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Free to Deployed Areas



VA official steps down over care scandal

By **PATRICK DICKSON**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Dr. Robert Petzel, undersecretary for health in the Department of Veterans Affairs, has resigned amid a firestorm over allegations of fraudulent wait lists for care and a host of other problems at the VA.

According to a statement put out by the VA, Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said:

"Today, I accepted the resignation of Dr. Robert Petzel, Under Secretary for Health in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"As we know from the veteran community, most veterans are satisfied with the quality of their VA health care, but we must do more to improve timely access to that care.

"I am committed to strengthening veterans' trust and confidence in their VA health care system. I thank Dr. Petzel for his four decades of service to veterans."

Petzel, who was the top health official at the department, oversaw an annual medical care budget of more than \$54 billion, along with 277,000 staff members, according to his official VA biography.

SEE PETZEL ON PAGE 2



CLIFF OWEN/AP

Robert Petzel, shown testifying Thursday on Capitol Hill, resigned Friday as Veterans Affairs undersecretary for health.

Battle for Camp Pendleton

Firefighters still working to contain 3 blazes on Calif. base

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Marines move military vehicles at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as three fires burned on base Friday. An evacuation order was lifted late Friday for some parts of the base in Oceanside, Calif., but remained in force for other parts.

GREGORY BULL/AP

General: V-22 crash in 2000 tied to pressure to succeed

By **TONY CAPACCIO**
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The V-22 Osprey's deadliest accident stemmed partly from "undeniably intense" pressure to show progress for the new tilt-rotor aircraft, according to the U.S. Marine Corps commandant.

"As I reflect on the mishap I

cannot ignore the charged atmosphere into which the pilots flew that night, carrying on their shoulders a critically important program," Gen. James Amos wrote to two lawmakers in a look back at the crash in 2000 that killed 19 Marines. "I believe they were eager to vindicate a revolutionary technology."

While the accident happened

more than 13 years ago, the lessons cited in the December letter, obtained by Bloomberg News under the Freedom of Information Act, may apply to similar pressures the military is under today to prove the value of new weapons such as Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter and the Navy's Littoral Combat Ship in a time of defense budget cuts.

"I remember well the aches and pains of the V-22 program," Amos said at a RAND Program conference in January, when asked to compare the V-22 with the Marine version of the F-35 that the service is trying to declare ready for combat as soon as July 2015.

SEE V-22 ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

The Pentagon has plan to stop zombie attacks

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NBA

No surprises as top seeds head to conference finals

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VIDEO GAMES

'MLB 14' makes solid contact on PlayStation 4

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Thank God for the Navy. They kept missing."

— Tony Mazzolini, president of the U.S. Aviation Museum, on a World War II-era B-29 Superfortress bomber that has been undergoing restoration after languishing for 42 years in the California desert and being used by the Navy for target practice

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COMING SOON

Science & Medicine



Medics may cut violent crime risk in those with mental illness

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MILITARY



CURR OWEN/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki, left, and Veterans Affairs Undersecretary of Health Robert Petzel prepare to testify Thursday on Capitol Hill in Washington before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

Petzel: Outgoing official already was set to retire this year

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Veterans Health Administration operates more than 1,700 health care locations, including hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and counseling centers. More than 8 million veterans are enrolled in the system, according to VA.

But Petzel had announced in September that he would retire this year, perhaps blunting the effect of the announcement.

The VA said at the time that Petzel would be retiring "as planned, following a four-year tenure," but would remain in the job until the Senate confirms a successor.

The White House announced May 1 that it intended to nominate Jeffrey Murawsky, director of the VA's Illinois-based Great Lakes Health Care System, as the new under secretary for health.

"Today's announcement from VA regarding Undersecretary for Health Robert Petzel's resignation" is the pinnacle of disingenuous political doublespeak," according to a statement from Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. "Petzel was already scheduled to retire in

2014 and President Obama has already announced his intention to nominate Petzel's replacement, so characterizing this as a 'resignation' just doesn't pass the smell test. ... the VA has resorted to what it does best: splitting semantic hairs to create the illusion of accountability and progress. After yesterday's out-of-touch performance from Sec. Shinseki, I was disappointed. Today, I am even more disillusioned."

On Thursday, senators on the Veterans' Affairs Committee grilled Shinseki and Petzel, saying about 50 federal reports in recent years warned of problems long before a health care scandal involving allegedly falsified records in at least 10 states. In Arizona, whistleblower reports surfaced in late April that a Phoenix VA hospital kept a secret list concealing long waits for health treatment while 40 veterans died.

At the hearing, Petzel called those scheduling methods "intolerable." But he told senators he wasn't sure whether VA employees who engage in such practices should be fired or disciplined in some other way.

And there are other problems; The family of a veteran who died while being treated for lung cancer and after contracting Legionnaire's disease filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the Veterans Affairs Pittsburgh Healthcare System.

According to the lawsuit, Clark E. Compton, a Marine Corps veteran who died Nov. 14, 2011, was being treated at the VA hospital in Pittsburgh when he was exposed to Legionnaire's disease on or about Sept. 28, 2011.

Miller referenced a number of problems at VA hospitals during a September hearing and noted that Petzel "downplayed the problems by referring to them as 'kerfuffles.'"

Earlier this year, Miller introduced the VA Management Accountability Act of 2014, legislation that would give Shinseki and future VA secretaries authority to fire or demote Senior Executive Service or equivalent employees based on performance.

The American Legion had demanded the resignation of Shinseki, along with Petzel and Allison Hickey, another top lieutenant, amid allegations that medical

treatment delays have caused the deaths of scores of veterans.

Republican Rep. Jerry Moran of Kansas, who last week called for Shinseki's resignation, said in a Friday news release that Petzel wasn't the only one who should be held accountable.

"It is important to note that Undersecretary Petzel was the only VA witness at the Senate VA Committee hearing who admitted knowledge of IG reports — he should not shoulder the blame for VA's failures," Moran said. "Rather than the VA focusing on damage control, action should be taken immediately to change the bureaucratic culture of mediocrity at the VA and ensure the highest quality and most timely care for our nation's heroes."

Also, The Associated Press reported Friday that House Republicans scheduled a vote for Wednesday on legislation that would give Shinseki greater authority to fire or demote senior executives and administrators at the agency and its 152 medical centers.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. dickson.pat@stripes.com @stripesDchief

DODDS SPORTS

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MILITARY

Libyan safety fears prompt troop move

Fearing militia control of country's airports, US deploys 200 to nearby base in Sicily

BY NANCY A. YOUSSEF
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Alarmed by developments in Libya, the United States this week moved 200 troops to a base in Sicily so that they could respond more quickly if the U.S. needs to evacuate its embassy in Tripoli, two administration officials have told McClatchy.

The troop move is the latest acknowledgment from the Obama administration that three years after a NATO bombing campaign helped topple the government of Moammar Gadhafi, conditions in the oil-producing country are deteriorating and security concerns that previously were confined to Benghazi and Libya's east have spread to Tripoli, the capital, and the country's west.

Of special concern is that Islamist militias could easily close Tripoli's airport, complicating any effort to evacuate U.S. diplomats if the situation deteriorates further. Militias also are in position to seize control of Libya's other airports, including the one in Benghazi, where militants in 2012 attacked U.S. diplomatic facilities, killing four Americans including the ambassador, Christopher Stevens.

One senior diplomat in Tripoli said U.S. officials are living under severe security restrictions. "You have to have a new normal," said the diplomat, who was not authorized to talk to the press and spoke on condition of anonymity. "We're built to hunker down."

The fluidity of the security situation in Tripoli played out again Friday, as Algeria reportedly sent in members of its special forces and a military plane to evacuate its ambassador and staff after militants threatened them.

Since the attacks on the U.S. outpost in Benghazi, there have been a number of kidnappings and assassinations of diplomats and other leaders in Tripoli, including the prime minister, Ali Zaidan, who subsequently resigned and fled the country. Key members of the government that replaced Zaidan's, including the deputy intelligence chief, Mustafa Noah, have been kidnapped as well.

But the apparent impetus for the U.S. troop movement was the release this week of Jordan's am-

bassador to Libya, Fawaz al-Itan, after 28 days as a hostage, possibly in exchange for Jordan's release from jail of a top Libyan militant. Officials fear the deal might encourage more kidnappings.

How long the U.S. troops will remain in Sicily was unknown, but the security situation in Libya is unlikely to improve anytime soon.

The central government's lack of control over its fragmented military was never more evident than on Friday, when fierce fighting gripped Benghazi after a key commander in the 2011 uprising, Gen. Khalifa Hifter, commanded government troops and air power to attack Islamist militias. It was the worst fighting there in three years.

The central government said it had not authorized the attack by Hifter, who was a well-known commander during Libya's incursion into neighboring Chad in the 1980s but left Libya and lived in northern Virginia for years before returning as the anti-Gadhafi rebellion gained momentum. Many expected him to assume command of a post-Gadhafi national army, though that appointment never took place.

Residents of Benghazi said that while they were uncertain they could trust Hifter, they welcomed anyone waging a serious campaign against the militias that control the city. At least nine government troops were killed and 43 others wounded in Friday's fighting, during which Hifter's forces captured the western entrance to the city from Ansar al-Shariah, the largest militant group in Libya. Ansar al-Shariah members are believed to have been responsible for the Sept. 11, 2012, attack that killed Stevens.

Mossam al-Fitory, a 23-year-old activist and journalist based in Benghazi, said he welcomed Friday's offensive, even as he acknowledged that Hifter's motives and agenda are unclear.

"Benghazi needs a strong hand to fight back against Ansar al-Shariah. They are responsible for the instability," al-Fitory said. "We are with anybody trying to secure Libya."

Hours before Hifter's campaign began, two special forces soldiers and an imam were assassinated in Benghazi.



SEAN D. ELLIOT, THE DAY (NEW LONDON, CONN.)/AP

USS San Juan welcomed home

Family members take photos as the USS San Juan passes on the Thames River en route to the Navy submarine base in Grotton, Conn., after returning from a 7-month deployment on Friday. San Juan's crew visited ports in Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Portugal and Spain while deployed.

Judge finds corpsman guilty of detonating grenade on purpose

BY DIANNA CAHN
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK — Immediately after a grenade explosion injured their medic, members of the SEAL Team 10 unit raced to retrieve their injured comrade.

At first, they assumed the attack at their base in southeastern Afghanistan came from outside.

But as the hours passed without incident, tension grew between the Americans and their Afghan counterparts, whom they began to view suspiciously. Was this one of those "green on blue" attacks, in which Afghan forces target their American mentors?

In the days that followed, the Afghans, feeling the scrutiny, stopped cooperating with the SEALs. They refused to coordinate on missions or leave the base on patrols with the Americans. Operations came to a halt.

Meanwhile, investigators were arriving at a startling conclusion: that the hospital corpsman, Petty Officer 1st Class Omar Pescador-Montanez, was the only person who could have thrown the grenade.

The platoon leaders were ordered not to share that with team members, who were left to wonder why no one was doing anything to catch the perpetrator.

That account emerged over a four-day court-martial at Norfolk Naval Station this week.

On Thursday, a military judge, Cmdr. Michael Luken, found Pescador-Montanez guilty of detonating a grenade to injure himself, recklessly endangering two Afghans in an earlier, failed attempt to explode the grenade and negligently discharging his firearm.

The prosecutor, Capt. Keaton Harrell, asked the judge to sentence Pescador-Montanez to the maximum punishment, saying the corpsman not only injured himself, but also crippled the mission.

"Rare is the case where the maximum punishment in a special court-martial is requested," Harrell told the judge. But Pescador-Montanez's actions had "vast and drastic effects, impacts and consequences."

Colleagues and relatives testified that Pescador-Montanez is a nurturing man and until that point was an exemplary sailor who loved his job so much that he asked his church back home to send him baby wipes, bottles, formula and diapers for Afghan villagers.

"That's not a person who would hurt other people or himself," his sister, Xiamara Pescador, told the court.

The SEAL unit had been mentoring Afghan special forces at the joint base named Village Stability Platform Shobar since June 2013. As the independent duty corpsman, Pescador-Montanez treated sick or injured Americans, as well as Afghan soldiers and villagers.

On Aug. 2, the corpsman did not expect to be at the clinic so late in the day. But Ahmad Jan, an Afghan member of a civilian bomb unit, complained of leg pain, so the two men and an interpreter went to the clinic on the Afghan side of the divided compound.

Intestimony conducted via video teleconference from Afghanistan, the interpreter, Shehzard Haroon Khan, said that during that examination, Pescador-Montanez left the clinic, ostensibly to check outside for patients, even though it was dark and patients didn't come at night.

Haroon said Pescador-Montanez ran back into the room, shouting, "Get down, get down!" But someone had thrown something in his face.

All three stayed on the floor for a minute. Nothing happened. Jan checked outside, then the three left the clinic. As they headed back to their rooms, Haroon said, Pescador-Montanez turned and went

back to check the clinic alone. Moments later, the blast went off.

Investigators concluded that Pescador-Montanez tried to detonate the grenade the first time he left the room. But he forgot to remove the safety clip when he pulled the pin. So he went back a second time.

A Navy ordnance expert involved in the investigation told the court that the trail of grenade pieces suggested that Pescador-Montanez stood in the second room, removed the safety clip, then threw the grenade into the first room, with the spoon flying off midflight.

He said that given how the pieces landed, it was highly unlikely that the grenade could have been thrown through a door or a window.

"We have evidence beyond reasonable doubt that the grenade was deployed from within that room," Harrell said. "We know it was HMI Pescador that detonated the grenade because he was the only one in the room."

The defense argued that the possible motives the Navy attributed to Pescador-Montanez—that he wanted to get out of his duties or that he was hoping to earn a Purple Heart and its financial benefits for his children—didn't hold up.

His lawyer, Lt. Cmdr. Kimberly Kelly, also argued that it would be absurd for Pescador-Montanez to pick up a grenade that had failed to explode. She said he had no reason to detonate a grenade because he loved his job. It was possible, she argued, that the attack came from outside.

The judge sentenced Pescador-Montanez to 90 days hard labor without confinement, a reduction in rank to petty officer second class and 25 days in confinement. His command can still seek to discharge him administratively, Kelly said.

MILITARY



AP

Actors promote the TV series "The Walking Dead" by shambling along the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City. The Defense Department has used such fictional scenarios to train planners. The idea is to use impossible situations to prevent people from mistaking training materials for real plans.

DOD has plan for dealing with zombies — sort of

By GORDON LUBOLD
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has always been the one place in government with a plan, forever in preparation mode and ready to yank a blueprint off the shelf for almost any contingency. Need a response for a Russian nuclear missile launch? Check. Have to rescue a U.S. ambassador kidnapped by drug lords? Got that covered. How about a detailed strategy for surviving a zombie apocalypse? As it turns out, check.

Incredibly, the Defense Department has a response if zombies attacked and the armed forces had to eradicate flesh-eating walkers in order to "preserve the sanctity of human life" among all the "non-zombie humans."

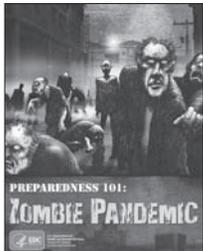
Buried on the military's secret computer network is an unclassified document, obtained by Foreign Policy, called "CONOP 8888." It's a zombie survival plan, a how-to guide for military planners trying to isolate the threat from a menu of the undead — from chicken zombies to "vegetarian zombies and even 'evil magic zombies'" — and destroy them.

"This plan fulfills fictional contingency planning guidance tasking for U.S. Strategic Command to develop a comprehensive [plan] to undertake military operations to preserve 'non-zombie' humans from the threats posed by a zombie horde," CONOP 8888's plan summary reads. "Because zombies pose a threat to all non-zombie human life, [Strategic Command] will be prepared to preserve the sanctity of human life and conduct operations in support of any human population — including traditional adversaries."

CONOP 8888, otherwise known as "Counter-Zombie Domi-

nance" and dated April 30, 2011, is no laughing matter, and yet of course it is. As its authors note in the document's "disclaimer section," "this plan was not actually designed as a joke."

Military planners assigned to the U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha, Neb., during 2009 and 2010 looked for a creative way to devise a planning document to protect citizens in the event of an attack of any kind. The officers used zombies as their muse. "Planners . . . realized that training examples for plans must accommodate the political fallout that occurs if the general public mistakenly believes that a fictional training scenario is actually a real plan," the authors wrote, adding: "Rather than risk such an outcome by teaching our augmentees using the fictional 'Tunisia' or 'Nigeria' scenarios



AP

The Defense Department isn't the first federal agency to jump on the zombie bandwagon. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention created the tongue-in-cheek "Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic" about two years ago.

‘The document is identified as a training tool used in an in-house training exercise where students learn about the basic concepts of military plans and order development through a fictional training scenario.’

Navy Capt. Pamela Kunze
U.S. Strategic Command

used at [Joint Combined Warfighting School], we elected to use a completely-impossible scenario that could never be mistaken for a real plan."

Navy Capt. Pamela Kunze, a spokeswoman for Strategic Command, acknowledged the document exists on a "secure Internet site" but took pains to explain that the zombie survival guide is only a creative endeavor for training purposes. "The document is identified as a training tool used in an in-house training exercise where students learn about the basic concepts of military plans and order development through a fictional training scenario," she wrote in an email. "This document is not a U.S. Strategic Command plan."

This isn't the first time zombies have been used to inspire trainers or the American public. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) built an entire public awareness campaign for emergency preparedness around zombies. "Get a kit, make a plan, be prepared," one CDC poster warns as a dead-eyed woman peeks over a blanket.

But the military appears to have come up with the idea first. And of course, should there be a zombie apocalypse, the military indeed has a plan.

CONOP 8888 is designed to "establish and maintain a vigilant defensive condition aimed at protecting humankind from zombies," according to the plan's purpose, and, "if necessary, conduct operations that will, if directed, eradicate zombie threats to human safety." Finally, the plan provides guidance to "aid civil authorities in maintaining law and order and restoring basic services during and after a zombie attack."

The "worst case threat scenario," according to the plan, suggests a rather dark situation: a zombie attack in which there would be high "transmissibility," lots of zombies eating lots of people, zombies infecting humans at a rapid rate, and little or no immunity and few effective countermeasures.

Under "Zombie Threat Summary," the plan highlights the different kinds of zombie adversaries one might find in such an attack. They include not only vegetarian zombies ("zombie life forms originating from any cause but pose no direct threat to humans because they only eat plant life"); evil magic zombies ("EMZs are zombie life forms created via some form of occult experimentation in what might otherwise be referred to as 'evil magic'"); and

also chicken zombies.

"Although it sounds ridiculous, this is actually the only proven class of zombie that actually exists," the plan states. So-called "CZs" occur when old hens that can no longer lay eggs are euthanized by farmers with carbon monoxide, buried and then claw their way back to the surface. "CZs are simply terrifying to behold and are likely only to make people become vegetarians in protest to animal cruelty," CONOP 8888 notes.

The catalog of the walking dead also includes zombies that come from outer space; those deliberately created by Frankensteinian bio-engineers; and humans who have been invaded by a pathogen that turns them into zombies.

The plan reviews, extensively, the various phases of saving the world from zombie rule and reads not unlike the phases of a counterinsurgency campaign: from "shape" to "deter" to "seize initiative" to "dominate" to "stabilize" and, in the final, confidence-building phase, "restore civil authority." That final phase includes the directive to "prepare to redeploy the forces to attack surviving zombie holdouts."

Finally, "[a]s directed by POTUS and SECDEF," using military-ese for the president of the United States and the defense secretary, "provide support to federal, state and tribal agencies' efforts to restore basic services in zombie-related disaster areas."

If the military's mantra is to "be prepared," then writing a zombie survival guide — even if it is just for an imaginative exercise — makes sense. "I hope we've invested a similar level of intellectual rigor against dragon egg hatching contingencies," one defense official quipped.

MILITARY

Army fields improved laser targeting

'Eye of God' system looks to increase accuracy of guided munitions

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

Dismounted troops soon will be able to use a lightweight laser targeting designator to call for accurate hits by GPS-guided rockets, mortars and artillery.

"They call this system the 'Eye of God,'" Scott McClellan, fire support branch chief at the Fort Sill, Okla., Fires Center of Excellence, said of the newly fielded Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder 2H.

So-called "smart" munitions — which use GPS to guide themselves directly onto targets — have been used extensively in Iraq and Afghanistan and are credited with saving the lives of civilians on the battlefield by reducing collateral damage.

However, the high-tech rockets, shells and bombs require precise information about their targets. Until now, portable laser target designators weren't accurate enough. Troops often have had to "talk fire" onto a target by providing updated coordinates after the first rounds land.

The new system with the improved accuracy can get first-round effects," McClellan said. "You don't have to keep bracketing and say: 'Drop 50, right 400.' You can get an accurate target location first time."

The new device will let forward observers call for fire from GPS-aided munitions such as the 155 mm Excalibur artillery round, the 120 mm precision-guided mortar and

the guided unitary rocket, according to officials from Project Executive Office Soldier, or PEO Soldier.

It can designate stationary targets as far as three miles away — two miles if they're moving — and can find the location of a target to within 33 feet at a range of 1½ miles, officials said.

The laser designator, which will also be provided to Air Force Joint Terminal Attack Controllers, can provide coordinates for both GPS-guided and ordinary "dumb" munitions, McClellan said.

The Army is retrofitting 2,500 older laser designators to add the enhanced capabilities, said Lt. Col. Kevin Ellison, PEO Soldier's product manager for soldier precision targeting devices.

"What we have provided the warfighter now is a precise, guided capability," he said.

