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A HEFTY MAKEOVER

Overhauling aircraft carrier one of military's most complex fix-up jobs

Page 2

DANIAN DOUGLAS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Airman Sara Huffman, assigned to the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, uses a jackhammer to remove the ship's deck tiles. Since last March, the Lincoln has been in Newport News, Va., undergoing a Refueling and Complex Overhaul, a process that takes place midway through the 50-year life of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Spy scandal to test US-German ties

Espionage claims could strain allied countries' military accord, experts say

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The latest scandal over U.S. espionage in Germany could

signal a permanent change in relations between Washington and Berlin, which have been contentious ever since the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

In the short term, allega-

tions of a U.S. spying operation against a German parliamentary committee will complicate Washington's efforts to win Berlin's backing for tougher sanctions on

Russia. But the larger political and military fallout is likely to be felt for years to come, experts say.

SEE STRAIN ON PAGE 8



Activists in Berlin participate in a rally in September following reports of U.S. spy operations in Germany.

AP

MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Jeter's curtain call: Yankees great goes 2-for-2 on final night

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MILITARY

Marines transfer whistleblower who questioned general on Afghanistan urination case

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FACES

Executive: ABC's slate of ethnically diverse shows represents true America

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Change in blood transfusion protocol cuts troop death rate » Page 6

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"It made me appreciate the fact that I had a muscle suit on as Mister Fantastic."

—Actor Ioan Gruffudd, referring to his role in the "Fantastic Four" movies. His latest role is that of a man who is fated to die and be reborn over and over. Each time he returns, he's naked.

See story on Page 17

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

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1. Navy nurse refuses to force-feed Guantanamo detainees
2. Jesse Ventura said SEALs 'die all the time,' witness testifies
3. Bataan visits Bahrain after 135 days at sea
4. Pentagon announces new commanders for PACAF, ACC
5. Air Force set to reduce 3,500 positions at headquarters

COMING SOON

Video games

"EA Sports: UFC"



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MILITARY

All hands help overhaul carrier

Navy personnel, shipbuilders work to fix up USS Abraham Lincoln

By HUGH LESSIG
(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS — When Edward Shields joined the Navy 10 months ago, the recruiter didn't mention jackhammer duty.

But this month, the young Navy airman stood aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, bending his 6-foot-5-inch frame in a cramped passageway, blasting apart floor tiles. He is part of a 35-sailor team that has pulverized 372,000 square feet of tile since the Lincoln arrived at Newport News Shipbuilding last March.

These sailors normally work on the carrier flight deck. They launch, recover and refuel jet aircraft, and their jobs are considered among the most exciting and dangerous in the world.

Now they're in downtown Newport News.

"No, he never told me about jackhammer work," Shields said, laughing, recalling the recruiter's pitch. "I never thought I'd be doing this."

It might not be exciting, but Shields is participating in one of the military's most complicated fix-up jobs. The Lincoln is at Dry Dock 11 for a Refueling and Complex Overhaul, or RCOH. It happens midway through the 50-year life of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, and pulverizing old floor tiles is among thousands of jobs.

During its first year at Newport News, a milestone marked on

March 28, workers had already reinstalled the long-range radar tower, blasted and primed the ship's hull below the water line, refurbished 230 of 399 watertight doors and completed port and starboard rudder repairs.

One team is replacing 1,700 beds. Another works to refurbish 135 toilets. The catapaults that launch jets from the deck will be rebuilt and straightened with laser-like precision.

Refueling the nuclear propulsion plant requires building a complex below the main deck that runs half the length of the ship. The giant shafts will be refurbished to mint condition. Workers will modernize 2,300 compartments and install 130,000 feet of pipe.

Before the ship is returned to the Navy in October 2016, Newport News Shipbuilding will log up to 23 million hours and draw on subcontractors from 39 states.

For Hampton Roads, RCOH spells big business.

Budget documents the Navy submitted to Congress in March estimated the cost of the project at \$4.47 billion, including \$3.64 billion for basic construction and conversion, and about \$830 million in other costs, including electronics, nuclear components and other parts provided by the Navy.

The Navy has said the contracts awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding for the project amount to more than \$3.3 billion.

The overhaul is roughly 42 percent complete and the shipyard's labor commitment equates to about 5,000 people. They're working alongside 2,500 Lincoln sailors.

Most of them, like Shields, are doing jobs far out of their comfort zone.

But it's not all work. On Friday afternoons, the crew jags the athletic field behind Huntington Hall for group workouts. Sailors



BRENTON POYSER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 3rd Class Anthony Armstrong, an aviation ordnanceman assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln, cleans a hatch while performing maintenance at Newport News Shipbuilding.

have become highly visible on community relations projects, planting trees at Hampton City Hall, mentoring at An Achievable Dream Academy in Newport News and volunteering at the Peninsula Food Bank.

Work in progress

How big is this job? Over the 50-year life of an aircraft carrier, 35 percent of its total maintenance happens during this 3½ years, said Bruce Easterson, the Newport News Shipbuilding program director for the Lincoln overhaul.

The contract is structured to finish the ship as soon as possible. The Navy and shipyard share savings if the ship is delivered under cost.

"If I go over, there's a sharing of that overrun, but at some point, it's all on the shipyard," Easterson said.

With that kind of workload, it is important to hit the ground running. But the Lincoln job faced an obstacle from the get-go — federal budget uncertainty delayed its arrival at the shipyard by one month, forcing Newport News and the Navy to improvise.

"We actually worked well with the Navy," Easterson said. "We restructured our contract and scope and committed to keep working."

He has nothing but praise for the Lincoln's officers and crews. They came to the shipyard looking for things to do, and "head and shoulders, they have set a higher standard for the following ships," he said.

For example, the crew has committed to standing 200,000 man-hours of fire watches, required whenever welding or burning is going on. A shipyard employee would normally do this, but sailors have been worked into the schedule, standing by with fire extinguishers while work proceeds.

It frees up shipyard workers to do other work. That pays dividends, Easterson said, because ripping out the guts of a 25-year-old aircraft carrier is like lifting the hood of an old car. You find a few surprises, and the job gets a little bigger.

Sometimes, the discoveries raise eyebrows.

Chief Petty Officer Terrence Parks oversees the team that refurbishes berthing compartments, installing new racks and lockers.

"We find some interesting things when we're tearing apart berthing," he said. "When you get down to the sub-base, you'll find things like jewelry. You'll find pictures, you'll find movies, you'll find money."

Clarification

The July 16 story on the F-35 misidentified Lt. Gen. Christopher Bogdan, the head of the F-35 program office.

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MILITARY

DOD proposes wider use of contingency war fund

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A pot of money created to fund wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is critically needed for other U.S. military offensive operations around the world, Adm. James Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told House lawmakers Wednesday.

Winnefeld and other top Department of Defense leaders proposed expanded use of the supplement war funding during testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, saying it could offer a way around mandatory military budget cuts as threats rise in the Middle East and eastern Europe.

The war fund, called the Overseas Contingency Operations budget, has been tapped by Congress for years to cover minor military spending shortfalls, but President Barack Obama has proposed adding \$6 billion to a \$65.8 billion pot in the coming year for two new formal initiatives, in Syria and in Europe, that fall far outside the waning U.S. operations in Afghanistan.

Winnefeld said the supple-

mental funding pot — money approved outside the DOD base budget — could be expanded even further and used for anything the military “would not normally be doing in a peaceful world.”

The military sees the OCO money as a way around a spending crunch caused by mandatory sequestration cuts imposed by Congress. So far, lawmakers in the House and Senate have not supported Pentagon efforts to slim personnel costs and end some ship and aircraft programs.

If the supplemental money disappears, “you will have a broken force at the end of the day,” Winnefeld said. “We will not be able to execute even close to what the strategy calls for us to do.”

Instead, the OCO war chest could be tapped whenever the U.S. needs to launch operations to fight threats or stamp out violence around the globe, Winnefeld said.

For example, the DOD base budget would pay for a routine deployment of an aircraft carrier but the supplemental war chest would kick in if missions are launched to counter conflicts such as those in Syria and Iraq, he said.

The administration OCO bud-

get released last month proposes using \$5 billion to train and equip moderate opposition forces in the Syria civil war, and \$1 billion will go to increased rotations and training with allies in Europe following Russian aggression toward Ukraine.

Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work, who also testified Wednesday, said the operations are necessary due to deep concern over the security of allies in the Middle East such as Turkey, Jordan and Iraq, and Russia’s annexation of Crimea.

The U.S. could pull those initiatives out of the OCO budget and pay for them out of the base budget, but it would necessitate cuts that could hamstring military forces, Work said.

“The rest of that money would have to be absorbed by the [general] budget and it would likely come out of [military] readiness,” he said. “This is something we think about all the time: ‘How do we get out of this readiness trough over the coming years?’”

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., member of the committee, said the military needs to create some guidelines for OCO expenditures if it wants to permanently expand use of the money



Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. James Winnefeld Jr. testifies at a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the Defense Department’s fiscal 2015 Overseas Contingency Operations budget request on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday.

beyond Afghanistan.

“If it is broader than that, then that is OK, but I think we need some parameters,” Smith said. “One could make the argument that there is always going to be something unanticipated in the defense world.”

Many lawmakers oppose sequestration but Congress has failed to reach a compromise that reverses it. Still, some in the House balked at the war-around.

“To have another fund out here to just get around the [sequestration] caps to me might not be the most helpful approach moving

forward,” said Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas.

Other lawmakers said they opposed pumping up a federal fund that was already vaguely defined and used to foot wasteful war spending for years.

“I look at the absolute waste of life [in Afghanistan] first and money second,” said Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C. “When in the world do we get to a point where we say, ‘Enough is enough!’ ... I don’t know why you need this money it is a slush fund anyway.”

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Acting VA chief seeks billions to fix agency

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs Sloan Gibson delivered a grim message to senators on Wednesday about the state of VA health care, a system he portrayed as plagued by widespread wrongdoing, staff intimidation and shortages of clinical staff.

VA has lost the trust of veterans and the American people, he told the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee — something that can only be earned back through decisive corrective action and a new level of openness in the department’s operations.

“We understand the seriousness of the problems we face,” he said in his first appearance on Capitol Hill since taking the reins at VA after the resignation of Gen. Eric Shinseki. “We own them. We’re taking decisive action to begin to resolve them.”

But if proper corrective steps are taken, Gibson said, the VA could regain veterans’ trust within two years.

Among those steps, he said, will be disciplinary action in the next week against employees at an unspecified VA health care facility. He would only say it was not the Phoenix facility, where the current scandal began after a whistleblower alleged that up to 40 patients died while languishing on a secret waiting list for medical appointments.

Later audits by the VA inspector general and by the White House showed the practice was widespread, and pointed out a “corrosive culture” and outdated technology throughout the VA, among other problems.

“There is nobody that wants to see this

process move forward faster than I do,” Gibson said of the investigation into scheduling fraud.

Gibson got legislators’ attention when he added that VA will need an extra \$17.6 billion in funding between now and 2017. The proposal, developed with the White House Office of Management and Budget, would address the causes of the scandal that has exploded in recent months over long wait times for medical care and fraudulent scheduling practices used to conceal delays.

“These funds address not only the current shambles in clinical staff, space, information technology and purchase care necessary to provide timely, high quality care,” he said.

“About \$10 billion of that amount would go to hire 10,000 new clinicians and patient care staff, as well as to pay for private health care appointments for veterans unable to get a VA appointment within a reasonable time frame, he said.

Staffing levels in the past were based on budget availability rather than need, Gibson said.

“The No. 1 cause for scheduling difficulties was that there weren’t sufficient pro-

vider slots to be able to schedule patients into,” he said. “We’ve managed to a budget number ... and the veterans would up being the shock absorber in that process.”

Among other measures, Gibson said VA was moving to purchase a commercial, off-the-shelf scheduling system to address the department’s information technology problems. Sen. Mark Begich, D-Alaska, held up a 2003 VA report bemoaning a lack of capacity and the need for more staff. VA has never been funded at the level it needs to provide enough staff, he said.

“This is not new. They didn’t get the funding years ago, and now we’re playing catchup,” he said. “Do I think it’s a lot of money? Yes. Is it money well deserved for our veterans? Absolutely!”

But Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Nebr., said the committee had been very responsive to VA funding requests from Shinseki.

“It was almost like we’d salute when he said what he needed, and out the door he’d go with more money, and always the promise that we were doing better,” he said. “I think what you honestly need is competition” from private health care providers, he added.

Gibson also faced questions about recent allegations that falsification of scheduling stretches beyond VA health care and into processing of veterans claims.

Earlier this week, the VA inspector general said it was improperly scrubbing thousands of the oldest veteran claims from backlog estimates, undercutting claims it has slashed the wait list for benefits by 50 percent in the last year.

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Hearing set for Obama’s VA pick

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate will hold a committee confirmation hearing Tuesday on the Obama administration pick as the new secretary of the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs.

Former Procter & Gamble CEO Robert McDonald will appear before the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee to face questions on how he might fix the deeply dysfunctional federal agency in charge of providing health care and benefits for millions of veterans, according to committee staff.

The VA has been rocked by a stream of scandals and damaging audits that caused former Secretary Eric Shinseki to step down in May and the resignation of other top officials. Federal investigators and Congress have charged the VA with a culture of corruption and irresponsibility that led to widespread records manipulation, long and potentially deadly delays in veteran treatment, and abuses of the employee wage band system.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the committee chairman, said a new VA secretary should be named as soon as possible to deal with unacceptably long patient wait times as hundreds of thousands of new veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan enter the system.

A committee hearing is typically a precursor to a vote in the full Senate for presidential nominees. Senators have until the end of the month to hold the final confirmation vote on McDonald before leaving for a monthlong recess in August.

MILITARY

New POW/MIA agency set

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Department officials testified Tuesday that the new agency to replace the troubled POW/MIA accounting community in charge of recovering and repatriating the remains of troops killed in past conflicts will be stood up Jan. 1.

The agency will consolidate the work of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office and the Joint Personnel Accounting Command as ordered by the secretary of defense in February, said Michael Lumpkin, the assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict.

Lumpkin testified before the House Armed Services' military personnel subcommittee, which for years has pressed for reform and in 2009 helped pass a congressional mandate that the DOD recover a minimum of 200 remains annually beginning next year.

On Tuesday, Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., chairman of the House subcommittee, said he was pleased that the DOD is moving ahead with the changes. "What a positive report; that is very unusual in Congress," he said.

The DOD efforts to recover 83,000 Americans missing from

past conflicts have so far fallen far below the goal set by Congress and been dogged by incompetence and dysfunction amid claims that agencies ignored leads, arguing against identifying remains in government custody, desecrated and mishandled remains and failed to keep critical records.

An interim inspector general report, obtained last week by ProPublica, outlined some of the problems:

- A remarkably low number of identifications each year — just 60 in 2013.

- No standard operating procedures or central database of the missing.

- Leadership and management problems resulting in a hostile and dysfunctional work environment.
- No acknowledgment that as many as 50,000 missing at sea are unlikely to be recovered.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered the overhaul and consolidation in February and called maximizing the number of identifications a top priority for the DOD.

Lumpkin said the new central agency will open at the start of 2015 but will not be fully operational until January 2016.

"Throughout this process, operations to account for the missing and to keep their families

informed will continue," he said.

Jamie Morin, director of DOD Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation, said JPAC and DPMO as well as the Life Sciences Equipment Laboratory, which handles forensic work, will continue on recovery efforts until the new agency is completely operational. "We are building something up while we are shrinking something down to ensure that this is seamless," Morin said.

Plans for the new agency call for:

- Oversight by a newly created DOD policy under secretary whose central task will be the recovery effort.
- A medical examiner in charge of all identification and scientific operations.
- Centralized database and case management system containing all POW/MIA case information.

Lumpkin said the department will also try to improve the way it treats the families of those still missing in action. "From a business perspective, who is the customer here?" he asked. "We haven't focused on the families as much as we could. I think that is the underlying piece we all agreed upon."

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Top AF nominees named

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon on Tuesday announced White House nominations for two top Air Force jobs, including a woman who would become the U.S. military's first female four-star combat commander if confirmed.

President Barack Obama nominated Air Force Lt. Gen. Lori J. Robinson to receive a fourth star and become commander of Pacific Air Forces. Robinson would also become air component commander for U.S. Pacific Command and executive director of Pacific Air Combat Operations Staff at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Robinson now serves as vice commander at Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Obama also nominated the current PACAF commander, Gen. Herbert J. "Hawk" Carlisle, to run Air Combat Command.

As PACAF commander since 2012, Carlisle has helmed the air component of the United States' Pacific rebalance strategy, an effort to build military, diplomatic and economic alliances in the Asia-Pacific region, where a resurgent China has been flexing its military muscles.

A fighter pilot by training, Carlisle served as Air Force deputy chief of staff for Operations, Plans and Requirements at the Pentagon



Robinson



Carlisle

and earlier commanded the 13th Air Force at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, among other assignments. He received his commission after graduation from the Air Force Academy in 1978.

Robinson, an air battle manager, has served as vice commander of Air Combat Command since May 2013. Before that, she served as deputy commander, U.S. Air Forces Central Command, and deputy Combined Force Air Component commander for U.S. Central Command in Southwest Asia.

She entered the Air Force in 1982 through the ROTC program at the University of New Hampshire.

Robinson is the second woman to rise to the four-star rank in the Air Force. Gen. Janet Wolfenbarger took command of Air Force materiel command in 2012.

Filipino Night

Entertainment: RADIO
July 26, Saturday
Admission, Themed Buffet Dinner, Live Entertainment and Dancing
ADULT: \$33
Guaranteed seating. Seating is not guaranteed.
Doors Open 18:30

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LUAU

AUGUST 22, FRIDAY DOORS OPEN 7 PM
AUGUST 23, SATURDAY DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM
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THE NEW SANNO

MIDEAST

Bataan visits Bahrain after 135 days at sea

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Sailors and Marines from the amphibious assault ship USS Bataan arrived in Bahrain Tuesday after an unusually lengthy 135 days at sea.

The Bataan, the flagship of the amphibious ready group, is on an eight-month deployment. The ship left its Norfolk, Va., homeport in February, with embarked Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Much of the ship's time has been spent in the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea area, where it has been poised for potential crisis response.

The ship will spend several days in Bahrain, which is home to the U.S. 5th Fleet. The visit comes a week after Tom Malinowski, U.S. assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor, was expelled from the Persian Gulf kingdom for allegedly interfering in domestic affairs. The incident appears to have had no impact on the U.S. Navy's activities on the island.

For the roughly 2,700 sailors and Marines on the Bataan, many

of them pouring onto Naval Support Activity Bahrain Tuesday evening, the diplomatic kerfuffle was far from their minds. Several Top Stars and Stripes the base Taco Bell was their primary objective as they sought to break the routine of ship's food.

"It's almost unreal; I don't actually feel like I'm really in port," said Staff Sgt. Wayne Dufour,

'It's like I'm being introduced to the world again.'

Cpl. David Jones
USS Bataan sailor

also an embarked Marine. "It's like I'm being introduced to the world again."

But the port stay won't be all rest and relaxation.

U.S. Navy officials said this is considered a "working port

part of the embarked 22nd MEU on the Bataan.

The crew seemed overjoyed to be off the ship and on dry land.

"You've been on it so long it makes you feel like it's home," said Cpl. David Jones,

part of the embarked 22nd MEU on the Bataan.

The crew seemed overjoyed to be off the ship and on dry land.

U.S. Navy officials said this is considered a "working port

USS Bataan: By the numbers

- 24,200 nautical miles navigated
- 3,000,000 gallons of fuel transferred
- 10,000 tons of cargo and vehicles moved
- Made beach landings in five countries
- Approximately 123,200 hours of engineering watches stood
- 1,000 evaluations and fitness reports processed
- 1,660 dental procedures conducted by the ship's dental clinic
- 9,215 pounds of laundry processed
- 1,845 haircuts
- \$289,288.05 in vending sales

Current as of June 10. Courtesy of USS Bataan Public Affairs Office



JOANNA SAAB/Special to Stars and Stripes

The Taco Bell on Naval Support Activity Bahrain was a popular destination for sailors and Marines from the USS Bataan on Tuesday after 135 days at sea.

Navy Morale, Welfare and Recreation officials have organized afternoon sporting events and cultural tours of Bahrain for the Bataan's sailors and Marines.

The ship has been busy during its deployment. In May, days into the ship's participation in a large-scale annual multinational exercise in Jordan, it was ordered to the coast of Libya to be ready for a possible evacuation of U.S. personnel because of escalating fighting there. The ship left many Marines and much equipment behind in Jordan to complete the exercise. While near Libya on June

6, the Bataan rescued 282 people in the Mediterranean Sea, while responding to a report of a sinking vessel.

Officials said the Bataan, along with the rest of the amphibious ready group, is currently tasked to support maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility. Bataan's Marines and other assets from the 22nd MEU have been conducting routine training throughout the Middle East.

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Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR



Officers' Club 243-5030

Sunday Brunch

Sunday from 0900 to 1330 in Kosano Dining Room
Overabundant flowing with an incredible variety, we offer made-to-order omelets, pancakes, waffles, breakfast favorites, bountiful salads and excellently prepared entrees including a carving station with an ever-changing variety of delectable roasts. Our superior desserts include a chocolate fountain and a kids' cup cakes station. Our large beverage selection includes several juices, chocolate milk, and champagne!

Shrimpy's Over the Hump Shrimp Night

Thursday, July 24 from 1700 to 2100 in the Warehouse Restaurant
Our famous dinner specials are back. A superb selection of shrimp dishes to choose from or try our seafood salad bar, served with soups, beverage and sliver of a cake. All for only \$16. All hands.

CPO Club 243-5506

CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!

Lunch Buffet

Monday through Friday from 1100 to 1330

Offering a large variety of all-you-can eat lunch buffet including our famous Asian and Continental specials. Dining room Open to all Hands. Only \$9

Mongolian BBQ

Wednesdays from 1700 to 2100

Grab your chop sticks and mix up your own Mongolian BBQ and feast on our huge variety of meats, vegetables, sauces and condiments, Asian soup, pancit and fried rice. 75¢ per ounce.

