeles Sparks	8	13	38.1%
Seattle Storm	8	13	38.1%

Saturday's games

Indiana Fever at Connecticut Sun
Minnesota's July 15
Seattle at Los Angeles
Phoenix at San Antonio
Wednesday's game
Seattle at San Antonio
Saturday's games
Atlanta Dream at Phoenix Mercury
Washington at Tulsa

Women's British Open

Thursday
At Royal Birkdale Golf Club
Southport, England
Purse: \$3 million
Yardage: 6,486; Par: 72 (35-37)

First Round	Second Round
Ayako Uehara	33-35-68-4
Mo Martin	35-34-69-4
Christine Sinclair	35-34-69-4
Sarah Kemp	36-34-70-2
Morgan Pressell	33-37-70-2
Stacy Lewis	36-35-71-1
Lucy Walker	35-36-71-1
Amy Yang	35-36-71-1
Marina Alex	37-36-72
Juliana Granado	35-37-72
Lydia Ko	34-38-72
Joanna Bryden	35-37-72
Amelia Vesey	36-36-72
Al Miyazaki	34-38-72
Azusa Koizumi	35-37-72
Anna Nordqvist	37-35-72
Tommy Fleetwood	35-37-72
Suzann Pettersen	35-37-72
Jiayi Shin	34-38-72
Christine Sinclair	31-36-67-6
Liz Thompson	36-36-72
Karrie Webb	35-37-72

Tennis

World TeamTennis

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Washington	1	2	333	24
Philadelphia	1	2	333	24
Boston	1	2	333	24

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct.	GB	
Austin	1	2	333	24
Texas	1	2	333	24
San Diego	1	2	333	24
Springfield	1	2	333	24

Wednesday's matches

Washington Post at Austin
Austin 20, San Diego 18
Thursday's matches
Springfield 23, Boston 13, OT
Washington 25, Philadelphia 10
Texas 20, San Diego 18

Friday's matches

Washington Post at Austin
Philadelphia at Texas
Saturday's matches
Texas at Springfield
Philadelphia at Austin
Boston at San Diego

Sunday's matches

Philadelphia at Washington
Austin at Springfield
San Diego at Texas

Hall of Fame Championships

Thursday

At the International Tennis Hall of Fame
Newport, R.I.
Purse: \$350,750 (T250)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor
Singles
Quartfinals
Samuel Groth, Australia, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, United States, 7-5, 6-4.
Uro Karlovic (2), Croatia, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 7-6 (3), 7-5.

Doubles

Chris Guccione and Leyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Divaj Sharan, India, and Jonathan Erlich, United States, 7-5, 6-3.
Austin Krajicek, United States, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, def. Matthew Ebden and Sam Groth (2), Australia, 6-3, 6-4.

Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Raleev Ram, United States, def. Sanchai and Chattra Ratwatana, Thailand, 7-5, 7-6 (1).

Bucharest Open

Thursday

At Arenele BNR
Bucharest, Romania
Purse: \$250,000
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Danka Kinetic, Montenegro, def. Karin Knapp (4), Italy, 6-2, 6-6.
Petra Cetkovic (7), Czech Republic, def. Klara Barta, Czech Republic, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (4).

Doubles

Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, 6-2, 6-4.
Roberta Vinci (2), Italy, and Silvia Soler-Espinos, Spain, 6-4, 6-2.

Kataryzyna Piter, Poland, and Olga Savchenko, Ukraine, def. Petra Cetkovic, Czech Republic, and Alexandra Panova, Russia, 6-2, 6-3.

Swedish Open

Thursday

At Bastad Tennis stadium
Bastad, Sweden
Purse: \$600,000 (W250)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor
Singles
David Ferrer (1), Spain, def. Victor Hanesku, Romania, 6-3, 6-2.
Fernando Verdasco (3), Spain, def. Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, 6-1, 7-5.
Nicola Pietrangeli, Italy, def. Radu Albot, Moldova, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2.
Pavel Andreev, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-2, 6-2.

First Round

Colin Montgomery	32-33-65-6
Marco Bayonet	32-34-66-6
Mark Brookes	33-35-68-3
Tommy Paul	32-37-69-2
Kirk Triplett	37-32-69-2
Scott Dunlap	33-36-69-2
Gene Sauer	35-34-69-2
Vijay Singh	35-34-69-2
Peter-Jan King	34-36-70-1
Fred Funk	35-35-70-1
Glenn Brunson	36-34-70-1
John Huh	34-36-70-1
Jeff Willson	35-35-70-1
Tommy Fleetwood	34-36-70-1
Russ Sloman	34-36-70-1
Jeff Cochran	35-35-70-1
Doug Garwood	34-36-70-1
Ronnie Black	32-39-71
Tommy Fleetwood	34-36-70-1
Barry Barty	38-33-71
John Inman	36-35-71
Tommy Fleetwood	35-36-71
Jeff Costo	35-36-71
Rod Spitt	36-35-71

Doubles

David Marrero and Fernando Verdasco (1), Spain, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, and Nicolas Pietrangeli, Italy, 6-2, 6-2.
Jeremy Chardy, France, and Oliver Marach, Austria, def. Andre Begemann, Germany, and Robert Lindstedt (2), Sweden, 7-1 (6), 6-2.
Kontinen (3), Finland, Poland, and Henri Kontinen (3), Finland, def. Isak Avitsand and Peter Dinkov, Bulgaria, 6-2, 6-2.
Johan Brunstrom, Sweden, and Nicholas Monroe (4), United States, def. Gero Kretschmer and Alexander Satschko, Germany, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 10-3.

6-3-6-7 (5), 10-3.

Guest Ladies

At TC Wells 76

Bad Gastein, Austria
Purse: \$250,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Second Round
Sara Errani (2), Italy, def. Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, 6-3, 6-0.
Shelby Rogers, United States, def. Carla Suarez Navarro (3), Spain, 6-4, 6-0.
Danielle Schaeffer, South Africa, def. the Yvonne Meusburger (6), Austria, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Camilla Giorgi (7), Italy, def. Lisa-María Moser-Auer, Austria, 6-0, 6-2.

Quartfinals

Karolina Pliskova, def. Kristyna Pliskova (2), Czech Republic, def. Mariana Duque Marijanovic (1), Serbia, 6-2, 6-2.
Garcia Vidua, Spain, 7-6 (10), 3-6, 10-8.
3. Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Marieta Teresa Flor (5), Spain, def. Lisa-María Moser-Auer, Austria, 6-2, 6-4, 10-7.