One of the forward observers who has helped test the new designator, Sgt. 1st Class Justin Rotti, 30, said he used an older laser designator to call for fire in eastern Afghanistan in 2008 after his forward operating base (FOB Shank) came under rocket attack.

Troops detected a heat signature from insurgents, used a laser designator to obtain the enemy's position and then talked in an air strike from an A-10 aircraft, he said.

The new laser designator will save time for ground troops because it obtains a target's position immediately, Rotti said.

The sensor can see further than any other dismounted sensor and it has a ther-

mal capability which gives the soldier the ability to tell the difference between humans and the environment," he said.

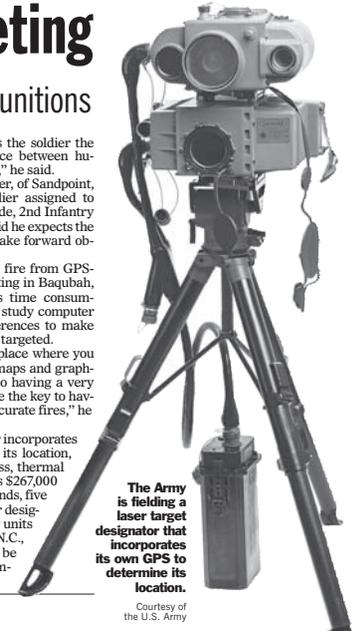
Sgt. 1st Class Jacob Mauer, of Sandpoint, Idaho, a fire support soldier assigned to 210th Field Artillery Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea, said he expects the new laser designators to make forward observers more accurate.

Mauer said he called for fire from GPS-guided rockets during fighting in Baqubah, Iraq, but the process was time consuming and required troops to study computer maps and assign grid references to make sure the right building was targeted.

"If you are going into a place where you haven't been before, your maps and graphics won't be the greatest, so having a very accurate laser is going to be the key to having fast, responsible and accurate fires," he said.

The new laser designator incorporates its own GPS to determine its location along with a digital compass, thermal imager and camera. It costs \$267,000 and weighs just over 31 pounds, five pounds less than older laser designators. The first of 200 new units was fielded at Fort Bragg, N.C., in February, and they will be rolled out Army-wide in coming months, officials said.

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V-22: Program failed to anticipate safety issue before test, Amos says

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We are not going to repeat those" issues, said Amos, who was assistant deputy commandant for aviation and involved in overseeing the V-22 in 2000.

The Osprey can take off and land like a helicopter, and its propellers tilt forward so it can fly like an airplane.

After early years of setbacks and accidents, the aircraft built by Boeing and Textron's Bell Helicopter unit served in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress has appropriated \$41.5 billion toward a \$55 billion program to build 460 of the V-22s.

The letter from Amos was addressed to Reps. Walter Jones, R-N.C., and Steny Hoyer, D-Md. They've championed the cause of the widows of the two pilots who died in the 2000 crash. The women, who live in the lawmakers' districts, have long fought the notion that their husbands were at fault.

"Among the greatest misfortunes" after the crash "was the characterization — not by the Marine Corps but by others — that pilot error was solely to blame for the mishap," Amos said in his letter, although he stopped short of saying it played no role.

One of the widows, Connie Gruber, who lives in North Carolina,



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

An MV-22B Osprey with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit takes off from the flight deck of the USS Makin Island during training off the coast of San Diego on April 14.

said in an email that she'd seen the letter from Amos and didn't want to comment.

The other widow, Trish Brow, who lives in Maryland, had no immediate comment.

Sarah Howard, a spokesman for Jones, said he had no comment. Hoyer spokeswoman Katie Grant said in an email that she didn't have the letter.

The April 8, 2000, night flight test that turned deadly was part of a series of combat evaluations needed before a decision planned for that December to move to full production of the V-22, with an estimated value of as much as \$20 billion to the contractors.

"The pressure to succeed that night hung heavily in the air,

touching everyone associated with the program," Amos wrote.

Instead, the decision was delayed almost five years after the April crash was followed within months by a negative report on the V-22's reliability by the Pentagon's top weapons tester, and then by another crash, this one attributed to flawed hydraulics, that killed four Marines.

While the Marine Corps has never directly blamed the pilots for the April 2000 crash, it cited "human factors." Jones has pressed the service for years to say the pilots weren't at fault.

The Marine Corps' explanation in 2000 "failed to adequately account for many intangibles contributing to

the outcome," Amos said.

The pilots, Lt. Col. John Brown, 39, and his co-pilot, Maj. Brooks Gruber, 34, were among the most experienced V-22 pilots in the Marines, the head of Marine aviation said after the accident. Brown had flown about 97 hours and an additional 94 hours in a Osprey simulator. Gruber had flown about 86 hours, and 121 more in a simulator.

"They were superb aviators, among the finest in our Corps," Amos said. "Notwithstanding their talent and skill," the Osprey, "like all new aircraft, contained certain unexplored capabilities and limitations at the time of the mishap."

The crash during a night exercise in Marana, Ariz., was pegged to an aerodynamic condition that the pilots weren't fully informed about, according to several reviews by the Marine Corps and other agencies.

The program "did not significantly recognize the potential safety threat" that a condition called a Vortex Ring State poses to a tilt-rotor aircraft, Amos said, and "as the pilots attempted to

stay in position" during landing "the aircraft subsequently entered VRS and crashed."

The condition occurs when an Osprey's or a helicopter's rotor blades lose lift as it's descending. Rather than correcting the condition, adding power makes it worse.

In the 2000 crash, the V-22 descended more than 1,000 feet per minute instead of the permitted maximum of 800 feet per minute, according to investigators.

"The test program did not fully define it and the engineering and safety program failed to forecast the characteristic" and "clearly communicate" to fliers "the potential safety issue," Amos said.

Lt. Colonel David Nevers, a spokesman for Amos, said in an emailed statement that the commandant's letter came after "considerable reflection over many months and careful re-examination of the many factors that led to the tragedy."

"General Amos drew on his experience as a pilot, his long history with the V-22 program, and the advantage of time to offer his own perspective," Nevers said.

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MILITARY

GOP to block military immigration measure

By ERICA WERNER
AND DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republican leaders intervened Friday to prevent a vote on U.S. immigration legislation, dealing a severe blow to election-year efforts to overhaul the dysfunctional system.

The move came after a Republican congressman announced plans to try to force a vote next week, over strong conservative opposition, on his measure creat-

ing a path to citizenship for immigrants who were brought illegally to the U.S. as children and serve in the military.

Rep. Jeff Denham labeled his bill the ENLIST Act and said he would seek a vote as an amendment to the popular annual defense bill, the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA.

In response, Doug Heye, spokesman for House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, said: "No proposed ENLIST amendments to NDAA will be made in order." Heye said no stand-alone vote

on the measure would be permitted, either.

It was the latest setback for President Barack Obama's efforts to move comprehensive immigration legislation through Congress to boost border security, remake legal worker programs and offer legal status to the estimated 11.5 million people now living in the U.S. illegally. The Senate passed an immigration bill last year, but it's been stalled in the Republican-led House.

Cantor, House Speaker John Boehner and other House Repub-

lican leaders have insisted they want to advance immigration legislation, though they've rejected the Senate's comprehensive bill.

Chances have always looked slim, but the White House and outside advocates saw a window for action over the next several months, be-



Cantor

fore Congress' August recess and November midterm elections.

Friday's developments seemed to all but rule out anything happening on the issue this year in the House, if even Denham's limited measure could not advance. Despite a wide coalition of business, labor, religious groups, farmers and others pushing for an immigration overhaul, many individual Republican House members who represent largely white districts have been unimpressed.

Denham's measure was widely popular and seen as perhaps the likeliest area for compromise.



EYOTA BLASZCZYK, ODESSA AMERICAN/AP

Healing on two wheels

Rob "Old School" Reavis from Sacramento, Calif., is greeted during a stop Friday in Odessa, Texas, during the Run For The Wall cross-country ride to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Reavis fought in the Vietnam War for two years with the U.S. Army and says the ride is healing for a lot of the veterans.

Judge won't let military force-feed prisoner

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A federal judge in Washington ordered the U.S. military on Friday to at least temporarily stop force-feeding a hunger striking prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay naval base.

The order from U.S. District Court Judge Gladys Kessler bars the force feeding of prisoner Abu Wa'el Dhiab at least until a hearing on Wednesday. It also directs the military from forcibly removing the prisoner from his cell at the U.S. base in Cuba.

The temporary restraining order is in place at least until the judge can hold a hearing to determine when the U.S. government will turn over the Syrian prisoner's medical records and any videotapes of the force-feeding procedure he has undergone while on hunger strike.

Lawyers for the prisoner have challenged his treatment during the hunger strike as part of a broader legal challenge of his overall confinement and are ultimately seeking a court order for his release from Guantanamo. They welcomed Kessler's order on force feeding as an important step.

"This is a major crack in Guantanamo's years-long effort to oppress prisoners and to exercise total control over information about the prison," said Cori Cridner, an attorney with the British legal rights group Reprieve that represents the prisoner.

A Defense Department spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Todd Brea-seale, said the military only feeds prisoners against their will to keep them alive and follows all laws when it does so. "We will, of course, comply with the judge's order here," he said by email.

Prisoners at Guantanamo have engaged in hunger strikes for years to protest their confinement.

Dhiab, 42, has been held without charge at Guantanamo since August 2002.

Air Force spending \$60M to certify SpaceX launches

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Air Force is spending about \$60 million and using as many as 100 people to certify billionaire Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp. for launching military and spy satellites, according to the service's top uniformed acquisition official.

"We've got folks busting their butt to get SpaceX certified despite what everything in the media seems to say," Lt. Gen. Charles Davis said in an interview.

Davis said the Air Force is eager to find opportunities for SpaceX in its \$67.6 billion launch program as he sought to rebut Musk's contention that the service is protecting a monopoly for United Launch Alliance, a joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

"We've had to react to SpaceX and members of Congress," Davis said. "Now there's allegations of cronyism; there's allegations of 'you just want to give money to ULA because you don't want to have a new entrant certified.'"

Musk filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims last month asserting that the Air Force illegally shut SpaceX out of launch contracts. He also has cited the reliance on Russian-made engines by the venture of Lockheed and Boeing, the two biggest U.S. defense contractors. In response to U.S. sanctions over Ukraine, Russia's deputy prime minister said on Tuesday that his country no longer will export rocket engines to the U.S. to launch military payloads.

Musk, the entrepreneur best known as the chairman and chief

executive officer of Tesla Motors Inc., told a congressional committee in March that "space launch innovation has stagnated, competition has been stifled" and prices have soared because of the Boeing-Lockheed monopoly. Musk, 42, ranked 133rd on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index with a net worth of \$9.2 billion as of May 13.

United Launch Alliance, the contractors' venture based in Centennial, Colo., is working under Air Force contracts valued at \$2.6 billion. That includes an exclusive award in December for 36 launches through 2017 and contracts for maintaining a launch capability between missions.

On the other hand, the Air Force has reduced to seven from 14 the number of launches through 2017 for which SpaceX could compete with United Launch Alliance

once it's been certified.

Davis said the competitive launches were reduced temporarily to save \$400 million through 2019. SpaceX will be able to bid on launches after 2017, Davis said.

"It is our belief and our goal that we will get SpaceX certified, or somebody, to the point that they can" put all Air Force satellites in orbit by about 2018, including heavy and high-risk payloads, Davis said.

"I know we have a company out there that says 'we can do everything for you already,' and I know that's not exactly the case yet," Davis said of SpaceX. "We are trying to get them there."

The Air Force is evaluating three NASA missions performed by SpaceX, all of which must be validated as successful before the company can be certified.

NATION

Group says B-29 bomber may fly by end of year

The Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — A B-29 Superfortress bomber that has been undergoing restoration in Wichita for more than a decade after being rescued from the California desert is expected to be in the air by year's end, nearly half a century after it was last used during the Korean War.

The giant bomber, dubbed "Doc" after being assigned to a squadron of eight bombers named after Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, will be one of only two restored B-29s in flying condition when the restoration is completed, The Wichita Eagle reported.

The plane, which is 99 feet long with a wingspan of 141 feet, was built in 1944 inside Boeing Wichita's Plant II. It was built too late to fly bombing missions during World War II, though it eventually served as a radar trainer during the Korean War — but then it fell into disrepair in the Mojave Desert, where for 42 years it served as a sanctuary for birds and other desert creatures.

It also was used by the Navy as target practice.

"Thank God for the Navy. They kept missing," said Tony Mazzolini, president of the U.S. Aviation Museum, who rescued the deteri-

orating plane with the help of the Ohio museum.

Mazzolini formed a plan to restore the aircraft and contacted Jeff Turner, then an executive at Boeing in Wichita.

"He said, 'If you can get this plane to Wichita, we can help you get this plane in the air,'" Mazzolini said.

The plane arrived in Wichita by truck on May 19, 2000. The massive restoration project began later that year but went on hiatus for a few years because of the poor economy and a lack of hangar space.

But a group of business leaders and aviation enthusiasts formed a nonprofit, Doc's Friends, and acquired the plane from Mazzolini in 2013. Boeing donated a military hangar in south Wichita where the restoration could be completed.

Turner, who retired last year as CEO of Spirit AeroSystems, is now chairman of the Doc's Friends board. He told members of the Wichita Aero Club at a luncheon on Monday that it will take between \$750,000 and \$1 million to complete restoration.

Volunteers still must install the plane's fourth and final engine, install avionics and fuel cells, and



PHOTOS BY JAIME GREEN, THE WICHITA EAGLE/AP

Above: The Wichita Aero Club show off the progress of the restoration of the B-29 Superfortress called "Doc" at an open house on Tuesday in Wichita, Kan. **Below:** The World War II-era bomber got its name after being assigned to a squadron of eight bombers named after "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

check all electrical systems and flight controls. The group also must obtain an airworthiness certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration.

In addition to finishing the airplane, Doc's Friends must find a permanent home for the plane — along with money to build a hangar and to maintain the plane. Turner said the plan is to keep the plane in Wichita, where it was originally built.

Building a hangar will cost between \$3 million and \$5 million, depending on its size and scope, with the first choice of location being Wichita Mid-Continent Airport, he said.

"We're not sure yet what really makes sense," he said.



Graduates with drone skills to be in demand soon

By DOMINIC BASILITO

The Washington Post

Next year about this time, we may be talking about an explosion of interest by employers for recent college grads who know how to operate drones. That's right — the same way that we currently hear about the IT skills gap in hot areas such as mobile and the cloud and big data — we may be hearing about the need for IT workers with skills and experience related to drone technology.

One key factor is the relentless growth of new business opportunities for drones. It is almost a certainty that the ability to build, pilot and monitor these drones is going to be hugely important once commercial drones get the go-ahead from the FAA. Sure, there are the high-profile business cases — such as the Amazon retail delivery drones or the Domino's pizza delivery drones — but there are also everyday-use cases that extend from filmmaking and aerial photography to fields such as real estate, farming and pipeline maintenance. Journalists want to work with them. As do meteorologists. And, yes, the Pentagon is definitely interested in the future of drones, too.

According to a 2013 report from the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, FAA approval of commercial drones could lead to the creation of 70,000 new U.S. jobs within the next three

To keep up with a projected demand for drone skills, there is now a growing number of official programs and academic opportunities for drone operators.

years, and 100,000 new U.S. jobs by the year 2025. Many of these early jobs, most likely, will be involved in integrating commercial drones into commercial airspace. At any time, there are thousands of commercial aircraft airborne in U.S. airspace, and it's possible that there will be just as many drones within a few short years. Some predict drones to become an \$80 billion business opportunity by 2025.

Already, we're starting to see the first testing of commercial drones at FAA test sites in places such as New York, North Dakota, Alaska, Nevada, Texas and Virginia. The goal of these new FAA sites is to test out drones in a variety of climates, environments and use cases. The drones in New York, for example, are meant to test ways to integrate commercial drones into congested Northeastern air space. And the drones in North Dakota are going to be used to test out approaches related to farming management and agriculture research.

To keep up with this projected demand for drone skills, there is now a growing number of official programs and academic opportunities for drone operators. Once

companies start hiring, they're probably going to pass on recent engineering grads with a theoretical knowledge of machine propulsion or navigation systems, in favor of candidates with hands-on experience who know how to get a drone airborne from a dead start, and to maneuver it for photos. When Amazon starts hiring drone operators, for example, it probably won't want to build a drone-training program from scratch. (Amazon chief executive Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

That might explain why we're starting to see some very innovative types of academic programs for the drone technology experts of tomorrow. It's the basic law of supply and demand at work. The Unmanned Vehicle University in Phoenix, for example, can set you up with a variety of career options — piloting a drone, becoming an aerial drone photographer, or starting a career as a UAV systems engineer. The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers a bachelor's degree in Unmanned Aircraft Systems Science. The University of North Dakota offers a four-year program for future Unmanned Aerial Vehicles pilots, while Kan-

sas State offers an undergraduate degree in Unmanned Aircraft Studies.

What's interesting is how all this might change the employment landscape for technology. Most of the big technology employment hubs — places such as New York and Boston — thrive on urban density. Entrepreneurs like to cluster together. With drone technology, it's the opposite. Most of the big drone-testing sites are in out-of-the-way locations: North Dakota, not New York. Even the test site in New York state is located far from Manhattan or Brooklyn, meaning that Brooklyn hipsters are about to be replaced by upstate rural residents as the arbiters of tech cool.

Of course, all this sounds a bit fantastical. North Dakota hopes eventually to become the new Silicon Valley? Really? And there are obviously a lot of safety factors to keep in mind before commercial drones hit the mainstream. Yet, the next time you hear your neighbor talking about buying a Parrot Bebop quadcopter and Oculus Rift VR headset, don't be so quick to dismiss him or her. Getting an early jump on these consumer drone technologies may be the secret to a six-figure job offer later, even if it means moving to a place like Kansas or North Dakota. The same way that tech companies now complain about a lack of talent in areas such as mobile or big data, they may be talking about a drone talent gap within a few years.

NATION

Calif. blazes dying down; suspect charged

By JULIE WATSON
AND ELLIOT SPAGAT
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A man was charged with setting one of nearly a dozen fires that have destroyed homes and have raced through nearly 20,000 acres of northern and eastern San Diego County brush land, but most of the blazes seemed to be dying down.

Thousands of firefighters and fleets of water-dropping military and civilian helicopters planned fresh battles Saturday, including three fires at the Camp Pendleton Marine base.

Investigators continued to seek the causes of the conflagrations that burned at least eight homes and an 18-unit condominium complex, emptied neighborhoods and spread fields of flame, smoke and ash that dirtied the air in neighboring Orange County and as far north as Los Angeles County.

Alberto Serrato, 57, pleaded not guilty Friday to an arson charge in connection with one of the smaller fires, a 105-acre fire in suburban Oceanside that started Wednesday and is fully contained.

Tanya Sierra, a spokeswoman for the San Diego County district attorney's office, said witnesses saw Serrato adding dead brush onto smoldering bushes, which flamed up. He has not been connected to any other fire, Sierra said.

Oceanside police Lt. Sean Marshand said Serrato is believed to have added fuel to the fire but not to have started it. "Unfortunately we don't have the guy that we really want," he said.

He remained jailed Friday, and Sierra said she didn't know whether he had an attorney.

All together, the wildfires about 30 miles north of San Diego have caused more than \$20 million in damage.

Three fires continued to burn at Pendleton: A 15,000-acre blaze that began Thursday was 40 percent contained, and a new fire Friday that quickly grew to 800 acres was 25 percent surrounded that night. A 6,500-acre fire that started Wednesday at a neighboring Navy weapons station and rolled onto the base and the city of Fallbrook was 65 percent



GREGORY BULL/AP

Smoke plumes rise behind the Camp Pendleton entrance Friday in Oceanside, Calif.

contained.

At their peak, the fires prompted about 8,400 military personnel and their families to be sent home from various parts of the sprawling coastal base between Los Angeles and San Diego, but some housing-area evacuations were lifted, base spokesman Jeff Nyhart said.

The most destructive fires started in Carlsbad — a densely populated coastal suburb of 110,000 people where a badly burned body was found Thursday in a transient camp — and San Marcos, a neighboring suburb of 85,000 people where strip malls and large housing tracts mix with older homes whose residents cherish their large lots and country living.

The Cocos Fire, which hopped through San Marcos and neighboring Escondido, was 50 percent contained Friday night after burning 2,520 acres. The fire wasn't growing, and crews planned to keep mopping up hotspots, state fire Capt. Kendal Bortisser said.



Nick Ut/AP

A smoky haze obscures the Los Angeles skyline Friday. Smoke from several wildfires that have burned more than 1,500 acres in Southern California drifted north into the city.

An evacuation of the area was partially lifted, but some of those returning found disaster.

Dave Roberts' home in Escondido was gutted and its roof collapsed, although about 20 goats and some poultry he kept survived.

"My whole life is here and I lost everything," Roberts told KGTV-TV.

He built the home 20 years ago by hand. But he and his wife, Sherri, weren't giving in to disaster.

"Between my family and

friends and relatives and everybody," he said in a choked voice, "I'll make it somehow."

"Everything is gone," Jack Whiting said of his aunt's home. "The fire just blew down the hills. We managed to keep my mom's house and the house next door."

Whiting, who has lived in the Escondido neighborhood, told KCAL-TV that he had never seen a fire so close nor of such intensity.

The region had become a tinder box in recent days because of conditions not normally seen until late summer — extremely dry weather, 50-mph Santa Ana winds and temperatures in the 90s. On Friday, though, slightly cooler weather and calming winds aided the 2,600 firefighters, and thousands of people began returning home.

Six fires were entirely surrounded and several others were reduced to smoldering hot spots.

Eight of the San Diego County blazes popped up between late morning and sundown on Wednesday, raising suspicions that they could have been set.