Club Alliance 243-3000

C-STREET GRILLE

The only complaints we get around here are that our servings are too big! Visit the best burger joint in town with American-sized favorites made to order with the side of your choice: fries, onion rings, salads, baked beans and more.

Inferno Saturdays

Saturdays • 2000-0200 • Sharky's Bar & Brewery

It's getting hot in here, so take off for Sharky's Saturday nights as Yokosuka's best DJ's drop chart-topping, dance tracks and music vids.

Sinfufully Spicy Night

Saturday, July 26 from 1700 to 2045 in Italian Gardens

Set your taste buds ablaze with tantalizing fiery foods from places like Thailand, India and Mexico! Choose from our special menu of appetizers, entrees and desserts. Menu items will range from mildly spicy to "burn the roof off your mouth!"

Club Takemiya 246-8077

National Lollipop Day

Sunday, July 20

Purchase of any order and a free lollipop will be given to each customer!

Dinner Family Grab-N-Go Packages

Tired after work? Don't have time to prepare dinner? Stop by the Club for family whole roasted chicken platters (\$22) and full (\$28) or half rack ribs sets(\$18) which include mashed potatoes or mac-n-cheese, coleslaw and breadsticks for four! Chicken and ribs available a la carte as well!

Negishi Club 242-4151

Tex-Mex Dinner Special

Wednesday from 1700 to 2000

Zesty, fresh and sometimes spicy! Delicious entrées that will have your mouth watering for next week. Chips and salsa appetizer included with each order, dine-in or take-out. Regular menu also available. Only \$11.95

National Parent's Day

Sunday, July 27

We will have a variety of crafts and activities for children to enjoy during breakfast allowing parents to relax in style.

MILITARY

Study: Protocol change reduced bleeding deaths

New blood transfusion technique found to save lives in forward-based hospitals

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Fewer warfighters have died from bleeding complications in forward-based hospitals since 2006, when the military changed its protocol of blood transfusions used for such cases, according to a study published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Eight years ago, forward-based hospitals that treated wounded from Iraq and Afghanistan implemented a protocol known as "damage control resuscitation," or DCR, which called for a change in the ratios of blood components given to hemorrhaging patients, such as red blood cells, plasma and platelets.

The study found that patients who died in the hospital after the DCR protocol was put into place were more likely to be severely injured and to have severe brain injuries, as compared with less serious wounded patients who died before the new protocol.

The findings indicate "potentially preventable" deaths from bleeding complications were reduced after 2006, said Dr. Mat-

thew J. Martin, a co-author of the study who is the trauma medical director and chief of surgical critical care at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.

Bleeding is a leading cause of combat deaths.

Severe bleeding can trigger what's known as the "trauma triad of death," a lethal spiral of hypothermia, toxic acidity and impaired coagulation. Heavy bleeding decreases the oxygen being delivered throughout the body, which leads to a lowering of the body temperature. That in turn retards blood clotting.

The absence of oxygen and other nutrients in the blood causes the body to burn glucose, releasing acids into the blood stream, which can be fatal. Each element continually exacerbates the others.

"On a bleeding patient, the focus had always been that they were losing red blood cells, which carries the oxygen to your tissues," Martin said of the approach early in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"It used to be thought that if a healthy young patient gets



JOSHUA L. DeMotts/Stars and Stripes

Airman 1st Class Patricia Ibanez processes bags of red blood cells from the U.S. for shipment to U.S. military field hospitals in Afghanistan in 2013. A 2006 change in protocol of blood transfusions in trauma cases resulted in fewer deaths from the battlefield, a new study has concluded.

wounded they have enough clotting factors on their own to get them through — for a long time."

During the first years of the two wars, doctors in forward hospitals began to realize that despite youth and good health, patients could have failed clotting function within an hour.

"We used to think it could take days to develop that bad of a clotting deficiency," Martin said.

Before 2006, patients were usually given large quantities of cold, concentrated red blood cells, Martin said.

"So what we were probably doing was giving them back a cold fluid that didn't help them clot blood much, and so they were getting even colder and their clotting system was becoming even more dysfunctional," he said.

The study analyzed details of the 2,565 patients who died at forward hospitals from 2002 to early

2011.

"When we look at deaths now and compare them to the beginning of the war, patients who die now are patients you'd look at and say, 'That patient was probably going to die no matter what we did,'" Martin said.

On average those post-2006 patients are much more severely injured and have a much higher percentage of severe head injuries, for which there is no therapy at present, he said.

"We would consider those non-preventable deaths," he said.

The DCR protocol is now widely used in civilian trauma centers, said Dr. John B. Holcomb, a surgeon with the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston who retired from the Army in 2008 after serving 23 years.

"Everybody says that the silver lining that comes out war is improved trauma care, and I think

this war is no exception," Holcomb said.

"Trauma care has improved for soldiers, sailors and Marines and also for the civilians that have benefited as well from improved care at civilian trauma centers."

Holcomb contributed a brief commentary in JAMA urging the Pentagon and researchers to make further use of the vast amount of medical data collected during the decade-long war to "implement the lessons learned."

"If you step back and look at what's happening right now, we're still in the war, and it's going to continue," he said. "Casualties are still occurring. The Department of Defense is engaged around the world, actively, and we still have problems we need to work on. Those problems aren't solved, and the tension needs to be kept on them."

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Improving economy, lengthy tours could affect Navy retention

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — An improving economy and a high pace of operations marked by lengthy deployments could lower Navy retention rates, the service's chief of personnel said in an interview Wednesday.

Vice Adm. Bill Moran, chief of naval personnel, said servicemembers in highly skilled fields such as aviation, cyberwarfare and submarine warfare are especially tempting to civilian employers.

"It is an issue, and it is the one issue that has my full attention in both the enlisted and the officer corps," Moran said. "Because we are seeing an improving economy, and we are seeing that the operational demands continue, that combination has me concerned."

Moran was in Naples to meet with various commands and hold meetings with enlisted sailors, officers and spouses. The base is home to the Navy commands for Europe and Africa, and NATO's Joint Forces Command Naples is

nearby.

Navy retention rates have been strong in recent years, with the service often exceeding its own annual goals. Current numbers continue to look good, Moran said, but he believes the environment is changing. The national unemployment rate fell last quarter to 6.3 percent; four years ago it was closer to 10 percent.

Demand for Navy deployments has only increased, meanwhile. New flash points in Europe, where the U.S. has promised more ship visits to a region concerned by Russian actions in Ukraine, joint trouble areas in the Mideast and in the Pacific, where China is growing more assertive on boundary issues. Budget cuts delaying ship maintenance have thrown off deployment schedules, forcing some tours to be extended.

Carrier groups are now making nine- and 10-month cruises, compared with the six-month tours common in the past. The Navy wants to standardize deployment length to eight months as part of a 36-month cycle, but it could be

thrown off by circumstances like a failure to refuel the USS George Washington, one of the Navy's 11 carriers.

The Navy has improved and maintained benefits to make sea duty and longer tours more palatable. It increased pay per sea duty for the first time in 13 years, raising it 25 percent. It continued to fund its tuition assistance program at 100 percent.

The service is close to establishing a high deployment allowance, Moran said, which would add about \$500 a month to the

paychecks of sailors deployed for longer than 220 days.

But benefits only go so far if sailors face other frustrations.

Constant complaints about the volume of administrative tasks, such as frequent training modules with little bearing on a command's operational duties, spurred the Navy to create a program last year aimed at reducing the clutter. Its effect has been slow, Moran said.

"The administrative distractions, as we call them, are real," Moran said. "We've made some

headway in reducing that load on commands. It'll take time for that to show positive effects, I think. And we've got a long way to go."

Moran said his office is monitoring retention rates monthly and compiling quarterly reports, as well as scouring information on the economy. He believes he has the flexibility to respond, if necessary.

"I have the tools," he said. "What I don't have is the forecast."

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MILITARY

Army loses 1st skirmish over Guard helos

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**
The Associated Press

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — The Army has lost an initial Senate skirmish over a hotly disputed plan to take Apache attack helicopters away from National Guard units in a budget-cutting move that has infuriated governors and state military leaders.

The proposal, which would transfer dozens of the sleek Apache combat aircraft to active-duty units and give larger, multiuse Black Hawk helicopters to the Guard, has gotten high-level support at the Pentagon, including a visit to the Army's aviation center at Fort Rucker last week by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel.

But the war-fighting arguments and billions of dollars in cost savings haven't been enough to overcome lawmakers' staunch support for their state units and their view that after 13 years of war, active-duty and Guard battalions must be interchangeable. Guard units deployed and fought in the Apaches in Iraq and Afghanistan, and they don't want to give up their flashier ride in exchange for the Black Hawk, which is the military's dependable workhorse.

Military leaders argue that Black Hawks are more useful for the Guard units, which



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY NATIONAL GUARD/AP

An AH-64D Apache Longbow with the South Carolina Army National Guard releases flares over Camp Tajo, Iraq, in October 2011. The National Guard is fighting an Army plan to take Apache attack helicopters away from Guard units.

can use them for medical evacuations and other emergencies and disaster relief in their states.

"To me, it's very clear, it's very logical, it's very common sense," said Brig. Gen. Mike Lundy, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort

Rucker. "Politics are not always logical or common sense."

Speaking to reporters traveling with Hagel to Fort Rucker, Lundy said the steep budget cuts required by Congress have forced the Army to restructure its aviation program and eliminate its oldest helicopters, including more than 300 Vietnam-era Kiowa Warriors, that are expensive to maintain and fly. The budget cuts will take about \$3 billion a year from the Army's acquisition and modernization budget and slash training funds by about 40 percent.

Lined up across the lawn in front of the aviation center headquarters were some of the Army's war-worn helicopters. As Hagel walked from one to the next, he peppered military leaders with questions about the age and cost of the single-engine Creek and the Kiowa.

The Vietnam veteran told soldiers at a gathering later that he recalled when "helicopters would take us into remote areas and jungles where we couldn't get into, and the helicopter would hover about four to six feet off the ground, and we would jump out."

He said the military has to be smarter about how it trains and equips the force, and cutting the number of helicopter models used by the Army from seven to four

and restructuring the force will help the Guard and the active-duty force.

The restructuring plan would reduce the number of active Army aviation brigades from 13 to 10 and cut about 800 helicopters from the fleet. In 2016, the Army would begin to transfer about 100 Apaches to the Army brigades, and almost 160 Black Hawks would be sent from active units to the Guard and Reserve.

The exchange will make training cheaper and give the Army more readily available Apache battalions, Lundy said. He said it takes six Guard battalions to cover the number of deployments that two active-duty battalions can cover, largely due to restrictions on how often Guard members can be tapped for duty.

He said it costs up to \$700 million to equip an Apache battalion and takes longer to get a Guard unit ready for duty. As a result, he said, the Army would end up with Guard battalions "that are three times more expensive in people and money, and they're at a lower readiness level."

The Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee on Tuesday approved with no debate a 2015 spending bill that lets the Guard keep the Apaches and specifically opposes the helicopter transfer.

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MILITARY

Navy nurse refuses to force-feed at Gitmo

By CAROL ROSENBERG
The Miami Herald

In the first known rebellion against Guantanamo's force-feeding policy, a Navy medical officer recently refused to continue managing tube-feedings of prison-hunger strikers and was reassigned to "alternative duties." A prison camp spokesman, Navy Capt. Tom Gresback, would not provide precise details but said Monday night that the episode had "no impact to medical support operations at the base."

"There was a recent instance of a medical provider not willing to carry out the enteral feeding of a detainee," he said in an email. "The matter is in the hands of the individual's leadership."

Word of the refusal reached the outside world last week in a call from prisoner Abu Wael Dhiab to attorney Cori Crider of the London-based legal defense group Reprieve. Dhiab, a hunger striker, described how a nurse in the Navy Medical Corps abruptly refused to "force-feed us" sometime before the Fourth of July

— and disappeared from detention center duty. Crider called the male nurse the first known U.S. military conscientious objector of the 18-month-long hunger strike in the prison camps, and said his dissent took "real courage... none of us should underestimate how hard that has been."

Dhiab, 43, is challenging the Guantanamo force-feeding policy in federal court. A Syrian who was cleared for transfer from the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in 2010 but who can't be repatriated because of unrest

in his homeland, he has been on an-again, off-again hunger strike to protest his indefinite detention. He's also one of six detainees that Uruguayan diplomats interviewed at Guantanamo in February and agreed to resettle, according to a U.S. government official, pending U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's approval.

The Miami Herald has not been able to determine the nurse's name or home base. Crider said Dhiab described the nurse as a perhaps 40-year-old Latino who turned up on the cellblocks in

April or May, with the rank of a "captain" — suggesting he has two bars on his uniform.

Guantanamo medical staff members come from the Navy, and wear different battle dress that distinguishes them from Army guards from the 2,200-member staff — meaning the nurse is likely a Navy lieutenant.

Guantanamo currently has 149 detainees, an unknown number of them on hunger strike under a blackout imposed by U.S. Southern Command in December after nine months of daily disclosure.

Strain: Poll has more Germans seeking closer ties with Russia than with US

FROM FRONT PAGE

"I see the relationship with the U.S. being cautiously redefined. Scandals will come and go, but they illustrate the deeper unease in Germany about the relationship with the U.S., which has been an unequal one for a very long time," said Dmitri Trenin, director of the Carnegie Moscow Center.

Widespread public outrage in Germany over U.S. spying, which erupted last summer with the revelation that the NSA had been tapping the cellphone of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, has fostered a growing sense of anti-Americanism in the country, Europe's undisputed economic and political leader and home to the United States' largest military contingent in Europe. Recent allegations that at least two Germans were spying for the U.S. have only served to fuel the unease.

For now, many experts agree it's unlikely that the asserted spying allegations will cause serious disruption in how the two countries collaborate on sharing intelligence and other high-stakes anti-terrorism matters. However, other areas, such as persuading the Germans to back more severe sanctions on Russia for its role in Ukraine or to convince Berlin to take on a more muscular role in NATO, could suffer, experts say.

Cracks seen after Iraq

The Cold War-era image of the U.S. as the great protector has taken a hard hit in Germany. The consequences may not be fully realized for some time, but some experts say the special relationship between the two allies is facing a new political reality.

"Most important decision makers know the U.S. is a pillar in



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel smiles as she arrives for the weekly Cabinet meeting in Berlin on Wednesday. The Cold War-era image of the U.S. as a protector has taken a hard hit in Germany.

foreign and security policy," said Sudha David-Wilp, an expert on trans-Atlantic relations at the George Marshall Fund in Berlin. "But at the same time, political leaders are in a Catch-22. They need to respond to popular sentiment, among young Germans especially."

When Germany took the unprecedented step last week of expelling the U.S.' local CIA station chief, it was an indication of Berlin's willingness to take a tougher stand when it feels the Americans are crossing the line. Such actions, which reflect an anti-American sentiment that has taken deeper root over the past

decade, were virtually inconceivable a generation ago.

The first signs of a German willingness to resist American policy surfaced in 2003, when Berlin opposed the U.S. invasion of Iraq. But that opposition had limits. It did not stop Berlin from allowing the U.S. military to use Germany as a staging ground for the war, with thousands of troops and military hardware transiting through the country. A generation from now, there are no guarantees such a scenario would play out the same way.

Despite base closings and personnel cuts in recent years, Germany still plays host to about

40,000 American troops and several major installations, including Ramstein Air Base, two combat commands in Stuttgart and several Army facilities scattered around the country.

Recent events set tone

What does the new German sentiment mean for this vast military presence?

"I can hear noises about this being an anachronism," Trenin said. "During the Cold War it was a very real protest against the Soviet Union. Today, there's no real fear of Russia in Germany. I think eventually, 20 years from now, there are no more U.S. bases in Germany."

Not all experts agree.

"I think the friendship is too strong for that," said Silvia C. Petig of the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin. "There are too many ways the countries are bound together. Even for the people critical of America, there's too much of a historical bond."

But it's difficult to calculate the long-term political consequences as Germany looks at the U.S. with greater skepticism, Petig said.

"I think politically the image of the United States is being damaged by this (spying scandal). The general public is getting an impression that is not favorable," said Petig.

Recent opinion polls in Germany reveal the country's ambivalence toward the U.S. One survey by the Körber Foundation found that half of those queried would prefer forging closer ties with Russia rather than the U.S.

Recent influential German magazine Der Spiegel observed: "On the one hand, Germans are disappointed by the Americans

and their unceasing surveillance activities. At the same time, they have demonstrated a surprising level of sympathy for the Russians and their president, Vladimir Putin, in the Ukraine crisis. This raises the fundamental question of Germany's national identity. In the long run, Germans will have to decide which side they prefer."

According to a poll by the magazine, 57 percent of Germans believe the country should be more independent of the U.S. in foreign policy.

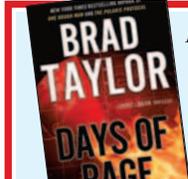
Indeed, a new political generation is emerging whose thoughts about the U.S. have been shaped more by anger over the Iraq War, NSA surveillance and other spying scandals than the U.S.' role in chaperoning Germany into democracy.

"If you think about what America has achieved in influencing Europe culturally after World War II, building up a positive image, many Germans thank America for all of that," Petig said. "But over the past 14 years, people are a lot more critical."

As Europe's economic powerhouse settles into its leadership role on the Continent, the U.S. could face a more resistant ally in the years ahead when their interests diverge.

Germany is not going to try to dominate Europe by force, but it certainly is going to assume a much bigger share of responsibility and it will need to learn the art and practice of leadership," Trenin said. "Not everyone in Europe applauds the rise, not even everyone in Germany wants that. But I see the power of the German economy as really the force that demands a new role for the country."

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MILITARY



JOSHUA L. DEWITTS/Stars and Stripes

A C-130 flies over paratroops before dropping its own troops in Caugny, France, on June 8. A U.S. government watchdog has criticized the Defense Department's decision to equip the Afghan army with the aircraft.

SIGAR questions viability of C-130 for Afghanistan

By Josh Smith
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A U.S. government watchdog is questioning the Defense Department's decision to equip the Afghan air force with C-130 aircraft, saying the Afghans may be unable to use them.

In a letter to military leaders and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Wednesday, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko said his investigators had found little evidence that all the cargo aircraft the U.S. plans to provide the Afghans may be needed.

Sopko said the U.S. could save millions of dollars by evaluating whether the Afghans really need the aircraft before they are delivered.

"I suggest that, pending a review of the AAF's medium airlift requirements and its ability to fully utilize the C-130s currently in the inventory, DOD delay delivery of additional C-130s," he wrote. "IDOD's review indicates additional C-130s are unnecessary, DOD should not provide them. Even the elimination of one C-130 could save up to \$40.5 million through 2017."

Sopko said that during his visit to Afghanistan in June, he was told there were problems with training, spare parts, maintenance and other support for the two Lockheed C-130s currently in the Afghan air force inventory. Similar concerns about maintenance and training led Sopko to urge military officials last year

not to buy more Russian-made Mil helicopters for the Afghan Special Mission Wing.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force, which includes the Air Training Command-Afghanistan, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The C-130 was picked as a successor to the failed C-27 program, which was scrapped last year after maintenance problems grounded the aircraft. Two C-130H transports arrived in Kabul in October last year. At least two more are scheduled to be delivered by the end of 2014.

Sopko said the two aircraft already being operated aren't being fully used and are largely hauling passengers and cargo that could be moved with other, existing aircraft.

The nascent Afghan Air Force has been using Russian-made Mil Mi-17 helicopters to transport most of the supplies, soldiers and wounded to and from the bases scattered around the country. Smaller, fixed-wing Cessna C-208 turboprop aircraft also chip in by flying to better established airfields.

NATO training officials have said that C-130 parts will be easy to find because the aircraft is used around the world, but critics point out that the C-130s are more complex and therefore more expensive to maintain and operate than the C-27As. The C-27As proved more than a match for the Afghans.

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Marine lawyer who accused general gets new assignment

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A Marine Corps officer who accused the service's top general and other members of his staff of wrongdoing last year in an inspector general complaint has been transferred to a new base in southeastern Virginia, nine months after he was removed from his job as a lawyer in Quantico, Va.

Maj. James Weirick began a new assignment in Suffolk, Va., with the Pentagon's Joint Staff early in July, said his lawyer and military officials. He will serve there in Joint Force Development, said Richard Osial, a Joint Staff spokesman.

The organization oversees training to get the services and their allies to work together better and develops policy for military education.

The transfer comes nine months after Weirick, of Alexandria, Va., was relieved of his position as a staff judge advocate at Quantico with Marine Corps Command Development Command, an organization that plans for the service's future and sets requirements for acquisition projects. A spokesman at Marine Corps headquarters, Maj. John Caldwell, confirmed the move to Suffolk, and said Weirick left his unit at Quantico in June.

Weirick served there when he filed the inspector general complaint in March 2013, alleging that Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos and some of his top officers illegally inserted themselves into the prosecution of Marines who were implicated in an infamous video depicting U.S. servicemembers urinating on dead insurgents in Afghanistan's Helmand province. The complaint alleged that some of the Marine Corps' top leaders sought to manipulate the military justice system to ensure tough punishments against the snipers shown in the video.

Notably, Weirick's complaint accused the commandant of removing the three-star general assigned to oversee the case, Lt. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, after learning that he intended to impose administrative nonjudicial punishment on some of the Marines rather than a court-martial. Doing so, Weirick argued, amounted to unlawful command influence, in which a senior officer seeks to pressure a junior commander for a certain outcome in a case.

Waldhauser said in a sworn statement in July 2013 for one of the cases that Amos told him he wanted the Marines "crushed," and stripped Waldhauser of his control over the cases shortly after disagreeing with how the three-star general was handling them. Waldhauser acknowledged that was highly unusual — active-duty generals rarely speak out against their service chief.

Amos and his staff have countered by saying that the commandant acknowledged he was wrong to have pressured Waldhauser, and felt compelled to remove him afterward in an effort to make sure



Weirick

that he "never, ever said" that he wanted them "crushed and kicked out."