Mercedes Cup

Thursday

At TC Weissenhof
Stuttgart, Germany
Purse: \$665,500 (W750)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Philipp Kohlschreiber (2), Germany, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 6-4, 6-3.

Second Round

Fabio Fognini (2), Italy, def. Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-4.
Michael Yuzynsky (2), Russia, def. Leonora Pennetta, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.
Roberto Bautista Agut (3), Spain, def. Loris Pech, France, 6-3, 6-2.
Feliciano Lopez (4), Spain, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver (3), 6-2, 6-2.
Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (5), Germany, 7-5, 7-6 (8).

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (6), Spain, def. Yann Marti, Switzerland, 7-6 (13), 7-6 (8).

Santiago Giraldo (7), Colombia, def. Philipp Dayoyenko, Russia, 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

Federico Delbonis (8), Argentina, def. Federico Delbonis (6), Argentina, 6-4, 6-4.

Doubles

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (6), Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Colin Fleming, Britain, and Mariusz Fyrstenberg (2), France, 6-3, 6-2.
Frankesk Lemaek and Lukas Rosol (3), Czech Republic, def. Federico Delbonis and Bernardo Mayer, Argentina, 6-3, 4-6, 10-8.

First Round

Peter Gajdosy and Dominik Meffert, Germany, def. Fabio Fognini (2), Italy, and Nicolas Pietrangeli, Italy, 6-3, 6-2.
Mateusz Kowalczyk, Poland, and Artem Sitak, Russia, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, Italy, and Juan-Carlos Spi, Colombia, 6-4, 6-3.
Oleksandr Strykowski, Ukraine, def. Rajia, India, def. Mertdoglu, Kazakhstan, and Michal Mertnyk, Slovakia, 7-6 (8), 6-3.

Michael Berrer and Alexander Zverev, Germany, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (5), and Marco Cecchinato, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES - Recalled RHP Preston Guilford from Norfolk (IL). Optioned RHP Bud Norris to Bowie (IL).
KANSAS CITY ROYALS - Recalled RHP Jason Vargas on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Cole Scahill from Omaha (PCL).
LOS ANGELES ANGELES - Optioned RHP Ryan Soto from Oklahoma City (PCL). Placed LHP CJ Wilson on 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Cory Rasmus from Salt Lake City (PCL). Optioned RHP Drew Rucinski from Salt Lake. Designated LHP Ryan Soto to the 15-day DL.
NEW YORK YANKEES - Placed OF Carlos Beltran on the 15-day DL. Recalled INF retroactive to July 9. Recalled 3B Yangelis Solarte from Scranton/Walton (PCL).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

SEATTLE MARINERS - Recalled LHP Lucas Luetge from Tacoma (PCL). Optioned RHP Stephen Prior to Tacoma.
CHICAGO CUBS - Selected the contract of RHP Kyle Hendricks from Iowa (PCL). Optioned RHP Dallas Braden to Iowa.
CINCINNATI REDS - Selected the contract of INF Kristopher Negron from Louisville. Optioned RHP Carlos Carrasco to Louisville. Designated RHP Brett Marshall for assignment.

MLB Free Agency

LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Designated 18 Clint Robinson for assignment. Activated OF Carl Crawford from the DL.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS - Recalled RHP Jimmy Nelson from Nashville (PCL). Placed LHP Wei-Chung Wang on the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Matt Garza to Milwaukee.
PHILADELPHIA - Selected the contract of OF Jorge Soto from Lehigh Valley (IL). Optioned RHP Ryan Howard from Lehigh Valley. Placed LHP David Huff on the 15-day DL.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES

TOUR DE FRANCE/SPORTS BRIEFS



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Italy's Matteo Trentin won the seventh stage of the Tour de France in a photo finish.

Trentin captures 7th stage

The Associated Press

NANCY, France — Matteo Trentin of Italy won Friday's seventh stage of the Tour de France in a photo finish, after a group crash and a hilly final section split the pack.

Italian Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall lead. U.S. rider Tejay van Garderen suffered a fall that cost him more than a minute in the title chase.

The sun finally broke through clouds that had dumped rain over riders in recent days for the 146-mile ride from Epernay, to the capital of Champagne country, to the eastern city of Nancy.

Trentin, a 24-year-old rider who won a stage in the Tour of Switzerland this year, beat Slovakia's Peter Sagan by what looked like no more than a centimeter or two on the finish-line photo of the final sprint.

Trentin patted the Cannondale rider on the back after crossing the line. Sagan, who has come close several times, has yet to win a stage this year. France's Tony Gallopin finished third.

BMC leader van Garderen was not the only American to have a bad day. Andrew Talansky fell in the final sprint, rolling over and scuffing up his left arm after getting hit by Australia's Simon Gerrans.

Under course rules, Talansky, the Garmin-Sharp team leader, didn't lose time in the title chase because his crash happened within the last couple of miles. He yelled in frustration after crossing the line.

Overall, Nibali has a two-second lead over Astana teammate Jakob Fuglsang and is two minutes, 37 seconds clear of Alberto Contador, his main rival. Talansky is seventh, 2 minutes, 5 seconds back.

"There have really been a lot of crashes this year, in the final sprints," Nibali said. "We all knew that Sagan wanted a win today... The end of the stage was very hard."

Briefly

Tanaka has partially torn elbow ligament

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Allowing nine runs in the last two innings wasn't the worst thing that happened to the New York Yankees on Thursday night.

New York's 9-3 loss to the Cleveland Indians was overshadowed by the news that rookie sensation Masahiro Tanaka has a partially torn ligament in his right elbow. General manager Brian Cashman said in a conference call during the game that Tanaka could return in six weeks, but didn't rule out the possibility of Tommy John surgery if the right-hander doesn't respond to a rehab program.

Tanaka was placed on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday and had an MRI in New York, a day after his worst major league outing.

Tanaka, who is tied for the major league lead with 12 wins, allowed five runs and 10 hits — both career highs — in 6²/₃ innings Tuesday night in a 5-3 loss to the Indians.

The All-Star is 12-4 with a 2.51 ERA in 18 starts, but has lost three of his past four outings.

The injury is a huge blow to a battered Yankees rotation already was missing CC Sabathia, Ivan Nova and Michael Pineda to injuries. Tanaka had been a stabilizing ace in his first season since arriving from Japan.