In Carlsbad, investigators finished examining the burn site across the street from a park and focused on interviewing people who called a hotline that was set up to report any suspicious activity.

"Do people have suspicions? Yes," said police Capt. Neil Gallucci, noting there has been no lightning that could explain the blazes. "But can we confirm them? The answer is no."

Police in Escondido arrested two people, ages 17 and 19, on suspicion of arson in connection with two small fires that were extinguished within minutes. But they found no evidence linking the suspects to the 10 biggest wildfires.

The Bernardo fire, the first of the North County blazes to break out, burned 1,548 acres and was 95 percent contained Friday night.

A backhoe operator at a development site accidentally started the fire while digging trenches, San Diego fire officials said Friday.

Investigators will visit each burn site and go down a list to determine a cause, marking what they know and don't know.

Obama names aide to oversee health-care law, other priorities

By JULIE EILPERIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Friday appointed longtime White House aide Kristie Canegallo as deputy chief of staff for policy implementation to oversee issues that include the continuing rollout of the Affordable Care Act and better integration of technology in classrooms.

The move, which comes three days before senior White House health-care adviser Phil Schil-

iro will step down, aims to institutionalize some of the changes chief of staff Denis McDonough made in the wake of the health-care law's botched debut last fall.

In an interview, McDonough said Canegallo, 34, will ensure the president is following through on some of his major policies set in motion during his first term. Her portfolio will include reforming how the federal government procures technology, veterans' affairs and immigration policy, as well as national security top-

ics such as data privacy and the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

"The president, when we go through a formative experience or a big event, he wants us to make sure we capture the lessons learned — in this case, health care — so we do not make the same mistakes," McDonough said. "He has directed that we maintain senior-level focus on implementing and execution in the White House."

Unlike many of Obama's top

advisers, who came to their jobs through politics, Canegallo started as a civilian Pentagon official on detail to the White House when Obama came into office in 2009.

Trained as a credit derivatives analyst at Goldman Sachs, she served as director in the National Security Council's Defense Policy and Strategy Directorate for two years before becoming senior adviser to McDonough, who was the president's deputy national security adviser at the time.

Thomas Donilon, who served

as Obama's national security adviser during his first term, said in an interview that Canegallo has a "tremendous breadth of experience" and rose through the ranks because of her political management skills.

Canegallo worked at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan in 2007 and served in Iraq in 2008 as a governance and budget adviser to the Anbar provincial government. Miller said the stints gave her "a granular view of how to get things done on the ground."

NATION

A call to arms

Utah lawmaker seeks return of firing squad executions

By MICHELLE L. PRICE
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — In the wake of a botched lethal injection in Oklahoma last month, a Utah lawmaker says he believes a firing squad is a more humane form of execution. And he plans to bring back that option for criminals sentenced to death in his state.

Rep. Paul Ray, a Republican from the northern Utah city of Clearfield, plans to introduce his proposal during Utah's next legislative session in January. Lawmakers in Wyoming and Missouri floated similar ideas this year, but both efforts stalled.

Ray, however, may succeed. Utah already has a tradition of execution by firing squad, with five police officers using .30-caliber Winchester rifles to execute Ronnie Lee Gardner in 2010, the last execution by rifle to be held in the state.

Ray argues the controversial method may seem more palatable now, especially as states struggle to maneuver lawsuits and drug shortages that have complicated lethal injections.

"It sounds like the Wild West, but it's probably the most humane way to kill somebody," Ray said.

Utah eliminated execution by



TRENT NELSON/AP

The firing squad execution chamber at the Utah State Prison in Draper, Utah, shown in 2010. In the wake of a bungled execution in Oklahoma last month, a Utah lawmaker wants to resurrect firing squads as a method of execution in his state. Utah stopped allowing the option after 2004.

firing squad in 2004, citing the excessive media attention it gave inmates. But those sentenced to death before that date still had the option of choosing it, which is how Gardner ended up in front of five armed Utah police officers. Gardner was sentenced to death for fatally shooting a Salt Lake City attorney in 1985 en route to a hearing for a previous murder charge.

He was the third person to die by firing squad after the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty in 1976. A couple of other death row inmates have opted to

die by gunfire instead of lethal injection in Utah, but they are all several years away from exhausting the appeals of their death sentences, Assistant Utah Attorney General Thomas Brunker said. Ray's proposal would give all inmates the option.

Lethal injection, the default method of execution in the U.S., has received heightened scrutiny after secrecy and drug shortages in recent years and the April incident in Oklahoma, when inmate Clayton Lockett's vein collapsed and he died of a heart attack more than 40 minutes later.

Opponents of the proposal say firing squads are not necessarily a fool-proof answer.

It's possible an inmate could move or shooters could miss, causing the inmate a slow and painful death, said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Washington-based Death Penalty Information Center, which opposes capital punishment.

"The idea is that it would be very quick and accurate but just a little movement by the person could change that," he said. "Things can go wrong with any method of execution."

Bill allows terminally ill to use trial drugs

The Associated Press

DENVER — Nick Auden didn't live to see the legislation, but the case of the Denver melanoma patient who died while seeking access to an experimental drug helped inspire a first-of-its-kind law in Colorado.

The "Right To Try" law allows terminally ill patients to obtain experimental drugs without getting federal approval. It's a proposal being advanced in several states by patient advocates who are frustrated by the yearslong federal approval process for experimental drugs in the pipeline.

"There are experimental drugs out there that can and do save lives, and access needs to be expanded," said Auden's widow, Amy Auden of Lone Tree, Colo. Nick Auden died in November at age 41 after unsuccessfully lobbying the state Legislature for an experimental treatment outside of clinical trials. Auden himself had acknowledged there was no guarantee the drug would work.

Gov. John Hickenlooper on Saturday afternoon planned to sign Colorado's "Right To Try" bill, which was passed unanimously by the state Legislature.

Similar bills await governors' signatures in Louisiana and Missouri, and Arizona voters will decide in November whether to set up a similar program in that state.

Supporters call it a ray of hope for dying patients trying to navigate the red tape of existing "compassionate use" guidelines for obtaining drugs outside clinical trials. The process requires federal approval.

"When you're terminal and there's a drug out there that might help you, it can seem that the obstacles to get that drug are insurmountable," said state Sen. Irene Aguilar, a physician who co-sponsored Colorado's bill.

Aguilar dubbed the measure the "Dallas Buyers Club" bill, after the movie about a determined AIDS patient who smuggled treatments from Mexico because they weren't cleared for use in the U.S.

The bill's originator called "Right To Try" a feel-good campaign that won't help dying patients.

The bills don't require drug companies to provide any drug outside federal parameters, and there's no indication pharmaceutical companies will do so.

Colorado's bill got a careful no-comment from state doctors' groups, hospitals and health insurers. The bill was amended to clarify that health care providers and insurers aren't liable if a patient who uses a drug outside clinical trials gets sick or dies.

Supporters insist the states should push the envelope on clinical trials to speed up the work of federal drug regulators.

NAACP names national president and CEO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The NAACP rights group announced Saturday that lawyer and activist Cornell William Brooks would become its new national president and CEO.

The selection of Brooks came as the United States marked the 60th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, which outlawed segregation in public schools. The lawsuit was argued by the organization's legal arm.

Brooks, 53, of Ammandale, N.J., will become the organization's 18th national president, re-

placing interim leader Lorraine Miller who has served since Benjamin Jealous ended his five-year tenure last year.

The NAACP, which was founded in 1909, says it's the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the U.S.

Brooks told the Associated Press he was looking forward to the work. "I am deeply humbled and honored to be entrusted with the opportunity to lead this powerful historic organization," Brooks said.

Brooks said he was particularly humbled that his selection came around the Brown v.

Board anniversary.

"As a graduate of both Head Start and Yale Law School, I am a beneficiary, an heir and a grandson if you will, of Brown versus Board of Education," Brooks said. Brooks will be formally presented to the organization at its convention in Las Vegas in July.

Brooks, a minister, is now president and CEO of the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. He has worked as a lawyer for the Federal Communication Commission and the Justice Department and also ran for Congress as a Democrat in Virginia in 1998.

Is the whirlwind of gay marriage rulings over in Arkansas?

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas' whirlwind week of granting of marriage licenses to same-sex couples ended Friday when the state Supreme Court issued a temporary stop just as a final pair completed their paperwork at a Little Rock courthouse.

More than 540 gay couples received marriage licenses in the last week after Pulaski

County Circuit Judge Chris Piazza declared the state's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional.

Hilda Jones and Kerin Hartsell, who drove 2½ hours from Chidester, were the last couple to receive a license. "When we got there and the lady said you have six minutes, we were like, 'Oh my gosh!'" Jones said. They rushed to fill out the paperwork and wed moments later.

Piazza's ruling a week earlier had triggered confusion for county clerks. Arkansas Attorney General Dustin McDaniel, who favors marriage rights for gay couples but vowed to defend the state's laws, sought an emergency stay, as did lawyers for four counties.

The one-paragraph order by the justices put on hold Piazza's decision voiding a 2004 constitutional amendment defining marriage

as between a man and a woman, plus a broader ruling he made Thursday after justices noted that a separate law that barred clerks from issuing same-sex marriage licenses remained on the books.

"It's been a roller coaster ride," said Washington County Clerk Becky Lewallen. "We're issuing, we're not issuing, we're issuing, we're not issuing — it's been a mess."

NATION

Clinton may have way to fight Obama fatigue

By DAVID LAUTER

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — As Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to build toward a widely anticipated presidential campaign, a speech she gave Friday illustrates how she might attempt to overcome one of the hurdles she faces: voters' typical desire for change.

For either U.S. political party, winning three presidential elections in a row is a difficult challenge, although certainly possible. Polls already have shown signs of voter fatigue with the battles of the Obama years, which could pose problems for any Democrat running in 2016.

The last time a party succeeded in winning three in a row, President Ronald Reagan was the incumbent. Clinton's speech to the New America Foundation, a Washington-based think tank, borrowed a tactic the Republican champion memorably used to great effect that year.

"Now we hear talk that it's time for a change," Reagan declared at the 1988 Republican National Convention. "Well, ladies and gentlemen, another friendly reminder: We are the change." Republicans had "challenged the failed policies of the past,"



Cliff Owen/AP

Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Washington on Wednesday.

Reagan said, "and that was our change."

Clinton, not yet a declared candidate, avoided anything quite so openly political. But her speech skimmed rapidly past the current presidency, focusing on the Democrats' version of the "failed policies of the past."

As she did so, the former secretary of State sought to deny herself not just with the frustration many voters now feel over the

economy but also with the focus on economic inequality that has emerged as a major theme for the liberal wing of the Democratic Party.

"The dream of upward mobility that made this country a model for the world feels further and further out of reach, and many Americans understandably feel frustrated, even angry," she said.

Those economic problems predated Obama, she implied. "Since

2000, productivity has increased by more than 25 percent, yet wages for most Americans have stagnated, further depressing demand and slowing growth."

"Americans are working harder, contributing more than ever to their companies' bottom lines and to our country's total economic output, and yet many are still barely getting by, barely holding on, not seeing the rewards that they believe their hard work should have merited," she added.

"And where's it all going? Well, economists have documented how the share of income and wealth going to those at the very top — not just the top 1 percent but the top 0.1 percent or the 0.01 percent of the population — has risen sharply over the last generation. Some are calling it a throwback to the Gilded Age of the robber barons."

Having described the problem as one that has persisted "since 2000" or "over the last generation," Clinton pointed to an even earlier era — her husband's presidency — as a potential source for solutions.

"The 1990s taught us that even in the face of difficult long-term economic trends, it's possible, through smart policies and sound investments, to enjoy broad-based

growth and shared prosperity," she said.

Bill Clinton recently gave a speech at Georgetown University in which he defended his economic record. Hillary Clinton referred to that speech and echoed some of the former president's favorite economic descriptions.

"A rising tide really did lift all boats: 23 million new jobs were created," she said, "raising the minimum wage, doubling the earned income tax credit — that helped millions of lower-income families climb out of poverty for the first time..."

By contrast, she said, the Bush years "taught us different lessons about how, by policy choices, we can turn surpluses into debt, we can return to rising deficits."

"Regulators neglected their oversight of the financial sector and allowed the evolution of an entire shadow banking system that operated without accountability. Government failed to invest adequately in infrastructure, education, basic research, and then the housing crash, the financial crisis hit like a flash flood. Millions of jobs washed away, along with college savings, mortgages, nest eggs for retirement, confidence — that intangible confidence in the future."

Raised as a Hindu, Jindal now courts fellow Christians

The TOM HAMBURGER

The Washington Post

LYNCHBURG, Va. — A dozen politically active pastors came here for a private dinner recently to hear a conversion story unique in the context of presidential politics: how Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, R, traveled from Hinduism to Protestant Christianity and, ultimately, to become what he calls an "evangelical Catholic."

Over two hours, Jindal, 42, recalled talking with a girl in high school who wanted to "save my soul," reading the Bible in a closet so that his parents would not see him and feeling a stir while watching a movie during his senior year that depicted Jesus Christ on the cross.

"I was struck and struck hard," Jindal told the pastors. "This was the Son of God, and he had died for our sins."

Jindal's session with the Christian clergy, who lead congregations in the important early presidential battleground states of Iowa and South Carolina, is part of an early, behind-the-scenes effort by the Louisiana governor to find a political base that could help propel him into the top tier of Republican candidates seeking to run for the White House in 2016.

Known in Republican circles mostly for his mastery of policy

issues such as health care, Jindal, a Rhodes Scholar and graduate of the Ivy League's Brown University, does not have an obvious pool of existing activist supporters to help drive excitement outside of his home state. So he is harnessing his personal religious experience in a way that has already begun to appeal to parts of the GOP's influential core of religious conservatives, many of whom have yet to find a favorite among the pack of Republican contenders eyeing the presidential race.

Other potential 2016 GOP candidates are wooing the evangelical base, including Sens. Rand Paul, Ky., and Ted Cruz, Texas, and Indiana Gov. Mike Pence.

But during the weekend in Lynchburg, a mecca of sorts for evangelicals as the home of Liberty University, founded in the 1970s by the late Rev. Jerry Falwell, Jindal appeared to make progress.

In addition to his dinner with the pastors, Jindal delivered a well-received "call to action" address to 40,000 Christian conservatives gathered for Liberty's commencement, talking again about his personal faith while assailing what he said was President Barack Obama's record of attacking religious liberty.

The pastors who came to meet



Parker Michels-Boyce, (Lynchburg, Va.) News & Daily Advance/AP

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal delivers the keynote speech Saturday at the Liberty University commencement ceremony in Lynchburg, Va.

Jindal said his intimate descriptions of his faith experiences stood out.

"He has the convictions, and he has what it takes to communicate them," said Brad Sherman of the Solid Rock Christian Church in Coralville, Iowa, who helped former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee in his winning 2008 campaign for delegates in Iowa.

Another Huckabee admirer, Pastor Mitch Brooks of Second Baptist Church in Belton, S.C., said that Jindal's commitment to

Christian values and his compelling personal story "puts him on a par" with Huckabee, who was a Baptist preacher before entering politics.

The visiting pastors flew to Lynchburg during the weekend at the invitation of the American Renewal Project, a well-funded nonprofit that encourages evangelical Christians to engage in the civic arena with voter guides, get-out-the-vote drives and programs to train pastors in grassroots activism. The group's founder,

David Lane, has built a pastor network in politically important states such as Iowa, Missouri, South Carolina and Ohio and has led trips to Israel with Sen. Paul and others seeking to make inroads with evangelical activists.

The group that Lane invited to Lynchburg included Donald Wildmon, a retired minister and founder of the American Family Association, a prominent evangelical activist group that has influence through its network of more than 140 Christian radio stations.

WORLD

Record Balkan floods claim at least 20 lives

BELGRADE, Serbia — Record flooding in the Balkans has left at least 20 people dead in Serbia and Bosnia and is forcing tens of thousands to flee their homes, authorities said Saturday.

Meteorologists say the flooding is the worst since records began 120 years ago and is due to a three-month amount of rain that fell on the region in just three days. Goran Mihajlovic from Serbia's Weather Center told The Associated Press that such rainfall happens once in 100 years.

In the eastern Bosnian town of Bijeljina, some 10,000 people were being evacuated Saturday after the rain-swollen Sava River surged through flood defenses.

Bombing north of capital kills 5 in Iraq

BAGHDAD — Authorities in Iraq say a bombing at an outdoor market north of the capital, Baghdad, has killed five people.

Police officials said the attack took place Saturday when the bomb exploded at the market in the town of Tarmiyah, 30 miles north of Baghdad, killing five shoppers and wounding 14.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to release the information.

Plane crash kills Laos defense chief, 4 others

BANGKOK — A plane carrying senior Lao government officials crashed Saturday in a forested area of the Southeast Asian country, killing the defense minister and at least four other people, officials said.

About 20 people were believed to be on board the air force plane that left Vientiane, Laos' capital, early Saturday morning, said Thai Foreign Ministry spokesman Sek Wannamethee.

The Russian-made Antonov AN-7KTK300 crashed in the Pek district of Xiangkhong province, where authorities were "helping to rescue the survivors," according to Lao news agency KPL, which cited an announcement from the Prime Minister's Office. The report did not say how many people died in the crash or survived.

Among those confirmed killed were Defense Minister Douangchay Pichit and his wife, said Nipat Thonglek, the Thai defense ministry's permanent secretary.

10 die in Kenya blasts; tourists fleeing country

JOHANNESBURG — Ten people died Friday when two explosions shattered a market in Nairobi, Kenya, even as hundreds of British tourists were evacuated from the country because of warnings of an increased terrorism threat.

Kenya's National Disaster Operation Center said 76 people were injured in the blasts at Gikomba market, near Nairobi's Eastleigh neighborhood, a district populated mainly by Somalis and Kenyans of Somali origin.

From wire reports.

Shots heard in Ukraine before talks

By SRDJAN NEDELJKOVIC
The Associated Press

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine — Sustained gunfire was heard throughout the night near the eastern Ukrainian city of Slovyansk, the stronghold of pro-Russia fighters, ahead of a second round of European-brokered talks on Saturday aimed at resolving the crisis.

The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement condemning what it described as a sharp escalation in the violence in eastern Ukraine, accusing the Ukrainian government of using the talks as cover for military operations against its citizens.

The fighting began when forces loyal to the Kiev government moved in to protect a television

tower near the small village of Andriyivka. Residents said it went on through the night.

Debris from the shooting was visible Saturday morning, including a badly damaged train and craters caused by mortars or artillery.

Government forces in recent weeks have achieved only limited results in quashing the pro-Russia groups that have declared independence for Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Polls have shown, however, that a majority of eastern Ukrainians support a united country, although most are too fearful of the armed separatists to say so publicly.

In one southwestern city, Mariupol, steelworkers retook government buildings from pro-Russia fighters and cleared away their

barricades. Mariupol is a major industrial city in the Donetsk region, lying on the main road between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in March. And in the eastern village of Velyka Novosilka, armed backers of Ukrainian unity dressed in black seized control of a police station and vowed to expel the separatists in Donetsk through force if necessary.

As the talk began Saturday, lawmakers and officials from eastern Ukraine poured criticism on the central government, accusing it of ignoring the grievances of their regions.

The politicians from the east implored the government to be clear that — apart from the pro-Russia gunmen — a large portion of population were desperate for

the government to listen.

Separatists in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions held hastily arranged referenda last weekend and declared independence following the vote, which went in favor of sovereignty.

The round-table talks in the eastern city of Kharkiv did not feature any of the insurgents, whom Kiev describes as terrorists. The insurgents say they are willing to discuss only the withdrawal of Ukrainian troops and the recognition of their independence.

"The referendum doesn't have any legal consequences," said Valery Holeniy, chairman of the Luhansk regional government. "But it has expressed the will of the people, which cannot be discounted. ... This was a protest vote."

African leaders work to counter Boko Haram

By LORI HINNANT
AND SYLVIE CORBET
The Associated Press

PARIS — Hours after yet another attack in a Boko Haram stronghold, leaders from five African nations gathered in Paris on Saturday for a summit with Western officials in hopes of coordinating actions against the Islamic extremist group holding more than 200 girls captive.

The militants, who claim to be fighting a holy war in Nigeria, move freely across the border into neighboring Cameroon, where a Chinese company's camp came under attack late Friday.

The leaders of Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Benin were meeting Saturday with French, U.S. and British officials in hopes of coordinating strategy and sharing intelligence to find the kidnapped Nigerian schoolgirls.

Boko Haram has offered to exchange the 276 girls who remain captive for jailed insurgents, and threaten otherwise to sell the girls into slavery.

Officials here said there will be no Western military operation. British officials say Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, who has reluctantly accepted outside help, has ruled swapping prisoners for the girls.

On Friday, Jonathan canceled a trip to the town where the girls were seized, apparently due to security concerns.

Signs are growing that some Nigerian troops are near mutiny, complaining they are overtrained and outgunned by Boko Haram insurgents. Soldiers have told The Associated Press that some in the ranks actually fight alongside the group. Last year, Jonathan said he suspected that Boko Haram members and sympathizers had infiltrated every level of the government and military, including the Cabinet.



A green sea turtle named Hofesh, the Hebrew word for "freedom," swims with a prosthetic fin Thursday at the Sea Turtle Rescue Center in Michmoret, Israel.

Israeli team designs prosthetic fin to aid injured sea turtle

By ALON BERNSTEIN
The Associated Press

MICHMORET, Israel — A badly injured sea turtle's prospects are looking up — thanks to a new prosthetic fin designed by an Israeli team and modeled after the tail of a U.S. fighter jet.