"I don't recall at all saying that," Amos said. "What I do recall is there was some motivation on my part — without getting into the exact matters of the meeting —

the legal system wasn't tainted.

After remaining silent on the IG complaint for nearly a year, the commandant told NPR in an interview in February

there was some motivation on my part that I questioned some early decisions by the commander. And once I left that meeting I went, 'OK. That probably wasn't the right thing to do as it relates to what we call undue command influence, the influence that a commander, a senior commander, can have on the junior commander.'"

Three snipers who appear in the video pleaded guilty to a variety of charges, including wrongful possession of unauthorized photos of casualties.

At least five other Marines received nonjudicial punishments.

The commandant and his staff faced tough scrutiny in the national media, on Capitol Hill and in their own Corps.

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WORLD

Syrian President Assad sworn in for 3rd term

DAMASCUS, Syria — Proclaiming the Syrian people winners in a "dirty war" warned by outsiders, President Bashar Assad was sworn in on Wednesday, marking the start of his third seven-year term in office amid a bloody civil war that has ravaged the Arab country.

Looking confident and self-assured, occasionally making jokes, Assad declared victory over "terrorism" and said countries that supported the Syrian opposition "will pay a high price."

Last month, Assad was re-elected in a landslide victory in a vote dismissed by the opposition and its Western allies as a sham. The voting didn't take place in opposition-held areas of Syria, effectively excluding millions of people from the vote.

UK police arrest 660 suspected pedophiles

LONDON — British police say they have arrested 660 suspected pedophiles during a six-month operation.

The National Crime Agency said Wednesday the investigation targeted Internet users with child abuse images — suspects who included doctors, teachers, Scout leaders and former police officers.

Deputy director general Phil Gormley said the crackdown was the biggest police operation of its kind in Britain.

N. Korean ship runs aground off Mexico

A North Korean freighter has run aground in the Gulf of Mexico just days after a stop in Havana that sparked comparisons with another Pyongyang vessel captured last summer with a large and illegal shipment of Cuban weapons.

The 430-foot Mu Du Bong grounded Monday on a reef about 7 miles from the Mexican port of Tuxpan, according to shipping industry officials.

The ship was empty and planning to pick up cargo in Tuxpan, according to a report by the Agence France Presse. Tuxpan is known as one of Mexico's main sugar exporting ports.

Libya considers calling for international troops

CAIRO — Libya's interim government says it is considering requesting the international community send troops to the country after three days of fighting destroyed large parts of the capital's airport.

In a statement on its official website Tuesday, the government also urged all rival parties to cease hostilities, saying commanders who violate its orders would face charges of "crimes against humanity." It added that a national committee would supervise the withdrawal of militias from the airport to outside the city.

The government also said that 90 percent of the aircraft at the airport were in the shelling, while several buildings, including the customs house, were completely destroyed.

From wire reports

The Palestinians flee as strikes intensify

By Ibrahim Barzak and Peter Enav The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Hundreds of Palestinian families, their children crying, fled Wednesday, as Israel intensified airstrikes on Hamas targets, including homes of the movement's leaders, following failed Egyptian cease-fire efforts. Before the renewed bombardment, Israel had told tens of thousands of residents of border areas to evacuate their neighborhoods.

The Palestinian death toll in nine days of fighting rose to 204, with some 1,450 wounded, Palestinian health officials said. On the Israeli side, one man was killed and several people were wounded since the fighting erupted on July 8.

The renewed bombings came a day after Israel initially accepted an Egyptian truce proposal that called for a halt of hostilities. That was to be followed by talks on the terms of a longer-term cease-fire, including easing Gaza's 7-year-old border blockade by Israel and Egypt.

Hamas rejected the plan and instead launched more rockets at Israel. The militant group views



LEFFERS PITARAKIS/AP

A girl cries as Palestinians flee their homes in the Shajaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City after Israel airdropped leaflets warning people to leave the area on Wednesday.

a significant easing of the blockade as key to its survival, but does not believe Egypt's current rulers — who deposed a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo last year — can be fair brokers.

As Cairo's effort collapsed, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Hamas will pay a high price for rejecting

the truce offer. The website of the Gaza Interior Ministry said Israel warplanes carried out dozens of airstrikes before dawn Wednesday, targeting 30 houses, including those of senior Hamas leaders Mahmoud Zahar, Jamila Shanti, Fathi Hamas and Ismail Ashkar. Zahar was a key figure in

Hamas' violent takeover of Gaza in 2007, while the other three were members of the Palestinian parliament elected in 2006. Many Hamas leaders have gone into hiding since the beginning of the Israeli offensive.

Israel also told tens of thousands of residents of the northern town of Beit Lahiya and the Zeitoun and Shajaiyah neighborhoods of Gaza City, all near the border with Israel, to evacuate their homes by 8 a.m. Wednesday. The warnings were delivered in automated phone calls, text messages and leaflets dropped from planes.

The Israeli military said in its message that large numbers of rockets were launched from those areas and that Israel plans to bomb the locations.

"Whoever disregards these instructions and fails to evacuate immediately, endangers their own lives, as well as those of their families," the message said.

On Wednesday morning, hundreds of residents of Zeitoun and Shajaiyah were seen walking in the streets, carrying small bags with belongings. Older children carried smaller ones in their arms or on their backs.

Advertisement for ABC travel.de/stripes featuring a table of flight prices and a 'TOP CRUISES' offer for \$569 per person for a 6-day Mediterranean Sea cruise.

Advertisement for Dr. med. Peter v. Seck, a German physician, with contact information for his clinic in Wiesbaden, including phone, email, and website.

Large advertisement for Smoketribbe Fresh Restaurant, featuring the text 'Premium Catering | Home Delivery | Office Delivery | Wholesale', 'Smoketribbe FRESH RESTAURANT™', and 'Fresh 100% Naturally Prepared Food Prepared Especially For You!'.

WORLD



AARON FAVILA/AP

Residents wade through floods as they go back to their home while Typhoon Rammasun batters suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines, on Wednesday.

Typhoon kills 12, but shift spares Philippines capital

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A typhoon roared through the Philippines, killing at least 12 people, knocking out power in many areas and damaging a parked jet-liner, but the country's sprawling capital was largely spared when the storm's fierce winds shifted direction, officials said.

Typhoon Rammasun's winds of 93 mph and gusts of up to 115 mph brought down trees and electric posts and ripped off roofs across Manila, the capital of 12 million people, shutting government offices and schools. More than 370,000 people moved from high-risk villages to emergency shelters in six of the nation's provinces.

The storm weakened before blowing out of the country later Wednesday, heading toward northern Vietnam or China's Hainan Island, forecaster Jori Loiz said. He said it could regain strength while crossing the South China Sea.

In a shantytown at the edge of Manila Bay, hundreds of people fled when winds tore tin roofs. Most were drenched before they reached an evacuation center with the help of emergency workers.

Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada said he was relieved there were no reported deaths after the typhoon sideswiped his city, although its winds still downed trees and damaged seaside shanties, prompting more than 1,000

residents to evacuate.

"It was like a drill," he said. "We hauled people away from dangerous seaside areas, whether they liked it or not."

Officials reported at least 12 deaths elsewhere, mostly people pinned by falling trees and electrical posts. A fire volunteer died when he was hit by a block of concrete while hauling down a Philippine flag in suburban Pasig city, said Francis Tolentino, chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

With last year's massive devastation and deaths from Typhoon Haiyan still on the minds of many, officials said people readily evacuated after being told of the danger.

China moves oil rig out of waters Vietnam claims

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — China on Wednesday moved an oil rig out of waters claimed by Hanoi after two months of drilling that triggered a near-breakdown in ties between the neighbors and led to deadly protests in Vietnam.

Withdrawing the rig from near the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea reduces the immediate risk of a naval standoff but will do little to mend relations between the two countries, Beijing made it clear it was shifting the billion-dollar rig because it had completed its work, not because of the criticism of its actions.

Vietnam demanded that China never deploy a rig again in waters it claims in the region.

"Vietnam is determined to defend its sovereignty and sovereign rights in accordance with international law," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

China deployed the rig in early May, then Hanoi demanded Beijing withdraw it and sent patrol ships to try and disrupt the operations. China insisted it had done nothing wrong and accused Vietnam of illegally disrupting its activities.

The deployment of the rig was widely seen as part of a strategy by China of gradually staking out its claims in the South China Sea, all or part of which are also claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei.

China's Foreign Ministry said the rig was withdrawn because the typhoon season was beginning

and the work had been completed. It said it discovered oil and gas in its explorations but was assessing the data before deciding its next move. Whether Beijing deployed the rig for genuine exploration reasons or geopolitical ones was never clear.

Ha Le, deputy director of Vietnam's fisheries resources surveillance department, said China began removing the rig and escorting vessels Tuesday night, and by 8 a.m. Wednesday it was 40 nautical miles northwest of its original location.

He said 30 vessels from Vietnam's coast guard and fisheries patrol forces that were sent to try to force the Chinese oil rig away will return to port to avoid Typhoon Rammasun, which is on a path into the South China Sea.

China's unwillingness to move the rig exposed Vietnam's lack of options when dealing with its giant neighbor. The shroudings of the government are worked in secrecy, but it has long been assumed that the Communist Party is split between a faction that favors a tough line against Beijing — and consequentially stronger ties with the United States and U.S. allies — and other members who believe a quiet compromise can be reached with their ideological allies in China.

As a result of the rig placement, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has said the country was preparing to file a legal challenge to China's claims in an international tribunal. It remains to be seen whether Vietnam will go ahead with that now that the rig has been withdrawn.

Al-Maliki welcomes election of new parliament speaker

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's embattled prime minister welcomed on Wednesday the election of a parliament speaker — the first step in forming a new government amid an increasing threat from militants who have taken over a large swath of northern and western Iraq.

During his weekly televised speech, Nouri al-Maliki also called on the new legislative body to put aside political rivalries and to work together to pass pending laws and to coordinate with the executive body.

But al-Maliki, who has ruled Iraq since 2006 and is now under intense pressure to step aside, did

not indicate whether he would withdraw his nomination.

"I hope that they will work in harmony and to agree on running the parliament... away from all differences and calculations," al-Maliki said. "But this must not affect the work of the parliament which represents the people's will," he added.

On Tuesday, parliament members broke their deadlock by choosing a Sunni for parliament speaker as well as two new deputies — a Shiite and a Kurd. But, political rivals have yet to agree on the most contentious post of prime minister or on a new president.

Under an informal agreement

that took hold after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the speaker's chair goes to a Sunni, the presidency to a Kurd and the prime minister's post to a Shiite. Iraqis are under pressure to form a new government that can confront the advances of Sunni militant groups.

Al-Maliki's coalition, State of Law, emerged a clear winner in April following a national election, securing 92 seats out of 328. But his former Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni allies deny him a third term because of what they see as his monopoly on decision-making, his perceived sectarian policies toward the Sunnis and Kurds, and the military setbacks of the past two weeks.

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NATION

Protests and to immigrant debate

By Astrid Galvan
The Associated Press

ORACLE, Ariz. — Protesters waved “Return to Sender” signs, showed a group of mariachi musicians and waited for a bus of immigrant children that the local sheriff told them would arrive. At one point, they briefly halted a bus before realizing it was carrying children from a YMCA.

The bus of Central American children never arrived, ending a day of protest in a small Arizona town that drew more than 100 people on both sides of the immigration debate.

Sheriff Paul Babeu is credited with stirring up the anti-immigrant protesters via social media postings and a press release and by leaking information about the migrants’ arrival to a local activist. The Sycamore Canyon Academy acknowledged that it had an agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services to take in a “small number” of immigrant children from Central America, but it did not specify how many and when they would arrive.

“All this was done in secrecy, and that’s where a lot of people are upset,” Babeu said Tuesday. My concern (is) where’s the federal government? Why are they not here? Why did they not hold a town hall to answer some of these questions?”

He addressed both sides of the protesters, asking them to remain civil, abide by the law and keep the roads cleared. Immigrant rights activists questioned Babeu about agitating protesters when he should be bringing order as the county’s top lawman.

Babeu said he was simply informing the public and was at the site to make sure the protests on both sides were peaceful.

The protests came as the government released new numbers that show how many immigrant families and children have been pouring into the country in recent months. The Border Patrol says 55,420 family members have been caught at the border from October through the end of June, a nearly 500 percent increase from the same period in the previous year. The number includes adults apprehended with



MATT YORK/AP

Protesters gather near the entrance to a juvenile facility in Oracle, Ariz., on Tuesday in an effort to stop a busload of Central American immigrant children from being delivered to the facility.

their young children, and most of them were caught in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas. In addition, the Border Patrol says 57,525 unaccompanied children have been apprehended through the end of June.

The dueling groups in Oracle had a combined 130 people at the peak of the protests, including about 80 rallying against the shipment of immigrants and 50 in favor. Pro-immigrant supporters held welcome signs with drawings of hearts.

Emily Duwel, of Oracle, said she did not want her town to be misrepresented by what she said was a minority of people against the children being housed here.

“I’m just concerned about these children

who have had to escape worlds of incredible violence,” Duwel said.

A spokesman for the federal Department of Health and Human Services said the agency would not identify the locations of shelters for migrants to protect their identities and safety.

Babeu has generated controversy in the past over his immigration rhetoric. When five bodies were found in a burned-out SUV in his county in 2012, Babeu quickly declared that the killings appeared to be the work of a drug cartel. A few days later, it was learned that it was a murder-suicide of a suburban Phoenix family and not drug-related.

Gay pol has sights on House seat

By Kevin Freking
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Carl DeMaio figures he must be doing something right if both social conservatives and members of the gay rights community oppose him.

“It means you’re right in the middle where the American people are,” DeMaio, who is gay, said in a recent interview.

Running for Congress in a district almost evenly divided among Democrats, Republicans and independents, DeMaio gives the GOP one of its best chances for winning a Democratic-controlled House seat, this one in the San Diego area.

But the gay rights community leans heavily Democratic, and the Human Rights Campaign endorsed the Democratic incumbent, Rep. Scott Peters. Meanwhile, the socially conservative Family Research Council and others weighed in during the primary with mailers, rebroadcasts and radio ads to boost the prospects of another Republican. The conservative groups are expected to stand down for the general election but haven’t made a firm commitment about their plans.

Across the country, the two other gay Republicans — Dan Innis, of New Hampshire, and Richard Tisei, of Massachusetts — have so far avoided being targeted by social conservatives as they prepare for September primaries.



DeMaio

Innis faces former Republican Rep. Frank Guinta. Tisei is unopposed. Both were endorsed by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, which called them “pragmatic and visionary leaders” whose election would “shatter a glass ceiling for the Republican Party.”

The organization said DeMaio never sought its endorsement, which is a necessary first step to getting it.

DeMaio said the story is more complicated, dating to 2012, when the group declined to endorse him when he ran unsuccessfully for mayor of San Diego.

He said they gave insider campaign information to his opponent.

Steven Thax, a spokesman for the Victory Fund, rejected DeMaio’s claim and said DeMaio didn’t qualify for an endorsement.

EEOC sets pregnancy rules

WASHINGTON — New federal guidelines on job discrimination against pregnant workers could have a big impact on the workplace and in the courtroom.

The expanded rules adopted by the bipartisan Equal Employment Opportunity Commission make clear that any form of workplace discrimination or harassment against pregnant workers by employers is a form of sex discrimination — and illegal.

Updating its pregnancy discrimination guidelines for the first time in more than 30 years, the agency cited a “persistence of overt pregnancy discrimination, as well as the emergence of more subtle discrimination and practices.”

The guidelines spell out for the first time how the Americans With Disabilities Act applies to pregnant workers.

From The Associated Press

NYC’s mayor takes heat for vacation plans

By Jonathan Lemire
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York’s tabloid newspaper from pages next week are easy to imagine: a photo of a nightmarish traffic jam caused by a strike at the largest U.S. commuter railroad juxtaposed with a shot of Mayor Bill de Blasio sunning himself on an Italian beach.

Despite the potentially damaging political optics, the Democratic mayor appears set on embarking Friday on a 10-day Italian vacation in the face of a looming Long Island Rail Road strike, which if it happens Sunday could paralyze portions of the

largest U.S. city. The mayor had said he would return from his trip if a crisis arose but signaled this week that he believed his team could manage without him.

De Blasio, his wife and their two teenage children are planning to visit his ancestral homeland, journeying to the southern Italian mountain towns that his grandparents called home, meeting local officials and taking their first family vacation in years.

Even before the Long Island Rail Road labor talks broke down, the trip, funded in part by taxpayers, raised eyebrows. De Blasio has been in office only since January, and his vacation is scheduled to last longer than those of recent mayors.

His predecessor, independent Michael Bloomberg, never took a full week off though he did frequently escape for long weekends in Bermuda or London. Republican Rudy Giuliani also rarely took time off and said in a radio interview Tuesday that, “The mayor has got to be present when an emergency takes place.”

Some political consultants said the trip would look bad for De Blasio.

“If I were on his staff, and it looked like the strike was going to happen, I would tell him not to go,” said Jeanne Zaino, a political science professor at Iona College. “It’s going to look very bad, and he’s going to be hit really hard.”

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Poll: Overdraft protection confusing

By Richard Newman
The (Hacksack, N.J.) Record

Despite new rules on fee transparency, banks and their customers are often not on the same wavelength when it comes to overdraft protection.

A new poll by The Pew Charitable Trusts says many account holders are "still confused and unhappy" with overdraft practices and fees. More than half of them who have paid an overdraft fee recently said they don't even recall signing up for the service.

Debit card overdraft programs have proliferated over the past 15 years and are among the most-complained about of banking services. That's why the federal government prohibited banks in 2010 from automatically enrolling customers in those programs. Too many account holders were blindsided by hefty penalty fees. Banks closed too many accounts because of negative balances resulting from overdrafts and fees, effectively banning them from

the banking system.

Now customers must "opt-in" for debit card overdraft protection, where banks will cover overdrafts that result from ATM withdrawals and debit card purchases and charge fees for doing so, typically \$35 per occurrence. While the opt-in rule has allowed many consumers to avoid penalty charges, many people are still feeling blindsided when they unwittingly overdraw an account and learn later they got hit with one or more fees.

Susan Weinstock, Pew's director of consumer banking research, hopes the organization's new checking account disclosure form being adopted by a growing number of banks will help. The form spells out three options:

- Option A for consumers with debit cards is the "no overdraft service" option, which means transactions that would cause an overdraft will be declined and no fee is charged by the bank.
- Option B is the "Overdraft

Transfer Fee," the amount of which per overdraft is clearly posted. The overdraft transfer is covered by linking the consumer's own savings account, line of credit or credit card to the debit card account. Typically the fee for that type of overdraft is \$10, according to Pew.

■ The more expensive Option C, the "overdraft penalty plan," lists the overdraft penalty fee, the maximum number of penalty fees per day, how much of an overdraft triggers the penalty fee, and the amounts and terms of extended overdraft penalty fees — which are based on the number of days the account remains in the red.

Also from the Pew survey: ■ The median overdraft fee was \$35, but the average total fees for an overdraft event was \$69.

■ More than two-thirds of the respondents would prefer that the bank decline to make the debit card payment if there was not enough money in the account, rather than cover it and charge a

fee. ■ Eight out of 10 respondents said banks' overdraft practices should be more closely regulated.

The main lesson consumers should take away from being charged with overdraft fees is they should not let their balances drop below zero, said Greg McBride, senior analyst at Bankrate.com. "There is really no excuse for repeatedly overdrawing your account," he said.