Yankees' Jeter has best-selling MLB jersey

NEW YORK — Derek Jeter heads to his final All-Star Game as the baseball player with the best-selling jersey.

Major League Baseball said Thursday that Jeter's jersey has been the top seller on MLB.com since opening day.

San Francisco catcher Buster Posey is second, followed by Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw and Boston designated hitter David Ortiz and second baseman Dustin Pedroia.

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina is sixth, followed by Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout, New York Mets third baseman David Wright, Dodgers outfielder Andre Braun and Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera.

Also:

■ The Yankees have placed outfielder Carlos Beltran on the seven-day concussion list. Beltran was hit in the face with a ball during batting practice Wednesday. The ball cracked off of his batting cage and hit him, breaking his nose.

■ Los Angeles Angels starter C.J. Wilson was put on the 15-day disabled list Thursday because of a right ankle sprain, providing an extended break that could be beneficial for the struggling left-hander. The move came a day after Wilson allowed six runs and eight hits in 3²/₃ innings against Toronto. He has given up 19 runs and 31 hits over 16²/₃ innings his past four starts.

■ The Philadelphia Phillies



TONY DEJAK/AP

Rookie sensation Masahiro Tanaka, who is 12-4 for the New York Yankees, will try rehab rather than surgery as a first course of action in dealing with his elbow injury.

purchased outfielder Grady Sizemore's contract from Triple-A and sent pitcher David Buchanan to Lehigh Valley. Sizemore was a three-time All-Star for Cleveland from 2006-08. He began this season as Boston's starting center fielder before being released June 18.

■ Left fielder Carl Crawford has been reinstated from the disabled list by the Los Angeles Dodgers after missing 40 games because of a sprained left ankle.

Packers post record revenue again in 2014

MILWAUKEE — The Green Bay Packers had another year of record revenues, yet income fell after making some high-priced player moves.

The NFL's only publicly owned team said Thursday that revenue rose 5 percent to \$324 million. Team president Mark Murphy credited the boost to another winning season that culminated with a third straight NFC North title, as well as increased revenue sharing across the league.

Other NFL news:

■ Former Minnesota Vikings and Baltimore Ravens center Matt Birk was hired Thursday by the NFL as director of football development. The six-time Pro Bowl player and 2011 Walter Payton Award winner as the league's man of the year spent the 2013 season as an NFL-NFLPA appeals officer.

■ None of the four eligible players were taken in the NFL supplemental draft Thursday.

League spokesman Michael Signora said in an email that all four players — New Mexico receiver Chase Clayton, North Carolina linebacker Darius Lipford, Virginia-Lynchburg defensive tackle Lakendrick Ross and SMU running back Traylon Shead — went undrafted and are now free agents. The supplemental draft allows qualified underclassmen who did not request early entry into the regular draft to have a chance at entering the NFL. Teams submit picks and are awarded players if their bid — for which round they would take that player — is highest. Teams then lose the corresponding pick in next year's draft.

Azinger: Swing changes making Woods worse

SOUTHPORT, England — Paul Azinger said Thursday that a swing by Tiger Woods to make his swing better has backfired.

Woods has gone through four swing changes with three coaches during his career, each time saying the objective was to get better.

In a conference call for ESPN, Azinger said that in his quest to get better, "I think he's actually gotten a little bit worse."

Azinger is a former PGA champion and Ryder Cup captain — and a partner with Woods in one Ryder Cup — who now works as an analyst for ESPN. He will be in the booth next week at the British Open, where Woods is playing a major for the first time this year because of back surgery.

Mayweather announces rematch with Maidana

LAS VEGAS — Floyd Mayweather Jr. will fight a rematch on Sept. 13 with Marcos Maidana, the Argentinian who gave him a tougher bout than expected when they met in May.

Mayweather announced Thursday that Maidana would get a rematch in a pay-per-view fight from the MGM Grand hotel-casino. Mayweather won the first fight between the two by majority decision, but Maidana was given credit for taking the fight to the undefeated welterweight champion.

Mayweather is 46-0 with 26 knockouts and Maidana is 35-4 with 31 knockouts.

Also:

■ Rances Barthelemy (20-0, 12 KOs, 1 no contest) won a unanimous decision over Argenis Mendez (21-2-1, 11 KOs, 1 NC) and captured the International Boxing Federation junior-lightweight title Thursday night in Miami. All three judges scored the bout for the unbeaten Barthelemy, 115-111. There were no knockdowns.

NASCAR president: No problem with RTA

LOUDON, N.H. — NASCAR president Mike Helton says there is no animosity from the governing body toward the recently formed nine-team Race Team Alliance that will collaborate on initiatives and issues facing the sport.

Michael Waltrip Racing co-owner Rob Kauffman was elected chairman of the RTA on Monday. The goals of the RTA include lowering costs for NASCAR teams and creating one voice on issues facing the teams. Kauffman insisted the RTA is not a union.

Speaking Friday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway, Helton says every car owner has a voice in the garage. Helton says NASCAR will "continue to do business the way we've done business."

Slovenia: Violinist's ski results rigged

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia — Slovenia has suspended four of its ski officials for allegedly rigging the results of pop violinist Vanessa-Mae to help her qualify for the 2014 Winter Olympics. Competing at the Olympics for Thailand as Vanessa Vanthorn, using the surname of her Thai father, she finished last of 67 racers in the giant slalom.

To earn enough points to be eligible for the games in February, she had to compete in races in Sweden, Norway, Slovenia and Switzerland.

But the Slovenian Ski Association says on Friday it found evidence indicating that the races it hosted in January were "fixed at the behest of Thai ski officials to meet her qualifying criteria for Sochi."

AUTO RACING



RON SANDERS/AP

Kasey Kahne, front left, Paul Menard (27) and Reed Sorenson (36) were among the cars that crashed because of wet conditions during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Sunday. After lengthy delays, the race was called off.

NASCAR made right call to pull plug at Daytona

When the sky opened for a third time during the rain-rescheduled race at Daytona, and teams pulled out car covers to wait out the weather, it seemed the right time for NASCAR to pull the plug on the Coke Zero 400 out of its misery.

The entire weekend was plagued by rain. Cars never got near the track for the scheduled Saturday start. When the race finally did begin Sunday — delayed, because of rain on the pace laps — it went a whopping six laps before the cars went back to pit road for another 25-minute delay.