The green sea turtle, named Hofesh, the Hebrew word for "freedom," was caught in a fishing net off Israel's Mediterranean coast in early 2009. With his two left flippers badly wounded, rescuers had to amputate, leaving him with a pair of stumps that made it difficult to swim.

Yaniv Levy, director of Israel's Sea Turtle Rescue Center, said Hofesh initially was fitted with a diver's fin, but it provided little relief and he bumped into things as he tried to swim.

Shlomi Gez, an industrial design student at Jerusalem's Hadassah College, read about the animal on the Internet and wanted to help. He designed a prosthetic based on a fish's dorsal fin. The contraption provided some improvement, but Hofesh still had trouble breathing and rising to the surface.

Then, inspired by the design of Lockheed Martin Corp's F-22 Raptor warplane, Gez designed a new prosthetic with two fins. The device, somewhat



An F-22 Raptor lands in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2007. An injured sea turtle has gotten help in the form of a prosthetic modeled after the F-22's tail.

resembling the aircraft's tail, was strapped onto Hofesh's back on Thursday, allowing him to move easily around his tank.

"I discovered it worked better than one fin on the back," Gez explained. "With two fins, he keeps relatively balanced, even above the water."

Levy said that Hofesh will never be able to return to the wild.

But he shares a tank with a blind female turtle named Tsurit, and researchers are optimistic the pair will mate, potentially adding to the local population of the endangered green sea turtles. He said it is difficult to say exactly how old the two turtles are, but they are estimated to be between the ages of 20 and 25, and approaching the age of sexual maturity.

"We have great plans for this guy," Levy said. "They will never go back to the wild, but their offspring will be released the minute they hatch and go immediately into the sea and live normally in the wild," he added.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Positive side to warlord politics

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By DIPALI MUKHOPADHYAY
AND FRANCES Z. BROWN

"Without branding all generals and statesmen as murderers or thieves ... a portrait of war makers and state makers as coercive and self-seeking entrepreneurs bears a far greater resemblance to the facts than do its chief alternatives: the idea of a social contract, the idea of an open market ... the idea of a society whose shared norms and expectations call forth a certain kind of government."

— Charles Tilly, 1985

As Afghanistan's election season marches on, Charles Tilly's unsavory portrait of statesmen as "coercive and self-seeking entrepreneurs" seems eerily resonant.

Observers worry that despite record turnout by voters, the campaigns featured opportunistic deals between power brokers with checkered backgrounds and that those bargains will determine the election's ultimate outcome. Indeed, over the past decade foreigners and Afghans alike have bemoaned the slippery and self-interested machinations of Afghanistan's ruling class.

The international community has invested a great deal to help the Afghan state move toward the ideals of good governance we associate with liberal democracy in the West. Why has progress been so halting?

Sociologists, political scientists, and economists argue that state-building has always been an untidy, often violent process in which repeated elite confrontations eventually lead to political bargains. Even when the fighting ends, of course, competition for political power continues, with muscular power persisting as the deal-maker and deal-taker.

In the above passage, political sociologist Tilly was writing not about modern-day Afghanistan, but about early European states where functional governments took centuries to emerge. It is not surprising that European-style governance has not arisen in Afghanistan within a short decade.

The international community's intervention in Afghanistan was not the first attempt to introduce democracy to a conflict-ridden country. Bold, international state-building projects have been attempted across the globe in the past several decades: the Balkans, sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and more recently Iraq.

As the foreign-sponsored leaders in this latest incarnation of a well-established model, President Hamid Karzai and his government ticked off the boxes on the now-standard "post-conflict reconstruction" to-do list. And with foreign support, a number of institutions and processes were started that undeniably brought political representation, human rights protection and elections to participants into the relationship between Afghanistan's government and governed for the first time.

But as is always the case, the devil is in the details. Even as the international community looked to Karzai to promote "good governance," his own survival remained contingent on forming alliances with regional, muscular power brokers.

The president performed the acts required of him as a young democrat, but he was forced to cut deals with strongmen as well. In some ways, the partnerships he forged with these men undercut the very project of democratization; on the other hand, these power players afforded him a kind of clout outside Kabul he had no other way to obtain.

For example, Karzai appointed former warlords as governors of the key border provinces of Balkh and Nangarhar. Atta



Josh Suttner/Stars and Stripes

A billboard for Afghan presidential candidate Gul Agha Sherzai, center, a former warlord and former governor of Nangarhar province, was put up in Kabul on Feb. 2 as the presidential campaign officially began.

Mohammad Noor and Gul Agha Sherzai leveraged a combination of foreign support and their own security and economic means to solidify their position, strengthening the presence of the state at the periphery in the process.

To the surprise of many, these warlord-commanders became the country's two most prominent governors. They did so with a heavy hand and to their personal benefit, but their "strongman" brand of governance made the new state relevant in northern and eastern Afghanistan.

To illustrate the point, Atta's city Mazar-e-Sharif had functional and (mostly) respected traffic lights long before central Kabul did.

Atta remains perhaps the most powerful backer of presidential front-runner Abdullah Abdullah. Gul Agha Sherzai ran for the presidency himself this year and, after a poor showing in the first round, threw his weight to Abdullah, as well. Interestingly, Atta and Sherzai used their muscular power within the context of the electoral framework, rather than to simply discredit it.

On the other side of the presidential race is Ashraf Ghani, who rose to national and international prominence by confronting warlords over customs revenue in the early days of the Karzai regime.

As the government's new finance minister, his consolidation of financial capital on behalf of Kabul brought to life the very theories he espoused as a Columbia-trained academic and senior official in the World Bank.

Ten years later, after co-authoring "Fixing Failed States," a seminal book on post-conflict statebuilding, Ghani has aligned himself with a ferocious warlord, Abdul Rashid Dostum, hoping to exploit the strongman's ethnic Uzbek voting bloc and his ongoing influence in northern Afghan provinces.

At first glance, these actions seem to run counter to the ideals of democracy and good governance as articulated by international institutions and promoted by NATO.

That said, violent warlord showdowns followed by cautious and elite-driven cooperation is exactly what Tilly and other scholars of state formation suggest was key to Europe's development.

Rather than marauding in the countryside, taking what they want as they go, Afghanistan's warlords and power brokers have bought into the electoral system and the consolidation of the central state. They see a future in winning elections, not in chopping off the heads of rivals or expanding their territory through violent conquest.

To be sure, the Afghan future holds more than strongmen and muscular rule. Other groups have emerged with the potential to bring about reform and progress.

The country claims a young, urbanized elite; a cadre of dedicated, increasingly educated civil servants; and a collection of private entrepreneurs, all bolstered by a robust, growing media sector. But their timeline for influence is longer. In some ways dependent on the consolidation of security under muscular rule.

For the coming weeks, all eyes are trained on Afghanistan's presidential runoff. Our research and others' offer reminders that state formation and (re)formation are often nasty, brutish, and anything but short. State-building can involve campaigning and voting but, in Tilly's early Europe, it also involved "eliminating, subjugating, dividing, conquering, cajoling, buying as the occasions presented themselves."

These are tough words to swallow in the context of a costly, committed effort to introduce democracy to a country whose citizens seek better governance even at risk to their own lives. As the next chapter of Afghanistan's evolution unfolds, we should remember that muscle has always had a place in the building of states; perhaps we should check back in two hundred years.

Dipali Mukhopadhyay is a political scientist at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. Frances Z. Brown is a political scientist at the University of Oxford.

OPINION

Shinseki needs to shape up or ship out

The Dallas Morning News editorial

The Department of Veterans Affairs' treatment of former servicemembers remains a national disgrace and a betrayal of veterans, who deserve timely medical care.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki was supposed to fix this. A Vietnam-era grunt who rose through the ranks to Army chief of staff, Shinseki supposedly understood the sacrifices and acute medical needs of former warriors. Yet, in a widening scandal, he's been horribly late to identify and correct management abuses that "cooked the books" at the expense of veterans.

The scandal surrounds so-called secret waiting lists used to disguise the fact that veterans weren't receiving medical aid within a required 14- to 30-day period.

Veterans languished on the secret list for months and were transferred onto the official list only when the wait times would fall within the acceptable period.

The trick gave the impression that the system operated smoothly; senior executives even received efficiency performance bonuses for this deadly charade.

As many as 40 veterans may have died while awaiting treatment in Phoenix, and similar scheduling schemes may have compromised the lives of more than 10 states. This isn't an isolated problem, the work of a few bad apples in Arizona; it's a clear pattern of misbehavior that exists only because VA leadership allows it to exist.

If Shinseki didn't know of this rampant misbehavior, he should have.

Previous reports by the VA Inspector General's Office spotlighted unacceptable backlogs of disability claims and slow response times to mental health patients that mirror this scandal.

Journalists also raised questions about VA scheduling problems months ago. Bipartisan House and Senate oversight committees have clamored for reform based on the earlier reports. Yet the VA seems incapable of doing anything about it.

Shinseki's testimony before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Thursday demonstrated just how far behind the scandal he has been.

He barely acknowledged that problems exist, let alone how they would be corrected.

He hid behind an ongoing investigation by the VA inspector general as the reason he could not provide specific information. Meanwhile, veterans wait for the leadership they need to ensure their protection.

Shinseki has improved actual VA health care during his tenure. But he now seems to be walking on thin ice with both hands over his eyes.

To restore confidence, he must quickly and aggressively correct clear procedural failings and hold facility directors responsible for abuses. And he doesn't have to wait for the inspector general's report to make obvious management and culture reforms.



CURT OWEN/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki listens to a reporter's question Thursday after testifying before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing to examine the state of VA health care. Facing calls to resign, Shinseki said he hopes to have a preliminary report within three weeks on treatment delays and falsified patient scheduling reports.

This country has a moral obligation to provide the best care possible to those who have put their lives and health on the line.

If Shinseki doesn't deliver changes soon, perhaps someone else should take the helm.

Kerry's Mideast peace process was doomed to fail

By AARON DAVID MILLER
Los Angeles Times

Why exactly did Secretary of State John F. Kerry's well-intentioned effort to reach an Israeli-Palestinian agreement fail?

In a fascinating postmortem, unnamed American officials involved in the negotiations told Israeli journalist Nahum Barnea the following: "There are a lot of reasons for the peace effort's failure, but people in Israel shouldn't ignore the bitter truth — the primary sabotage came from the settlements."

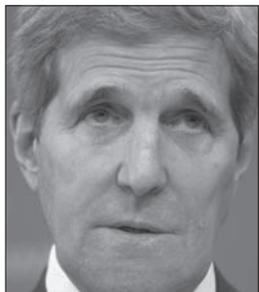
If you believe that, I have a bridge over the mighty Jordan River to sell you.

Nobody doubts the destructive impact of settlement activity. It prejudices and predetermines the outcome of negotiations, humiliates Palestinians and sends unmistakable signals that Israel has other agendas to pursue. And if we're talking about the failure of Kerry's effort to secure a relatively meaningless extension of the talks, I don't doubt the explanation.

But let's be clear: Kerry's peace process didn't fail primarily because of settlements. It has been on life support from the beginning, and here's why.

The mini/max problem: Simply put, the maximum that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is prepared to give on the core issues that drive the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can't be aligned, let alone reconciled, with the minimum that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is prepared to accept. You want to know why every effort in the last decade has failed? That's why.

The gaps on Jerusalem, borders, security, refugees and recognition of Israel as a Jewish state are simply too big to bridge. They are not amenable to being resolved gradually and not feasible as a package of



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry

trade-offs that both sides can accept. We can rationalize, and blame one side or the other. But the price for a conflict-ending agreement is simply too high for each side to bear.

Counting Bibi: The idea that Netanyahu is courting pay to the price and could be persuaded to do so was a fundamental misunderstanding of the man and his times. Now the second-longest continuously serving prime minister in Israel's history, Bibi never envisioned himself as the midwife or father of a Palestinian state. That's not who he is. Ideology, family, politics and his fears of the Arabs all drive him in a different direction.

His self-image is as the Israeli leader who is to lead Israel out of the shadow of the Iranian nuclear bomb and to guide it through the challenges of a dangerously broken, angry and dysfunctional Arab world. And he reflects the mood of an Israeli public that sees almost no reason or

urgency — regardless of U.S. doom-and-gloom threats of violence, third intifadas, apartheid state or demography — to grapple with the problem.

Governing is about choosing. And for now, Netanyahu has made his choice.

Banking on Abbas: The Palestinians were the weakest party to the negotiations, and the notion that they could be counted on to make concessions that would take them beyond their established consensus — June 1967 borders, a capital in East Jerusalem, some semblance of sovereignty on the security issue and a resolution to the refugee problem that doesn't force a wholesale capitulation — was the other illusory assumption. Under Yasser Arafat, a leader with more street cred and legitimacy than Abbas, Palestinians were not prepared to depart from this consensus. Why would Abbas — a much weaker leader — be prepared to do it, or accede to demands that he recognize Israel as a Jewish state?

The issue is not what Abbas was prepared to tell Kerry or Netanyahu in private. It is what he was prepared to say publicly and what he needed to be paid to say it. Abbas is presiding over a weak economy and a divided Palestinian national movement that looks like Noah's ark, in which there are two of everything (politics, security services, constitutions and even versions of Palestine). He has very little Arab state support. The notion that he could be depended on for major deliverables was a fantasy.

Indeed, American negotiators, myself included, have been underestimating what Palestinians need in negotiations for years. Abbas always had a Plan B: going to the U.N., negotiating unity with Hamas, even toying with dissolving the Palestinian Authority. He's much more comfortable in that milieu, and Netanyahu is more comfortable being a security prime minister rather than a peace prime minister. Abbas

feels no urgency either to negotiate a peace that doesn't meet his needs.

Kerry's last chance: Nobody could argue that it was wrong for Kerry to try to see what he could do about the Israeli-Palestinian problem. But nobody should be surprised that he couldn't succeed. Kerry's effort was very much built around what he saw as his moment and assessment that the time was ripe, when in fact it wasn't. Neither side saw much urgency in the Kerry effort, and President Barack Obama wasn't prepared to endorse an approach in which Kerry would have pressured Israel directly or even indirectly by putting forth an American plan.

It was probably not a great idea for Kerry to describe his effort as the last chance or to frame the consequences of what might happen (largely to Israel) if no two-state solution were achieved. The parties can't be scared into an agreement. And, if this is the last chance, then the question hangs: Why didn't Kerry and the president make this their single most important preoccupation and do everything they could, including intense pressure on the parties to reach an agreement?

Sooner or later some kind of peace process will resume. Like rock 'n' roll, the peace process will never die. The question is whether it will succeed. As for the U.S., it remains trapped in a peace process that is adrift between a two-state solution Washington can't abandon and one that it cannot implement. But next time around, let's at least be honest about why we can't achieve it. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians — nor Obama — is willing or able to pay the price of what it would cost.

Aaron David Miller, a vice president at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, served as a Middle East negotiator in Republican and Democratic administrations. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jacket with \$3,400 in cash returned to owner

CA TURLOCK — A jacket with \$3,400 in cash in the pockets has been returned to its rightful owner more than a year after it vanished from a California swap meet.

The Modesto Bee reported that a janitor, Bill Lowe, found the jacket while emptying a trash can at Turlock High School last week. The jacket also contained a credit union receipt that allowed officials to trace it to a Clovis man, who lost it at a January 2013 swap meet at the Stanislaus County Fairground.

Turlock High Principal Marie Peterson said the jacket appears to have been scooped up accidentally by student volunteers at the swap meet. From there, it looks like it ended up in a box that was recently cleared as part of a spring cleaning effort at the school.

Authorities arrest 'ninja robbers' suspects

FL ORLANDO — Authorities are examining whether a trio of robbers arrested in Orlando are responsible for other robberies in Orlando and Collier County.

The three men were arrested late Monday night as they were cutting a hole in a chain-link fence around a million-dollar mansion in Orlando.

Police officers found on them black clothing, black shoes, black gloves and a black mask similar to those worn by robbers who dressed like ninjas during a robbery at a mansion in nearby Windermere earlier this month.

Officers also found pepper spray, zip ties, duct tape and a gun stolen from Collier County.

Jonathan Contreras and Frank Bower were charged with attempted armed burglary with a firearm. Andres Perez was charged with burglary and resisting arrest without violence.

School evacuated over fake grenade

KS WICHITA — A Wichita elementary school was briefly evacuated after a student brought a fake hand grenade to school in his backpack.

School district spokeswoman Susan Arnsman says the evacuation at Enders Open Magnet Elementary School happened Friday after a second student learned of the fake grenade and told a teacher.

Arnsman told The Wichita Eagle in an email that police quickly determined the grenade was a fake. Students were back in class about 10 minutes after the school had a "fire drill" while the situation was being investigated.

Arnsman said disciplinary action was taken against the student who brought the fake device to school.

Ex-sheriff arrested on felony charges

AR BENTON — Former Saline County Sheriff Bruce Pennington and two for-

THE CENSUS

\$65K

The approximate value of illegal drugs seized in a traffic stop in Alabama. Roslyn Renee Daniels, 26, was arrested Thursday and was charged with trafficking marijuana and cocaine. Investigators said they found an estimated 50 pounds of marijuana and a half-kilogram of cocaine during a search after stopping Daniels on Thursday morning on Interstate 85.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Salmon smooch

Alaska Airlines Capt. David Boshell, right, kisses a 48-pound Copper River king salmon after carrying it out of his plane with first officer Melissa Van Dyke on Friday after a flight from Cordova, Alaska, to the Alaska Airlines Cargo facility in Seatac, Wash., near Seattle. The cargo flight carried the first shipment of the year of Copper River salmon, which are highly prized for their oil content and flavor.

mer sheriff's employees are facing felony charges.

Court documents filed Friday show Pennington and former office worker Jo Nell Mallory charged with felony abuse of public trust and theft of property. Investigators allege they stole money and had work done at their homes in exchange for dismissing fines or community service sentences.

Pennington is charged with misdemeanor theft on suspicion of pocketing a \$1,000 check to the sheriff's office, money he indicated was spent on protective vests. He's also accused of getting free granite countertops in exchange for letting a man avoid community service.

Pennington was arrested Friday at a Benton Wal-Mart.

Ex-sheriff's Lt. Mike Frost faces felony counts, including of delivery of a controlled substance.

Fatal bulletproof vest shooting spurs charges

SC ANDERSON — Deputies said an 18-year-old woman lied to officers about who shot and killed one of her friends as he tried out a bulletproof vest at an Anderson County home.

Sheriff's Lt. Shelia Cole said Timothy Fisher, 25, fired the

fatal shot Wednesday. He has now been charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Cole said Blake Wardell, 25, found an old bulletproof vest and asked Fisher to shoot him. Investigators said Fisher just missed the vest and the bullet hit Wardell in the heart.

Deputies initially charged Taylor Kelly with involuntary manslaughter, but they said she lied about firing the shot. She is now charged as an accessory.

Fisher faces up to five years in prison if convicted. Kelly faces up to three years.

Local asparagus absent from asparagus festival

MI EMPIRE — The missing ingredient in this weekend's Empire Asparagus Festival is asparagus.

The long, cold winter and cool spring have delayed this year's crop in Michigan's northern Lower Peninsula, leaving festival organizers scrambling for a replacement source.

The Traverse City Record-Eagle reported the festival's usual supplier is Harry Norconk, but that Norconk Farm doesn't have an asparagus crop yet.

Norconk said sufficient asparagus won't be available before

Tuesday. He said he's sold as much as 500 pounds of asparagus at earlier festivals.

This year, restaurant owners will source asparagus supplies from southern Michigan to meet the demand.

Event organizer Paul Skinner of the Empire Chamber of Commerce said the festival will highlight other locally grown foods to fill the gap.

Insurance broker admits stealing nearly \$1M

NJ TRENTON — Federal prosecutors said an insurance broker has admitted stealing nearly \$1 million while selling health care coverage he knew was fake.

David Clark, 70, of Morristown, pleaded guilty Wednesday to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. He faces up to 20 years in prison when he's sentenced Aug. 20.

Clark owned and operated a firm as a purported labor organization and a way to market and sell health insurance to the public. The federal government eventually notified Clark that his firm didn't qualify as a labor organization and told him to stop operations, but Clark continued to market and sell the health insurance plans.

Clark and his conspirators collected nearly \$1.8 million in premiums from December 2008 to July 2011. Clark diverted roughly \$962,027 from those premiums for his personal use.

Hospital warns of insulin pen problem

CT DERBY — A Connecticut hospital on Friday urged more than 3,000 patients to be tested for hepatitis and HIV after discovering that insulin pens may have been improperly used on more than one patient.

Griffin Hospital in Derby said there is no evidence that misuse of the pens led to any disease transmissions, but patients should be tested for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV as a precaution. It said the risk of disease transmission is extremely small.

Griffin Hospital said in a news release that needles were not used on more than one patient.

"However, even when using a new needle, the possibility exists that a pen's insulin cartridge can be contaminated through the backflow of blood or skin cells from one patient, and thus could potentially transmit an infection if used on another patient," the hospital said.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

The steps of Johnny Jones' staircase in his Lakewood, Wash., home, below, are meant to resemble the keys of a piano. His living room, top right, is a nod to John Lennon's "White Room" in Tittenhurst Park, Ascot, his former Georgian mansion in England where he wrote "Imagine." On the wall are lithographs of Lennon's original artwork. A green apple references the famous Apple Records, a label founded by the Beatles in 1968. Jones' psychedelic-colored Fender Stratocaster, right, a replica of George Harrison's self-painted guitar, "Rocky," is one of the best-known celebrity guitars of all time.