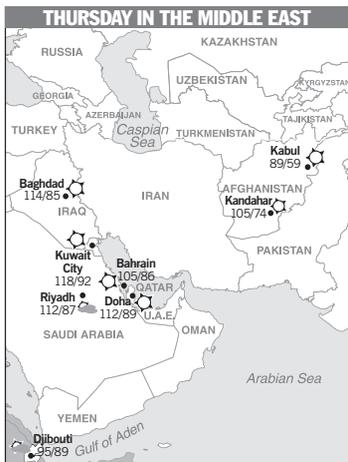
MARKET WATCH	
July 15, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	5.26 17,060.68
Nasdaq composite	-24.03 4,416.39
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.82 1,973.28
Russell 2000	-11.81 1,153.81

EXCHANGE RATES	
Military rates	
Euro costs (July 17)	\$1.3966
Dollar buys (July 17)	€0.7191
British pound (July 17)	\$1.76
Japanese yen (July 17)	99.00
South Korean won (July 17)	1,007.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7139
Canada (Dollar)	1.0774
China (Yuan)	6.2400
Denmark (Krone)	6.5115
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506
Euro	\$1.3530/0.7391
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7526
Hungary (Forint)	228.60
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4201
Japan (Yen)	100.71
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2825
Norway (Krone)	6.2038
Philippines (Peso)	43.61
Poland (Zloty)	3.206
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2422
South Korea (Won)	1,028.93
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8983
Thailand (Baht)	32.10
Turkey (Lira)	12.1200

(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 non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., non-purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	2.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	83	62	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	76	56	Pcldy	Louisville	82	63	Cldy	Pocatello	92	56	Cldy	Sioux City	79	56	Cldy
Ablene, Texas	87	68	Rain	Cheyenne	74	53	Pcldy	Fresno	95	68	Cldy	Lubbock	80	63	Cldy	Portland, Maine	79	56	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	78	59	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	75	52	Cldy	Chicago	77	60	Cldy	Goodland	70	55	Cldy	Macon	89	69	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	80	57	Pcldy	South Bend	76	57	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	80	55	Cldy	Cincinnati	77	59	Pcldy	Grand Junction	77	58	Pcldy	Madison	76	56	Pcldy	Pueblo	78	56	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	78	56	Pcldy
Albuquerque	90	67	Cldy	Cleveland	75	55	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	76	57	Pcldy	Medford	98	62	Cldy	Reno	96	67	Rain	Tallahassee	93	65	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	80	55	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	73	54	Pcldy	Great Falls	91	60	Pcldy	Mempphis	83	64	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	88	64	Pcldy	Tampa	90	78	Cldy
Amarillo	73	59	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	90	57	Pcldy	Green Bay	77	55	Pcldy	Miami Beach	89	77	Cldy	Rapid City	83	60	Pcldy	Tucson	71	63	Rain
Anchorage	64	54	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	89	71	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	85	64	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	94	69	Cldy	Reno	95	67	Rain	Tulsa	84	62	Pcldy
Ashville	77	59	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	75	57	Pcldy	Hanover	77	58	Pcldy	Mobile	94	58	Cldy	Richmond	87	64	Cldy	Waco	91	73	Rain
Atlanta	85	71	Cir	Concord, N.H.	82	54	Cir	Hartford Springfield	82	58	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	61	Cir	Roanoke	81	57	Cir	Washington	85	65	Pcldy
Atlantic City	84	61	Cir	Corpus Christi	96	80	Pcldy	Helena	93	60	Pcldy	Missoula	95	55	Cldy	Rochester	74	55	Cir	Wichita Falls	78	66	Rain
Bismarck	86	61	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	84	72	Rain	Honolulu	89	77	Cldy	Monterey	89	62	Cldy	Rockford	77	58	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	78	66	Rain
Boise	98	65	Cir	Dayton	75	57	Pcldy	Houston	92	76	Cldy	Nashville	83	63	Cldy	Sacramento	85	61	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	83	62	Cir
Boston	81	62	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	90	74	Cldy	Huntsville	83	63	Cldy	Norfolk	85	69	Cldy	St Louis	78	62	Pcldy	Wilmington, N.C.	83	62	Cir
Bridgport	85	60	Cldy	Denver	77	57	Pcldy	Indianapolis	77	57	Pcldy	Newark	83	63	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	81	79	Cldy	Wilmington, Ohio	86	65	Pcldy
Brownsville	95	80	Pcldy	El Paso	98	76	Cldy	Jacksonville	91	70	Pcldy	Newark	83	63	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	91	67	Cir	Youngstown	73	49	Cldy
Buffalo	73	56	Cir	El Paso	98	76	Cldy	Kansas City	76	59	Pcldy	New York City	80	64	Cir	Salt Lake City	91	67	Cir				
Burlington, Vt.	77	53	Cir	Elkins	75	53	Pcldy	Key West	99	81	Cldy	Omaha	78	60	Pcldy	San Antonio	93	71	Rain				
Caribou, Maine	76	53	Cldy	Evansville	78	61	Pcldy	Las Vegas	105	83	Cir	Orlando	93	74	Rain	San Francisco	72	58	Pcldy				
Casper	83	63	Cir	Fairbanks	69	52	Rain	Las Vegas	105	83	Cir	Pendleton	95	79	Pcldy	San Jose	78	59	Pcldy				
Charleston, S.C.	80	70	Cldy	Fargo	83	63	Cir	Lexington	80	61	Cir	Phoenix	78	57	Pcldy	St. Marie	74	52	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	82	67	Pcldy	Flagstaff	82	52	Pcldy	Lincoln	79	59	Pcldy	Philadelphia	83	65	Cir	Savannah	92	69	Pcldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	86	65	Pcldy	Fort Smith	72	64	Rain	Little Rock	80	65	Rain	Phoenix	107	84	Cir	Seattle	77	57	Cir				
								Los Angeles	77	65	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	73	56	Cldy	Shreveport	88	72	Rain				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 118, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Tue., 36, Hettlinger, N.D.

NATION



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Supporters of a ban on hydraulic fracturing stand outside City Hall in Denton, Texas, where lawmakers rejected a measure to ban the drilling method Tuesday.

Town rejects fracking ban

By EMILY SCHMALL
The Associated Press

DENTON, Texas — The council governing a North Texas city that sits atop a large natural gas reserve rejected a bid early Wednesday that would have made it the first city in the state to ban further permitting of hydraulic fracturing in the community.

Denton City Council members voted down the petition 5-2 after eight hours of public testimony, sending the proposal to a public ballot in November.

Fracking involves blasting a mix of water, sand and chemicals deep into underground rock formations to release trapped oil and gas. While the method has long stirred concerns about its effects on the environment and human health, industry proponents argue that fracking can be done safely and is cleaner than other forms of energy extraction.

Industry groups and state regulators warned such a ban could be followed by litigation and a severe hit to Denton's economy.

Barry Smitherman, chairman of the Railroad Commission, the Texas oil and gas regulator, said in a letter addressed to Denton's mayor and city council last week that a fracking ban in Denton would "increase America's dependence" on foreign oil and natural gas.

Tom Phillips, a former chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court, representing the powerful Texas Oil and Gas Association, testified that some of its thousands of members would "undoubtedly sue" if the ban eventually passed. Organizers of the citizen-led petition that — with about 1,900 voter signatures — forced the council to Wednesday's vote, said they proposed the ban as a last resort after fracking operators defied city rules, particularly ones governing setbacks and flaring.

"If the industry had approached anything near reasonableness" in accepting the rules, activists would not have demanded the ban, said Sharon Wilson, of the environmental nonprofit Earthworks.

In making a motion to approve the ban, Councilman Kevin Roden argued the "bold move" would force industry to come up with solutions to satisfy citizens' concerns. The motion was not seconded.

The threats of litigation appeared to color how some of the Denton council members voted. Councilman Greg Johnson voiced concerns that lawsuits from the state and from mineral holders could bankrupt the city.

An estimated 500 people turned out to Denton City Hall Tuesday, spilling over into satellite rooms and even a city building across the street. More than 100 people registered to speak during the hearing before the vote.

Some petition supporters addressed the council in tears, saying the risks to human health and the environment outweigh the economic benefits.

Denton sits on the Barnett Shale, which is believed to hold one of the largest natural gas reserves in the U.S.

Federal judge grants stay in Mo. execution

By JIM SALTER
The Associated Press

BONNE TERRE, Mo. — A last-minute stay from a federal judge has put a Missouri inmate's execution temporarily on hold.

John Middleton was scheduled to die one minute after midnight Wednesday for killing three people in rural northern Missouri in 1995. With less than two hours to go before the execution, U.S. District Judge Catherine Perry granted a stay, ruling there was enough evidence of mental illness that a new hearing should be held.

Courts have established that executing the mentally ill is unconstitutional.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster appealed to the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, but that court adjourned for the night without a ruling.

It was a confusing end to a day that saw a flurry of court actions. Perry first granted a stay early Tuesday, but that was overturned by the appeals court. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to overturn the appeals court ruling and declined to halt the execution on several other grounds, including the contention by Middleton's attorneys that he was innocent of the crimes.

Middleton's attorneys then went back to Perry, who once again granted a stay. However the appeals court eventually rules, the case is likely to end up again in the U.S. Supreme Court.

If the stay is lifted, the state could execute Middleton at any time Wednesday. The death warrant expires at midnight Thursday, and if Middleton is not executed by then, the Missouri Supreme Court would have to set a new date. State witnesses and media were told to report back to the prison by 10:30 a.m.

Middleton, 54, would be the sixth man put to death in Missouri this year — only Florida and Texas have performed more executions in 2014, with seven

each.

Middleton was convicted of killing Randy "Happy" Hamilton, Stacey Hodge and Alfred Pinegar out of concern that they would tell police about his methamphetamine dealing. Middleton's girlfriend, Maggie Hodges, is serving life in prison after pleading guilty to second-degree murder in all three cases.

Middleton's attorneys contend that the wrong man was arrested, citing new evidence that included a witness who came forward in February. "We're looking at a situation where if (Middleton) had zealous representation at trial he likely would have been acquitted," attorney Joseph Perkovich said.

Koster disagreed. "The time for enforcement of Missouri's criminal judgment against John Middleton is long overdue," Koster wrote in a court response to Tuesday.

Middleton was a meth dealer in sparsely populated northern Missouri in the mid-1990s. After several drug suspects were arrested on June 10, 1995, he allegedly told a friend, "The snitches around here are going to start going down."

A day later, according to court records, Middleton and his girlfriend met Hamilton and Hodge on a gravel road. Prosecutors said Middleton shot and killed them both and hid the bodies in the trunk of Hamilton's car.

Pinegar, another meth dealer, was shot in the face on June 23, 1995. His body was found in a field near Bethany.

Middleton allegedly told acquaintances about his exploits. He was charged in all three killings and convicted in 1997.



Middleton

2 former attorneys general charged with bribery in Utah

By MICHELLE L. PRICE
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Two former Utah attorneys general were arrested on a range of bribery charges stemming from cozy relationships with several businessmen who plied them with gold coins, lavish trips, flights on private planes and trips aboard a luxury houseboat. They were also accused of trying to cover up the alleged schemes.

Republicans Mark Shurtleff and John Swallow served a combined 13 years as Utah's top law enforcement official while holding significant political sway and ambitions for higher office. Now, they each face 15 years in prison in a case that Gov. Gary Herbert, a fellow Republican, said "serves as a reminder that nobody is above the law and, if anything, public servants

must be held to a higher standard."

Shurtleff, 56, told reporters Tuesday at a news conference that it was a "sobering experience" to be arrested, but he looked forward to defending himself through the legal process. He called it a politically motivated investigation by Salt Lake County's Democratic chief prosecutor.

It was a stunning reversal for a pair who authorities say got entangled in the same type of fraud both of them vowed to fight as they easily won four straight attorney general races.

Despite its image as a wholesome place,

Utah has long struggled with scammers who take advantage of unsuspecting residents and made the state a cradle for swindlers. It has been named one of America's top five pyramid scheme hot spots by the FBI.

During his 2012 campaign for attorney general, Swallow pledged several times to make white-collar crime a priority, including Twitter posts stating he would "fight against financial crime and those who abuse their positions of trust to commit fraud."

After winning his third term in office



Shurtleff



Swallow

in 2008, Shurtleff vowed to spend the next four years fighting fraud the same way he's combated methamphetamine lab operators. Swallow served as chief deputy for Shurtleff from 2009 to early 2013 and was his hand-picked successor.

District Attorney Sim Gill said the investigation is ongoing and additional charges will likely be filed against both men and others. He said the probe had nothing to do with politics.

It's unclear if federal charges are being considered, though the FBI, which is assisting in the probe, said it will continue to investigate a number of leads.

When Swallow, 51, walked out of jail Tuesday afternoon, he said: "I absolutely maintain my innocence. This finally gives us the opportunity to start to respond back."

NATION



PHOTOS BY BEBETO MATTHEWS/AP

Adams and Midwood high schools' Public School Athletic League cricket teams play a match at Marine Park in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

US cricket craze

Intensely popular internationally, sport's US boom fueled by immigrants

By FRANK ELTMAN
The Associated Press

EAST ISLIP, N.Y. — Cricket, the international game of bats and balls that isn't baseball, is enjoying a surge of popularity in America, with the debut of a national league this past spring and higher demand to build "pitches" across the country.

Areas such as New York City, California's Silicon Valley, Washington, Dallas and Chicago have become cricket hotbeds, fueled by an influx of mostly South Asian immigrants, some of whom arrived as part of the high-tech boom.

In the immigrant-rich New York area, cricket has become so popular that lotteries are being held for the chance to play in pitches at some parks. New York City schools still have the only varsity cricket league in the country, but it has doubled in size in just seven years, with 30 teams now competing for the title.

A national traveling league, the Ameri-

can Cricket Champions League, began this past spring and has 17 teams from Boston to Los Angeles vying for a six-team playoff tournament.

For Akash Chowdhury, 17, who arrived in New York City four years ago from Bangladesh and plays in the city schools league, cricket has helped smooth the transition to his new home.

His Brooklyn International High School team, outfitted with crisp, white uniforms and batting helmets like the stars they follow on cable television, often play their games in the outfields of idle baseball diamonds.

"Playing cricket in America helps me remember my back country," Chowdhury said. "But I really don't miss it like that, because I can play here."

In the past several years, communities in states from Maryland to Indiana have taken

initiatives to organize youth leagues and build cricket facilities. The United States Youth Cricket Association has donated 1,500 sets of cricket equipment to community youth programs around the country.

"We're hoping that as kids grow up, they will create pressure on school systems to think of cricket," said Jamie Harrison, CEO of the American Cricket Federation.

John Aaron, executive secretary of the American Cricket Federation, grew up playing the game in his native Guyana. He compares cricket in the U.S. to where soccer was just a few decades ago.

"When soccer first started here, people said it's not going to go anywhere," Aaron said.

"Soccer has not replaced American football, but it has certainly taken off now, hasn't it? ... Cricket can do the same thing."

Playing cricket in America helps me remember my back country.

— Akash Chowdhury, 17-year-old immigrant from Bangladesh

BASICS OF CRICKET

Cricket is wildly popular in former countries of the British Empire. The game is played on a field known as a pitch, but the pitcher is called a bowler. The bowler hurls the ball to the opposing team's batsman, who attempts to hit it with a flattened bat. Depending on how well the ball travels, a hit can result in one or more runs.

In the most traditional forms, a team bowls until 10 opposing batsmen are tagged out, meaning matches can run for days. In other forms, the game is limited by the number of "overs," a series of six throws.

— Frank Eltman

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



KATHY PLONKA, THE (SPOKANE, WASH.) SPOKESMAN-REVIEW/AP

Angling for a fish

Joanie Dwyer, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, fly fishes from her pontoon on Hayden Lake in Hayden, Idaho, on Monday.

Man's bail set at \$100K in bogus bear incident

VT BURLINGTON — A Vermont man who told police he urged his girlfriend to jump off a cliff in a drug-induced haze because of an imagined bear attack was being held on \$100,000 bail on charges including attempted murder and arson.

Lucas Gingras had been held without bail since June 25. Judge James Crucitti changed bail conditions Monday and set special conditions if he's released, including no possession of firearms and no contact with his girlfriend, who was severely injured in the fall. Also, he must wear a tracking device.

Gingras said he thought the drug caused him to hallucinate that a bear was near the cabin. Gingras said he believed he heard something trying to get into the cabin and set it on fire before the couple fled to the cliff where he urged his girlfriend to jump, police said.

Man arrested after 'stabbing' watermelon

CT BANTAM — A man faces threatening charges after a woman told police he stabbed a watermelon in a passive-aggressive manner.

The Register Citizen, of Torrington, reported that Carmine Cervellino, 49, of Thomaston, was arraigned Monday on charges of threatening and disorderly conduct. He was released after posting a \$500 bond.

Officers said the woman had gone to police on July 4 to report

THE CENSUS

67

The number of giant African snails that were seized at Los Angeles International Airport on July 1. The snails, which are prohibited in the U.S., are a popular delicacy across West Africa. They arrived from Nigeria and were being sent to a person in San Dimas, Calif., according to Lee Harty, a spokeswoman for U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The snails were confiscated, and a sample was sent the next day to a federal mollusk specialist in Washington who identified them as a prohibited species. The mollusks, which were incriminated, can carry parasites that are harmful to humans, including one that can lead to meningitis.



finding drugs, including marijuana, in Cervellino's tool box. He was not arrested.

They said she later returned home to find the watermelon on the counter with a butcher's knife in it. She reported that Cervellino then entered the room and began carving the watermelon. She called the incident passive-aggressive and menacing.

House explodes in early morning; 2 found dead

PA DARLINGTON — Authorities said a man and woman were killed in an early morning house explosion in a rural area of western Pennsylvania.

Emergency dispatchers in Beaver County said the blast was reported about 4 a.m. Tuesday at the residence in South Beaver Township, about 40 miles northwest of Pittsburgh.

Officer Jesse Richman said the victims, who were in their mid-to late 60s, were inside the ranch-style home at the time.

Fire crews were initially kept away from the scene because of smaller explosions that police believe to have been ammunition going off, but they were later able to extinguish the blaze.

Terrorism suspect's eatery lost to fire

NY ROCHESTER — A fire destroyed a Rochester restaurant owned by a Yemen-born man charged last month with plotting vengeance attacks against members of the U.S. military and the Muslim community.

Local media reported that firefighters responded late Sunday night to a report of a fire at the former Mojees Restaurant.

Firefighters had to break down the boarded-up door of the building to get inside. Officials said the restaurant's interior was destroyed.

In June, the restaurant's owner, Mufid Elfgeeh, 30, was arrested after federal prosecutors said he bought two unregistered guns from an FBI informant. Investigators said he plotted to kill returning U.S. troops for American actions overseas, and to kill Shiite Muslims over the civil war in Syria.

Pig that threatened children seen again

ME OAKLAND — Police in the town of Oakland said a pig that threatened two children walking through

the woods has scared another passer-by.

They've now closed the walking trail where the pig's been seen. The Morning Sentinel reported that following last week's scare, a woman on Monday took refuge on the side rail of a wooden bridge after seeing the 80-pound black-and-white pig. She wasn't attacked.

Police searched for the pig, but found only tracks. They are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the school district and the animal control officer to capture the pig.

Pingpong balls rain on highway after mistake

ID BLACKFOOT — A pilot who dropped 3,000 pingpong balls that were redeemable for prizes missed a crowd assembled for the stunt and instead hit a nearby interstate.

Organizers immediately called off the contest. Aaron Moon and helpers on Saturday told revelers at Blackfoot Pride Days not to risk retrieving the pingpong balls amid high-speed traffic because organizers still planned to pass out the prizes.

Most of the pingpong balls could have been exchanged for candy, but some were worth gift

certificates up to \$100.

Blackfoot Police Chief Kurt Asmus told the Idaho State Journal that no charges are planned, but police plan to work with organizers next year.

Lawsuit: DEA gave man crack for help in probe

NM ALBUQUERQUE — Federal agents paid a struggling addict in crack cocaine for his help with an undercover investigation into a Las Vegas drug operation, a new lawsuit claims.

According to court papers filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Albuquerque, Aaron Romero, 38, was approached by DEA agents in 2011 to assist with drug deals in exchange for portions of the drugs obtained by authorities.

Romero's participation in "Operation Smack City" reignited a previous crack addiction as he became a victim of recklessness on behalf of DEA agents, causing severe emotional and physical harm, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit says the arrangement was in violation of DEA policy since the agency did not get prior approval from prosecutors.

From wire reports

FACES

Marvel Comics makes Thor a thunder goddess

Thor is now a Goddess of Thunder. Marvel Comics announced Tuesday that the hammer-wielding Norse superhero will be a woman in upcoming comic book issues. Marvel was thin on details explaining the switch, but said in a press release that "no longer is the classic male hero able to hold the mighty hammer." The new Thor was debuted on "The View" where artwork was revealed showcasing a buxom blonde clad a caped costume and brandishing the trademark hammer.

Series writer Jason Aaron says in a statement that "This is not She-Thor. This is not Lady Thor. ... This is THE Thor."

The Marvel universe has historically been male-dominated, but that might be changing. Marvel Studios is developing a standalone film for Black Widow, the character played by Scarlett Johansson.

Buble gets emergency dental help before show

Thanks to some help from a dentist, singer Michael Buble was able to go on stage in New Hampshire as scheduled.

WMUR-TV reports that less than 24 hours before he was to perform in Manchester, last week during his "Crazy Love" tour, Buble dislodged a crown while trying to open a ketchup packet with his teeth.

The crooner's tour manager tracked down the home number of dentist David Bloom and reached his wife. Bloom was in surgery, but was able to make room for his appointment. Bloom said afterward, there was some phototaking. Buble gave them front-row seats to his concert, and kudos at the end of the show.

Bieber's Fla. DUI case suffers another delay

Justin Bieber's lawyers and Florida prosecutors said Wednesday they need more time to work out a possible plea deal on charges that the pop star drove over the influence and resisted arrest.

Assistant State Attorney David Gilbert and Bieber attorney Mark Shapiro asked for an additional three weeks. Miami-Dade County Judge William Altfeld reset the matter for July 23.

Bieber was arrested early Jan. 23 in Miami Beach.

Other news

Nick and Vanessa Lachey are expecting their second baby, their publicists confirm. The singer and VH1's "Big Morning Buzz Live" host first made the announcement on his Twitter account Tuesday, the couple's third wedding anniversary.

A spokesman for Casey Kasem's daughter says the famous radio host's body remains at a funeral home in Tacoma, Wash., a month after his death. Danny Deraney, publicist for Kerri Kasem, says Kasem's children from his first marriage hope he will be buried at Forest Lawn cemetery in Glendale, Calif.

From The Associated Press



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

From left, Laurence Fishburne, Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson spoke at the panel for the series "Black-ish" during the Disney/ABC Television Group 2014 Summer Television Critics Association in Beverly Hills, Calif., on Tuesday. On the show, Ross and Anderson play a husband and wife. "Black-ish" also stars Fishburne, who also has a role on NBC's "Hannibal." Fishburne says he won't do a full season of either series so he has time for both.

ABC network exec says diversity is authenticity

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

ABC's fall slate includes new series about black, Asian-American and Hispanic families. But calling the network's choices a case study in diversity is to miss the point, said Paul Lee, ABC Entertainment Group president.

"It is a mission statement to reflect America," Lee told the summer meeting of the Television Critics Association on Tuesday. "That's not so much diversity as authenticity when you reflect America."

The network has the advantage of strong storytellers including Shonda Rhimes, the force behind ABC's "Grey's Anatomy" and "Scandal." She's going for a Thursday-night trifecta with "How to Get Away with Murder."



Rhimes

The new drama stars Viola Davis as a hard-charging law professor and criminal defense attorney, giving the actress the kind of starring role that TV doesn't often accord minorities. Rhimes has done the same thing with "Scandal" and star Kerry Washington.

ABC, the home of white-oriented comedies "Modern Family" and "The Middle," will introduce ethnic families in the sitcoms "Black-ish," "Cristela" and "Fresh Off the Boat."

All of them have minority creators or producers or both behind the camera, which Lee said drives the shows' authenticity.

"Black-ish," about an African-American family whose father worries that they're losing touch with their ethnicity, stars Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross and includes creator Kenya Barris as well as Laurence Fishburne and Larry Wilmore among its executive producers.

Although the shows are about ethnically specific families, they

are relatable for all viewers, Lee said. "These are American stories, make no mistake about it," he said.

Barris said race is not the central point of "Black-ish."

"This show has so much less to do with race than it does with culture and identity," Barris said. America today is divided more along socio-economic lines than racial ones, he said, and the show intends to explore that division.