Then, the on-track carnage: a 16-car crash seconds before a scheduled competition caution, and a 26-car crash before another shower. A total of six drivers managed to avoid accidents, leaving just 17 cars on the lead lap.

It would have been comical if it wasn't such a disastrous day for one of the biggest events on the NASCAR schedule. So pulling the plug seemed like such a logical decision when the track was soaked through shortly before 3 p.m.

Drivers — especially those who were lined up behind winner Aric Almirola when the race was called with 48 laps remaining — thought otherwise.

And so did the fans.

Using social media to vent their frustration, fans blasted NASCAR for calling the race so early. Daytona International Speedway has lights, and many claimed they were willing to hang in there until they saw one driver take the checkered flag.

They were rebuffed of that right when NASCAR threw in the towel, they argued, and a race

is not complete until someone crosses the finish line.

"I know a lot of the fans tuned into the TV and stuck around at the race track waiting to see a finish," said second-place finisher Brian Vickers. "I was expecting them to wait a little bit longer knowing that we have lights here and it was going to be a night race anyway."

Those fans have a point. But when posting from their living room with the race on the television, it doesn't really apply.

Weather has wreaked havoc on four events this season, including the water-logged Daytona 500, which needed a stoppage of more than six hours. Then came Bristol a month later, and that race needed two stoppages of more than five hours. Both times, there were fans that stuck around for the finish. And both times, the television window

was stretched, but NASCAR's partners worked with the series to keep the events on TV.

Texas in April was just like Daytona on Saturday. It rained hard all day, and the cars never got on the track. So NASCAR came back the next day, a Monday, and got the race completed under a sunny sky. Some fans stayed, some left, but the television audience was appeased.

Daytona was entirely different. It was a long holiday weekend with the party scheduled for Saturday night's main event. Rain had caused a wreck in the Nationwide Series' shortened qualifying session, and the race was delayed on Friday night by more rain.

When Saturday night racing

for the Sprint Cup Series was scrapped, NASCAR and track officials picked an early start for Sunday to create the largest possible window to run the race to completion. But the final shower that spoiled it showed no signs of letting up until at least 8 p.m. It would likely take two hours to dry the track when it did finally stop.

NASCAR had to make a decision and not stretching Sunday into a 12-plus hour day was the right call — it was a case of damned if they do, damned if they don't.

"We looked at forecasts and the potential of a few more hours of rain, we decided we were past halfway and just called the race,"

NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said. We felt that it was in the best interest of fans, getting done and going home and competitors was an opportunity to get a good race in."

For those working concession stands, or security or ushers, it was another very long day. Same for the crews, who have few places to go to wait out the weather. So they crowd under covered pit stands or jam into the team hauler and numbly pass the time.

NASCAR knew holding everyone was unfair, especially since the next wait could have been up to seven hours. The series had to set a stopping point to give fans some closure — not the fans at home, who were warm and dry, but those sitting in slick metal grandstands wearing garbage bags to shield themselves from the rain.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Camping World RV Sales 301 at Loudon, N.H.

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

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1.058 miles).

Race distance: 318.46 miles, 300 laps.

Last year: Brian Vickers won to his third career victory.

Last week: Aric Almirola won the rain-delayed and rain-shortened race at Daytona, putting Richard Petty's famed No. 43 in Victory Lane for the first time since 1999.

Next race: Brickyard 400, July 27, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	651
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	624
3. Jimmie Johnson	596
4. Brad Keselowski	586
5. Matt Kenseth	580
6. Joey Logano	546
7. Carl Edwards	543
8. Ryan Newman	534
9. Kyle Busch	524
10. Paul Menard	516
11. Kevin Harvick	514
12. Clint Bowyer	509
13. Austin Dillon	494
14. Denny Hamlin	493
15. Greg Biffle	490
16. Brian Vickers	484
17. Kyle Larson	482
18. Kasey Kahne	482
19. Marcos Ambrose	472
20. Tony Stewart	465

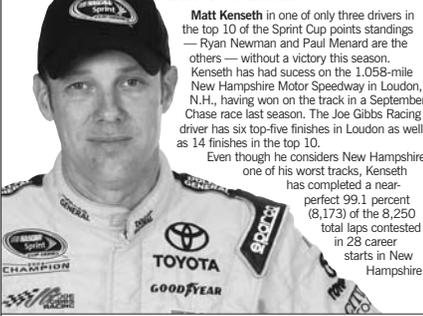
Driver to watch

Matt Kenseth is one of only three drivers in the top 10 of the Sprint Cup points standings — Ryan Newman and Paul Menard are the others — without a victory this season.

Kenseth has had success on the 1.058-mile New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., having won on the track in a September Chase race last season. The Joe Gibbs Racing driver has six top-five finishes in Loudon as well as 14 finishes in the top 10.

Even though he considers New Hampshire one of his worst tracks, Kenseth

has completed a near-perfect 99.1 percent (8,173) of the 8,250 total laps contested in 28 career starts in New Hampshire.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Sta-Green 200 at Loudon, N.H.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9-30 p.m. Saturday Central European Time.

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1.058 miles).

Distance: 211.6 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the seventh of his 12 2013 victories, holding off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Brian Vickers.

Last week: Kasey Kahne won at Daytona, edging JR Motorsports teammate Regan Smith at the finish line.

Next race: EnjoyJillmois.com 300, July 19, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: nascar.com

Newton, Iowa.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2 p.m. Sunday Central European Time.

Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.875 miles).

Distance: 262.5 miles, 300 laps.

Last year: James Hinchcliff raced to the third of his three 2013 victories, dominating for Andretti Autosport's fourth straight win at the track.

Last week: Team Penske's Juan Pablo Montoya won at Pocono for his first victory in its return to open-wheel racing after seven years in NASCAR.

Next race: Honda Indy Toronto, July 19 and 20, Streets of Toronto, Toronto.

Online: indycar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: German Grand Prix, July 20, Hockenheimring, Hockenheim, Germany.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won the British Grand Prix for his fifth victory of the year and Mercedes' eighth in the first nine races of the season.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: Mile-High NHRA Nationals, July 18-20, Bandimere Speedway, Morrison, Colorado.