PHOTOS BY DREW PERINE, THE (TACOMA, WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE/MCT



All you need is love ... and a little imagination

Wash. man turns his home into a shrine of the Beatles, classic rock, pop culture



BY CRAIG SAILOR
The (Tacoma, Wash.)
News Tribune

The home of Johnny Jones is quiet and plain from the outside. The only movement on this spring day comes from leaves skittering on the long and winding road that leads to the Tudor-style house.

But inside, the house is vibrating. On this day, as with most, it's from a track by the iconic British band the Beatles.

Jones is an extreme Beatles fan. He's not alone, but few have gone to the length Jones has.

Using paint, furnishings, murals and memorabilia, Jones has turned his Lakewood, Wash., home into a temple devoted to the Beatles, classic rock and pop culture.

Jones became a fan of The Beatles at the age of 3 when he heard "A Hard Day's Night" on Nov. 51, he's still just as obsessed. He's been to the birthplace of the Beatles—Liverpool, England—three times.

"Some people go to Jerusalem, I go there," Jones says.

Jones plays keyboard and guitar in a Beatles tribute band, Apple Jam.

Jones was a longtime employee of Federated Department Stores. "Now I do as little as possible. I push leisure to its limits," he says.

The musician is being a bit coy. The recently completed makeover of his house has been a job all its own.

The first thing a visitor notices is a recording studio with glassed-in sound booth. A mural of Abbey Road is on one wall of the studio opposite a drum kit. The other walls are apple green and the carpet is black. The numeral 9 is on the door, a nod to the Beatles' "Revolution 9"

from "The White Album."

Each of the home's six bedrooms has a different theme. One has sand-colored carpet and a large ocean mural. A collection of ukuleles are propped against it. Jones calls it "The Good Vibrations Room"—an homage to the Beach Boys.

Another, "The Brit Room," has one wall entirely covered by a Union Jack. The British flag also shows up on the bedspread and light switch cover plates. Jones' master bedroom is done in deep purple with "The love you take is equal to the love you make" stenciled on a wall. Even the bathrooms get the



Beatles treatment. One is done in yellow and aqua colors to the theme of "Yellow Submarine."

When he purchased the house in 2001, it was painted an eggshell white and carpeted with something that might have been seen in a 1980s Reno casino. Jones recently pulled up the last of it. It did come in handy, he notes, during his wild party days. It efficiently camouflaged stains from party guests who couldn't hold their liquor.

Today, he lives a quieter life with his Chihuahua, Pixie. The pair date on each other.

Memorabilia fills the home. Records and autographed pictures of Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison and Janis Joplin line the walls.

Jones started collecting in the 1980s. First it was records, then it became ephemera.

"I was up every weekend driving around the Northwest. I'd come home at night with my car full of stuff," Jones recalls.

Though he quit collecting seven years ago, one room in the house is like Ali Baba's cave—if Mr. Baba had hoarded figurines instead of gold.

Jones calls it "The Toy Room." It's packed with yo-yos, lunch boxes, games and thousands of other items from 20th-century pop culture. A sign on the wall reads, "Nothing is real."

"I bought all this stuff in the '80s to sell in the future. Guess what? It's the future."

Another "I'll have some work to do on the home. The grand semi-circular staircase will be refinished in black and white to look like piano keys.

"That last project will be like others in the house: partly completed by him and partly by others. Or as Jones puts it, "With a little help from my friends."

MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Lykke Li

I Never Learn (Atlantic)

Sweden's Lykke Li delivers a full fusion of deep, soul-searching lyrics on "I Never Learn," her third studio album and an artistic zenith for this talented singer.

"Love Me Like I'm Not Made of Stone" is a minimalist guitar-and-vocals-only track. Li's voice strains in all the right places and pleads for love in others, meshing nicely into a raw display of emotion. The title track carries more production sheen, but retains an authentic feel as Li sings about falling too deeply in love.

There are no weak songs here, and the best comes on "No Rest for the Wicked." Ghostly piano stabs echo until an avalanche of percussion falls over it all. It's a poignant song about fighting to keep a relationship alive as it tears apart, territory that sounds personal when Li sings it.

In the end, it is love that is at stake on "I Never Learn." Lykke Li adroitly captures the struggle that one must endure to keep love at the risk of losing it forever.

— Ron Harris
The Associated Press



Doug Paisley

Strong Feelings (No Quarter)

Canadian singer-songwriter Doug Paisley writes songs that sound lived-in and comfortable from the first listen. It's not simple to make a record that seems as natural and unforced as Paisley's third album.

Paisley sings in a casual baritone, sometimes stretching into his high register. He's played in bluegrass and country bands, but "Strong Feelings" has more in common with classic singer-songwriters such as Gordon Lightfoot or Guy Clark. There are tasteful contributions from stellar guests Garth Hudson (organ), Colin Stetson (saxophone) and Mary Margaret O'Hara (vocals). But the true stars are Paisley's writing and singing on this understated gem.

— Steve Klinge
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Not bad!
But not
'Thriller,'
either.

When it comes to finishing the unfinished music of a dead perfectionist, one couldn't hope to do much better than executive producer L.A. Reid has done with "Xscape," the second posthumous album from Michael Jackson.

The recording surfaces eight previously unreleased songs from the Jackson vault, presenting them in their original and spiffy "contemporized" forms.

Contemporized? That's the word Reid is using to describe the work that he's hired a squad of top-flight producers — including Timbaland, Rodney Jerkins, Stargate and others — to execute, composing new music around a grab bag of vocal tracks that Jackson recorded between 1983 and 1999.

The album's highlight comes right away with "Love Never Felt So Good," a lush disco tune originally co-written with Paul Anka. "All right, that's fine," Jackson utters at the end of the song, signaling his approval to a studio engineer back in '83 after a strong take. It's a cool peek behind the curtain that Jackson persistently kept closed, but was it included here to signal his consent from the other side?



Michael Jackson

Xscape (Epic)

According to Billboard, Timbaland claims to have actually heard the spirit of Jackson give him the thumbs up during the making of "Xscape" — namely while he was replacing the breeze-bent synth lines of "Loving You" with a more 2014-friendly bump of bass.

Sharing that little story only highlights the stickiness of this entire endeavor. As a singer whose voice changed our collective ideas of what pop music should feel like, Jackson was as precise as he was powerful, capable of responding to the instruments surrounding him with incredible nuance.

Obviously, we're not hearing that on the reconstructed half of "Xscape." The produc-

ers are responding to him, and often with pleasing results. But that means most of the new tracks on "Xscape" are Timbaland songs featuring Michael Jackson, not the other way around.

While none of the eight original versions would have a chance at cracking contemporary radio, they're a treat.

"A Place With No Name" synopses the strummy guitar chords of America's 1972 hit "A Horse With No Name" with spanking snare drums from the new jack swing era while "Blue Gangsta" is a fascinating mess, with Jackson exuding his trademark tender-toughness alongside brittle drum machines and a wheezing accordion.

As for the original "Love Never Felt So Good," it's spare and spellbinding — just Jackson's voice, a piano, some snapping fingers and two clapping hands.

Unfortunately, "Xscape" closes out with a third version of the song, featuring a chirpy Justin Timberlake and his huffy, puffy beatboxing. Listen until the end and you might expect to hear Jackson say, "All right, that's enough."

— Chris Richards
The Washington Post



Ray LaMontagne

Supernova (RCA)

Famous for his smooth, smoky voice and softly soulful, earnest craft as a songwriter, Ray LaMontagne has rearranged his brand of Americana with sensual, reverbering psychedelia and the production help of Black Keys guitarist Dan Auerbach. The result: LaMontagne suddenly sounds as if he's loose and having weird fun. When he sings about wanting his girl on this album's title track, he seems, at last, to really want her — and not just to talk while sipping coffee.

Auerbach's production should get much of the credit for the independence and sexual power of this recording. He brings to "Supernova" the same treatment he brought to roots-based artists such as Valerie June. (Lord knows what he'll do to Lana Del Rey's next album.) On "Supernova," we hear a track such as "Drive-In Movies," with lyrics of youthful motives and desires, plus a jaunty, Brit-pop melody — swathed in dense organ sounds and oozing background voices. "Lavender" conjures more scents and taste sensations than the herb itself. "Pick Up a Gun," an acoustic cut about an emotional dustup, has more key shifts than a Yes album. "Supernova" is LaMontagne's most complex statement yet about life, love, and music itself.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Lily Allen

Sheezus (Warner Bros.)

What "Sheezus" proves is that Lily Allen is still growing and evolving as a musician, and even with a few lesser tracks here and there, "Sheezus" is so far her best-yet mix of personal stories and overarching cultural commentary. Make no mistake: she isn't the first pop star to point out the foibles of the industry that has helped her become a success, but if "Sheezus" proves anything to us, it's that she just might be the best at it.

— Evan Sawdey
PopMatters.com

MUSIC



The Black Keys
Turn Blue (Nonesuch)

The Black Keys, from left:
Patrick Carney and Dan Auerbach.
DANNY CLINCH/Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Past their prime?

The Black Keys' 'Turn Blue' is low-key but also low energy

Words of self-knowledge from Dan Auerbach of the Black Keys: "We made our mark when we were in our prime."

That lyric, delivered in a parched drawl on the blues-rock duo's new album, almost certainly refers to Auerbach's recent divorce, which seems to haunt "Turn Blue" like a ghost. But the singer-guitarist might as well be describing the trajectory of the group he shares with drummer Patrick Carney.

After sweating it out for years as a kind of underground knockoff of the White Stripes, the Black Keys finally broke into the mainstream with 2010's "Brothers" and its 2011 follow-up, "El Camino." Both records sold more than 1 million copies, a huge number for any rock band doing business this decade, while the latter earned a Grammy nomination (alongside Jack White's "Blunderbuss") for album of the year.

The commercial success coincided with what felt like a creative apex, as "Brothers" and "El Camino" had sharper tunes and deeper grooves than the Black Keys' workmanlike early records. When Auerbach and Carney filled Staples Center in Los Angeles for two nights in 2012 — just like Madonna and Justin Bieber — you could feel the excited energy swirling around two musicians making their mark, as Auerbach puts it, in their prime.

The hard truth about the top, though, is that getting there often leaves only one direction to move. And a pronounced feeling of descent pervades "Turn Blue," the Black Keys' eighth studio disc and the fourth they've made with

producer Danger Mouse, who's credited as a co-writer on all 11 songs here.

At least part of the comedown appears to be by design, an expression of Auerbach's grim thoughts regarding the breakup of his marriage. "Why you always wanna love the ones who hurt you/Then break down when they go and desert you?" he asks in "Year in Review." "It's so hard to let 'em go." Later, over the gloomy acoustic shuffle of "Bullet in the Brain," he sings of hearts beginning to rust and a diamond turning to dust.

These lovelorn vibes are presented with paradoxical care.

"In Time" has a ringing piano lick and wozy gospel-soul backing vocals, while Auerbach sings "Waiting on Words" in a delicate falsetto that's streaked with shades of Smokey Robinson. And with its funky bass line and whirling synth riff, the spacey "10 Lovess" could be a song by Danger Mouse's psych-pop band Broken Bell.

Yet given the well-imagined production work Auerbach's been doing lately outside the Black Keys — on strong records by Dr. John, Bombino and Lana Del Rey, among others — there's no reason to suspect that the singer wasn't sculpting the band's richly detailed sound here. Indeed, the album's seven-minute opener, "Weight of Love," summons a folk-noir atmosphere nearly as heady as that in Del Rey's great new single, "West Coast."

What works to provide an air of mystery with an artist like Lana Del Rey, though, feels dangerously enervating on a Black Keys album, as those hazy guitars and slow-mo

tempos drain away the crisp forward momentum heard on "Brothers" and especially "El Camino." Performing the album's lead single, "Fever," last weekend on "Saturday Night Live," the band seemed even more listless, a candy-colored music car reduced to lazy Sunday-drive mode.

By all accounts a believer in rock's wide emotional bandwidth, Auerbach is, of course, entitled to explore lower-key energies. But heartbreak isn't necessarily low-key, is it? Throughout "Turn Blue" the singer uses words with dramatic power — "In the dead of the night, I start to lose control," he claims in the title track — yet sets them against arrangements that feel fussed-over, with all intensity smoothed out.

Compare a song like "In Our Prime" to "Lazaretto," the freaky first sampling from White's upcoming album — which promises to detail White's own unhappy divorce — and the former puts up no fight; it hardly convinces you that Auerbach ever lost control.

"Turn Blue" does offer one short blast of the Black Keys' old excitement, right at the end of the album, in "Gotta Get Away," a lovably trashy glam jam about outrunning one's troubles. "I went from San Berdoo to Kalamazoo just to get away from you," Auerbach sings merrily.

It's a strangely upbeat closer to this disappointing album, but also a slyly hopeful one, as though the band were already planning how to reach another peak.

— Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

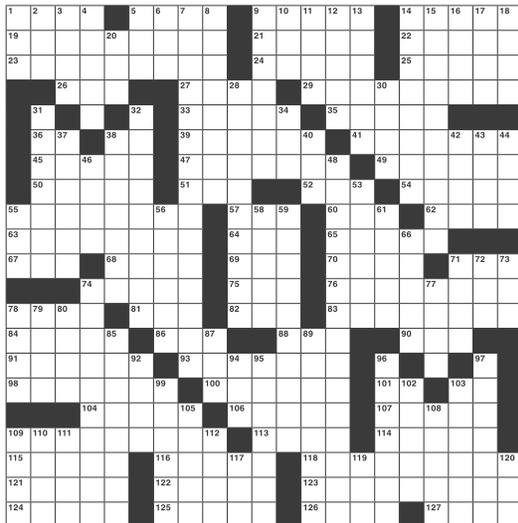
CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

FOR MOTHER

BY PETER A. COLLINS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Diamond cover
 - 5 Some Arizonans
 - 9 Sultan's charge
 - 14 Mother ___
 - 19 Calypso staple
 - 21 Pull together
 - 22 Quarter-rounded molding
 - 23 Agents in blood clotting
 - 24 I.Q. test developer
 - 25 Minute
 - 26 Part of A.P.R.: Abbr.
 - 27 Archaeologist's discovery
 - 29 New Orleans Saint who was the Super Bowl XLIV M.V.P.
 - 33 ___ Disraeli, author of "Curiosities of Literature"
 - 35 Like seven Nolan Ryan games
 - 36 "No kidding!"
 - 38 Element #2's symbol
 - 39 Rodent that burrows near streams
 - 41 Prince Harry, for one
 - 45 Some West Coast wines
 - 47 Resented
 - 49 Mother ___
 - 50 Joel and Jennifer
 - 51 Opposite of 'neath
 - 52 Start the growing season
 - 54 With 58-Down, four-time destination for 56-Down
 - 55 Simple storage unit on a farm
 - 57 Abbreviation between two names
 - 60 Bert's mystery-solving twin
 - 62 Eye cover for the naive?
 - 63 The original "it" girl
 - 64 What's good in Jerusalem?
 - 65 Lock
 - 67 ID digits
 - 68 Mother ___
 - 69 Michael Collins's org.
 - 70 Mother ___
 - 71 Circular parts?
 - 74 Bank of Israel
 - 75 Vintner's prefix
 - 76 800, say
 - 78 Cuba libre ingredient
 - 81 End of a pickoff
 - 82 D.C. player
 - 83 "Survivor" tactic
 - 84 Really went for
 - 86 Sharks' and Jets' org.
 - 88 Needle-nosed fish
 - 90 Montemezzi opera
 - 91 Mother ___
 - 93 Pot pusher's vehicle?
 - 98 Literally, "lion dog"
 - 100 Second of six?
 - 101 Dorothy's aunt
 - 103 2001 Spielberg sci-fi film
 - 104 Greases
 - 106 "The Age of Anxiety" poet
 - 107 Not accidental
 - 109 Pointed fence stakes
 - 113 Wager of war against Parthia
 - 114 Trident alternative
 - 115 'Ea of "The Family Man"
 - 116 What unicorns don't do
 - 118 Not said expressly
 - 121 Prodded
 - 122 Stick in a school desk
 - 123 Smithsonian artifacts
 - 124 Mother ___
 - 125 Spread out
 - 126 Cataract location
 - 127 Paris suburb on the Seine
 - 12 Forever, in verse
 - 13 Astronomical sighting
 - 14 Politician who appeared as himself on NBC's "Parks and Recreation"
 - 15 Topples
 - 16 Abstainer's choice
 - 17 Ultimate word of an ultimatum
 - 18 Kikkoman sauces
 - 20 Umpte's cry
 - 28 Coming of age
 - 30 Hone
 - 31 Khan's clan
 - 32 Goof around
 - 34 Coffin nail
 - 37 Former chief justice Stone
 - 38 Bucolic bundle
 - 40 1950s political monogram
 - 42 Architect Saarinen
 - 43 Regarding
 - 44 Wonka inventor
 - 46 Kind of review
 - 48 Words to one who's about to go off
 - 53 Subject of a Pittsburgh art museum
 - 55 Windows boxes?
 - 56 Seven-time N.B.A. rebounding champ, 1992-98
 - 58 See 54-Across
 - 59 Pushing the envelope, say
 - 61 Actor Sam of "The Horse Whisperer"
 - 66 Bowler's bane
 - 71 Education secretary Duncan
 - 72 Last month: Abbr.
 - 73 "What'd I tell you?"
 - 74 Most people don't think they're funny
 - 77 Game for which Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday were once dealers
 - 78 Jazz musicians
 - 79 Then again, in text messages
 - 80 Filmmaker Riefenstahl
 - 85 Table
 - 87 Former defense secretary Aspin
 - 89 Through road
 - 92 Pound of poetry
 - 94 "Now I remember!"
 - 95 Mother ___
 - 96 Some kiss-and-tell books
 - 97 They don't have fingers
 - 99 Milk dispensers
 - 102 "Much obliged," in Montreal
 - 103 Baker and
 - 105 Make more alluring
 - 108 Simple counters
 - 109 Advertise
 - 110 Sleek, informally
 - 111 Target's target, c.g.
 - 112 Flowerpot spot
 - 117 Body on a map
 - 119 Cozy room
 - 120 "Happy Mother's ___!"



GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.

THE RUPTURED DUCK

STRIPES CENTRAL

Stripes BLOGS

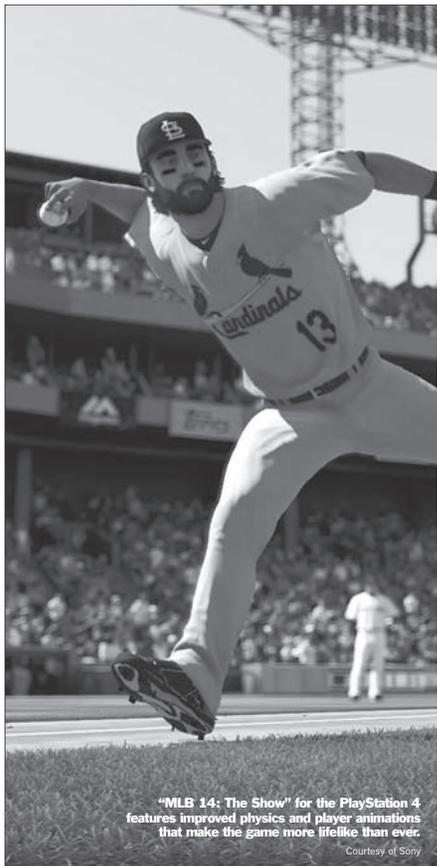
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PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

VIDEO GAMES



'MLB 14: The Show' makes solid contact

By LOU KESTEN
The Associated Press

The first edition of a sports game on a new console is like the first game in a new stadium: The place looks great, but management might not yet have worked out the kinks at the ticket lines or the concession stands.

"MLB 14: The Show" is no exception. In the latest upgrade of the stellar baseball franchise, the players look more realistic than ever, and their individualized animations bring them ever closer to the athletes you see at the ballpark. Sony's San Diego Studio has also refurbished every major league stadium, from Boston's venerable Fenway Park to Miami's flamboyant 2-year-old Marlins Park.

The most notable flaws are some painfully long loading times, especially when starting a new game

or switching between different play modes. And there are a few graphical stutters that destroy the generally well-crafted illusion of watching a TV broadcast.

Otherwise, most of the new features in the PS4 version of "MLB 14" are the same as those introduced a few months ago on the PS3 edition. The most radical revision is "Quick Counts," in which each at-bat begins a few pitches in. It's a bit of a gamble, since your batter can just as likely come to the plate with a 3-0 edge or a 0-2 disadvantage. Purists will grumble, but it's useful if you have just 30 minutes or so to squeeze in a game.

The highlight, as always with this series, is the absorbing "Road to the Show." You create a player from scratch, but this year you can model your guy on a real-life major leaguer: My doppelganger, the scrappy second baseman Lou

Kesten, is based on young Washington Nationals infielder Anthony Rendon. Unfortunately, I'm still struggling to make an impression on the Philadelphia Phillies' AA farm team, the Reading Fightin' Phils.

Sony has revamped some of the player training and performance evaluation in RTTS, but the essence remains. You see only your character's at-bats and fielding chances, so the focus is less on winning the game than on making sure he contributes positively. A game takes only five minutes, so you could whip through an entire season in a day.



"MLB 14" takes that single-player focus and brings it to other game modes as well. A new "Player Lock" feature lets you pick any big leaguer and play multiple seasons as just that guy. Is fiery Los Angeles Dodgers phenom Yasiel Puig a flash in the pan or a legend in the making? Player

Lock lets you determine his future. If you're looking for a really brief game, you should check out the new "Community Challenges." Each challenge plops you into a pivotal game situation — say, coming to bat with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 9th. You can also create your own challenges and present them to other online players.