When Rhimes was asked to discuss the lesson TV might learn from the rarity of two shows with black female leads, she replied, "Do I think there are any lessons? No, I don't. The shows speak for themselves."

Lee was asked why one returning show about an ethnic family, "The Goldbergs," seems to avoid the Jewish experience, such as showing a celebration of Hanukkah or a bar mitzvah.

There is no agenda at work, Lee replied, saying such decisions were up to creator and executive producer Adam Goldberg.

Bullock's stalker was outside her bedroom

The Associated Press

Sandra Bullock's recent encounter with a stalker in her Hollywood, Calif., home reads like a scene from a scary movie in newly released documents, painting a portrait of an obsessed fan who described himself as her husband.

Joshua James Corbett, 39, was later found to have a stash of illegal weapons including two fully automatic rifles and a machine gun at his home. But he was unarmed when he broke into Bullock's home, affidavits in the case said.

Investigators said the sleeping actress was awakened at 6:30 a.m. June 8 by banging noises, opened her bedroom door and saw a dark-clad stranger moving toward the stairs.

Bullock, who has portrayed brave, strong women on screen, took quick action, locking the door and summoning police. "Sandy, I'm sorry!" the man shouted as he was being taken away. "Don't press charges."

Police determined Corbett had scaled the gates of the home and forced open a locked sun-room glass door. He remains in jail awaiting trial and could face more than seven years in prison.

The incident shocked Hollywood and resurrected memories of other stars plagued by stalkers. Actress Rebecca Schaeffer was slain by a stalker in the 1980s and her death led to tightened laws to make stalking a crime and keep stalkers away from their prey. Madonna, Steven Spielberg, Ryan Seacrest and others became stalking victims but were not harmed.

The newly released affidavits gave the first detailed account of what happened inside Bullock's home. Corbett had a letter he had written to the actress the day before the break-in professing his love for her and insisting he was her husband and the father of her son.

Ioan Gruffudd plays revealing role in 'Forever'

The Associated Press

Ioan Gruffudd is used to playing extraordinary characters, but his latest comes with a special challenge. In the "Fantastic Four" movies, he was the brainy shapeshifter Mister Fantastic. In ABC's upcoming series "Forever," the Welsh actor plays a man who is fated to die and be reborn over and over — and each time he

comes back, he's naked.

"It made me appreciate the fact that I had a muscle suit on as Mister Fantastic," Gruffudd, 39, told a TV critics' summer meeting Tuesday. "I'm not getting younger, so there's a commitment to the cause that one has to make" with diet and exercise.

He plays a New York City medical examiner who's keeping his immortality a secret. Alana de la

Garza stars as a police detective who shares cases and chemistry with Gruffudd's Dr. Henry Mordecai. "I would welcome the chance to live forever, Gruffudd and de la Garza had quick replies. "It just feels too painful," he said.

"Outliving your children would just be ...," she said. "That's the heart of Gruffudd said, finishing the sentence.



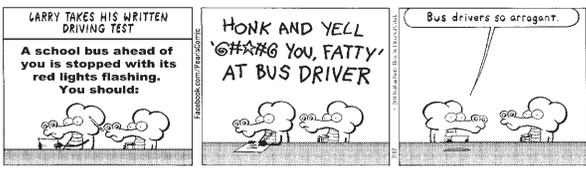
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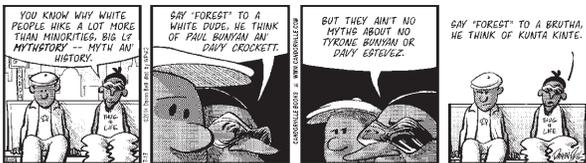
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



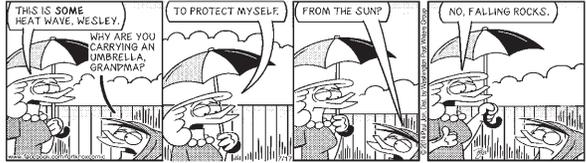
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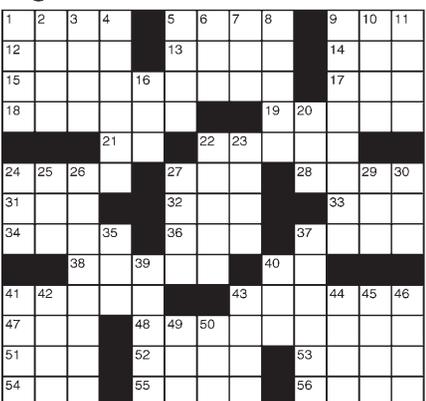
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword



- ACROSS**
- 1 Gentle soul
 - 5 Film sample
 - 9 Wrestling victory
 - 12 Nastase of tennis
 - 13 Golf target
 - 14 Inseparable
 - 15 Field event
 - 17 Depressed
 - 18 Put into words
 - 19 Representative
 - 21 French article
 - 22 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
 - 24 Spouse
 - 27 Prohibit
 - 28 Dance lesson
 - 31 Piercing tool
 - 32 Big fuss
 - 33 Past
 - 34 Wander
 - 36 Triumph
 - 37 Item on stage
 - 38 "It Happened One Night" star
 - 40 Common Latin abbr.
 - 41 Granny Smith, e.g.
 - 47 — Magnon
 - 48 Amundsen's destination
 - 51 "2001" computer
 - 52 Gaelic
 - 53 Pork cut
 - 54 CBS logo
- DOWN**
- 1 Osculation tools
 - 2 Greatly
 - 3 Actress Kunis
 - 4 Scarab bug
 - 5 African nation
 - 6 Bud's partner
 - 7 Under the weather
 - 8 "Loves me (not)" determinant
 - 9 Mariners' guide
 - 10 Aware of
 - 11 Small salamander
 - 16 Victory sign
 - 20 Petrol
 - 21 Miss Hawkins of Dogpatch
 - 22 Strong metal
 - 24 Kids' card game
 - 25 — Jima
 - 26 Perch in a 1920s fad
 - 27 Weep loudly
 - 29 Id counterpart
 - 30 Burst
 - 35 — de mer
 - 37 Pop culture magazine
 - 39 Surround
 - 40 "— bin ein Berliner"
 - 41 Rue the run
 - 42 Ask God
 - 43 Goblet feature
 - 44 Castle
 - 45 Writer Wiesel
 - 46 Hideaways
 - 49 Tramcar load
 - 50 Exploit

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-17 **CRYPTOQUIP**

V XGI'E BIGQ QMN V'R DG
 XOHPN QGWWVOX QMVPO
 RKBVIZ EMVD ZGSPKDM. V

DSHHGDO V'PP BOOH DEOQVIZ.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: BECAUSE THAT UNMARRIED ALASKAN MAN HAS A PARKA ON, I SUPPOSE HE'S STILL IN HIS BACHELOR HOOD.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals G

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OPINION

US 'mission creep' won't help in Iraq

By WILLIAM D. HARTUNG

“Mission creep” is the process whereby a military commitment made under one rationale morphs into something larger and more dangerous. That is exactly the risk the Obama administration is running in Iraq.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, disagrees. He prefers the term “mission match,” by which he seems to mean doing what is needed to get the job done without getting drawn into a major military commitment. But exactly what “job” is the Obama administration trying to get done in Iraq?

To restore morale to the Iraqi army? To decisively defeat the Islamic State? To stand up a broad-based, nonsectarian government in Baghdad? None of those goals can be achieved by sending in special operations forces or launching drone strikes.

The truth is that injecting more U.S. weapons, trainers or combat troops into Iraq is likely to make matters worse. U.S. personnel will come under fire at some point, regardless of whether they are called trainers or troops, and any casualties suffered could lead the U.S. military command to send additional forces to protect those already in Iraq. In fact, a recent Pentagon assessment suggests that U.S. trainers may even come under fire from their alleged allies among pro-Iraq government forces, which are composed in significant part of anti-U.S. Shiite militia members.

Other military moves play their own serious risks. Bombing, no matter how “pinpoint,” will cause civilian casualties,

Injecting more U.S. weapons, trainers or combat troops into Iraq is likely to make matters worse.

spurring a political backlash against the United States and providing the Islamic State with a recruiting tool. Sending more arms could just mean more weapons falling into the hands of the Islamic State.

Hopefully, President Barack Obama is more concerned about “mission creep” than Dempsey appears to be. No one in the Obama administration is suggesting the kind of boots-on-the-ground mission that ended up with the deployment of more than 150,000 troops to Iraq at the peak of the most recent U.S. intervention there. But it's worth reminding ourselves what that much larger intervention did and did not accomplish.

After the initial rationales for the war — Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein's purported ties to al-Qaida — fell apart, the administration fell back on the neoconservative argument that the United States could implant a liberal democracy in Iraq by force.

The quest to create a democratic Iraq under U.S. occupation was doomed from the start. The most glaring error was the decision by the Bush administration to dissolve the Iraqi army and remove key members of Saddam's Baath Party from government positions — a process known as “de-Baathification.” That left hundreds of thousands of jobless, angry Sunnis — many with guns and military training — willing and able to

oppose the U.S. presence in Iraq.

Just as U.S. policies helped spark the insurgency that gave birth to the Islamic State, they inadvertently abetted the increase in sectarian violence now plaguing the country. In the final years of the war, Shiite militias were able to act under the umbrella of U.S. military presence to cleanse large parts of Baghdad of Sunnis. The government of Nouri al-Maliki, which took power with U.S. support, has repressed Sunnis throughout Iraq and kept them out of meaningful positions in the government.

In short, the fruits of almost a decade of war, trillions of dollars, and more than 100,000 casualties on all sides is the al-Maliki government, along with the terrorist and sectarian violence it has helped to provoke.

Will U.S. intervention now, in a more complex, chaotic situation, do any better?

The pursuit of “mission match” in the current situation in Iraq is a dangerous fantasy that will only get the United States more deeply embroiled in a civil war while exacerbating the problems that started the conflict in the first place. The Obama administration should pull back now before the momentum of intervention takes on a life of its own.

William D. Hartung is the director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy in New York.

Ensure Afghans benefit from natural resources

By JODI VITTORI

Afghanistan is teetering on the edge. A little-known bill just passed the upper house of its parliament that could help counter threats to the country's stability and future development, but only if the U.S. government works with Afghanistan to ensure that it is fixed before it becomes law.

The United States hopes that Afghanistan's \$1 trillion mineral wealth will kickstart the economy, reduce dependency on U.S. aid and ultimately fund Afghan security forces that can stand up to the Taliban. However, there is a serious risk that measure would instead fuel corruption and conflict while generating little revenue for the government but a lot for insurgents and warlords.

A significant part of the last 30 years of conflict has been funded from the proceeds of natural resources, including emeralds and rubies. Initial research by Global Witness — a London-based nongovernmental organization — aiming to prevent natural resource-related conflict and corruption — confirms that the Taliban and other armed groups are still taking a significant cut from mining in many parts of the country.

So the mining law matters. What the proposed law, which would replace an existing one, is supposed to do is set out how contracts for the vast mineral riches are granted, who is eligible to get them, what taxes they will pay and what protections

there are for the environment and local communities. It should help determine whether the Afghan people receive their fair share of revenue from their natural wealth, or whether power brokers and corrupt officials will pocket the funds in dirty deals. It should spell out whether ordinary Afghans have any right to know who owns the contracts.

Yet as it stands, the proposed law has serious weaknesses. It does not require the publication of contracts or the real ownership of mining companies, has broad criteria for bidding does not even forbid informal militias from being involved in mining. These are fundamental transparency and accountability safeguards, increasingly accepted around the world. Despite some positive provisions, such as the requirement that companies sign a development agreement to help communities around the mines, overall the law simply does not do the job.

Many people in the Afghan and U.S. governments recognize that. But that has not been translated into serious action. In practice, the driving concern behind the bill has been to fix a few provisions in the existing law that might deter investment by international mining companies rather than create a law that would most effectively shield against abuses. Given the threats Afghanistan faces, that is an incredibly shortsighted approach.

The Obama administration should work with the Afghan government to encourage reform of the bill before it becomes

law and, more broadly, to build up effective oversight of the country's natural resources. If U.S. interests are not enough justification, Afghan interests surely are. With more than 1 in 3 people living below the poverty line, Afghanistan desperately needs its resources to drive growth and foster stability.

Obama warned recently that the militants who have seized territory in Iraq pose a serious threat to the United States. After the U.S. exited Iraq and Americans thought they had escaped the conflict, Washington has had to pledge sustained support to the Iraq government. If the U.S. wants to avoid a similar outcome in Afghanistan, it has to treat management of natural resources as a core strategic priority — not an optional extra — and as a basic condition for stability.

The resource cure could undermine everything the U.S. has invested in Afghanistan since 2001: 14 years of fighting, hundreds of billions of dollars spent and thousands of lives lost. The law is one obvious tool that could help prevent that fate from becoming a reality. The Obama administration, and its Afghan partners, cannot claim to be blind to the risks if this is not done right. They must act now.

Jodi Vittori is the Afghan policy adviser at Global Witness. She retired this year from the U.S. Foreign Service after 20 years. Most recently, she served in the anti-corruption task force of the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

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OPINION

Women's health bill just political theater

By MELINDA HENNEBERGER
The Washington Post

Democrats, too, enjoy exercising their right to propose straight-to-campaign ad legislation that is in no imminent danger of becoming the law.

WASHINGTON
Remember the Democratic reaction to the GOP's repeated attempts to repeal, run over or hollow out Obamacare in ways that were never going to succeed? "Maybe when you hit your 50th repeal vote you will win a prize," President Barack Obama said mockingly. "We get it."

Well, get this: One man's quixotica is another's turn-of-the-century strategy. Democrats, too, enjoy exercising their right to propose straight-to-campaign ad legislation that is in no imminent danger of becoming the law.

On Tuesday, the Senate Judiciary Committee debated just such a piece of campaign literature, known as the Women's Health Protection Act, which would invalidate state laws that limit access to abortion. And will, Democrats hope, make single Democratic women mad enough to show up for November midterms they might otherwise sit out.

A number of young women who looked to fit that demo were waiting in line outside the packed Senate hearing room, although with all seats filled, it was unlikely they'd get in. Inside, abortion rights supporters in "Act for Women" T-shirts were offering color commentary in the form of sighs, eye rolls and vigorous headshakes, especially when Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., who was testifying before the committee, held up a 3D ultrasound of her grandchild, from which she said she learned "three months before he was born he had my eyes and nose." At least the panel, chaired by Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., invited Blackburn and other opponents of abortion rights to share their views.

Each side freely borrowed language from the other. Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, accused her adversaries of not trusting women. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., shielded from any information that might cause her to change her mind."

Wisconsin state Rep. Chris Taylor, a Democrat, sounded almost like a tea partyer when she testified that a new law mandating pre-abortion ultrasounds and other medical requirements in her home state amounted to "government at its biggest

and most intrusive."

Each side repeatedly cited science and imaginatively arranged the facts. Nancy Northup, president of the New York-based Center for Reproductive Rights, called the laws that this one would roll back undemocratic, although they were, of course, passed by state legislatures, and many do reflect the opinion of the majority of Americans, who want abortion to be legal but also want it limited.

Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who rested his eyes through much of Taylor's testimony, asserted that "the law that helped convict Kermit Gosnell would be wiped away" if the bill under consideration passed. That's technically true; the Philadelphia doctor to the downtrodden was convicted of 21 counts of illegal late-term abortion and 211 counts of ignoring Pennsylvania's 24-hour waiting period.

But he was charged only after the death of a patient, and was convicted of involuntary manslaughter. And it was that case that uncovered evidence that he'd delivered and then snipped the spinal cords of babies so near to term that he used to joke that they were big enough to walk him to the bus stop. Murder would still be illegal, obviously, if the Women's Health Protection Act went into effect. It is certainly a life sentence with no chance of parole as a result of his convictions in the killing of three children.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, succeeded in getting Willie Parker, who performs abortions in Mississippi, to say that if laws outlawing late-term abortion are such an affront to women's rights and human rights, then Italy, France, Spain and Portugal must be big human rights offenders. Then Cruz proclaimed himself shocked that Parker felt that way, and left to vote.

For some reason, Rep. Manohar D. Hawaii, using some of her time asking the



LAUREN VICTORIA BURKE/AP

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., speaks to Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., last week during a news conference where House and Senate members discussed the introduction of legislation to reverse the Supreme Court's recent birth control decision.

head of National Right to Life, "Do you believe Roe v. Wade should be overturned?" "Yes," Tobias answered. "I believe our children should be protected."

With a Republican House, another Senate bill on the fast track to nowhere is the Protect Woman's Health from Corporate Interference Act, which would overturn the Supreme Court's recent Hobby Lobby decision on whether employers with religious objections have to provide insurance coverage for contraception.

The Not My Boss's Business Act, its co-sponsors, Sens. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Mark Udall, D-Colo., are calling it, although opponents argue that contraception became the boss' business the minute he or she was required to provide it.

With Udall up for re-election this fall, why wouldn't he stick with the same war-on-the-war-on-women theme that worked so well for Obama in '12 and Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe in '13?

"My opponent, Cory Gardner, led a cru-

sade that would make birth control illegal," Udall says in one of his first TV ads. He's referring to Gardner's former support of the personhood amendment that could make some forms of birth control illegal. A second Udall ad says the issue "comes down to respect for women and our lives."

Amid all the theater, it does seem true that the bill debated at Tuesday's hearing would limit states in a novel way. It "would not regulate abortion," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, but "would regulate the states — tell them what laws they may or may not pass. It's bad enough the Supreme Court sometimes attempts to do Congress' job. But here's Congress attempting to turn around and do the court's job."

Some would argue that Congress might consider doing its own job first — but in an election year, that job is on the campaign trail, and for Democrats, it's again pitching hard to women.

Melinda Henneberger writes about politics and culture for The Washington Post.

Scrutinize DOD spending priorities amid VA scandal

By STUART F. PLATT

THE ongoing Department of Veterans Affairs scandal raises an important question: When our veterans are being denied access to basic health care, why is the Pentagon squandering billions of dollars on programs that do not benefit our military forces? Is there a link in organization attitudes?

The extent of the corruption at the VA is not yet fully understood. As revealed in early May, the department has been covering up and falsifying records to imply higher rates of appointments than are actually occurring. The result is hundreds of thousands of veterans who have been left with no access to health care or disability benefits. Recently, allegations about the quality of managing care have also started to emerge.

The VA released an internal audit showing 120,000 veterans received delayed care. In Phoenix, where the scandal first broke, the VA has confirmed that 18 veterans have died due to delays.

Unfortunately, the VA isn't the only government agency whose addiction to squan-

der undermines its core mission and breaks honor with the men and women who risk their lives to keep us safe. The Pentagon, with an annual budget of more than half a trillion dollars, is notorious for economic foolishness and a lack of transparency and accountability in how it spends resources that are meant to ensure our troops have what they need to keep us safe.

For two decades, the Pentagon has been unable to pass an audit. As a result, billions of dollars disappear every year and, rather than track down that money, Pentagon accountants apparently chalk it up to a rounding error.

Programs like the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter have cost taxpayers more than \$400 billion over the last 12 years with a predicted price tag of \$1 trillion. Yet the program suffers from a lack of effective direction and transparency that has resulted in it continuously failing to meet performance goals, falling further and further behind schedule, and running the risk of being eclipsed by new technologies. It takes years to develop new strike and attack aircraft, but at times leaders have to

The war budget has become a slush fund, a hiding place for pet projects of the brass and pork for lawmakers.

say the price is just too high. That is, take what we have learned and start anew.

The Pentagon received \$80 billion for war costs this year and has requested \$60 billion for next year. Unfortunately, our troops still deployed in Afghanistan and elsewhere don't always benefit from this high level of funding. The war budget has become a slush fund, a hiding place for pet projects of the brass and pork for members of Congress. This year's budget, for example, includes \$1 billion for the newly created "European Reassurance Fund." It's unclear what that \$1 billion will buy, but it's hard to see how it will benefit our men and women in uniform.

As a retired Navy flag officer who was tasked with ensuring the Navy got the

best deals and best quality for its dollar, it pains me to see resources that could be helping our troops being wasted. As a current CEO, I know this kind of waste and poor accounting would never be tolerated in the private sector. And as a U.S. citizen and taxpayer, I believe we must do better. America deserves bang for its buck.

The VA scandal shows the drastic need for accountability and spending priorities that match 21st-century needs. Our representatives in Washington should work to aggressively combat the ills in the VA and at the same time look to eliminate economic squandering of appropriations in government.

America should never spend money on programs it doesn't need or should not afford. If money is wasted or lost or stashed in European slush funds at the same time we fail to provide basic services to those who risk their lives fighting for this country, we have failed. And failure here is not an option.