Last week: John Force raced to his 140th victory, beating Ron Capps in the Funny Car final in Norwalk, Ohio. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel, Eric Enders-Stevens in Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Online: nhra.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: American Ethanol 200 at Newton, Iowa

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9-30 p.m. Saturday Central European Time.

Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.875 miles).

Distance: 175 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Timothy Peters beat 17-year-old Erik Jones by 0.225 seconds.

Last race: Kyle Busch made it 5-for-5 this season, holding off Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate Darrell Wallace Jr. on June 26 at Kentucky.

Next race: Mudsummer Classic, July 23, Eldora Speedway, Rossburg, Ohio.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Iowa Com Indy 300 at

NBA/MLB

'I'm coming home'

4 years after defecting to Miami, LeBron says he's returning to Cavs

By TIM REYNOLDS and TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James is going back to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Ending a saga that had the NBA virtually at a standstill while he made up his mind, James told Sports Illustrated for a story published Friday that he's decided to go home. His decision reverses the move he made when he left the Cavaliers for Miami four years ago, and a twist that would have seemed unfathomable after the venomous fallout when he joined the Heat.

"When I left Cleveland, I was on a mission," James said in the SI first-person story. "I was seeking championships, and we won two. But Miami already knew that feeling. Our city hasn't had that feeling in a long, long, long time. My goal is still to win as many titles as possible, no question. But what's most important for me is bringing one trophy back to Northeast Ohio."

He added, "My relationship with Northeast Ohio is bigger than basketball. I didn't realize that four years ago. I do now."

He spent his first seven NBA seasons in Cleveland. In four years with the Heat, he went to the NBA Finals four times, winning two championships. And now he heads back to Cleveland to see if he can finally deliver on his promise of winning a crown for that title-starved city.

For Cleveland, it's a new day.

For Miami, it's the end of a championship run.

"I am shocked & disappointed in today's news," Heat managing general partner Micky Arison wrote on Twitter. "However I will never forget what LeBron brought us for 4 years. Thanks for memories."

James said he will always call Miami his second home.

But the lure of his first one was simply too strong to ignore. James is from Akron, Ohio, not far from Cleveland.

"Before anyone ever cared where I would play basketball, I was a kid from Northeast Ohio. It's where I walked," James told SI. "It's where I ran. It's where I cried. It's where I bled. It holds a special place in my heart. People there have seen me grow up. I sometimes feel like I'm their son. Their passion can be overwhelming. But it drives me."

"I want to give them hope when I can. I want to inspire them when I can."

He left Cleveland being called disloyal, a narcissist, a coward and a quitter — and that was all by Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert, who wrote that infamous letter blasting James for choosing Miami.

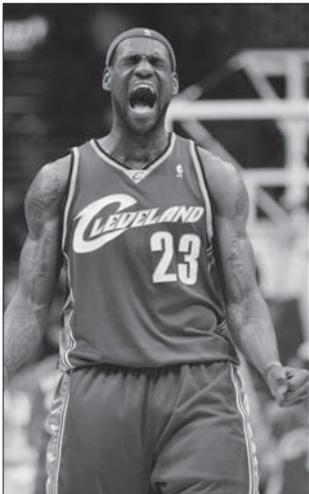
Now James will play for Gilbert again.

"I'm not having a press conference or a party," James told SI. "After this, it's time to get to work."

With that, the "Big 3" era in Miami ends much sooner than the Heat expected.

James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade all exercised options in their contracts to become free agents this summer, but the thinking was that they would re-do their deals to give the team financial flexibility in an effort to make upgrades to the roster.

Instead, the game's biggest star is heading back to his roots. Bosh may not leave as well, with widespread reports that the Houston Rockets are pre-



LeBron James in 2007. James told Sports Illustrated on Friday he is leaving the Miami Heat to go back to the Cleveland Cavaliers.

paring to give him a four-year contract offer worth about \$88 million. And the Heat face a decidedly uncertain future, a stunning twist for a franchise that has won the past four Eastern Conference titles.

James doesn't turn 30 until December, so it's safe to say that he just might be reaching his peak.

The numbers he's put up in his first 11 NBA seasons already make him a lock for basketball immortality.

He's 27th in career scoring with 23,170 points, and could climb into the top 20 next season. Since he entered the league as the No. 1 overall pick by the Cavaliers in 2003, no one has logged more minutes, scored more points or had a better plus-minus ratio than James. His teams have outscored opponents by a staggering 3,743 points with him on the floor over that span; for comparison's sake, Dwight Howard is No. 2 on that list, with a plus-2,312 ratio.

Only Tony Parker and Tim Duncan of the San Antonio Spurs have appeared in more regular-season victories over the past 11 years than James. And he just seems to keep getting better; this past season was his seventh straight year where he posted a career-best in field-goal percentage, shooting just under 57 percent.

"I'm ready to accept the challenge," James wrote. "I'm coming home."



Chris Sale

Sale, Rizzo voted onto All-Star teams

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Chicago White Sox pitcher Chris Sale and Chicago Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo were voted by fans onto the rosters for Tuesday's All-Star Game, and Los Angeles Angels shortstop Erick Aybar will replace Kansas City outfielder Alex Gordon.

Rizzo received 8.8 million votes among the \$2.5 million ballots and Sale 6.7 million. Major League Baseball said Thursday. Voting was conducted on MLB.com, team websites and Twitter.

Rizzo joined Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro on the NL roster.

"It's good for the kids in the minor leagues to see kids in the big leagues make it," Rizzo said. "The more All-Stars you can have in your organization, the better."

MLB did not release voting totals for players other than the winners. The others on the AL ballot were all pitchers: Houston's Dallas Keuchel, Cleveland's Corey Kluber, the Angels' Garrett Richards and Detroit's Rick Porcello.

The losing NL players were Miami third baseman Casey McGehee, Colorado first baseman Justin Morneau, Washington third baseman Anthony Rendon and Atlanta outfielder Justin Upton.

Aybar joins fellow shortstops Derek Jeter and Alexei Ramirez on the AL roster. Gordon has been bothered by a sprained right wrist and received an injection Thursday.

There was no immediate announcement on a replacement for



Anthony Rizzo

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina, who was to have surgery Friday to repair a torn ligament in his right thumb and is likely to be sidelined for at least eight weeks.

MLB said Colorado first baseman Justin Morneau and Oakland All-Star third baseman Josh Donaldson have been picked to complete the participants for Monday's Home Run Derby at Target Field in Minneapolis. Morneau spent 11 seasons with the Twins and won the 2008 derby at old Yankee Stadium.