"MLB 14" doesn't radically reinvent the series for the PS4, and if you've already bought the PS3 version, you aren't missing much if you don't upgrade. It still has so much packed into it that it should satisfy anyone, from casual players looking for a quick contest to fantasy geeks who want to assemble entire leagues from scratch. The series in general remains one of the finest sports titles on the market, and an essential purchase for baseball fans.

Platform: PlayStation 4
Online: baseballisbetter.com

"MLB 14: The Show" for the PlayStation 4 features improved physics and player animations that make the game more lifelike than ever.

Courtesy of Sony

'World Cup Brazil': Gameplay needs improvement

By MATTHEW KATO
Game Informer Magazine

The World Cup is highly anticipated, not only for the chance to see the best soccer players in the world face off cloaked in national pride, but because the tournament happens only once every four years. This "FIFA" title lacks the World Cup's scarcity. Including "FIFA 15," coming this fall, EA is giving fans three "FIFA" titles in one year. "World Cup Brazil" has its advantages, but it's stuck in an awkward position. It's not the best representation of all that the tournament encompasses, and in some ways it's not even better than "FIFA 14."

Then again, "World Cup Brazil" is not a dud. The game contains more features than any of the previous titles centered on the tournament, and even includes enhance-

ments on "FIFA 14's" gameplay. Headers are improved both by defenders' increased ability to win the ball in the air as well as



tell only half the story since those gameplay areas still need work. Headers now have more possible outcomes, but it still seems like the outcome is determined before the

new strategic options for corner kicks. Developer EA Canada also worked on streamlining player movements after receiving the ball in order to make acceleration more fluid.

These are tangible improvements, but they

ball is kicked into the air. Player movement is smoother, but there are times when players seem to lack awareness of the ball or teammates' location. The latter is particularly frustrating when you're trying to clear the ball from in front of your goal and teammates are clustered too close.

If the gameplay is a zero-sum when compared to "FIFA 14," the title's World Cup-related accoutrements are welcome, but not significant. Training between friends and matches in the Road to the World Cup mode gives you strategic options as a manager. Do you use the pre-tournament matches and training sessions to build up younger players so they can crack the World Cup roster later on, or do you simply maintain the form and morale of already-established players?

Despite elevating the importance of training, like previous "World Cup" titles, this game doesn't do enough to convey the

entire experience. The skill games are hardly interesting; no drama exists in the roster selection process or with your players, and there's not much weight conveyed to the qualification process. "FIFA 14's" headline-driver career HUD does a better job of living up to the day-to-day experience, and while there are added presentation elements like a radio show and new outcuses of fans, they are tidbits that are drops in the bucket. In terms of new World Cup capturing modes, Road to Rio de Janeiro takes on the series' popular Seasons format, but it's not a destination feature.

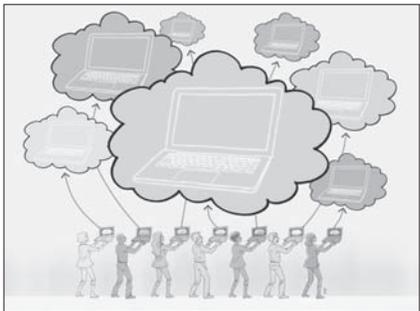
You've probably heard of World Cup Fever. What is it? You know it when you've got it, and this game doesn't raise the temperature much.

Platforms: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360
Online: easports.com/2014-fifa-world-cup



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

GADGETS & CHARTS



The cloud offers endless data storage, but no guarantee of security.

What does the cloud really do?

By JIM ROSSMAN

The Dallas Morning News

We've all heard about "the cloud." But I'm willing to bet some people don't know exactly what the cloud can do.

The cloud is a means of storing files or providing services over the Internet instead of on your local computer.

Email was probably most users' first interaction with the cloud.

The email server is in a data center somewhere on the Internet, and users retrieve their mail messages by making a request to the mail server.

Depending on how the email account was configured, messages are either stored on the server or downloaded to the user's computer and removed from the server.

Today the cloud has expanded to include more services.

Users can keep their files in the cloud to hedge against local hard drive failure.

Services like Dropbox, Evernote and Google Drive exist to let users keep their files securely in the cloud.

Of course, Apple and Microsoft

have jumped into the cloud market with iCloud and SkyDrive.

People who are worried about the safety of their digital pictures can store a copy of their photos on the cloud servers of photo-centric services such as Flickr or PhotoBucket.

Music services like Apple's iTunes Match or Amazon's Cloud Music exist so users can keep a copy of their music files in the cloud.

Finally, fast Internet connections make it possible to back up your entire computer to services such as Crashplan, Mozy or Carbonite.

Many of these services offer a free account with a small amount of storage, and users can purchase more space for a monthly fee.

Some people are nervous about storing their personal data on the Internet, where it could fall prey to hackers. I used to tell people that secure Internet connections kept that kind of thing from happening, but with the recent HeartBleed vulnerability, all bets are up as you can get.

I can tell you I still use Dropbox and Google Drive and iCloud and Crashplan.

GADGET WATCH

Digital storage you can count on

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Digital storage — probably the two most important words in the world of technology — is critical to everyone.

Western Digital's Thunderbolt My Passport Pro is the mother of all storage. It provides up to a whopping 4TB (yes, that is terabytes) in a cargo pants pocket-sized (5.6 by 3.5 inches, 1.9 pounds) portable hard drive with RAID storage.

The RAID 1 system divides the hard drive in half to give your data a duplicate copy in the other half. It transfers at rates as high as 233 megabytes per second and if you know anything about the digital world, you know that's fast.

The cable, which connects via the Thunderbolt port, powers the hard drive, so no AC adapter is needed. The cable is attached to the portless drive and winds up around the cable management system.

It's all built into an aluminum case to make a nice-looking companion to any Thunderbolt-enabled computer.

Online: wdc.com; 4TB \$429.99, 2TB \$299.99



card slot, SanDisk includes an adapter to make it work.

A note on the back states that the memory card is waterproof, temperature proof, shock proof and X-Ray proof. Check your device to make sure it's SDXC compatible. If it was introduced after January 2009, it probably is.

According to SanDisk, 128GB is good for 16 hours of Full HD video, 7,500 songs, 3,200 photos and more than 125 apps.

Online: sandisk.com, \$199

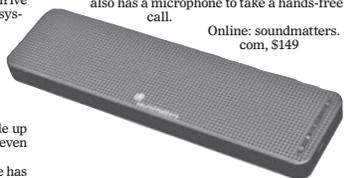
The Soundmatters foxL DASH A portable Bluetooth speaker works with any Bluetooth-enabled device, which is just about every smartphone, tablet, computer and portable media player on the planet.

This very little might be the first time you heard the word "Twoofers," which are the company's tweeters that also woof.

The wireless sound is amazing, but if you're in the dark ages, with a Bluetooth-less device, you can use the included 3.5mm mini stereo cable.

The pancake-thin speaker is only 0.62 inch thick with a 2.1-inch width and 7.5 inches long. You'll get about 10 hours before a charge is needed, and it also has a microphone to take a hands-free call.

Online: soundmatters.com, \$149



The Toshiba USB 3.0 flash drive is available up to an incredible 128GB for those who want even smaller portable storage.

The TransMemory Pro USB 3.0 Flash Drive has secure ultra-high-speed data transferring with read speeds of up to 222 MB/second and write speeds up to 205 MB/second.

It includes built-in security software with encrypted password protection in private partitions for use on Mac and Window operating systems. There's nothing to set up, just plug-and-play for business, personal or student use.

Online: toshiba.com/us; 4TB for \$129.99 and the 64GB is \$79.99



The SanDisk 128GB microSDXC memory card is not much bigger than the average pinky fingernail, pretty much taking portable digital storage as small as you can get.

It's ideal for cameras along with GPS units, computers, tablets and smartphones with memory card slots. Even if your device has a standard SD

The new Presence hands-free headset from Sennheiser is described as "a category killer, (with) three microphones, noise canceling, and clear voice quality."

I couldn't describe it any better, but one thing it didn't mention was it's probably one of slickest-looking devices I've seen. And it has an intuitive user interface, unlike many other manufacturers' versions.

Features include Bluetooth 4.0 technology, plus Sennheiser's unique SpeakFocus, WindSafe and ActiveGuard technology. All this means to you is it sounds amazing.

Online: sennheiser.us; \$142.79



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on iTunes for May 14:

1. "Don't Stop," 5 Seconds of Summer
2. "Problems," Ariana Grande (feat. Iggy Azalea)
3. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea (feat. Charli XCX)
4. "All of Me," John Legend
5. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
6. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
7. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
8. "Love Never Felt So Good," Michael Jackson & Justin Timberlake
9. "Wiggle," Jason Derulo (feat. Snoop Dogg)
10. "Heaven" (The Voice Performance), Jake Worthington

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top 10 streamed tracks on Spotify for May 5-11:

1. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
2. "Problem," Ariana Grande
3. "Summer," Calvin Harris
4. "All of Me," John Legend
5. "Dark Horse," Katy Perry
6. "Talk Dirty" (featuring 2 Chainz), Jason Derulo
7. "Turn Down for What," DJ Snake and Lil Jon
8. "Latch," Disclosure
9. "Pompeii," Bastille
10. "Ratler Be" (featuring Jess Glynne), Clean Bandit

— Compiled by Stars and Stripes

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for May 14:

1. "Her"
2. "That Awkward Moment"
3. "3 Days to Kill"
4. "1, Frankenstein"
5. "Frozen"
6. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
7. "Maidenrip"
8. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
9. "Pompeii"
10. "Ride Along"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the top 10 handheld games for May:

1. "Kirby: Triple Deluxe," 3DS
2. "Luftrausers," Vita
3. "Fez," Vita
4. "Mario Golf: World Tour," 3DS
5. "Professor Layton and the Azran Legacy," 3DS
6. "Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster," Vita
7. "MLB 14: The Show," Vita
8. "TJK," Vita
9. "God of War Collection," Vita
10. "Yoshi's New Island," 3DS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for May 14:

ANDROID

1. Make It Rain: Love of Money
2. MLB Perfect Inning
3. CSI: Hidden Crimes
4. Google Docs
5. Forest Mania

Top 5 free apps for May 14:

APPLE

1. 100 Balls
2. Microsoft Word for iPad
3. Make It Rain: The Love of Money
4. Google Docs
5. 2048

— Compiled by MCT

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Red Lobster for the seafood seller in you

Darden restaurant group offers chain to investment firm in \$2.1B cash deal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Darden is setting Red Lobster adrift but betting it can still turn around Olive Garden's fortunes.

The company, based in Orlando, Fla., said Friday that it would sell its seafood chain and the accompanying real estate to investment firm Golden Gate Capital in a \$2.1 billion cash deal. The announcement came despite objections from some shareholders to the plan to separate Red Lobster, which was announced late last year.

Olive Garden and Red Lobster have been losing customers in recent years, even as they changed their menus and marketing campaigns to win back business. Part of the problem is the growing popularity of places like Chipotle and Panera, where customers feel they can get the same quality of food without paying as much or waiting for table service.

But Darden CEO Clarence Otis has drawn a distinction between Red Lobster and Olive Garden.

Otis said Red Lobster in particular is increasingly unable to attract the higher-income customers Darden caters to with its more successful chains, which include Longhorn Steakhouse, The Capital Grille and Seasons 52.

Red Lobster, which opened in 1968, helped popularize seafood among Americans and today has about 700 locations in the U.S. and Canada. The first restaurant in Lakeland, Fla., boasted a menu including half a dozen oysters for 65 cents and platters with frog legs and hush puppies for \$2.50.

As it suffered sales declines more recently, executives blamed a variety of factors, including a re-focus among customers to menu-price increases. In 2012, for instance, executives cited a \$1 price hike for its Festival of Shrimp special in explaining a quarterly de-

cline in sales. More recently, the company tried to attract a wider array of customers by adding more non-seafood dishes to Red Lobster's menu. The efforts didn't take hold.

Darden sees more potential in fixing Olive Garden, which has about 830 locations. The company recently reworked the logo for the Italian chain and has been adding lighter menu items and smaller dishes like crispy risotto bites that it says is reflecting eating trends.

Still, affordability is an ongoing issue across the industry, and Darden has been slow to address it. At the height of the downturn, for instance, Applebee's introduced a 2-for-\$20 deal that proved so popular it ended up becoming a menu fixture.

Activist investor Barington Capital had challenged Darden's plans to sell Red Lobster, saying the company should separate

Olive Garden and Red Lobster as a pair from its other chains, which also include Bahama Breeze, Eddie V's and Yard House.

After the transaction costs, Darden said it expects proceeds of \$1.6 billion, of which \$1 billion will be used to retire debt. The company said it expects the deal to close in its fiscal first quarter of 2015, which is this summer.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 19)	\$1.0667
Dollar buys (May 19)	€0.7109
British pound (May 19)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (May 19)	99.00
South Korean won (May 19)	1,000.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$0.3771
British pound	\$1.6821
Canada (Dollar)	1.0867
China (Yuan)	6.2337
Denmark (Crown)	5.4489
Egypt (Pound)	7.1150
Euro	\$1.3698/0.7300
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.521
Hungary (Forint)	222.72
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4598
Japan (Yen)	101.51
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.822
Norway (Krone)	5.9356
Philippines (Peso)	43.80
Poland (Zloty)	3.206
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7502
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2507
South Korea (Won)	1,023.90
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8919
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.49
Turkey (Lira)	0.0982

(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-U.S. dollars) in the United Kingdom, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

May 16, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	44.50
	16,491.31
Nasdaq composite	21.30
	4,090.59
Standard & Poor's 500	7.01
	1,877.86
Russell 2000	6.92
	1,102.91

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.35

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	90	63	Pcldy	Chatanooga	71	52	Cldy	Fort Wayne	65	38	Pcldy	Louisville	68	46	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	61	38	Pcldy	Cheyenne	75	41	Pcldy	Fresno	85	58	Cldy	Lubbock	93	55	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	67	41	Pcldy	Chicago	65	43	Pcldy	Goodland	74	45	Cldy	Macon	78	56	Cldy
Albuquerque	88	56	Cldy	Cincinnati	67	39	Cldy	Grand Junction	88	55	Cldy	Madison	66	40	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	68	45	Pcldy	Cleveland	60	38	Pcldy	Great Falls	65	45	Rain	Medford	66	48	Rain
Anaheim	84	59	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	81	44	Pcldy	Great Falls, N.C.	65	45	Rain	Memphis	73	55	Cldy
Anchorage	62	47	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	73	54	Cldy	Green Bay	68	48	Cldy	Miami Beach	83	71	Cldy
Annapolis	70	48	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	65	54	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	68	48	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	97	60	Pcldy
Atlanta	70	57	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	71	45	Cldy	Hartford Springfield	73	45	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	70	44	Cldy
Atlantic City	72	48	Cldy	Corpus Christi	85	67	Pcldy	Helena	66	45	Rain	Missoula	62	44	Rain
Austin	85	65	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	82	63	Cldy	Honolulu	86	71	Cldy	Mobile	77	55	Cldy
Baltimore	70	49	Pcldy	Dayton	64	39	Cldy	Houston	84	66	Pcldy	Montgomery	81	59	Cldy
Baton Rouge	86	63	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	83	60	Cldy	Huntsville	68	53	Cldy	Nashville	80	48	Cldy
Bilings	70	48	Cldy	Denver	83	49	Pcldy	Indianapolis	67	41	Cldy	New Orleans	83	71	Cldy
Birmingham	69	57	Cldy	Des Moines	68	44	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	82	59	Cldy	New York City	71	52	Pcldy
Bismarck	73	44	Cldy	Detroit	63	42	Pcldy	Jacksonville	85	55	Cldy	Newark	73	51	Cldy
Boise	65	51	Cldy	Duluth	66	40	Cldy	Juneau	61	43	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	70	56	Cldy
Boston	69	53	Cldy	El Paso	95	67	Cldy	Kansas City	69	45	Pcldy	North Platte	71	42	Cldy
Bridgeport	69	49	Pcldy	Elkins	79	59	Pcldy	Key West	73	47	Cldy	Okla City	77	55	Cldy
Brownsville	85	67	Pcldy	Erie	57	38	Pcldy	Knoxville	71	48	Cldy	Omaha	71	44	Pcldy
Buffalo	61	40	Cldy	Eugene	61	48	Rain	Lake Charles	84	65	Pcldy	Orlando	86	61	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	63	43	Cldy	Evansville	68	42	Cldy	Lansing	64	37	Pcldy	Paducah	70	43	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	59	50	Rain	Fairbanks	54	42	Cldy	Las Vegas	95	74	Pcldy	Pendleton	67	47	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	80	57	Cldy	Fargo	72	43	Pcldy	Lexington	66	44	Cldy	Peaslee	68	44	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	68	43	Pcldy	Flagstaff	74	44	Cldy	Lincoln	71	42	Cldy	Philadelphia	70	51	Pcldy
Charlotte, N.C.	67	52	Cldy	Fort Smith	63	38	Pcldy	Little Rock	76	52	Cldy	Phoenix	102	72	Pcldy
								Los Angeles	73	61	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	62	41	Cldy

National temperature extremes

City	Hi: FRI., 113, Death Valley, Calif.
	Lo: FRI., 21, St. Lukewood, Wis.

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SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

Auto racing

North Carolina Education Lottery 200

Friday
At Charlotte Motor Speedway
Concord, N.C.
Lap length: 1.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)
 1. (4) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 134 laps, 150 rating, 0 points, \$43,026.
 2. (2) Matt Crafton, Toyota, 134, 108.4, 42, \$27,435.
 3. (9) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 134, 118.5, 0, \$22,076.
 4. (13) John Wes Townley, Toyota, 134, 103.5, 40, \$17,025.
 5. (9) Timothy Peters, Toyota, 134, 99.7, 30, \$16,400.
 6. (7) Johnny Sauter, Toyota, 134, 86.9, 5, \$15,115.
 7. (13) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 134, 89.8, 8, \$14,900.
 8. (6) Ben Kennedy, Chevrolet, 134, 84, 36, \$12,740.
 9. (20) German Quiroga, Toyota, 134, 80.1, 35, \$11,790.
 10. (14) Justin Lofton, Chevrolet, 134, 73.6, 34, \$12,790.
 11. (16) Justin Nemechek, Toyota, 134, 69.6, 34, \$11,090.
 12. (17) Joey Coulter, Chevrolet, 134, 71.7, \$10,455.
 13. (26) Bryan Silas, Chevrolet, 134, 60.5, 31, \$10,450.
 14. (25) Jimmy Weller III, Chevrolet, 134, 59.1, \$10,450.
 15. (8) Jeb Burton, Toyota, 134, 59.0, \$10,450.
 16. (30) Jennifer Jo Cobb, Chevrolet, 133, 40.5, 26, \$10,690.
 17. (23) Norm Benning, Chevrolet, 126, 36.7, 27, \$10,440.
 18. (4) Tim Bell, Chevrolet, 125, 49.2, 26, \$10,390.
 19. (40) Ron Hornaday Jr., Chevrolet, accident, 114, 100, 26, \$10,340.
 20. (22) Mason Mitchell, Toyota, accident, 113, 54.3, 24, \$10,910.
 21. (21) Jake Crum, Chevrolet, accident, 107, 47.7, 22, \$7,970.
 22. (10) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 102, 105, 87, 27, \$10,165.
 23. (5) Brian Baker, Toyota, accident, 104, 73.5, 21, \$8,890.
 24. (18) Scott Riggs, Ford, accident, 101, 56.6, 20, \$8,890.
 25. (13) Taylor Malsam, Chevrolet, accident, 95, 61.7, 19, \$7,965.
 26. (11) Brent Stiles, Toyota, accident, 93, 82.4, 18, \$7,790.
 27. (29) Brent Ellis, Chevrolet, accident, 82, 37.5, 0, \$7,765.
 28. (23) Tyler Young, Chevrolet, engine, 66, 44.7, 19, \$7,765.
 29. (31) Justin Jennings, Chevrolet, 66, 31.8, 15, \$7,765.
 30. (24) Blake Koch, Chevrolet, vibration, 40, 35, 13, \$7,640.
 31. (12) Max Gresham, Chevrolet, transmission, 13, 13, \$7,640.
 32. (32) Willie Allen, Chevrolet, electrical, 3, 32, \$7,590.
 33. (29) Charles Lewandowski, Chevrolet, ignition, 3, 30.2, 0, \$7,565.

Average Speed of Race Winner: 100.584 mph.
Time of Race: 1 hour, 59 minutes, 54 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.201 seconds.
Cautions: 9 for 47 laps.
Lead Changes: 2 among 2 drivers.
Lap Leaders: K. Busch 1-87; J. Nemechek 88-91; K. Busch 92-134.