Retired Rear Adm. Stuart F. Platt was appointed by the Reagan administration as the Navy's first competition advocate general.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Pro soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
D.C. Sporting KC	9	5	4	31
Real Salt Lake	9	5	2	23
Colorado	7	5	2	23
Portland	7	5	2	23
New England	7	5	2	23
Chivas USA	7	5	2	23
Columbus	4	6	8	20
Philadelphia	4	6	8	20
Chicago	3	4	19	25
Houston	3	4	19	25
Montreal	3	9	15	17

WESTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	2	38
San Jose	12	4	2	38
LA Galaxy	9	5	2	27
Colorado	7	5	6	27
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27
Portland	6	4	7	25
Los Angeles	6	4	7	25
San Jose	6	4	7	25
Portland	4	6	9	21
Chivas USA	4	6	9	21

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

Friday, July 11
 D.C. United 2, San Jose 1
Saturday, July 12
 Philadelphia 3, Colorado 3, tie
 Houston 2, New York 1
 New York 4, Columbus 1
 Sporting Kansas City 2, Montreal 1
 Chicago 1, New England 0
 Chivas USA 3, Vancouver 1
 Los Angeles 1, Portland 1
Sunday, July 13
Wednesday's games
 New York 1, Philadelphia 0
 Sporting Kansas City at Columbus
 Vancouver at Toronto FC
 New England at Los Angeles

NWSL

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	10	3	42	94	14
FC Kansas City	10	3	33	21	24
Portland	7	6	25	31	24
Portland	7	6	25	31	24
Western New York	7	6	23	30	23
Houston	3	10	16	16	29
Bay Area FC	3	10	16	16	29
Boston	3	12	12	23	37

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

Wednesday, July 9
 Chicago 1, Portland 1, tie
Friday, July 11
 Houston 2, Boston 2
Saturday, July 12
 Washington 1, Western New York 0
 Chicago 1, Seattle FC 0
Sunday, July 13
 Portland 7, FC Kansas City 1
Thursday's games
Friday's games
 Washington at Houston
 FC Kansas City at Western New York
Saturday's games
 Boston at Portland
 Washington at Sky Blue FC
 Seattle at Seattle FC

AP spotlight

1941 — Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak of 56 games is stopped by Al Smith and Jim Bagby of the Indians before 67,000 at Cleveland.
1955 — Beverly Hanson beats Louise Suggs by three strokes in a playoff to capture the first LPGA championship.
1966 — Jim Ryan becomes the first American to hold the record in the mile since 1937. With a time of 3:51.3 at Berkeley, California, he breaks the record of Mike Smith, 3:52.6 by 2.3 seconds.
1974 — Carlos Gilman replaces Cesar Germeno of the Reds in the second inning to become the second pitcher in major league history to record 1,000 strikeouts.
1979 — Sebastian Coe breaks the world record in the mile with a time of 3:48.95 in Oslo, Norway. The time is rounded up to 3:49.
1983 — Bobby Hebert passes for 314 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Michigan Panthers to a 24-22 win over the Philadelphia Stars in the first USFL Championship game.
1984 — Brazil wins a record fourth World Cup soccer title, taking the first 5-0 in a championship game history over Italy.
2006 — Stacy Nuweman and Lovianne King, both home to power the United States to the World Cup of Softball title with a 5-2 victory over Japan.

Golf

LPGA Tour statistics

Through July 13
Scoring
 1. Stacy Lewis, 70.2
 69.518, 3. Inbee Park, 70.058, 4. Suzann Pettersen, 70.208, 5. Cristie Kerr, 70.367, 6. Chella Choi, 70.291, 7. Lydia Ko, 70.414, 8. Seon Hui Kang, 70.434, 9. Azahara Munoz, 70.500, 10. Shanshan Feng, 70.580, PK. 26.25.

Driving Distance
 1. Levi Thompson, 231.2
 2. Gerina Pillay, 220.7
 3. Brittany Lankford, 268.0, 4. Lexi Thompson, 256.6, 5. Caroline Westrup, 256.6, 6. Cori Gauger, 265.7, 7. Morgan Klappen, 264.1, 8. Pauli McCartney, 263.9, 9. Aya Alvarez, 261.9, 10. PK. 26.25.

Putts in Regulation Per Hole
 1. Suzann Pettersen, .792, 2. Michelle Wie, .777, 3. Stacy Lewis, .772, 4. Anna Nordqvist, .758, 5. Gerina Pillay, .753, 6. Shanshan Feng, .749, 7. Seon Hui Kang, .748, 8. Chella Choi, .747, 9. Christina Kim, .747, 10. Azahara Munoz, .745.

Putting Average
 1. Stacy Lewis, 1.742, 2. Inbee Park, 1.759, 3. Line Wedel, 1.765, 4. Michelle Wie, 1.770, 5. Haru Nomura, 1.773, 6. Morgan Pressel, 1.775, 7. Karine Icher, 1.783, 8. Karine Icher, 1.784, 9. Sandra Gal, 1.787, 10. Jessica Korda, 1.788.

Birdie Average
 1. Stacy Lewis, 4.44, 2. Michelle Wie, 3.95, 3. Inbee Park, 3.87, 4. Suzann Pettersen, 3.85, 5. Shanshan Feng, 3.85, 6. Anna Nordqvist, 3.87, 7. Seon Hui Kang, 3.74, 8. Lydia Ko, 3.79, 9. Cristie Kerr, 3.69, 10. Line Wedel, 3.68.

Eagle Average
 1. (tie), Catrina Mattsson and Suzann Pettersen, .146, 3. Caroline Westrup, .143, 4. (tie), Catrina Mattsson and Suzann Pettersen, .135, 6. Paula Creamer, .137, 7. (tie), Chella Choi, .137, 8. (tie), Austin Ernst, .125, 10. Cristie Kerr, .122.

Sand Save Percentage
 1. Karrie Webb, 59.3, Megan McChrystal, 59.1, 3. Sydnee Michaels, 58.4, 4. Katherine Dunsmuir, 58.1, 5. Line Wedel, 56.4, 6. Mina Hiraga, 56.2, 7. Yani Tseng, 55.9, 8. Karrie Webb, 55.8, 9. Yani Thompson, 55.0, 10. Lizette Salas, 54.3.

LPGA Tour money leaders

Through July 13	Tm	Money
1. Stacy Lewis	15	\$1,267,635
2. Michelle Wie	14	\$904,097
3. Inbee Park	14	\$804,097
4. Seon Hui Kang	15	\$750,231
5. Anna Nordqvist	15	\$625,236
6. Karrie Webb	15	\$625,236
7. Shanshan Feng	12	\$658,844
8. Karrie Webb	14	\$658,844
9. Cristie Kerr	14	\$617,745
10. Angela Stanford	15	\$600,943
11. Karrie Webb	15	\$599,218
12. Chella Choi	14	\$599,218
13. Karrie Webb	15	\$599,218
14. Jo Jooyoung	14	\$575,564
15. Mo Martin	14	\$575,564
16. Paula Creamer	14	\$536,367
17. Suzann Pettersen	12	\$536,195
18. Karrie Webb	15	\$536,195
19. Meena Lee	16	\$471,103
20. Karrie Webb	15	\$471,103
21. Julie Grananda	16	\$409,455
22. Karrie Webb	15	\$409,455
23. Pornanong Phatlum	15	\$383,041
24. Karrie Webb	15	\$383,041
25. Eun Hee Ji	15	\$342,477
26. Geri Wynn	15	\$342,477
27. Karrie Park	15	\$301,118
28. Karrie Park	15	\$301,118
29. Karine Charrier	14	\$258,028
30. Karine Charrier	12	\$258,028
31. Christina Kim	15	\$211,241
32. Karrie Webb	15	\$211,241
33. Lydia Laury	16	\$201,474

Champions Tour

Charles Schwab Cup leaders

Through July 13	Pts	Money
1. Collin Montgomerie	2,520	\$1,895,025
2. Bernhard Langer	2,220	\$1,895,025
3. Fred Couples	1,313	\$1,012,113
4. Jeff Sluman	1,313	\$1,012,113
5. Tom Lehman	1,171	\$789,000
6. Fred Couples	1,171	\$789,000
7. Tom Lehman	793	\$774,011
8. Kirk Triplett	793	\$774,011
9. Kirk Triplett	688	\$567,234
10. David Frost	688	\$567,234
11. David Frost	688	\$567,234
12. Jim Furyk	637	\$381,730
13. Jim Furyk	529	\$455,793
14. Mark O'Meara	465	\$637,767
15. Mark O'Meara	465	\$637,767
16. Tom Pernice Jr.	428	\$476,883
17. Mark O'Meara	428	\$476,883
18. Barry Hinson	402	\$200,762
19. Woody Austin	402	\$200,762
20. Barry Hinson	379	\$430,197
21. Olin Browne	379	\$430,197
22. Rocco Mediate	349	\$416,243
23. Rocco Mediate	349	\$416,243
24. Mark O'Meara	306	\$404,311
25. Mark O'Meara	306	\$404,311
26. Miguel A. Jimenez	270	\$270,000
27. Miguel A. Jimenez	270	\$270,000
28. Doug Marjono	261	\$348,796
29. Mark McNulty	250	\$479,125
30. Mark McNulty	246	\$129,988
31. Billy Andrade	221	\$350,357
32. Billy Andrade	209	\$251,220
35. Corey Pavin	209	\$251,220

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
 MLB announced Tuesday as a consultant who will serve as Ambassador for inclusion.
American League
NATIONAL INDIANS — Options RHP Zach McAllister and catcher Connor Stewart to the Yankees.
BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA HAWKS — Acquired G/F Thabo Sefolosha and the rights to F Giorgos Petridis and cash considerations from Oklahoma City Thunder for the rights to F Scottie Redden.
BOSTON CELTICS — Signed G Avery Bradley to a four-year contract.
CHICAGO BULLS — Released F Carlos Boozer. Waived F Lou Amundson, G Ronnie Brewer and F Chandler Parsons.
DALLAS MAVERICKS — Signed F Dirk Nowitzki to a four-year contract.
DETROIT PISTONS — Signed G Dr. Austin Rivers to a four-year contract.
HOUSTON ROCKETS — Acquired F Trevor Ariza, F Alonzo Gee, G Scotty Hopson and a 2015 first-round draft pick from the New Orleans Pelicans, the Pelicans' guard Jodie Meeks, F Omri Casspi and cash considerations and the Washington Wizards' center C Melvin Ely and a trade exception.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Signed G Beno Udrih to a two-year contract.
MIAMI HEAT — Re-signed G Dwyane Wade to a two-year contract.
OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER — Signed G Sebastian Junferman.
ORLANDO MAGIC — Waived G Ish Smith.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS — Named Ettore Messina coach, 138, 5, Carlo Acerno, 135, 6, Paula Creamer, 137, 7, (tie), Chella Choi, 137, 8, (tie), Austin Ernst, 125, 10, Cristie Kerr, 122.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed G Chad Anderson. Waived DE Gannon Conway.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Agreed to terms with TE Jimmy Garoppo on a multi-year contract.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
ARIZONA COYOTES — Signed F Brandon McMillan to a one-year contract and Jordan Szabo to a two-year contract.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Named Tony Granato and F Patrick Sharp.

EDMONTON OILERS — Signed C Anze Kopitar to a one-year contract.
KANSAS CITY PATNERS — Agreed to terms with D Dylan Olsen on a two-year contract and D Ryan O'Reilly to a one-year contract.
MARTINIQUE — Re-signed LW Jastin Gaudin to a two-year contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Signed Fs Mattias Ekholm and Derek Slayton to one-year contracts.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Agreed to terms with C Casey Cizik to a two-year contract and D Calvin de Haan on a one-year contract.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Signed G Evgeny Kuznetsov to a three-year, entry-level contract.

SOCCER
COLUMBIUS CREW — Announced it has hired Steve Gannon as head coach with M Alvaro Rey.
COLLEGE
BIG EAST CONFERENCE — Named Stu Jackson senior associate commissioner for men's basketball.

ALABAMA — Announced the retirement of gymnastics coach Sarah Patterson.
NEW JERSEY — Named Christine Motta associate athletic director for student-athlete development and senior woman administrator.
IOWA — Suspended G Peter Jakjof indefinitely.
SAINT ROSE — Named William Aloia, Jr. athletic director for compliance.

UMASS — Announced women's softball coach basketball F Alyssa Lawrence has a transfer from San Diego State.

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	11	5	75%	0	
Indiana	10	6	63%	1	
Orlando	10	13	43%	6 1/2	
Washington	9	13	41%	7 1/2	
Chicago	8	13	38%	8 1/2	
New York	8	13	38%	8 1/2	

WESTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	11	6	65%	0	
Minnesota	10	6	62%	2	
San Antonio	11	11	50%	7 1/2	
Los Angeles	9	13	41%	10 1/2	
Seattle	9	13	41%	10 1/2	
Tulsa	8	14	36%	10 1/2	

Monday's games
 No games scheduled.
Tuesday's games
 Connecticut 86, Seattle 63
 Phoenix 90, Washington 78
Wednesday's games
 Atlanta at New York
 Tulsa at Minnesota
Thursday's games
 San Antonio at Tulsa
 Phoenix at Washington
Friday's games
 Atlanta at Phoenix
 Connecticut at Tulsa
 Washington at Los Angeles

Tennis

World Team Tennis

EASTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	5	1	83%	0	
Philadelphia	4	4	50%	3	
Boston	1	6	14%	14 1/2	

WESTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	5	1	83%	0	
Texas	3	3	50%	2	
Springfield	3	4	43%	3 1/2	

Monday's matches
 San Diego 22, Washington 18
 Austin 22, Boston 13
Tuesday's matches
 Boston 20, Austin 18
 San Diego 19, San Diego 18
 Texas 22, Springfield 19
Wednesday's matches
 San Diego at Boston
 Springfield at Philadelphia
 Texas at Washington

Claro Open

Tuesday
At Centro de Alto Rendimiento
Colombia
Surface: Hardcourt
Singles
 Alejandro Gonzalez, Colombia, def. Evgeny Donskoy, Russia, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.
 Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia, def. Pablo Andujar, Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.
 Alejandro Gallo, S. Colombia, def. Tatsuma Ito, Japan, 6-3, 6-4.
 Samuel Groth, Australia, def. Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4.
 Thiemo de Bakker, Netherlands, def. Kevin King, USA, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Istanbul Cup

Tuesday
At Kozta World of Sports
Surface: Hardcourt
Singles
First Round
 Roberta Vinci, Italy, def. Anna Tatishvili, United States, 6-2, 6-2.
 Ana Konjuh, Croatia, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
 Kurumi Nara, (6), Japan, def. Johanna Konta, Great Britain, 6-4, 6-2.
 Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, def. Johanna Konta, Great Britain, 6-4.
 Shahar Peer, Israel, def. Elizaveta Kulichkova, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.
 Alexandra Dulgheru, Romania, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2.
 Karina Karlovic, (6), Czech Republic, def. Anna Scherrie, (5), Slovakia, 6-3, 6-1.
Second Round
 Stefanie Vogele, Switzerland, def. Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, 6-4, 7-5.
 Francesca Schiavone, Italy, def. Johanna Konta, Great Britain, 6-4, 6-2.
 Kristina Mladenovic, France, def. Patricia Mayr-Achleitner, Austria, 6-4, 6-2.
 Karolina Pliskova, (6), Czech Republic, def. Galga Buaayukach, Turkey, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Caroline Wozniacki, (1), Denmark, def. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, 6-0, 6-0.
Doubles
First Round
 Julia Glushko, (2), Austria, and Sandra Klimentchits, Austria, def. Irina Buraychok, (1), Russia, and Alina Kudryavtseva, (1), Russia, 6-3, 3-6, 11-9.
 Yuliya Begizimer, (6), Olga Savchuk, (3), and Irina Buraychok, (1), Romania, and Shahar Peer, Israel, 6-0, 6-2.
 Karina Karlovic, (6), Svetlana Solovtina, (1), Ukraine, def. Mandy Minella, Luxembourg, and Stefanie Vogele, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.

Italy de France

Wednesday
At Oyonnax, France
11th Street
A 116-m-kill hillie rye from Besancon to Oyonnax, with four small-to-medium sized rye.
 1. Tony Gallon/France, Lotto Belsio, 14:59.19
 2. John Gedonkoly, Germany, Giant-Shimano, same time.
 3. Matteo Trentin, Italy, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, same time.
 4. Daniel Basso, Italy, Tinkoff-Saxo, same time.
 5. Simon Gerrans, Australia, Orica Greedene, same time.
 6. Daniel Basso, Italy, Tinkoff-Saxo, same time.
 7. De'Jay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, same time.
 8. Jean-Christophe Peraud, France, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.
 9. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, 4:48.
 10. Tom Van Den Broeck, Belgium, Lotto Belsio, 4:48.

Cycling

Tour de France

Overall Standings
After 11 stages
 1. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 46:59.19
 2. Richie Porte, Australia, Sky, 2:23:47.
 3. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 2:24:17.
 4. Romain Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 2:24:17.
 5. Tony Gallopin, France, Lotto Belsio, 2:24:17.
 6. Thibaut Pinot, France, FDJ.fr, 3:47:00.
 7. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 3:47:00.
 8. Jean-Christophe Peraud, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 3:47:00.
 9. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, 4:48.
 10. Tom Van Den Broeck, Belgium, Lotto Belsio, 4:

WORLD CUP/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

US concussion expert: Cup set bad example

Players returned to action despite obvious head injuries

By JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — World Cup organizers repeatedly failed to follow their own concussion protocol and then failed to take advantage of the international interest in the tournament to teach soccer fans and young players about the dangers of head injuries, concussion expert Chris Nowinski said Tuesday.

"I'm worried about how many kids emulate these athletes. It wasn't just one athlete hurt; it was one multiplied by 1 million," Nowinski said. "They didn't even use a bulky pulpit and say: 'This is unacceptable.'"

Several times in the monthlong tournament, players sustained obvious concussions but continued to play — a practice doctors agree can put them at risk of severe brain damage.

In the final, Germany midfielder Christoph Kramer stayed in the game after colliding with Argentina defender Ezequiel Garay. Kramer later had to be helped off the field and said he couldn't remember much from the collision — signature symptoms of a concussion.

"Clearly if there is a protocol, it isn't being followed," Nowinski said.

A Harvard football player turned professional wrestler who retired because of concussions in the ring, Nowinski helped start the Sports Legacy Institute to educate the public about head injuries. The group held a conference Tuesday to roll out its "hit count" initiative to help track and reduce concussions in young athletes.

Although Nowinski is more concerned about amateur players — who might not be able to make decisions about their health, and who aren't compensated for the damage they may be sustaining — the World Cup injuries to Kramer and others who became disoriented or even unconscious showed that even the pros need to be protected.

Kramer continued playing for 14 minutes in the first half of the final after taking a heavy blow to the face in a collision with Garay. He was eventually replaced in the 31st minute after slumping to the ground, and the German football federation said he had a suspected concussion. It didn't give

any more details.

Kramer appeared to be disoriented as he was helped off the field by medical staff.

"It was a great teaching point: Immediately after the injury, you can't leave it up to the athlete," Nowinski said.

There were worrying head injuries for players earlier in the tournament.

Argentina players Javier Mascherano and Pablo Zabaleta also played on in their team's semifinal against the Netherlands in Sao Paulo after hard knocks to the head. Mascherano appeared to be completely disoriented and fell to the ground after a clash of heads with a Dutch player. Both Mascherano and Zabaleta started in the final.

"Some of these concussions, they clearly weren't able to make decisions for themselves," Nowinski said.

Questions about FIFA's concussion protocol were initially raised in the group stage of the World Cup when Uruguay defender Alvaro Pereira refused to leave the field after being hit in the head by an England opponent's knee. Pereira lay motionless for a short while and appeared to be briefly unconscious, but was still allowed to come back onto the field and continue playing.

Uruguay team doctor Alberto Pan initially made hand signals for a substitution but then seemingly changed his mind after the clearly dizzy player furiously protested. The images provoked criticism from professional players' union FIFPro, head injury specialists and others. Pereira later said the blow knocked him out and it "was like the lights went out."

"I was also not happy with that situation. I must confess that," said Michel D'Hooghe, a member of the FIFA executive board and chairman of its medical committee.

FIFA was criticized by the professional players' union, FIFPro, and others such as TV analyst Taylor Twellman, a former Major League Soccer star who retired because of concussions.

"Here we go again FIFA... #WorldCup-Final and your ineptitude to address the head injury problem is for everyone to see. Kramer was concussed!" he wrote on Twitter during the championship match.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Alabama running back T.J. Yeldon is one of the few accomplished and well-known players in the SEC, which generally lacks the star power it has had in recent years.

Star power lacking at SEC Media Days

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala. — Florida quarterback Jeff Driskel insists there are still plenty of superstars in the Southeastern Conference.

The only problem is nobody's heard of them yet.

One year after high-profile players such as Alabama's A.J. McCarron, South Carolina's Jadeveon Clowney and Texas A&M's Johnny Manziel brought a rockstar feel to

SEC Media Days, the buzz is largely missing this week at the league's pre-season showcase.

Part of the reason is a lack of experienced quarterbacks. McCarron, Manziel, LSU's Zach Mettenberger, South Carolina's Connor Shaw and Georgia's Aaron Murray are gone after impressive careers.

There are still some accomplished players in the league — especially at running back. Alabama's T.J. Yeldon and Georgia's Todd Gurley are among the nation's best.

Driskel said it won't be long before others become nationally known as well.

"Some of the guys haven't put up the numbers or the championships that guys in the past have," Driskel said. "But there's always going to be talent in the SEC. It's just a matter of who makes the plays this year. You get guys who end up being household names who weren't at the beginning of the year."

But the shadow of Manziel, McCarron and Co. still looms, even months after they played their last college game.

When Texas A&M coach Kevin Sumlin took the podium on Tuesday afternoon, two of the first three questions he received were about Johnny Football.

After the second one, an amused Sumlin said "Is this the SEC Media Days?"

The Aggies are one of several teams moving on without their stars. They had three players selected in the first round of the NFL Draft — which left gaping holes at quarterback, offensive tackle and receiver — but Sumlin said that's just part of the challenge of the college game.

"In college football, every two, three years you're going to have turnover and you have to have a plan for that," Sumlin said. "Whether it's quarterback, whether it's a great defender, whatever it is. To me that's what's exciting about college football."

That might be true eventually, but right now it means there are a lot of unknowns.

Arguably the league's most recognizable quarterback — Auburn's Nick Marshall — didn't come to media days after being cited for possession of a small amount of marijuana.

Mississippi's Bo Wallace is the only returning quarterback in the league who threw for at least 2,000 yards last season.

Mississippi State's Dak Prescott and Driskel are among the most intriguing breakout candidates at quarterback.

Prescott threw for 1,940 yards last season and rushed for 829 more as a sophomore despite missing two games because of injuries. Driskel had a promising season in 2012 before missing much of last year with a leg injury.

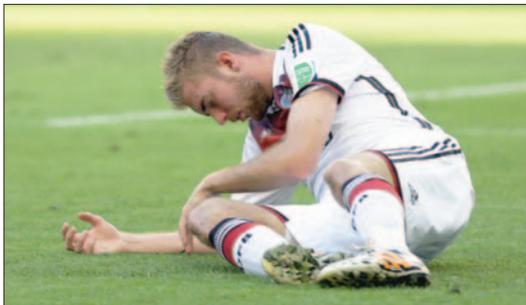
Prescott said the SEC's loss of so many star players won't hurt the quality of the league.