The AL derby lineup includes Toronto's Jose Bautista, Oakland's Yoenis Cespedes, Baltimore's Adam Jones and Minnesota's Brian Dozier. Cespedes won last year's event at New York's Citi Field.

The NL lineup includes Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki, Miami's Giancarlo Stanton, the Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig and Cincinnati's Todd Frazier.

As captains, Bautista and Tulowitzki, chose the other players for their league.

Target Field brews up self-serve beer just in time for All-Star Game

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — It's BYOB at the home of the Minnesota Twins for next week's All-Star Game.

As in, Be Your Own Bartender.

Just in time for the Home Run Derby, Target Field in Minneapolis put in two self-serve beer machines in the stands behind first and third base, letting thirsty fans pick a brew, pour and pay by the ounce.

The pour-your-own stations are unique among the 100-plus stadiums and arenas in the four major professional sports in the United States — although not the first of their kind, a concessions consultant said.

"They're not about boosting sales, cutting labor costs or shortening lines, said Delaware North Companies general manager Pete Spike, who provides concessions at Target Field. And it's too early to say whether the machines are the future of

beer concessions — or even whether Target Field will add more.

"For now, they're just something new. It's a novelty. That's the one thing that parks have lost over the years," Spike said. "You used to be able to get ice cream in a special package you couldn't get anywhere else. Now, you can get it everywhere. This is merely something fun."

After an ID check — "Just because it's self-serve doesn't mean it's unmonitored,"

Twins spokesman Chris Iles said — fans buy a card pre-loaded with \$10, \$20 or \$40. Then they hop in line for their beer of choice: Budweiser and Bud Light for 38 cents an ounce (a little over \$6 for a pint), or Goose Island 312 Urban Pale Ale and Shock Top's Lemon Shandy for 40 cents per ounce. The self-pouring is monitored, too, to stop anyone who may be overserving themselves.

Grab a cup, tap the beer card and pour.

MLB



TONY DEAR/AP

The Cleveland Indians' Jason Kipnis, right, dives safely into home plate as New York Yankees catcher Francisco Cervelli waits for the ball in the seventh inning Thursday night in Cleveland. Kipnis scored on a bases-loaded triple by Asdrubal Cabrera. The Indians won 9-3.

Call-up sparks Cleveland's late rally

Perez homers in major league debut as Indians score 9 in last two at-bats to beat Yankees

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Roberto Perez knows how to make a good first impression.

Called up from the minors Tuesday, Perez hit a two-run homer in his major league debut to help spark a late rally and lead the Cleveland Indians to a 9-3 victory over the New York Yankees on Thursday night.

"I still can't believe it," he said. "It was so awesome to be out there."

The Indians scored nine runs in their last two innings at bat. Asdrubal Cabrera's bases-loaded triple and Michael Brantley's sacrifice fly highlighted a four-run seventh that erased a 3-0 deficit.

Brantley, a first-time All-Star this season, added an RBI single in a five-run eighth, when Perez and Carlos Santana homered.

Carlos Carrasco (2-3) pitched a scoreless

seventh to help the Indians gain a four-game split.

Perez, 25, called up from Triple-A Columbus to be Cleveland's backup catcher, singled in the seventh for his first major league hit. His drive to left field in the eighth was originally ruled a double, but the call was changed to a home run after a replay review.

"That was nice," Indians manager Terry Francona. "You just have to take a minute to enjoy that."

Left fielder Chris Dickerson, acquired from Pittsburgh on Monday, was 3-for-4 and enjoyed Perez's home run.

"It's cool being around a kid getting his first major league home run," Dickerson said. "I said to him 'Could you hit a more dramatic homer?'"

Perez was batting .305 with eight homers

and 43 RBIs in 53 games when he got the call to the majors.

"I wasn't nervous going into the game, but I was anxious," he said. "I just tried to put the ball in play."

Perez overcame an obstacle during the game when he broke all of his bats.

"I didn't have any left and Cabrera gave me his," Perez said. "It's a lighter one than I normally use, but the ball went out. I'm going to ask him for some more."

Yankees starter David Phelps took a shut-out into the seventh before Dickerson and Perez singled. Jason Kipnis singled off the glove of reliever Matt Thornton (0-3) to load the bases.

Cabrera hit the next pitch into the right-field corner, scoring all three runners and tying the game.

Kershaw's streak ends at 41 innings

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw's scoreless streak ended at 41 innings when he gave up a home run to Chase Headley, but the Los Angeles ace pitched a three-hitter with 11 strikeouts to lead the Dodgers over the San Diego Padres 2-1 Thursday night.

Kershaw won his eighth consecutive start and came within 18 innings of the major league record set by the Dodgers' Orel Hershiser, who threw 59 consecutive shutout innings in 1988.

Headley, a switch-hitter, homered off Kershaw (11-2) in the sixth, halting the longest scoreless streak in the majors since Brandon Webb went 42 innings for the Arizona Diamondbacks in 2007.

Kershaw's streak tied Luis Tiant for the fifth-longest in the expansion era (since 1961).

The 26-year-old lefty became the third pitcher in the last 100 years to win eight straight starts in one season while striking out at least seven batters in each one. The others were Sandy Koufax (1966) and Juan Marichal (1967).



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Clayton Kershaw's scoreless innings streak ended at 41, but the Dodgers ace improved to 11-2 with a three-hitter against the Padres on Thursday.

Roundup

All-Star Kazmir helps A's lock down Bay Bridge series

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — All-Star Scott Kazmir struck out nine in seven scoreless innings to help the Oakland Athletics win the annual Bay Bridge series by beating the San Francisco Giants 6-1 on Thursday.

Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer and Stephen Vogt drove in three runs for the A's, who won three of four in the two-city series that began Monday night in Oakland. The A's (58-34) have won seven of eight overall.

Tim Hudson (7-6) was unable to make it out of the sixth inning and lost his fourth straight decision for the Giants, who have lost 15 of their past 19 home games.

The game ended on a replay review when A's manager Bob Melvin challenged a call that Vogt pulled his foot off first base on an infield hit by Gregor Blanco. The replay showed Vogt kept his foot on the bag, leading to the final out.

Kazmir (11-3) allowed three hits and one walk. He has yielded one run or fewer in 11 of 19 starts this season for a 2.38 ERA.