Leaders Sunday (Driver, Times Led, Lap Length): K. Busch, 2 times for 130 laps; J. Nemechek, 1 time for 47 laps.
Top 10 in Points: 1. M. Crafton, 162; 2. T. Peters, 134; 3. G. Quiroga, 144; 4. J. Sauter, 143; 5. R. Hornaday Jr., 137; 6. B. Kennedy, 137; 7. J. Burton, 127; 8. R. Blaney, 123; 10. D. Wallace Jr., 108.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula
 A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position, While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

Sprint Showdown

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series
Friday
At Charlotte Motor Speedway
Concord, N.C.
Lap length: 1.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (4) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 40 laps, 145.7, 0 points, \$40,989.
 2. (2) A. J. Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 40, 127, 0, \$39,117.
 3. (8) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 40, 106.8, 0, \$39,117.
 4. (16) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 40, 100, 0, \$33,612.
 5. (10) Aric Almirola, Ford, 40, 92.8, 0, \$33,612.
 6. (13) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 40, 90.0, 0, \$30,612.
 7. (17) Kyle Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 40, 90.0, 0, \$29,612.
 8. (11) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 40, 96.9, 0, \$29,612.
 9. (6) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 40, 81.7, 0, \$28,512.
 10. (7) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 40, 73.0, 0, \$27,412.
 11. (12) David Gilliland, Ford, 40, 64.2, 0, \$27,412.
 12. (11) Cole Whitt, Toyota, 40, 65.1, 0, \$27,712.
 13. (13) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 40, 63.1, 0, \$27,412.
 14. (14) Dave Blaney, Ford, 40, 59.5, 0, \$27,362.
 15. (10) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 40, 56.3, 0, \$27,262.
 16. (21) Jose Nemechek, Toyota, 40, 42.9, 0, \$27,162.
 17. (18) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 40, 37.0, 0, \$27,062.
 18. (16) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, 40, 44.2, 0, \$26,962.
 19. (15) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 40, 36.4, 0, \$26,862.
 20. (12) J. J. Yeley, Chevrolet, 40, 45.2, 0, \$26,762.
 21. (20) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 40, 33.7, 0, \$26,662.
 22. (22) Blake Koch, Ford, 40, 25.9, 0, \$26,562.
 23. (23) David Stremme, Chevrolet, vibration, 25, 28.4, 0, \$26,407.

Average Speed of Race Winner: 117.711 mph.
Time of Race: 0 hours, 30 minutes, 35 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 2.547 seconds.
Cautions: 2 for 3 laps.
Lead Changes: 4 among 3 drivers.
Lap Leaders: A. Allmendinger 1-18; C. Bowyer 19-20; A. Dillon 21-23; C. Bowyer 24-40.

Leaders Sunday (Driver, Times Led, Lap Length): C. Bowyer, 2 times for 19 laps; A. Allmendinger, 1 time for 18 laps; A. Dillon, 1 time for 3 laps.
Top 12 in Points: 1. J. Gordon, 394; 2. M. Kenseth, 370; 3. K. Busch, 370; 4. D. Earnhardt Jr., 368; 5. C. Edwards, 367; 6. J. Logano, 346; 7. J. Johnson, 340; 8. Newman, 322; 9. G. Biffle, 326; 10. B. Vickers, 327; 11. B. Keselowski, 326; 12. D. Hamlin, 318.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula
 A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-5 Finishes, Average Running Position, While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

Briefly

Colts' Mathis suspended 4 games for positive test

INDIANAPOLIS — NFL sacks champion Robert Mathis admits he made a mistake late last season.

Now it's going to cost him — four games and four paychecks. The Colts' career sacks leader was suspended Friday by the NFL after violating the league's ban on performance-enhancing substances. What exactly Mathis tested positive for remains a mystery but the linebacker said in a statement he was seeking fertility assistance. He acknowledged that he and his wife are expecting a baby.

"I am deeply saddened that this situation will prevent me from contributing to my team for four games, and I regret that I didn't cross check with my doctor told me before I took the medication," Mathis said. "I hope that my fans will understand the unique circumstances involved here and continue to know that I am a man of integrity who would never intentionally circumvent the performance enhancing substance policy agreed to by the NFL and my union."

Bowyer wins Showdown, Josh Wise wins fan vote

CONCORD, N.C. — Clint Bowyer won NASCAR's Sprint Showdown on Friday, earning himself a spot in Saturday's All-Star Race. The victory by Bowyer, one of the sport's leading drivers, was not that much of a surprise in an event for drivers scrambling for a shot at the big time.

What was surprising was that Josh Wise won the fan vote to make into the All-Star race. Pow-

ered by the online community at Reddit and fans who support him through the digital currency Dogecoin, Wise beat out favorite Danica Patrick.

Bowyer found himself in the Showdown because he failed to win a race last season, when he was ranked second most of the year.

In other auto racing news: ■ Kyle Busch continued his dominance at Charlotte Motor Speedway in the NASCAR Truck Series on Friday night, winning at the 1.5-mile track in Concord, N.C., for the fourth time in the last five years.

Busch has won all three Truck Series races he has entered this season, taking the opener at Daytona and dominating last weekend at Kansas.

Series points leader Matt Crafton was second, followed by Brad Keselowski, John Wes Townley and Timothy Peters.

Errani thrills home fans by reaching Rome final

ROME — Sara Errani became the first home player to reach the Italian Open final in nearly 30 years with a 6-3, 7-5 win over sixth-seeded Jelena Jankovic on Saturday.

Using the vocal crowd support to her advantage, the 10th-seeded Errani fought back from a 4-1 deficit in the second set, while Jankovic appeared rattled as she continuously questioned line calls.

Errani is attempting to become the first Italian to win the tournament since Raffaella Reggi took the 1985 title in Taranto.

The last Italian man to win was Adriano Panatta back in 1976.

Todd takes 2-stroke lead in Byron Nelson

IRVING, Texas — Brendon Todd birdied his final two holes Friday to take a two-stroke lead after two rounds at the Byron Nelson Championship.

The birdies at Nos. 17 and 18 wrapped up a 6-under 64 put Todd alone atop the crowded leaderboard at 8-under 132. Among eight players at 6 under were Martin Kaymer and Paul Casey after his record back nine.

Casey was over par before matching the PGA Tour record for the best score on a back nine, an 8-under 27 with six birdies and an eagle. That was part of his 7-under 63 that was the low round of the day.

Lee Young Park remained the leader by one shot in Williamsburg, Va., as the rain-delayed second round was finished in the Kingsmill Championship on Saturday.

The South Korean overcame a wrist injury to shoot a 3-under 68 on Friday, when play was delayed for 3 1/2 hours. Darkness fell with 24 groups still on the course.

Stacy Lewis, bidding to regain her No. 1 world ranking, is a shot back, along with Brittany Lang and Lizette Salas.

■ Mark Calacavchia made an 8-foot birdie putt on the final hole Friday in Birmingham, Ala., to take a one-stroke lead over Jay Haas after the second round of the Regions Tradition at Shoal Creek.

Calacavchia shot his second straight 3-under 69 to reach 6-under, while Haas had a 70 after they came in as part of a four-way tie at the Champions Tour major.

BEATING AFGHANISTAN?

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NHL PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Second round
(Best-of-seven)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Montreal 4, Boston 3
Montreal 4, Boston 3, 2OT
Boston 5, Montreal 3
Montreal 4, Boston 2
Boston 3, Montreal 0, OT
Boston 4, Montreal 2
Montreal 4, Boston 0
Montreal 3, Boston 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 3
N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Rangers 0
Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Rangers 2
N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 1
N.Y. Rangers 2, Pittsburgh 1
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Chicago 4, Minnesota 2
Chicago 5, Minnesota 2
Chicago 4, Minnesota 1
Minnesota 4, Chicago 0
Minnesota 4, Chicago 2
Chicago 2, Minnesota 1, OT
Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3
Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2, OT
Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 3
Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 2
Anaheim 2, Los Angeles 0
Anaheim 4, Los Angeles 3
Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 1
Friday: Los Angeles 6, Anaheim 2

Conference finals
(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. Rangers vs. Montreal
Saturday: at Montreal
Monday: at Montreal
Thursday: at NY Rangers
Sunday, May 25: at NY Rangers
Tuesday, May 27: at Montreal
x-Thursday, May 29: at NY Rangers
x-Saturday, May 30: at Montreal
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Sunday: at Chicago
Wednesday: at Chicago
Saturday, May 24: at Los Angeles
Monday, May 26: at Los Angeles
x-Wednesday, May 28: at Chicago
x-Friday, May 30: at Los Angeles
x-Sunday, June 1: at Chicago

Friday
Kings 6, Ducks 2
Los Angeles 3 2 1-6
Anaheim 0 1 1-2
Finals: 1- Los Angeles, Williams 5 (Richards, Vovynov), 4:30 (pp), 2- Los Angeles, Carter, Kopitar, Tofoqui, 8:45 (Clifford), 15:12
Second Period—4. Los Angeles, Kopitar 5 (Doughty, Clifford), 2:02, 5. Los Angeles, Gaborik (Kopitar, Martin), 14:08 (pp), 6. Anaheim, Palmeri 3 (Cogliano, Bonino), 17:02
Third Period—1. Anaheim, Perry 4 (Getzlaf, Lindholm), 3:42, 8. Los Angeles, Perisic 2 (Carter), 15:54
Missed Penalty Shot—Perry, ANA, 11:11
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 16-7—30. Anaheim 11-11-11
Power play opportunities—Los Angeles 2 of 5; Anaheim 0 of 2
Goalies: Anaheim Quick 8-6-0 (27 shots-25 saves), Anaheim, Gibson 2-2-0 (18-14), Hiller (2:02 second, 12-10), A—17,395 (17,174), T—2,377.

Kings roll past Ducks in Game 7

LA advances to conference finals for third straight season

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — When playoff pressure is at its most intense, almost nobody in recent hockey history has handled it better than Justin Williams, Jonathan Quick and the Los Angeles Kings.

After claiming Southern California supremacy with another Game 7 victory, the Kings are headed to their third straight Western Conference finals with their eyes on another Stanley Cup title.

Williams, Jeff Carter and Mike Richards scored in an overwhelming first period, and Los Angeles beat the Anaheim Ducks 6-2 on Friday night to earn a conference finals rematch with the defending Stanley Cup champion Chicago Blackhawks.

Anze Kopitar, Marian Gaborik and Tanner Pearson also scored as Los Angeles won its second Game 7 of the spring — two celebratory blowouts of the Kings' two California rivals.

Chicago eliminated Los Angeles in five games last year, but the Kings are ready to go long again if necessary.

"We have shown that we're able to get it done," said Williams who has six goals and six assists in six career Game 7s. "At the same time, we might have two more to play this year. We are moving on,



Los Angeles goalie Jonathan Quick, right, blocks a shot by Anaheim right wing Corey Perry during the second period of Game 7 the teams' second-round playoff series Friday in Anaheim, Calif.

and we're happy, but we know it's just halfway there."

Game 1 is Sunday in Chicago. After two weeks of back-and-forth hockey and close games in the local rivals' first postseason series, the Kings closed the Freeway Faceoff with a no-doubter. Los Angeles chased overmatched rookie goalie John Gibson, held Ryan Getzlaf to one assist and silenced the Honda Center — except for those Kings fans chanting "This is our house!"

The NHL's best defensive team surprisingly scored four goals in

seasons, but the next step is a doozy. Chicago rolled through St. Louis and Minnesota in defense of its title, while the Kings have played two straight seven-game series, winning six consecutive elimination games.

"It's the playoffs," Williams said. "If you play seven every round, you don't get much rest. To advance, you've got to be the best, and Chicago is the best right now. We're going to get out there and try to go to work."

The NHL's best defensive team surprisingly scored four goals in

the first 22:02 against Anaheim, starting with the sixth goal in six career Game 7s for Williams, who averages two points per game in seventh games.

"I'm proud of my numbers in Game 7, but the one I'm most proud of is 6-0," Williams said.

The Kings provided ample cushion for Quick, who has never lost a Game 7. He underlined his status as the most bankable big-game goalie in the NHL with 25 saves, even stopping a penalty shot by 43-goal scorer Corey Perry.

'Finnish Flash' says farewell after Anaheim loss

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, California — Teemu Selanne took one last tour of the Anaheim rink after the final horn, waving his stick at cheering fans while players from both teams banged their sticks on the ice.

Despite the melancholy look on his face, the Finnish Flash said he has no regrets about returning to the Anaheim Ducks for one last season, even after they fell well short of another Stanley Cup title.

Selanne's 21-season NHL career likely ended Thursday night with a 6-2 loss to the Los Angeles Kings in Game 7 of their second-round series.

The 43-year-old forward has maintained he'll retire this summer, keeping to his plan even after starting in his sixth Olympics and playing a significant role in the best regular season in franchise history in Anaheim, his



Ducks right wing Teemu Selanne, left, gets a pat on the head Friday from goalie Jonas Hiller after Game 7 in Anaheim, Calif.

home for parts of 15 seasons. "I've been flirting with this decision for a long time, but the pas-

sion and the fun always brought me back," said Selanne, who didn't score in the finale. "I still

love this game, and I still know I can play, but it is better this way than having different situations, and that's why I think it is the right time."

The crowd chanted "Let's Go Teemu" in the final minutes, with even Kings fans joining in. After the final horn, Selanne accepted congratulations and eventually made it to the dressing room, where his famed composure slipped. "I tried, but when I came in here, I couldn't hold myself anymore," Selanne said. "I didn't know what to do out there."

Selanne kept returning to the Ducks for seven straight years after he first contemplated retirement following their only Stanley Cup championship in 2007, each time hoping the Ducks would make another title run. He kept moving up the NHL's career scoring chart, currently sitting 15th with 1,457 points and 11th with 684 goals.

Selanne's ice time with the Ducks dwindled this year while coach Bruce Boudreau worked younger players into key roles.

He still played a dependable role in Anaheim, bottling his frustration for one more run at a Cup.

"The 2007 Stanley Cup has to be the biggest crown for my career," Selanne said. "To be honest, the most proud I am is I have been able to play so many years and at this age. You all know when you get older, it's not going to get any easier."

"But to be able to compete against these young guys and still enjoy this and play well, that has been the greatest thing in my career. I'm really thankful for that."

The game also might have been a finale for Saku Koivu, Selanne's fellow Finn and longtime friend. The 39-year-old Koivu was the Montreal Canadiens' captain before moving to Anaheim five years ago.

MLB

Statistics

American League

TEAM BATTING				
AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Detroit	1527	177	347	106
New York	1391	174	368	162
Baltimore	1396	161	305	107
Tampa Bay	1501	212	390	147
Texas	1394	167	362	155
Minnesota	1465	211	371	158
Kansas City	1395	157	355	145
Toronto	1474	171	341	118
Minnesota	1395	189	351	161
Los Angeles	1447	202	364	169
Chicago	1480	171	341	163
Boston	1393	172	341	163
Seattle	1397	177	349	167
Seattle	1396	169	332	159
Houston	1413	147	321	139

National League

TEAM BATTING				
AB	R	H	HR	RBI
Castillo	1222	10	29	4
Evang NYM	1227	28	30	1
Colorado	1478	156	346	125
Desmond Was	158	17	35	22
Colorado	1478	156	346	125
Esposina Was	147	11	28	6
Bruce Cin	102	20	22	3
Phillips Pit	149	18	32	8
DrBrown Phi	140	30	15	21
Sandoval SF	151	15	31	15
Blyden Atl	139	13	29	3
Hayward Atl	149	15	31	20
Palmerz Pit	112	9	25	1
Scherhertz CHC	110	9	25	0
Blicks SF	115	7	27	1
Atrose SD	137	10	27	0
Verable SD	116	11	26	1
Granderson NYM	143	15	27	5
Gorko SD	147	11	26	10

Individual Pitching

ERA	H	ER	BB	SO	V	L	ERA
Lawrie	135	15	32	7	24	237	3.25
Reddick Oak	127	18	30	4	18	236	14.09
Brook Det	149	20	35	6	26	239	1.28
Beltman NY	128	14	30	5	15	234	1.31
Castillo Det	131	14	29	9	17	232	1.34
Seager Sea	134	17	31	6	22	231	1.46
Butler KC	146	11	33	1	14	226	1.46
McCart NY	135	19	30	9	19	222	1.46
Coltramus Tor	135	19	30	9	19	222	1.46
Villar Hou	133	14	29	9	17	221	1.46
JCastro Hou	129	13	28	5	18	217	1.46
Semien CWS	145	20	31	7	17	214	1.46
Brady KC	154	16	31	3	16	201	1.46
Swisher Cle	154	16	31	3	16	201	1.46
Bradley Jr Bos	125	14	27	6	15	198	1.46
Miller Sea	133	12	26	6	14	188	1.46
De Azza CWS	145	16	27	4	14	186	1.46
Miller Sea	133	12	26	6	14	188	1.46
CSantana Cle	143	18	22	5	13	154	1.46

Individual Pitching

ERA	H	ER	BB	SO	V	L	ERA
Oakland	2.94	110	126	115	338	5	3.25
Cleveland	3.25	289	120	104	299	13	3.25
Kansas City	3.45	335	141	113	321	3	3.45
Seattle	3.60	331	146	134	313	1	3.60
Los Angeles	3.89	313	161	149	347	2	3.89
Baltimore	3.94	369	157	127	294	3	3.94
Tampa Bay	4.12	372	147	134	374	8	4.12
Toronto	4.41	384	187	173	371	11	4.41
Texas	4.51	397	186	136	315	9	4.51
Chicago	4.68	383	200	185	284	9	4.68
Houston	4.18	359	167	106	352	4	4.18

Individual Pitching

IP	H	ER	BB	SO	V	L	ERA
Scherzer Det	53	49	17	31	7	2	2.04
Buehrle Tor	60	46	21	52	1	0	2.10
Gray Oak	66	46	6	66	0	0	2.17
Clayton NY	51	49	9	42	5	2	2.28
Kazmir Oak	54	43	16	42	3	2	2.52
Darvish Tex	49	39	16	53	1	2	2.40
Ventura KC	52	20	54	4	0	2	2.42
Kuchel Hou	60	53	12	56	5	3	2.54
Shields KC	60	53	12	56	5	3	2.54
Lester Bos	60	56	11	40	4	1	3.00
Vargas KC	59	54	12	60	4	1	3.03
Fernandez Sea	62	48	11	73	4	2	3.06
Weaver LAA	57	45	18	45	4	3	3.14
Verlander Det	60	56	24	47	5	2	3.15
Young Sea	46	34	17	31	4	2	3.22
Porcello Det	45	40	6	29	6	1	3.22
Hillman Bal	59	62	13	66	4	3	3.38
Kluber Cle	53	51	11	52	5	2	3.57
Lackey Bos	59	41	20	73	1	5	3.83
Phigley Min	54	47	16	55	2	3	3.67
Hutchinson Tor	47	45	15	45	2	3	3.67
Wright CWS	54	44	19	54	4	3	3.69
CWilson LAA	46	57	10	33	5	2	3.69
WChen Bal	48	43	27	41	1	3	3.94
Wheeler NY	43	39	13	32	3	2	4.02
Peavy Bos	48	43	27	41	1	3	3.94
Bonbris Bal	43	39	13	32	3	2	4.02
Ujenez Bal	47	46	22	41	2	4	4.02
Archer Tor	51	54	20	47	4	4	4.59
Dickey Tor	54	50	27	47	4	3	4.19
Gibson Min	45	46	20	21	4	3	4.20
Wheeler NY	44	51	20	31	4	4	4.15
Masterson Cle	45	52	23	52	2	4	4.31
Wheeler NY	45	50	19	35	4	4	4.32
Kragg LAA	52	47	13	33	3	4	4.53
Doubtont Bos	42	47	16	29	3	4	4.54
Archer Tor	51	54	20	47	4	4	4.59
Kuroda NY	49	53	7	36	2	4	4.62
Guthrie KC	59	61	12	27	2	3	4.76
Migonzalez Bal	40	43	15	37	1	3	4.76
JohnDanks CWS	48	47	23	34	3	3	4.88
Wheeler NY	45	50	19	35	4	4	4.32
Sabatina NY	46	58	10	48	3	4	5.28
McAllister Cle	42	47	14	31	4	5	5.26
Wheeler NY	45	50	19	35	4	4	4.32
Buchholz Bos	42	42	14	33	2	3	6.17
Correa Min	42	59	12	10	1	5	6.80

Individual Pitching

IP	H	ER	BB	SO	V	L	ERA
Talowitzki Col	144	21	50	3	20	347	1.44
Uley Phi	144	21	50	3	20	347	1.44
Puig LAD	114	15	38	3	14	333	1.44
Smith SD	157	34	52	9	20	331	1.44
Blackmon Col	157	34	52	9	20	331	1.44
Pagan SF	155	51	3	35	12	229	1.44
Morneau Col	151	19	49	8	30	325	1.44
Y Molina SL	149	16	48	4	21	322	1.44
St Louis	113	18	36	5	21	319	1.44
DanPharmy NYM	165	27	52	3	17	315	1.44
St Louis	152	26	52	11	22	312	1.44
DGordon LAD	162	25	51	11	11	315	1.44
Goldschmidt Ari	177	30	57	6	26	311	1.44
Arrenado Col	147	20	45	4	19	306	1.44
AMCuttern Phi	147	20	45	4	19	306	1.44
Fremont Ari	147	20	45	4	19	306	1.44
MAadams SL	158	11	48	2	12	304	1.44
Werth Was	152	22	46	5	19	300	1.44
Urbes LAD	139	14	42	17	30	287	1.44
Lofgren Mil	140	16	42	2	16	300	1.44
Castro CHC	152	25	48	1	21	296	1.44
Brocky CHC	153	22	45	8	8	294	1.44
McGehee Mil	161	10	44	3	16	294	1.44
Phillips Cin	157	14	35	13	28	287	1.44
Byrd Phi	150	11	43	4	23	290	1.44
Phillips Cin	147	14	35	13	28	287	1.44
Posey SF	140	18	40	7	22	286	1.44
Clayton NY	144	9	41	9	28	285	1.44
Rizzo CHC	144	26	41	7	21	285	1.44
LeMahieu Col	124	19	35	0	12	282	1.44
D Wright NY	174	19	49	2	25	287	1.44
Pence SF	171	31	48	3	13	281	1.44
JLorton NY	139	21	39	2	15	281	1.44
Montero Ari	144	15	40	5	24	278	1.44
Gentner Mil	126	12	35	2	10	278	1.44
Hendon Cin	166	26	46	5	24	277	1.44
Ruiz Phi	112	19	31	1	9	277	1.44
Morse SF	141	21	39	10	28	277	1.44
Yllich Mil	162	33	44	5	14	272	1.44
Garra Ari	177	24	48	4	13	271	1.44
Wrenn Phi	152	17	44	1	15	270	1.44
Revere Phi	138	17	37	0	5	268	1.44
Holliday SL	150	20	42	2	24	268	1.44
Frazier Cin	143	21	38	7	21	266	1.44
Kemp LAD	128	34	35	1	5	266	1.44
Wrenn Phi	152	31	48	1	15	266	1.44
Saltalamacchia Mil	125	33	33	6	12	264	1.44
Wheeler NY	129	18	38	3	12	263	1.44
Goetz Col	160	24	42	7	25	263	1.44
Gonzales Mil	149	20	39	6	16	262	1.44
Hechavarria Mil	150	25	41	1	15	261	1.44
Rollins Mil	138	21	36	4	17	261	1.44
McCarver STL	159	28	43	3	14	258	1.44
Sigurs Mil	142	19	37	2	12	261	1.44
Simmons Atl	135	10	35	3	10	259	1.44
Hendon Cin	116	38	3	6	25	259	1.44
Ozuna Mil	147	17	38	6	22	259	1.44
Gonzales LAD	159	28	43	3	14	258	1.44
Votto Cin	136	19	35	2	12	257	1.44
SMarie Pit	149	19	37	2	15	257	1.44
Ar Ramirez Mil	123	10	31	5	21	252	1.44
B Crawford SF	135	16	34	5	25	252	1.44
Harmon Cin	147	19	37	8	17	252	1.44
JPeraza SL	148	18	37	2	22	250	1.44
Herrath STL	148	18	37	2	22	250	1.44
Duda NYM	116	13	29	4	17	250	1.44
Wheeler NY	141	19	37	4	13	249	1.44
Eubanks NY	172	12	42	1	4	244	1.44
Cabrera SD	140	17	36	4	21	244	1.44
Span Was	140	21	34	0	7	243	1.44