"Those guys were unknown at some point, too, so that's just part of the game," Prescott said. "It leaves the door open for guys to step up and get their name out there."

The strength of the league might be at running back, where veterans like Yeldon, Gurley and South Carolina's Mike Davis return for another season. All three averaged around 100 yards per game during their sophomore seasons and scored at least 10 touchdowns.

But there's a good chance some of the league's best players — along with the league's best teams — are relative unknowns right now.

"Nobody picked Missouri and Auburn to win the divisions last year," South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier said. "That's why we play the game. We don't know who's going to win 'em."



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Germany's Christoph Kramer lies on the pitch after getting hit in the face by Argentina's Ezequiel Garay's shoulder during the World Cup final in Rio de Janeiro.

NBA BRIEFS/SPORTS BRIEFS

Source: T-Wolves, Warriors talk Love again

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Minnesota Timberwolves and Golden State Warriors have reopened trade talks for All-Star forward Kevin Love, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

With most of the NBA in Las Vegas for summer league games, the sides have had a chance to meet face-to-face to talk about a deal mentioned as a possibility for more than a month. The person requested anonymity because both teams are not publicly commenting on trade discussions.

Timberwolves president and coach Flip Saunders was seen talking to Warriors general manager Bob Myers at the arena on Sunday as the teams look to bridge the gap that caused discussions to stall. The Warriors have been reluctant to include shooting guard Klay Thompson in any package, which has been considered a deal-breaker for the Timberwolves.

There were no signs that the Warriors were ready to change their position on Thompson. New Warriors coach Steve Kerr is keen on pairing Thompson with Steph Curry in the backcourt that has become known as the "Splash Brothers," even as he acknowledged earlier in the summer that he would like to add a power forward with shooting range.

There is none better at bringing that dimension than Love, a 25-year-old who plans to opt out of his contract at the end of next season and go looking for a contender. Love has not made the playoffs in the first six seasons of his career in Minnesota.

So far, the Wolves and Warriors have discussed swapping Love and veteran shooting guard Kevin Martin for David Lee, Harrison Barnes and a future draft pick. That hasn't been enough for Saunders, who has been adamant that that 24-year-old Thompson

be the main piece to come back.

The Wolves also have talked to the Cleveland Cavaliers, who have LeBron James coming back home to play next season. A three-player core of James, Love and Kyrie Irving would immediately make the Cavaliers a favorite in the wide-open Eastern Conference, but Cavaliers GM David Griffin has refused to part with No. 1 overall pick Andrew Wiggins to land Love.

Wade signs 2-year deal to stay with Heat

Dwyane Wade is staying with the Miami Heat, and his latest deal is designed to give both the player and the only franchise he's ever known some flexibility in the coming years.

Wade signed a new contract with the Heat on Tuesday. It's a two-year deal, the second of those seasons a player option, said a person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither side announced terms.

"I am proud to have spent every single day of my career as a member of the Miami Heat and to have brought three championship titles to this great city," Wade said in a statement. "I've been here through the good times and the hard times. I have confidence in the Miami Heat organization and the team they are building."

Financial terms were not announced.

Rockets get Ariza in three-team trade

Houston's attempts at landing a third offensive threat this NBA offseason finally paid off in the return of forward Trevor Ariza.

The Rockets acquired Ariza as part of a three-team trade that was announced by Washington on Tuesday, bringing the 6-foot-8

forward back to where he averaged a career-high 14.9 points during the 2009-10 season.

Ariza will join Houston in a sign-and-trade in a deal also involving New Orleans and the Wizards.

The Rockets will send center Omer Asik, forward Omri Casspi and cash considerations to New Orleans, while Houston will also get forward Alonzo Gee, guard Scott Hopson and a 2015 first-round draft pick from the Pelicans.

Washington will receive center Melvin Ely and a trade exception as part of the deal.

Miller follows LeBron to Cleveland

CLEVELAND — Mike Miller had choices. None of them was better than playing with LeBron James again.

Miller has agreed to a \$5.5 million, two-year contract with the Cavaliers, re-uniting the sharpshooting forward with James, his former teammate in Miami. Miller's contract includes a player option in the second year, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the deal is not yet signed. Miller will make \$2.7 million next season, and the option is worth \$2.8 million, the person said.

Last season, Miller played in 82 games — the most since his rookie season — for Memphis. He shot 46 percent (107 of 233) on 3-pointers and averaged 7.1 points and 2.5 rebounds.

Silver hopes Clippers sale done next season

LAS VEGAS — NBA Commissioner Adam Silver says he is hopeful that the proposed \$2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Clippers will be completed before next season begins. But he could not guarantee that will happen



STEVE YEATER/AP

The Timberwolves have restarted trade talks with the Golden State Warriors for forward Kevin Love, according to a source.

because the deal is currently held up in the courts.

Silver spoke Tuesday evening after a meeting of the NBA's Board of Governors. He says he cannot guarantee Donald Sterling will be out as owner of the Clippers because he is fighting the sale.

"It's very difficult to say anything with certainty in a situation like this," Silver said. "I can say with certainty we are doing everything in our power to move Donald out as an owner in the NBA."

Sterling, who was banned by the NBA for life for making racist remarks, is challenging wife Shelly's planned sale of the Clippers for \$2 billion to Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer in court. A judge recently delayed the next hearing until July 21, and closing arguments are scheduled for July 28.

Mavs sign Nowitzki, finalize Parsons deal

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks have officially signed forwards Dirk Nowitzki and Chandler Parsons.

The 36-year-old Nowitzki's contract is for three years and \$30 million, with a player option for the final season. It's similar to the deal Tim Duncan signed with San Antonio two years ago. The 38-year-old Duncan recently exercised the option after the Spurs won their fifth title with him.

Tuesday's announcement of the contracts came five days after the Mavericks signed Parsons to an offer sheet worth about \$46 million over three years. Houston declined to match the offer to the 25-year-old restricted free agent.

Briefly

Panthers' Hardy found guilty of assaulting woman

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers Pro Bowl defensive end Greg Hardy was found guilty Tuesday night of assaulting a female and communicating threats.

Mecklenburg County Judge Rebecca Thorn-Tin sentenced Hardy to 18 months' probation. A 60-day jail sentence was suspended.

Hardy's attorney Chris Fialko said he'll appeal and Hardy has asked for a jury trial in superior court. In North Carolina that means the terms of Hardy's probation are on hold until the trial — so he's free to travel with the team to training camp and compete in games.

A date for the jury trial hasn't been set.

The Panthers released a state-

ment saying, "We have just learned of the verdict and are respectful of the process. We do not have a comment at this time."

The judge didn't buy Hardy's testimony that he was the one abused by the accuser and that he had asked her to leave his downtown apartment during a domestic dispute on May 13.

After nearly 11 hours of hearing testimony, Thorn-Tin told a smiling Hardy that "the court is entirely convinced Hardy is guilty of assault on a female and communicating threats."

Earlier in the morning the accuser testified that she was assaulted by Hardy at his apartment after a night of drinking. She also said Hardy threatened to kill her and put his hands around her neck.

Hardy has been a key member of Carolina's second-ranked defense, finishing last season with 15 sacks. The Panthers led the league last season with 50 sacks.

In other NFL news: ■ Quarterback Kyle Orton has been released by the Dallas Cowboys.

The expected move Wednesday came after Tony Romo's backup skipped all the offseason workouts amid reports Orton was considering retirement.

Gallopín wins stage; Gritty Talansky finishes

OYONNAX, France — French rider Tony Gallopín led a late breakaway in a show of opportunism and savvy racing to win Wednesday's 11th stage of the

Tour de France as Italy's Vincenzo Nibali retained the overall lead.

In the stage's mini-drama, American Andrew Talansky, struggling through pain from crashes earlier in the race, rode solo much of the day. In a show of grit, he finished some 32 minutes back — enough to qualify to ride another day under race rules.

No wrist surgery for Penguins' Crosby

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins say captain Sidney Crosby doesn't need surgery on his injured wrist.

Crosby dealt with a wrist injury during the playoffs. The Penguins announced Tuesday on Twitter that "after seeking additional

medical advice, doctors have decided not to perform surgery on Sidney Crosby's wrist."

The team says he'll keep receiving treatment.

MLB players could consider tobacco ban

MINNEAPOLIS — Major League Baseball players say they may consider whether to discuss a possible ban on chewing tobacco when they negotiate their next labor contract in two years. For now, they hope individuals decide on their own to stop dipping.

Players' union head Tony Clark said Monday several members have quit cold turkey following the Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn's death on June 16 from oral cancer.

BRITISH OPEN

While the iron's hot

Pros playing Royal Liverpool say club takes on vital importance for anyone hoping for shot at claret jug

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

WHEN Tom Watson remembers his favorite shots from the British Open — and, given he's a five-time champion, there are plenty — one stands above all the others.

That 2-iron on the 72nd hole at Birkdale, locking up the last of his major titles in 1983.

Anyone who fancies a chance of hoisting the claret jug at Royal Liverpool would be well advised to practice the same sort of shot.

"That's where you beat your competitors, if you're a good long-iron player," Watson said. "You hit the shots where you're supposed to when you're a long way from the green."

Tiger Woods proved that in 2006, the last time the Open was played at this course in northwest England. He pulled out his driver only once all week, sticking almost entirely with his irons on the way to an 18-under score and two-stroke victory.

This week, the links course was so dried out it looked like nothing more than a cow pasture, meaning Woods could get plenty of distance by keeping the ball low and letting it roll, the sort of shot the 2-iron was made for.

The conditions are much different this time around.

Royal Liverpool is greener and softer, the result of a cooler, wetter summer. Still, the 2-iron — heck, all the irons — will be of vital importance in controlling the ball and staying out of the devilish pot bunkers that serve essentially as an automatic penalty to anyone who strays in their direction.

Justin Rose pointed out that he won last week's Scottish Open while hitting nothing longer than a 6-iron off the tee on the final six holes.

"That's all based upon keeping it out of the bunkers," Rose said. "You can't play links golf from pot bunkers. They are true penalties. So whatever the club is, if it's a 2-iron or 3-iron or 4-iron or 5-iron, that's why they are important clubs to keep it in the fairway."

Defending champion Phil Mickelson feels like he is driving the ball as good as he ever has, but he'll be pulling a 2-iron out of his bag this week. It's one of two clubs he rarely uses at any other tournament, the other being a 64-degree wedge that helps him keep the ball from bouncing.

He described the 2-iron as being "very important and instrumental in my success here."

"I will carry a driver," Mickelson said. "But it will be very situational depending on the wind, pin placement and how I'm feeling at the given moment."

The world's top-ranked player, Adam Scott, always has a 2-iron in his bag.

He's really looking forward to using it at the Open.

"For here, it's perfect," he said. "I don't have to do anything with it, other than swing."

Depending on the wind, Rory McIlroy figures he'll divvy up his tee shot between the driver and the 2-iron. While the par 5s present the best chance for birdies

— and will likely bring out the driver — the two-time major champion knows he can't get too reckless with his big club.

"I usually carry a 5-wood instead of a 2-iron," McIlroy said. "I just think for this terrain and the conditions and the wind, the 2-iron just goes a little bit lower, and there's a bit of a better flight on it, which is obviously better for these conditions."

Even when one hits a booming shot with the driver, that doesn't mean it will turn out well on a links course.

"Very often, they are so well designed that there's the next set of bunkers, at 280, 290, 300 yards," Rose said. "So your decision is to take all the bunkers out (of play), normally."

While no one expects a Woods-like performance this year, the 2-iron will almost surely be a vital important club for whoever emerges as the champion on Sunday evening.

"I understand how Tiger won in 2006 here," Watson said. "Very simply, he was the best iron player by far during that tournament. By far. His iron play was spot on."

Who knows? Maybe it will come down to the sort of shot Watson pulled off more than three decades ago.

He still summons up with the details like it happened yesterday.

"As soon as I hit the ball, I knew I hit it dead flush," he recalled. "There was a left-to-right wind and the ball started just right of the flag and hooked off the flag."

His caddie, Alfie Fyles, shouted, "Stop hooking."

"AII," Watson replied, "don't worry."

The ball wound up 15 feet from the hole.

Two putts later, Watson had his fifth Open title.

World No. 1 Adam Scott says he always carries a 2-iron in his bag, and it will come in handy this weekend at Royal Liverpool.

Jon SUPER/AP

“For here, it's perfect. I don't have to do anything with it, other than swing.”

Adam Scott

Top-ranked pro golfer on the importance of irons at this year's British Open at Royal Liverpool



SCOTT HIRPELL/AP

Rory McIlroy gestures on the 13th green during a practice round Wednesday ahead of the British Open in Hoylake, England.

McIlroy out to end 2nd-round stumble

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Rory McIlroy calls it his “second-round thing.”

Just something in his head. Unfortunately for the two-time major champion, it's become a very real problem.

For some reason, McIlroy has struggled mightily on Fridays, a subject that came up again as he prepared for the British Open.

This year, McIlroy has played the opening round at a cumulative 49-under par. On the weekends, he's a combined 39 under. But on Fridays, for some reason, he's at 15 over.

"I have no problem shooting a low one on Thursday," he said. "There should be no reason I have any problem shooting a low one on Friday."

If only it was that easy.

Three times this year, McIlroy has opened a tournament with a 63. Not once did he build on those impressive starts to actually win the tournament. Most notably, he blew up to a 78 in the second round of the Memorial.

Last week, more of the same at the Scottish Open. McIlroy opened with a 7-under 64, only to shoot 14 strokes higher the following day. Fierce winds contributed to the dismal score, but that didn't fully explain why he had another poor showing in Round 2.

"I just got it into my head," McIlroy said. "I may be putting too much pressure on myself, going out on Fridays and trying to back up (a good) score."

At age 25, McIlroy already has two of golf's biggest titles on his resumé, capturing the 2011 U.S. Open and the 2012 PGA Championship with runaway victories. He'd love to move another step closer to a career Grand Slam

at Royal Liverpool, though he's never been an especially big fan of links golf.

"I guess when you go on tour and especially when you play the majority of your golf in the U.S., you start to neglect some of the shots you might need in conditions like this," McIlroy said. "I don't think I've evolved that much as a links player, but I've been trying, especially the past few weeks, to play some shots, really practice hard on some of the shots that I might need this week."

He will be playing his seventh British Open, with only one previous top-10 performance. Last year at Muirfield, McIlroy opened with a 79 and missed the cut.

"The Open Championship is a tournament that's very important to me," he insisted. "And my record in it hasn't been as good as I'd like. I'd love to improve on that."

McIlroy has gone through some big changes off the course — most notably, breaking up in May with his longtime girlfriend, Danish tennis player Caroline Wozniacki, just as they were sending out invitations for their planned wedding.

These days, McIlroy seems mainly focused on his golf, though he hardly sounded persuasive when someone asked Tuesday if he was in a better place personally than he was a few months ago.

"I'm happy with everything that's going on."

Then, he talked about nothing but his playing schedule.

"I've got this week and then go back over to the States and the World Golf Championship and then the PGA and all the FedEx Cup playoffs and the Ryder Cup," he said. "So there's a lot to keep me busy and just looking forward to that stretch of golf coming up. "So yeah," he said, sounding a bit hesitant, "I'm happy."

BRITISH OPEN

Woods sets sights on first major victory since 2008

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Tiger Woods was an early arrival to the British Open with hopes of avoiding an early departure.

Woods has played only two competitive rounds in the last four months because of back pain that led to surgery. That's why he chose to get to England a day earlier than usual — Saturday — to get acclimated to links golf at Royal Liverpool.

It's nothing like he remembers from his two-shot victory in 2006.

Hoylake was brown and dusty that year, and the ball was bouncing along at such speed that Woods hit only one driver the entire week. That was on the 16th hole, and the shot wound up on the 17th fairway. He still makes a birdie.

"The golf course is a little bit softer than what it was in '06," Woods said on Tuesday. "I've played three practice rounds now and have had three different winds. So that's been helpful to be able to see the golf course in different conditions."

As an example of the change, Woods pulled out a driver on the par-5 fifth hole with the wind in his face. His tee shot landed in the fairway.

That he already has played three practice rounds has been encouraging.

Woods missed the cut at Congressional in his return to competition three weeks ago, though he was pleased that he felt no pain from March 31 back surgery. He even has been to the gym twice in the last couple of days.

Woods played 12 holes on Saturday and a full 18 on Sunday and Tuesday, taking a break Monday to work out and then go to the practice range.

"It's one of the reasons why I came over a little earlier," he said. "I went to Geneva for a day with Rolex, but I came here a day earlier than I normally would to have an extra day in there, as well as possibly taking a day off, if needed. And it worked out."

As for his goals? They haven't changed.

When asked what would be a reasonable result in his first major of the year, Woods replied, "First."

"That's always the case."

The back surgery forced him to miss the Masters for the first time, and then the U.S. Open. The last time Woods had this much time off with so little competition before a major was in 2010 when he returned from the chaos in his personal life. He tied for fourth at the Masters.

It might help that he at least has won at Royal Liverpool, even if the course has changed dramatically.

Woods has changed, too. His victory eight years ago

produced more raw emotion than ever for Woods. It was his first major since the death of his father, Earl, two months earlier. He sobbed on the shoulders of his caddy and then his wife. Woods now has a different caddy and he is divorced.

"My life has certainly changed a lot since then," Woods said. "That was a very emotional week. As you all know, I pressed pretty hard at Augusta that year, trying to win it, because it was the last time my dad was ever going to see me play a major championship. And then I didn't play well at the (U.S.) Open — missed the cut there miserably. And then came here and just felt at peace. I really, really played well. On Sunday, I really felt calm out there.

"It was surreal at the time. I've had a few moments like that in majors where I've felt that way on a Sunday. And that was certainly one of them."

The others were at the 1997 Masters, which he won by 12 shots; the 2000 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, which he won by 15 shots; and 2000 British Open at St. Andrews, which he won by eight shots to complete the career Grand Slam.

Woods has won the career slam twice more since then, running his total to 14 majors by winning the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines in 2008 despite not having played in two months because of torn ligaments in his left knee and a dou-



PETER MORRISON/AP

Tiger Woods has played just two competitive rounds in the last four months because of back pain that led to surgery. Now he's hoping to end his major drought on the same course where he won the British Open in 2006 just months after his father died.

ble stress fracture in his left leg. He said that victory, with the odds against him, should be a reminder not to count him out.

And he's not ruling out his pursuit of Jack Nicklaus and his 18 majors. Woods, who is 38, was asked if he would play well into

his 40s and even his early 50s if it meant a chance to break the Nicklaus benchmark.

"Hopefully, I have it done by then. But I'm really looking forward to that cart," he said, referring to Champions Tour players being allowed to ride in a cart.

Germany's Kaymer ready for spotlight back home

By STEVE DOUGLAS
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Sounding proud and patriotic, Martin Kaymer reeled off the list of qualities it took for Germany to win the World Cup in Brazil.

"They had so much belief," he said glowingly about his national football team. "They played very brave. The planning was good ... they played very patient."

He'll need those same things at the British Open as he goes after back-to-back major titles.

Kaymer's wire-to-wire victory at the U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2 last month came just as the World Cup got in full swing, and deserved more recognition than it got back home. One of the most dominant displays at a major tournament became swallowed up in Germany's run to the final, where it beat Argentina 1-0 on Sunday.

Kaymer said it was "unlucky" that he won on the day before Germany's first group-stage game against Portugal, with the media "full of the German national team."

At Hoylake this week, he will have the stage all to himself.

Padraig Harrington was the last player to win two straight majors, in 2008, when he followed up a second British Open title with a victory at the PGA Championship the following month.

As Tiger Woods noted Tuesday, the depth



SCOTT HEPPLE/AP

Martin Kaymer's dominant win at the U.S. Open was overshadowed in his home country as Germany began play in the World Cup. Now Kaymer hopes to grab the media's attention by becoming the first player to win two straight majors since 2008.

of quality in world golf has meant victories are being shared around more than ever but Kaymer has claimed two of the biggest of the year already — the U.S. Open and

the Players Championship, described by some as golf's "fifth major."

The two years he spent improving his swing and building a better all-round

game is paying off, just like the decade-long cycle Germany underwent under coach Joachim Loew to get back to the top of world football.

"I know how it is when you have all those expectations on your shoulders and you deliver," said Kaymer, who won the 2010 PGA Championship and reached No. 1 in the world six months later before a big dip in form.

"I was not thinking, 'OK, I need to win another major within the next four years to prove to myself that it was not an accident.' I was more planning long-term. So with myself, I was fine. From the outside there was more pressure and a lot of people didn't think I was doing the right thing."

Now Kaymer is back at the top of golf with his rebuilt swing, he could be here to stay.

"When you tell us to do something, we get it done, but we not only get it done, we get it done to last for a long time," Kaymer said when asked to define the German character. "I'm making an advertisement for my country, but it's just the quality of work. It's permanent. It lasts. And that's how you want to do certain things on the golf course."

"I changed my swing because it lasts long-term."

Kaymer goes out in a group with Jason Day and Zach Johnson for the first two rounds.

MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Gaining Series edge not in the cards for NL

By DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Clayton Kershaw did his part with a perfect inning. Jonathan Lacey pitched in two RBI doubles. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the seventh.

The National League, for all that pitching prowess, lost a second straight All-Star game. That means the American League will again have the home-field advantage again when the World Series arrives in three months.

With an RBI triple by MVP Mike Trout and a two-run home run by Miguel Cabrera in the first inning against Adam Wainwright, the AL topped the NL 5-3 on Tuesday night.

Wainwright, the St. Louis ace, was picked to start the game by his manager, Mike Matheny. Had the boss been anyone else, Kershaw likely would have had the

honor. The Dodgers stalwart with the 1.78 ERA and 126 strikeouts in 14 starts took over for the second inning and kept the NL in it after Lucroy cut the lead to 3-2 in the top of the second with the first of his big hits.

The Milwaukee catcher, inserted in the third lineup for the injured Yadier Molina, hit another run-scoring double in the fourth to tie the game at 3. But Cardinals reliever Pat Neshek, pitching in the AL he grew up, gave up two runs in the fifth to let the AL pull ahead for good.