Orioles 4, Nationals 3: Steve Pearce homered and scored twice to help Wei-Yin Chen earn his team-high ninth victory, and host Baltimore beat Washington for its eighth victory in 10 games.

Cubs 6, Reds 4 (12): Luis Valbuena hit a tiebreaking, two-run triple in the 12th inning as Chicago avoided a rare five-game

sweep in Cincinnati.

Twins 4, Mariners 2: Kendrys Morales hit a two-run double in the fifth inning to help Minnesota rookie right-hander Yohan Pino beat host Seattle for his first major league victory.

Phillies 9, Brewers 1: Jimmy Rollins broke up Matt Garza's no-hit bid with a single in the seventh before sparking a seven-run outburst an inning later, helping visiting Philadelphia complete a four-game sweep of Milwaukee.

Red Sox 4, White Sox 3 (10): Mike Carp's pinch-hit single in the 10th inning gave Boston its second consecutive walk-off victory over visiting Chicago.

Tigers 16, Royals 4: Everybody in

Detroit's lineup had at least one hit and scored one run, the season-best offensive onslaught spurring the rout of host Kansas City.

Angels 15, Rangers 6: All-Star center fielder Mike Trout had a three-run homer among his four hits for visiting Los Angeles in his drubbing of freefalling Texas.

B Braves 3, Mets 1: Aaron Harang allowed four hits in seven innings, and Atlanta used early offense against Bartolo Colon to avert a four-game sweep by host New York.

Pirates 9, Cardinals 1: Edinson Volquez tossed a six-hitter to win his fourth straight start, pitching Pittsburgh past host St. Louis.

WORLD CUP

Orange is the new blah

Its hopes dashed, gloomy Dutch team has little interest in playing third-place game

By GERALD IMRAY
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Another World Cup, another sad story for the Netherlands.

A tournament that began so brightly for the men in the vibrant orange shirts will end with a game their coach thinks is pointless and which the squad isn't really interested in playing.

"They can keep it," forward Arjen Robben said of the third-place game. "Only one prize counts and that is becoming world champion."

Reflecting their gloom, the Dutch squad began its preparations for Saturday's third-place match against host Brazil under dreary grey skies in Sao Paulo on Thursday, a day after a painful penalty shootout loss to Argentina in the semifinals ensured another missed opportunity.

Those subdued preparations involved a light workout in the drizzle at Pacembru Stadium that lasted less than an hour before the players disappeared back down a flight of stairs and into the dressing room. Even the well-meaning and hearty cheers a group of Brazilians gave the play-

ers as they arrived for the training session probably won't have helped.

A month ago, the Dutch were flying high. A 5-1 victory over world champion Spain announced them as the team to watch at the World Cup. That status faded gradually and the Netherlands only managed two goals in three games in the knockout stage, none in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

The elimination in a shootout at Itaqueroa Stadium on Wednesday night means the crucial Dutch stats now read: Three World Cup finals, two semifinals, still no titles.

Coach Louis van Gaal, who takes charge of his country one more time before moving on to a new challenge with Manchester United, acknowledged that his team had initially been praised as the best at the tournament. Yet it counted for nothing in the end.

"In general, I'm not really interested in what people say about me and my team," Van Gaal said following the semifinal defeat. "It's a good thing if people are very positive ... but 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 will also get very little joy from his last game with the national team. He has campaigned for a decade to have the third-place playoff at the World Cup scrapped, he said, because it is meaningless and a drain on players who are already desperately disappointed.

"I think that this match should never be played," Van Gaal said. "I've been saying this for 10 years. But anyway, we will just have to play that match."

So, what went wrong for the Dutch this time?

The young, inexperienced defense, which was doubted ahead of the World Cup, stood up. But the attack, which won enormous praise after demolishing Spain on a sunny day in Salvador a month ago, pretty much collapsed.

Robben and captain Robin van Persie didn't score in open play in the knockout games, with Van Persie extending an unwanted personal record: He has still never found the net at the business end of a major tournament.

Like the Dutch teams that lost back-to-back World Cup finals in 1974 and '78, the Robben-Van Persie generation looks set to finish empty-handed. Robben, Van Persie and midfielder Wesley Sneijder, the trio in which the Dutch squad of 2014 was based, are all 30. Having lost in the final four years ago in South Africa and in the semifinals here, Russia 2014 may be too far away for them to have another shot.

But losing is as much a part of football as winning, Robben said, providing a surprisingly upbeat outlook so soon after another heart-wrenching failure.

"You're a footballer and sportsman and a defeat hurts, especially when you're so close to the final," Robben said. "That is painful but ... it's all part of it."

"They can keep it. Only one prize counts and that is becoming world champion."

Arjen Robben

Netherlands forward, sharing his feelings about the consolation game

FRANK AUGUSTEN/AP

Argentina's title chance intensifies Brazil's misery

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — After their World Cup hopes fell apart in the most humiliating way, Brazilians must now grapple with the prospect that things could get even worse.

Argentina could win. After beating the Netherlands in a shootout Wednesday, Brazil's football archrival is tantalizingly close to winning the World Cup for the first time since Diego Maradona lifted the trophy in 1986.

To many Brazilians, Argentina becoming world champion on Brazilian soil would be the worst imaginable ending to the monthlong tournament.

"We have a rule: we always go against the Argentines," said Izaebe Chiamoleire, a 39-year-old physician from Sao Paulo. Like most Brazilians who attended Wednesday's semifinal, she cheered for the Netherlands.

Or rather, against Argentina. Chiamoleire said that on the train to the Itaqueroa Stadium before the game, Argentine fans were already taunting Brazilians with a song that's become their anthem at



SILVIA IZQUIERO/AP

A Brazil fan holds up a sign that reads in Portuguese, "Neymar, my love." Brazilians reeling from a loss to Germany in the semifinals now must cope with the possibility of their archrival winning the World Cup on their soil.

this World Cup.

With a melody based on Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Bad Moon Rising," the song asks Brazilians how it feels to know that Argentina will dominate Brazil in its own backyard, that Messi will lift the

cup and that "Maradona is greater than Pele."

When the Argentine fans first arrived in Brazil with their Lionel Messi shirts, pope masks and funny hats, Brazilians tended to just laugh along with this song. Now it's starting to get under the skin for some people.

"If the Argentines win they will become very annoying," said Giselle Giannocco, a 40-year-old professor of physiology from the Federal University of Sao Paulo.