Brewers closer Francisco Rodriguez and Kimbrel, Atlanta's rock at the back of the bullpen, turned in hitless innings to keep the NL close. But the AL's late-game relievers were every bit as stingy.

So for All-Stars from teams like the Braves, Brewers, Cardinals and Dodgers, currently four of the top five teams in the league, they are stuck with the fact that

they will have to play a Game 7 on the road should they make it all the way through the postseason and into a decisive game for the title.

That does make a difference.

Of the last 28 champions, 23 started the World Series at home, including the last five straight. Since Major League Baseball decided to award home-field advantage to the league that won the All-Star Game, the AL is 9-3. The AL has won four of the last six World Series.

Lucroy wasn't worried.

"Hey, that's what it is. We'll get there first, and then we'll worry about it," he said.

Dodgers outfielder Yasiel Puig, who had a tough couple of days getting shut out in the home run derby Monday and then striking out three times Tuesday, felt the same way Lucroy does.

"Doesn't really matter. Start at home,

start on the road," Puig said through an interpreter. "You've got to be a good enough team, obviously, either way. It's really the same thing to me. If we get there, I think we'll be fine."

Despite riding a slump into the All-Star break that left them only one game ahead of the Cardinals in the AL Central, the Brewers had a lot to be proud of with their first half. Lucroy, Carlos Gomez and Aramis Ramirez comprised one-third of the NL lineup. Rodriguez represented the pitching staff. Ramirez went 2-for-3 with a run and a double.

Gomez, asked if the Brewers would be able to build off this in the second half, wasn't ready to think about resuming the pennant race.

"I don't know about you, but I'm going to Wisconsin Dells and enjoy the last two days with my kids and take a rest and swim a little bit," he said.

Notebook

Game-closing battery gives Twins fans charge

By DAVE CAMPBELL

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The bullpen door swung open, and Glen Perkins ran out on his way to the mound he's made his ninth-inning home at Target Field.

Minnesota's closer worked a routine three-up, three-down appearance, for the most memorable save of his life. He finished the American League's 5-3 victory over the National League on Tuesday night, with Twins fans cheering him the whole time.

Not a bad way to finish an All-Star game in the place he grew up.

"Hearing how loud the fans were, it makes me want to get to the playoffs because I think it felt like a playoff atmosphere out there tonight," Perkins said, adding: "Loss of words. I am not usually at a loss of words, but I am now."

Twins catcher Kurt Suzuki came in to catch his teammate, Perkins, who grew up in Stillwater, a suburb east of Minneapolis, pitched for the University of Minnesota before being drafted by the Twins in the first round in 2004.

Homecoming, part two: St. Louis reliever Pat Neshek, who started his career with the Twins and also grew up in a Minneapolis suburb, Brooklyn Park, had a big grin on his face as he tipped his cap to the crowd during pre-game introductions. He was even announced as a former member of the Park Center Pirates, a nod to his high school less than 10 miles north of the downtown ballpark.

Neshek took the loss, giving up two fifth-inning runs. But he wasn't going to let that ruin his experience.

It's baseball. The balls don't bounce your way. It's a tough one, but I think everybody had a lot of fun," Neshek said.

Not that Neshek was blaming the field for any bad bounces — his brother works on the ballpark's grounds crew.

Darvish debut: Texas ace Yu Darvish finally got to pitch in the All-Star game after being selected for the last two but was left in the bullpen. The highlight of his scoreless innings was a 56 mph pitch to Troy Tulowitzki.

"That's really my strength. I wanted to

pitch at least one in this game," Darvish said through an interpreter.

Quite the contrast from the 100 mph heater Aroldis Chapman threw later.

The A-list: Oakland had a major league-high six players selected for the All-Star game, plus a seventh in recently acquired right-hander Jeff Samardzija, who would have been included on the NL side had he remained with the Chicago Cubs.

After consecutive AL West titles with a roster largely unknown to mainstream fans around the country, these Athletics have finally received their due.

"It's definitely an honor for all of us to be here," said third baseman Josh Donaldson, the lone starter in the group. "I feel like this is the results of playing well the last two years, and obviously playing well this year, too. We feel that we definitely have the team to beat, just because the last couple years we've won the division and our guys are real focused on that."

With outfielder Yoenis Cespedes, first baseman Brandon Moss and catcher Derek Norris joining Donaldson, the A's have position players represented for the first time since catcher Ramon Hernandez in 2003.

That's a long gap, but it's a good guess that they won't have to wait so long for the next recognition.

"It's really cool to have that many guys here and get to share it with them," Moss said. "These are the same guys that have been there for two years, except for Kaz. But we have a lot of guys that can do a lot of special things."

Pitchers Sean Doolittle and Scott Kazmir were the other A's on the AL squad.

Still welcome: Jeff Samardzija was declared ineligible by Major League Baseball to participate since the trade that sent him from the Cubs to the A's was finalized the day before the All-Star rosters were revealed. Still, the lanky long-haired Samardzija was at Target Field for the festivities this week.

He stood last in line with the NL reserves, wearing a generic red-and-blue workout day jersey for the NL. His hat, which could've been picked up at one of the souvenir shops in the concourse, read "MLB All-Star Game" with this year's logo in the middle.



BRIAN MARK PETERSON, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Minnesota Twins closer Glen Perkins, left, gets a high-five Tuesday from catcher Kurt Suzuki after closing the game in the American League's 5-3 victory over the National League in the All-Star Game at Target Field in Minneapolis.

"These last couple weeks have been pretty tumultuous. It's going to be nice to get back to normal and just play together," Samardzija said.

Concussion concern: MLB Executive Vice Presidents Joe Torre and Dan Halem, along with former Twins third baseman Corey Koskie and others, attended a head safety seminar with youth baseball players

from nearby St. Paul. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission executive director Elliot Kaye held a demonstration on how to properly wear a helmet. Koskie, forced into early retirement because of repeated head trauma, spoke about his firsthand experience with concussions and how they affected him as a player, a person and a parent.

MLB ALL-STAR GAME



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter doubles off Cardinals' ace Adam Wainwright on Tuesday during the first inning of the MLB All-Star Game in Minneapolis.

Fitting farewell: Jeter doubles, takes bow

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Derek Jeter was a huge hit from the very start in his final All-Star Game.

Batting leadoff for the American League, the 40-year-old shortstop for the New York Yankees soaked in an ovation that lasted more than a minute at Target Field, then seized the moment Tuesday night by hitting a double.

Jeter soon crossed the plate for the game's first run. After three innings of action, he was ceremonially removed from his familiar position in the field to one more round of revering cheers as his mom, dad, sister and nephew watched from the stands.

"It's been fun family time for us," he said during the American League's 5-3 win.

The double was one of Jeter's classic, opposite-field line drives to right. He singled to right field in his next at-bat, too, raising his All-Star batting average to a robust .481 — 13 hits in 27 at-bats. That's the second-best of all time for players with 20 or more at-bats, behind Charlie Gehringer.

OK, so maybe National League starter Adam Wainwright admitted he threw

'He is just remarkable.'

Bud Selig

MLB commissioner on Derek Jeter

something juicy for Jeter to hit.

"I was going to give him a couple pipe shots," the right-hander said. "He deserved it."

Wainwright later said that he didn't want to take away from Jeter's first inning hit. "It was mis-said," the pitcher said in a television interview. "I hope people realize I'm not intentionally giving up hits out there."

Jeter showed off in the field, too. In the top of the first, he made a slick, diving stop on Andrew McCutchen's sharp groundball up the middle. Jeter got to his feet and fired an on-target throw to first base, but the fleet-footed McCutchen was too fast, beating it out for a leadoff single.

McCutchen smiled and pointed at Jeter, who grinned back at the reigning NL MVP.

The Yankees captain also had a few words for his teammates. American League manager John Farrell of Boston

asked Jeter to speak to the players in the clubhouse before the game.

"Just said a couple things," Jeter said.

This was the 14th time Jeter was picked as an All-Star. He's set to retire after this season. When he stepped to the plate, the crowd gave him a 63-second ovation, prompting him to wave, nod and tip his helmet several times.

Wainwright, who spoke the day before about how proud he would be to pitch to Jeter on this occasion, backed up toward second base and left his glove on the mound so he could clap along with everyone else.

"For him to do that meant a lot to me," Jeter said.

With a smile, Jeter shouted a few words toward the St. Louis ace, good-naturedly encouraging him to get the inning going.

Fittingly, a recording of late Yankees public address announcer Bob Sheppard's famous monotone introduction was played as he walked up to his at-bat with thousands of smartphones snapping away in the seats:

"Now batting, for the American League, from the New York Yankees, the shortstop, No. 2, Derek Jeter, No. 2."
In the third, Jeter took Cincinnati's Alfredo Simon to a full count before his single.

Then, right before the fourth inning began, Jeter was taken out for Alexei Ramirez and the captain jugged off. With Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" playing on the stadium speakers, he waved to the crowd and exchanged hugs and handshakes in the AL dugout and then took a curtain call before the game resumed.

Earlier in the day, Jeter was the first player to ride down the red carpet that was rolled out for downtown parade of the game's greats. The hearty ovations started there, while Jeter rode with his parents and other family members, who came to Minneapolis for the event.

"I think everyone WANTS it to sink in that this is my last," Jeter said in the clubhouse before batting practice, "but I'm just trying to enjoy it while I'm here and stop thinking about this is the last one."

Commissioner Bud Selig said Major League Baseball has been discussing ways to formally honor Jeter.

"If you were sitting two decades ago and you said, 'Boy, this is a guy I want to be the face of baseball and be what this generation will remember,' you couldn't have written a script like this," Selig said. "He is just remarkable."

MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Baltimore	52	42	.553	—
Toronto	49	47	.510	4
New York	47	47	.500	5
Tampa Bay	44	53	.454	9½
Boston	43	52	.453	9½
Central Division				
Detroit	53	38	.582	—
Kansas City	48	46	.511	6½
Cleveland	47	47	.500	7½
Chicago	51	51	.468	10½
Minnesota	44	50	.468	10½
West Division				
Oakland	59	36	.621	—
Los Angeles	57	37	.606	1½
Seattle	51	44	.537	8
Houston	40	56	.417	19½
Texas	38	57	.400	21

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Washington	51	42	.548	—
Atlanta	52	43	.547	—
New York	45	50	.474	7
Miami	44	50	.468	7½
Philadelphia	42	53	.442	10
Central Division				
Milwaukee	53	43	.552	—
St. Louis	52	44	.542	1
Cincinnati	59	44	.571	1½
Pittsburgh	49	46	.516	3½
Chicago	40	54	.426	12
West Division				
Los Angeles	54	43	.557	—
San Francisco	52	47	.547	1
San Diego	41	54	.432	12
Colorado	40	55	.421	13
Arizona	40	56	.417	13½

Tuesday's game
 AL All-Stars 5, NL All-Stars 3
Wednesday's games
 No games scheduled
Thursday's games
 Texas at Toronto
 Cleveland at Detroit
 Kansas City at Boston
 Houston at Chicago White Sox
 Tampa Bay at Minnesota
 Baltimore at Oakland
 Seattle at L.A. Angels
 Colorado at Pittsburgh
 Milwaukee at Washington
 San Francisco at Miami
 Philadelphia at Atlanta
 L.A. Dodgers at St. Louis
 Chicago Cubs at Arizona
 N.Y. Mets at San Diego

Tuesday AL 5, NL 3

NL	ab	r	h	bi	AL	ab	r	h	bi
AMCC cf	3	0	0	0	Jeter ss	2	1	2	0
Rickson p	2	0	0	0	Alfonso 2b	2	1	1	0
Puig rf	3	0	0	0	Aybar ss	0	0	0	0
Penix rf	0	0	0	0	Trout lf	1	1	2	0
Twizks ss	3	0	1	0	Moss rf	1	0	0	0
Castro ss	1	0	0	0	Cano 2b	2	0	0	0
Giesch lb	3	0	0	0	Altuve 2b	0	0	0	0
Ffrrm lb	0	0	0	0	Kinsler ph-2b	1	0	0	0
Stanton dh	1	0	0	0	Mickey 1b	2	0	0	0
Rizzo ph-dh	1	0	0	0	Jareu lb	1	0	0	0
Arfrr 2b	1	0	0	0	Sauls rf	2	0	0	0
Frazier 3b	0	0	0	0	Cespede lf	2	0	0	0
Uley 2b	1	1	1	1	N.Cruz dh	2	0	0	0
Gordon pr-2b	1	0	0	0	Alger ph-2b	0	0	0	0
DnMtp 2b	1	0	0	0	A.Jones c	2	0	0	0
Lucroy c	2	2	2	2	Abelso 3b	0	0	0	0
Mesroc c	1	0	0	0	DnDsn 3b	2	0	0	0
Mtnt c	1	0	0	0	Brantley cf	1	0	0	0
Comz lf	2	0	0	0	S.Perez c	1	0	0	0
JHrrn lf	2	0	0	0	DMorris c	2	1	0	0
Totals	35	3	3	3	Totals	31	5	7	5

AL — F.Freeman, L.OB — J.Lee, AL 4, NL 4, 25 — Tulowitzki, ArRamirez, Uley, Lucroy, 2, Jeter, Trout, 3B — Trout, HR — M.Cabrera, 3B — A.McCutchen, A.Ramirez, SF — Altuve.

NL	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Wainwright	1	3	3	3	0	2
Kershaw	0	1	0	0	0	1
Simon	1	1	0	0	0	1
Greinke	1	0	0	0	0	2
Neshek l	¾	0	0	0	0	1
Clippard	¾	0	0	0	0	0
Rodriguez	¾	0	0	0	0	0
Kimberl	1	0	0	0	0	3
Watson	¾	0	0	0	0	0
A.Chapman	¾	0	0	0	0	0
AL	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Fernandez	1	1	0	0	0	2
Lester	1	3	2	2	0	0
Darvish	1	1	1	1	0	1
Sale	1	1	1	0	0	2
Scherzer V	1	1	0	0	0	2
Kazmir R	¾	0	0	0	0	1
Uchua H	¾	0	0	0	0	1
Gooden H	¾	0	0	0	0	1
Doolittle H	¾	1	0	0	0	2
Rodney H	¾	0	0	0	0	1
Wright H	¾	0	0	0	0	1

HRP — Sale, (Uley), WP — Simon, Fernandez, 1 — 213, A — 41,048 (3,622).

Calendar
July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft picks to be made.
July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
Aug. 31 — Last day to trade a player without securing a replacement.
Aug. 12-14 — Owners' meetings, Baltimore.
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 40 players.
Sept. 30 — Postseason begins.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

National League second baseman Dee Gordon, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, fields a ground ball hit by the American League's Michael Brantley, of the Cleveland Indians, during the seventh inning of Tuesday's All-Star Game in Minneapolis. The AL won 5-3.

Night: Jeter prefers to deflect attention

FROM BACK PAGE

While not as flashy as Mariano Rivera's All-Star farewell at Citi Field last year, when all the other players left the great reliever alone on the field for an eighth-inning solo bow, Jeter tried to deflect the attention.

Even during his clubhouse speech.

"He just wanted to thank us," Trout said. "You know, we should be thanking him."

A 14-time All-Star who was MVP of the 2000 game in Atlanta, Jeter announced in February this will be his final season. His hits left him with a .481 All-Star average (13-for-27), just behind Charlie Gehringer's .500 record (10-for-20) for players with 20 or more at-bats.

While the Yankees are .500 at the break and in danger of missing the postseason in consecutive years for the first time in two decades, Jeter and the Angels' Trout gave a boost to whichever AL team reaches the World Series.

The AL improved to 9-3 since the All-Star game started deciding which league gets Series home-field advantage; 23 of the last 28 titles were won by teams scheduled to host four of a possible seven games.

Detroit's Max Scherzer, in line to be the most-prized free agent pitcher after the season, pitched a scoreless fifth for the win, and Glen Perkins got the save in his home ballpark.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

AL outfielder Mike Trout, of the Los Angeles Angels, holds the MVP trophy. Trout was 2-for-3 with a run scored and two RBIs.

Target Field, a \$545 million, limestone-encased jewel that opened in 2010, produced an All-Star cycle just eight batters in, with hitters showing off flashy neon-bright spikes and fielders wearing All-Star caps with special designs for the first time.

With the late sunset — the sky didn't darken until the fifth inning, well after 9 o'clock — there was bright sunshine when Jeter was cheered before his first at-bat. He was introduced by a re-

lined a 90 mph cutter down the right-field line for a double.

"I was going to give him a couple pipe shots just to — he deserved it," Wainwright said. "I thought he was going to hit something hard to the right side for a single or an out. I probably should have pitched him a little bit better."

After those in-game remarks created a stir on the Internet, Wainwright amended himself: "It was mis-said. I hope people realize I'm not intentionally giving up hits out there."

Trout, who finished second to Cabrera in AL MVP voting in each of the last two seasons, became the second-youngest All-Star MVP, about 3½ months older than Ken Griffey Jr. was in 1992.

Playing in his third All-Star game, Trout followed Jeter in the field by tripping off the right-field wall. Cabrera's homer — just the fourth in the last six All-Star games — made it 3-0, but the NL tied it on consecutive RBI doubles by Chase Uley and Jonathan Lucroy off Jon Lester in the second and Lucroy's run-scoring double against Chris Sale in the fourth.

Trout put the AL ahead for good with an RBI double in the fifth — a bounce over third base against Pat Neshek, the St. Louis reliever who grew up in the Minneapolis suburbs and started his career with the Twins. Jose Altuve followed with a sacrifice fly off Tyler Clippard.

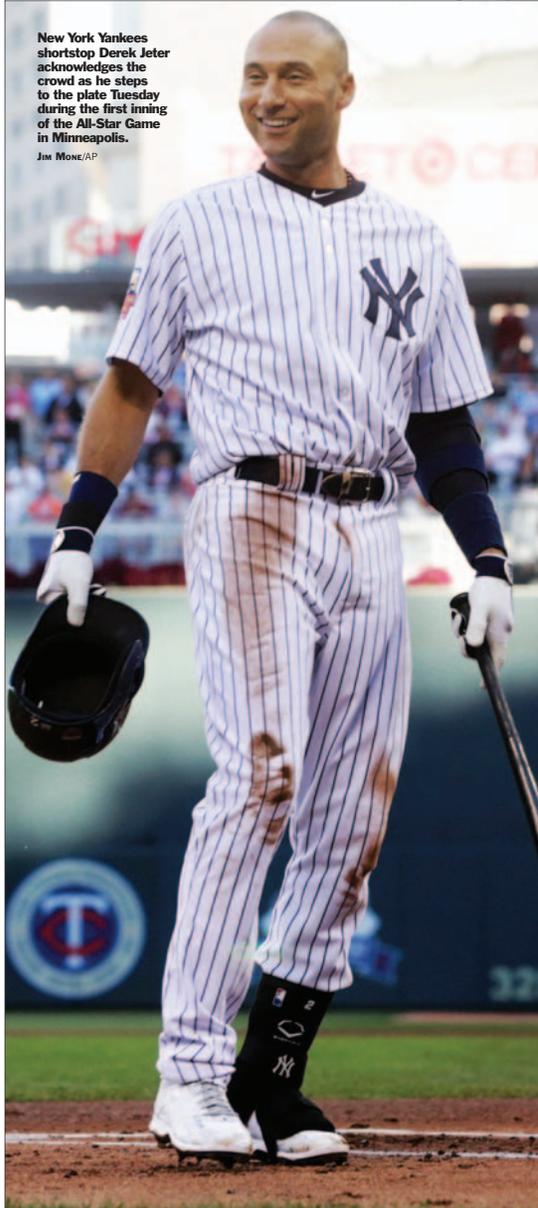
SPORTS



Determined German
 Kaymer takes cue from country's
 World Cup success | **British Open, Page 28**

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter acknowledges the crowd as he steps to the plate Tuesday during the first inning of the All-Star Game in Minneapolis.

JIM MONE/AP



MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Jeter's night

Fans say goodbye to retiring Yankees great as AL tops NL

By RONALD BLUM
 The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Derek Jeter soaked in the adulation from fans and players during one more night on baseball's national stage, set the tone for the American League with a pre-game speech and then delivered two final All-Star hits.

Mike Trout, perhaps the top candidate to succeed the 40-year-old Yankees captain as the face of the game, seemed ready to assume the role with a tiebreaking triple and later a go-ahead double that earned the 22-year-old MVP honors.

On a summer evening filled with reminders of generational change, the AL kept up nearly two decades of dominance by beating the National League 5-3 Tuesday for its 13th victory in 17 years.

"I think let Mike be Mike. I don't think people have to necessarily appoint someone to a particular position," Jeter said. "He's got a bright future ahead of him. I don't know how much better he can get, but if he consistently does what he's doing, then he will be here for a long time."

Miguel Cabrera hit a two-run homer to help give the AL champion home-field advantage for the World Series.

No matter what else happened, from the start it seemed destined to be another special event for Jeter.

He made a diving stop on Andrew McCutchen's grounder to shortstop leading off the game and nearly threw him out at first, then received a 63-second standing ovation when he walked to the plate before his opposite-field double to right leading off the bottom half. He was given another rousing cheer before his single to right starting the third and 2½ minutes more applause

By the numbers

14

Number of times Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter has been named an All-Star.

2

Number of hits Jeter had Tuesday night, bringing his total in All-Star Games to 13.

.481

Jeter's All-Star Game batting average (13-for-27), second only to Charlie Gehringer (.500).

SOURCE: The Associated Press

after AL manager John Farrell sent Alexei Ramirez to shortstop to replace him at the start of the fourth.

"It was a special moment and it was unscripted," Jeter said. "I was unaware of it."

NL manager Mike Matheny of the Cardinals didn't want it to stop.

"The guys on our side have the utmost respect for him and would like to have been standing out there for a little while longer," he said. "I think Derek was the one that was uncomfortable with it."

SEE NIGHT ON PAGE 31

"It was a special moment and it was unscripted. I was unaware of it."

Derek Jeter

Retiring Yankees shortstop on the standing ovation when he left the game

T-Wolves, Warriors restart Love trade talk
NBA briefs, Page 25

SEC will have to find new superstars
College football, Page 24