At the heart of this intense South American rivalry is the competition between two giants of world football and the never-ending bickering over which player was greater: Pele or Maradona.

It goes deeper than that.

Brazilians and Argentines get along in general and relations between the two countries are good — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff picked Argentina for her first foreign trip after being elected. Still, Chiamoleire claimed, Argentines have a reputation of acting arrogantly toward their neighbors on the continent.

"They think they are the most European country in Latin America," she said. "In

the past, in many ways they were better than us. But after all the political problems that both countries have had, nowadays we are doing better than them."

Even though Argentina has more Copa America titles, Brazil is the most successful nation on the biggest stage, with five World Cup titles to Argentina's two.

The gap could narrow on Sunday, which is why so many Brazilians will cheer for Germany in the final in Rio de Janeiro even though the Germans badly bruised Brazil's self-esteem with a 7-1 rout in the semifinals.

As the German goals poured in, Argentine schadenfreude spilled onto social media with cheeky references to the "How-does-it-feel?" song.

But some Argentine fans insisted they felt no joy when Brazil was routed.

"I was sad because I was hoping for an Argentina-Brazil final," said Alejandro Salerno, a 48-year-old from Buenos Aires who traveled to Sao Paulo for the Netherlands game. "Now we feel that we have to beat Germany. In a South American World Cup, a South American team has to win."

WORLD CUP

Measuring up

Messi doesn't until he does what Maradona did: Win the World Cup

BY MICHELLE KAUFMAN
The Miami Herald

RIO DE JANEIRO

The comparisons with flamboyant and outspoken legend Diego Maradona have surely become tiresome to World Cup star Lionel Messi of Argentina, but they will be intensified to a whole new decibel over the next 48 hours.

Nearly three decades after Maradona carried Argentina on his back to the 1986 World Cup title, his quieter, more humble heir, Messi, has a chance to duplicate Diego's heroics, wearing the captain's arm band against the same exact opponent: Germany.

If Messi can work his magic Sunday, or even play a peripheral role while drawing defenders to open up space for his teammates, he will once and for all put an end to the debate of whether he measures up to Maradona as one of the best players of all time. He certainly would equal El Diego as the best players ever to wear the sky blue and white No. 10.

The Barcelona playmaker is a four-time World Player of the Year. He has won six Spanish La Liga titles, three Champions League trophies, and is the all-time Barcelona leading scorer with 354 goals in 425 matches.

He is the highest-paid player in the world at \$27 million per year; and if that weren't enough, he earns a staggering \$40 million in endorsements. He also happens to stand two inches taller than the 5-5 Maradona, whose gigantic personality made him seem a more imposing figure on and off the field.

But Maradona has one thing Messi doesn't: a World Cup championship on his résumé.

Messi, 27, can change that Sunday, and one-up Maradona by beating the Germans at Maracana Stadium, the Brazilian soccer cathedral.

"I think Lionel Messi's legacy is already secure," ESPN analyst Ian Darke said on a teleconference Thursday. "He's been World Player of the

Year four times; he's broken all kinds of records. We know he's a great player. I think this would just be the final gloss of paint, if you like, on a wonderful reputation. But I suppose in Argentina, Messi maybe needs this to just move himself alongside Diego Maradona, who almost won it

single-handedly in 1986."

Fellow ESPN commentator Alexi Lalas said the comparisons will never stop because both players are Argentine, left-footed and diminutive, but if Messi wins a trophy Sunday, he "has this final box checked off" and then the only question is which icon is more beloved by the Argentine people.

Maradona also was a renegade, a controversial headline waiting to happen, and Argentine fans always were entertained by their flawed hero. Messi is a cautious corporate spokesman.

"There's no way (Messi) can ever be Diego Maradona from a personal perspective given what Maradona has meant, the man of the people and all that kind of stuff," Lalas said. "So from that compare and contrast, it's never going to happen. But from being the best player ever to play the game, I think if Messi is going to help lead his team to the World Cup and win it, and not just win it but win it in Maracana in Brazil, he would have to be considered, as far as I'm concerned, the best player ever to play the game."

Messi has waited three World Cups to finally make his mark on the sport's biggest stage. Eight years ago at the 2006 World Cup in Germany, he was barely 19 and coming off an injury. Argentina lost to Germany in penalty kicks in the quarterfinals. Four years ago in

South Africa, Messi did not stand out, and the Germans knocked the Maradona-coached Argentines out again with a 4-0 shocker in the quarterfinal in Cape Town.

Messi scored just one goal in eight World Cup matches in 2006 and '10, and the question was whether he could achieve as much for his country as he did for his club team. He has taken a giant step toward proving he can over the past few weeks. He had a goal and assist against Bosnia, a goal against Iran and two goals against Nigeria.

But he has been relatively quiet in the knockout stage, going scoreless with no assists against Switzerland, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The Dutch stifled Messi's creativity by suffocating him with two and sometimes three defenders at almost all times. But Messi still made a difference. His very presence roaming around the middle of the field kept the Dutch on alert, and might have prevented them from attacking as much as they would against another team for fear of leaving Messi unguarded.

German coach Joachim Loew and his team now face the same challenge. They certainly have the personnel to do the same as the Dutch. They shut down Cristiano Ronaldo in a 4-0 first-round victory. The Germans also have been scoring more than the Argentines here. They thrashed Brazil 7-1, whereas Argentina has won all its games by one goal — 2-1, 1-0, 3-2, 1-0 and 1-0.

On Sunday, Messi has a chance, in front of a worldwide TV audience and 78,000 fans at Maracana, to deliver that brilliance everyone is waiting to see.

‘I suppose in Argentina, Messi maybe needs this to just move himself alongside Diego Maradona, who almost won it single-handedly in 1986.’

Ian Darke
ESPN analyst



Argentina's Diego Maradona, above, cries after Argentina's 1-0 loss to Germany in the World Cup final on July 8, 1990, in Rome. Lionel Messi, right, is still missing a World Cup on his résumé.



SPORTS



Going back

King James returning to Cleveland to play for Cavaliers | **NBA, Page 27**

WORLD CUP

Who's better?

To truly be compared to Maradona, Lionel Messi will have to lead Argentina past Germany

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AP photos

Lionel Messi, right, will have to help Argentina win another World Cup if he ever wants to be considered equal to Diego Maradona, above.