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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	22	18	.550	
New York	21	19	.521	
Tampa Bay	21	21	.512	1 1/2
Milwaukee	19	23	.452	8 1/2
Toronto	19	24	.442	4 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	16	27	.367	
Minnesota	20	20	.500	
Chicago	20	21	.488	
Kansas City	20	21	.488	
St. Louis	17	24	.413	8 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	16	27	.367	
Los Angeles	22	19	.537	3 1/2
Seattle	22	18	.550	
Texas	20	22	.476	6
San Diego	13	28	.313	12

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	22	18	.550	
Washington	22	15	.595	
Philadelphia	21	21	.512	1 1/2
New York	19	22	.463	3 1/2
Pittsburgh	17	24	.413	8 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	22	16	.577	
St. Louis	20	20	.500	
Chicago	19	21	.476	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	17	23	.425	9
Cincinnati	13	29	.313	13 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	24	16	.600	
Los Angeles	22	16	.577	3
Arizona	20	18	.521	6
Colorado	16	26	.381	11 1/2

Fridays games

Oakland 11, Cleveland 1
 Pittsburgh at New York, ppd., rain
 Detroit 1, Boston 2
 Chicago 4, Seattle 3
 Baltimore 4, Kansas City 3
 Tampa Bay 3, L.A. Angels 0
 Houston 4, St. Louis 3
 Cincinnati 3, Philadelphia 0
 St. Louis 5, N.Y. Mets 2
 St. Louis 5, Atlanta 2
 San Diego 1, Arizona 0
 L.A. Dodgers 7, Arizona 0
 Miami 7, San Francisco 5

Saturday's games

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Yankees
 Chicago White Sox at Houston
 Oakland at Cleveland
 Cincinnati at Kansas City
 Detroit at Boston
 Seattle at Minnesota
 Toronto at Texas
 Tampa Bay at Angels
 Atlanta at St. Louis
 Milwaukee at Chicago Cubs
 Mets at Washington
 Cincinnati at Philadelphia
 Philadelphia at San Francisco
 San Diego at Colorado

Sunday's games

Atlanta (Chavez 3-1) at Cleveland (Masterson 2-2)
 Pittsburgh (Jorton 0-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Kuroki 2-3)
 Baltimore (Morison 2-4) at Kansas City (Santana 3-3)
 Chicago White Sox (Joh.Danks 3-3) at Houston (Rios 0-4)
 Seattle (Fernandez 4-1) at Minnesota (Lincecum 2-2)
 Toronto (Price 4-3) at Texas (Martinez 1-1)
 Tampa Bay (Dickey 4-3) at L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 1-1)
 Tampa Bay (Cole 3-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Nuno 1-1)
 St. Louis (A.Sanchez 0-2) at Boston (Peavy 1-1)
 N.Y. Mets (Z.Wheeler 1-2) at Philadelphia (Lee 3-4)
 N.Y. Mets (Z.Wheeler 1-2) at Washington (Zimmerman 2-1)
 Atlanta (Flyod 1-1) at St. Louis (Lincecum 2-4)
 Chicago (Estrada 3-1) at Chicago Cubs (Kuroki 2-3)
 Miami (Ja.Turner 0-1) at San Francisco (Casper 2-2)
 L.A. Dodgers (Haren 5-1) at Arizona (Cabrera 2-2)
 San Diego (Cashner 2-5) at Colorado (Nicasio 4-3)

Monday's games

Detroit (Smith 2-2) at Cleveland (Kluber 3-3)
 Houston White Sox (Carroll 1-3) at Chicago (Kemp 4-1)
 Chicago (Kuechel 2-4) at L.A. Angels (Richison 2-2)
 Cincinnati (Leake 2-3) at Washington (Gibson 2-2)
 Milwaukee (Werpehta 4-2) at Atlanta (Minor 1-2)

Friday

Orioles 4, Royals 0

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	bb
Marksrf	4	0	0	0	0
Mach 3b	4	1	0	0	0
Cruz 2b	3	2	1	0	0
N.Rubio	4	0	0	0	0
Griffey	4	0	0	0	0
Hardy 5b	4	0	0	0	0
W.C. Coker	3	0	0	0	0
Lough lf	4	0	0	0	0
Torres	4	0	0	0	0

Kansas City

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	bb
Scherzer	6	3	0	0	4
Krohn lf	3	0	0	0	0
Chamberlain	4	0	0	0	0
Nathan	4	0	0	0	0

Boston

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	bb
Badenhop	1	0	0	0	0
Mujica	1	0	0	0	0
Teague	1	0	0	0	0
Scherzer	1	0	0	0	0

Los Angeles

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	bb
7th	1	0	0	0	0
8th	1	0	0	0	0
9th	1	0	0	0	0

Washington

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	bb
7th	1	0	0	0	0
8th	1	0	0	0	0
9th	1	0	0	0	0

(37,993)

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 0

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	bb
DGordun 2b	5	1	1	0	1
Pugr lf	3	0	0	0	0
Wright 3b	3	0	0	0	0
ADgonz lf	3	0	0	0	0
Kemp dh	3	0	0	0	0
Vnysky lf	5	2	2	0	1
Urbaniak 1b	4	0	0	0	0
A.Ellis c	2	1	1	0	1
W.C. Coker 3b	0	0	0	0	0
BWilsn p	0	0	0	0	0

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
E-Owings (7)	7.0	7	0	0	0	0
LOB—Los Angeles 5, Arizona 5, 2B—Aguilar (6), HR—Van Slyke (5), Greinke (3), HR—Pulg (8), A.V. Sosa (4).						

Arizona

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Wright 3b	5	7	4	4	3	3
Miley 3a	4	5	7	4	4	2
W.C. Coker 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0
OPerez	1	0	0	0	0	1
W.P.—Greinke, Delgado 2.—T.—Zisa, A.—31,154 (48,633).						

Athletics 11, Indians 1

Oakland	ab	r	h	bi	bb
Crisp cf	2	1	0	0	0
Jaso dh	4	1	0	0	0
Calash ph-3b1	0	0	0	0	0
Francis 2b	4	1	0	0	0
Cespedis lf	4	1	2	0	0
Blanks ph-b1	1	0	0	0	0
Francis 2b	4	1	0	0	0
DNorsc c	4	2	2	0	0
Reed 1b	4	2	0	0	0
Sopch 3b	4	2	0	0	0

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
081 000 200—11						
100 000 000—4						
E—Cstantana (5), Cstantana (4), DP—Cstantana 3, LOB—Oakland 5, Cleveland 6, HR—Molitor (7), Cespedis 1, Rodriguez 1, Johnson 1, Lorraine (3), Reddick 2 (4), Swisher (3).						

Cleveland

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
6	2	1	1	3	9	
Francis 2b	1	0	0	0	1	
Feleizoguz lf	1	0	0	0	1	
W.C. Coker 3b	1	0	0	0	1	

Cleveland

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
McAllister L3-4	1 1/2	5	8	3	3	0
Crockett	1	0	0	0	1	2
Clee	1	0	0	0	1	2
Adams	1	0	0	0	1	2
Carrazo	4	5	2	2	0	5
W.C. Johnson, T.—3:07, A.—21,389 (42,487).						

Reds 3, Phillies 0

Cincinnati	ab	r	h	bi	bb
BHmltn cf	4	1	1	0	0
Wright 3b	4	0	0	0	0
Phillips 2b	4	0	0	0	0
Harmon 1b	4	0	0	0	0
Mesorec c	3	0	0	0	0
Francis 2b	4	0	0	0	0
N.Soto lf	0	0	0	0	0
B.Pena lf	4	0	0	0	0
Adams p	0	0	0	0	0
Cozart ss	3	0	0	0	0
Acham p	0	0	0	0	0
MParr p	0	0	0	0	0
Simp p	0	0	0	0	0

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
380 000 000—0						
300 000 000—0						
300 000 000—0						
E—B.Mesoron (4), LOB—Cincinnati 4, Philadelphia 3, 2B—Phillips (3), HR—Hampton (1).						

Cincinnati

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi	bb
Jones cf	5	0	1	0	0
MSnirs lf	5	0	0	0	0
Canzo 2b	5	0	0	0	0
Hart dh	5	0	0	0	0
Smokib lf	5	0	0	0	0
Seager 3b	5	0	0	0	0
Adams lf	5	0	0	0	0
Zunigo c	3	0	0	0	0
Waller ss	3	0	0	0	0

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
9—B.Miller (8), DP—Seattle 1, LOB—Seattle 10, Minnesota 10, HR—Dozier (4), K.Suzuki (3), A.Hicks (4), E.Scorbert (12), S.Moore (10), Minnesota 10, HR—Dozier (4), SF—Zunino.						

Seattle

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
C.Lyoung L3-7	7	10	5	5	1	0
DeWitt dh	5	0	0	0	0	1
Wilhelmsen	5	0	0	0	0	1

Minnesota

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
10	7	6	1	2	4	
Thielbar 3b	5	2	3	3	1	0
Dozier 2b	5	0	0	0	0	1
Perkins 1b	1	1	0	0	0	0
W.P.—Perkins, T.—2:42, A.—28,275 (39,021).						

Los Angeles

Tampa Bay	ab	r	h	bi	bb
Dlings cf	4	1	0	0	0
DeWitt dh	5	0	0	0	0
Myers lf	3	0	0	0	0
Wright 3b	5	0	0	0	0
Loney lf	4	0	1	0	0
Forsyth 2b	3	0	0	0	0
Joyce lf	4	0	0	0	0
Escors ss	2	0	0	0	0
Hanjin c	2	0	0	0	0
Jmolinc lf	1	0	0	0	0

Tampa Bay

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
33 3 3 0						
000 000 000—0						
000 000 000—0						
HR—Escobar (3), SB—Lompsonia (1), Jo.McDonald (1).						

Tampa Bay

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
5	2	2	0	0	5	
McGee lf	1	0	0	0	0	0
McGee lf	1	0	0	0	0	0
Balfour 5b	1	0	0	0	0	0

Los Angeles

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
7	3	2	2	3	5	
Wright 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0
Kahn	1	0	0	0	0	0
Merri	1	0	0	0	0	0
Solis	1	2	0	0	0	2

Tampa Bay

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
4	5	2	2	0	5	
McGee lf	1	0	0	0	0	0
McGee lf	1	0	0	0	0	0
Balfour 5b	1	0	0	0	0	0

Los Angeles

MLB

NL roundup

Rockies withstand late rally, top Padres

De La Rosa carries no-hit bid through 6

The Associated Press

DENVER — Jorge De La Rosa carried a no-hitter through six innings and pitched seven scoreless innings, as the Colorado Rockies withstood a late rally to beat the San Diego Padres 3-1 Friday night.

De La Rosa's bid for the first no-hitter by a Rockies pitcher at Coors Field ended in the seventh inning, when Chris Denorfia led off with a triple off the scoreboard in right field, just the second time a Padres batter had gotten the ball out of the infield to that point.

But De La Rosa stranded Denorfia by retiring the next three batters, getting Everth Cabrera on an infield grounder, Chase Headley on a liner to second and Carlos Quentin on a pop-up to blank the Padres on one hit through seven innings.

De La Rosa, who was pitching on eight days' rest because of a bout of back spasms, struck out five and walked one in winning his fifth straight since an 0-3 start.

Giants 7, Marlins 5: Casey McGehee singled home the winning run with one out in the ninth inning to help Miami earn a rare road win.

Derek Dietrich and Christian Yelich homered, and Jarrod Saltalamacchia snapped an 0-for-26 skid by tying his career high with four singles to stop Miami's slide. The Marlins entered the game losers of six of their past seven games and with a majors-worst 4-16 record away from home.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 0: Zack Greinke threw eight sharp innings, Yasiel Puig and Scott Van Slyke homered and Los Angeles added to its mastery of host Arizona. Los Angeles improved to 8-1 against Arizona this season, and the Dodgers are 15-19 against everybody else.

Greinke (7-1), in his longest outing of the season, allowed two or fewer runs for the 21st consecutive game.



JOE MARONEY/AP

Rockies pitcher Jorge De La Rosa carried a no-hitter through six innings against the San Diego Padres on Friday in Denver.

Reds 3, Phillies 0: Alfredo Simon allowed five hits over 7 $\frac{2}{3}$ strong innings, Devin Mesoraco hit a three-run homer and visiting Cincinnati beat struggling Philadelphia.

Simon (5-2) had a season-high eight strikeouts, walked one and hit one batter. Manny Parra got one out in the eighth and Aroldis Chapman struck out pinch-hitter Cesar Hernandez on a 102 mph fastball with runners on second and third for his second save in two tries.

Cardinals 5, Braves 2: Allen Craig had three hits, drove in a run and scored twice and Lance Lynn allowed two runs over seven innings to lead host St. Louis.

Matt Carpenter and Kolten Wong had two hits each and scored a run for St. Louis. Matt Holiday, Matt Adams and Yadier Molina all drove in a run for the Cardinals.

Nationals 5, Mets 2: Tyler Moore had two hits and drove in a pair of runs, and Washington's relievers threw four scoreless innings in the win over visiting New York.

Scott Hairston had an RBI double and a single for the Nationals, who have won nine straight against the Mets going back to last season.

Brewers 4, Cubs 3: Kyle Lohse pitched seven effective innings in his first victory in three weeks, and visiting Milwaukee beat sloppy Chicago.

Lohse allowed three runs and seven hits as NL Central-leading Milwaukee won for the fifth time in six games. He retired his last 13 batters.

AL roundup

Cabrera double lifts Blue Jays

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Drew Hutchison outduelled Yu Darvish and Melky Cabrera hit a two-run double in the eighth inning to lift the Toronto Blue Jays to a 2-0 win over the Texas Rangers.

Hutchison (2-3) shut out Texas on three singles in his first career complete game, earning his first victory since his first start of the season on April 1.

Tigers 1, Red Sox 0: Max Scherzer tossed six shutout innings, outdueling Jon Lester and leading Detroit over host Boston in the opener of a three-game series.

Torii Hunter delivered an RBI single in the first inning for the Tigers, playing their first game against the defending champion Red Sox since losing last year's American League Championship Series in six games.

Athletics 11, Indians 1: Josh Reddick homered twice, including a grand slam, and drove in a career-high six runs, and Josh Donaldson added a three-run shot in Oakland's rout of host Cleveland.

Sonny Gray (5-1) allowed one run and two hits with nine strikeouts in six innings for Oakland, which has won seven of eight.

Rays 3, Angels 0: Yunel Escobar homered off Jered Weaver, and James Loney and Evan Longoria had RBI singles to lead visiting Tampa Bay to victory.

Chris Archer (3-2) allowed two hits over 5 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings and won for the first time in his last five starts, striking out five and walking five.

Orioles 4, Royals 0: Chris Tillman tossed his first career shutout and Nelson Cruz drove in two runs for visiting Baltimore. Tillman (4-2) scattered five

hits and a walk while striking out three. Chris Davis homered and Steve Clevenger also drove in a run for the Orioles.

Twins 5, Mariners 4: Kyle Gibson allowed one run in seven innings, Brian Dozier and Jossim Pinto homered, and host Minnesota held on to beat Seattle.

Dozier and Trevor Plouffe each hit RBI doubles in the third inning against Chris Young (3-1) to give the Twins an early lead on their way to their fifth win in their last six home games.

White Sox 7, Astros 2: Adam Dunn hit a three-run home game and Conor Gillaspie added two RBIs to lead visiting Chicago over Houston.

White Sox starter Jose Quintana (2-3) allowed seven hits and two runs in five innings for his first win since April 8.



LM OTERO/AP

Toronto's Melky Cabrera celebrates with teammates after their 2-0 win over the Rangers in Arlington, Texas, on Friday.

NBA



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Michigan State forward Adreian Payne, left, cuts the net with Lacey Holsworth, who was battling cancer and had become close to Payne, after Michigan State defeated Michigan 69-55 in March in the Big Ten Conference tournament championship in Indianapolis. Holsworth passed away in April.

Lacey's memory remains with ex-Spartan Payne

By Andrew Seligman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — There wasn't a more touching story in college basketball this past season than the friendship between Michigan State star Adreian Payne and Lacey Holsworth.

An 8-year-old girl dying from cancer. A basketball player bonding with her like a big brother. NBA executives wanted to hear all about it. Payne was happy to oblige.

The story came up quite a bit in meetings at the NBA Draft combine in Chicago this week, with teams asking him to recount how he became friends with the girl from St. Johns, Mich., who died April 8.

"They really like what I did," Payne said. "That's what they say. They just tipped their hat off to me about things that I did in the community."

Payne, likely a late lottery or mid-first-round pick, skipped the on-court portion of the combine this week. He said he has been dealing with mononucleosis since January and isn't sure when he'll be clear of the energy-draining virus. He won't know for sure if he's 100 percent until the blood tests show it's gone, and he didn't have a timetable for that.

"I could still work out, but I'm not at 100 percent," he said. "I won't know until [blood tests show it's gone]."

It's been an eventful few months for Payne between the mono, a

foot injury, a Big Ten tournament title, a trip to the NCAA regional finals and the death of a little girl he had befriended. He has another big event coming up with the draft — and in many ways, she will be right there with him.

The little girl affectionately known as "Princess Lacey" died of neuroblastoma she had battled since 2011 in April. But her story lives on.

She and Payne met during one of her hospital stays and their friendship grew from there. She became known to legions of fans, cheering on the Spartans as they became a favorite to win it all this past season.

She was there with Payne, getting scooped up by the 6-foot-10 center and carried around the court when he was honored during Senior Night. She was there with him cutting down the net after the Spartans knocked off Michigan in the Big Ten title game, on top of the ladder and on top of the world. She was there at the Michigan State basketball banquet in March with coach Tom Izzo putting his arm around her as he addressed the hundreds of players, families and others on hand, his message being that her struggles put the team's injury woes in perspective.

It's a story that gets Dick Vitale choked up.

He remembers calling the Michigan State-Indiana game with Magic Johnson and Mike Tirico two years ago. The Spartans lost at home, but what really stuck with him was what happened after

the game.

"Here comes Adreian Payne, and he goes over to this little girl," Vitale said. "He starts to hug this little girl. Fans are standing there to take pictures with me. I asked, 'Who's that?' They said that little girl has cancer and Adreian (befriended her). So I walked over. I start talking to Adreian, to the girl, start talking to the family. And then, from that moment on, we started to stay in touch."

Vitale invited Lacey and her family to his fundraising gala for the V Foundation for Cancer Research last year. And when she passed away last month, he vowed to raise \$250,000 in Lacey's name in time for this year's event.

The gala was Friday night, and the goal was met.

"I will never forget Lacey's angelic smile," Vitale said.

And Payne will never forget her, either. He remains close to the Holsworths and thinks of them like family.

"I'm like another son to them, so we talk about everything," Payne said. "It's not just basketball to them. That's the thing I like about their family and about them. They just like me as a person and I like them as people. I look to them for advice."

And after a video conference on Thursday, right before a meeting, Lacey's mom, Heather Holsworth, had some advice.

"I was chewing gum, and she told me to spit the gum out before I went into the interview," Payne said.

PG Mills transformed body, game for Spurs

By Raul Dominguez
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The physical transformation of Patty Mills was so dramatic one could be excused for wondering if the San Antonio Spurs had signed a new point guard in the offseason.

Gone was the somewhat doughy physique that jiggled when Mills sprang from the Spurs' bench, madly waving towels to punctuate a basket by one of his teammates.

A healthier diet and improved conditioning has done more than transform Mills' physique. It has turned him from someone who led choreographed cheers from the bench to a key reserve that creates chaos on the floor with his long-range shooting and pestering defense.

"He's a really committed player," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "He came in this year with a changed body that he worked on all summer. Mentally he's been making great decisions. He's been a significant factor for us all season."

Mills helped the Spurs earn the league's best record, and the Australian's emergence could be even bigger now that Tony Parker has an ailing left hamstring.

When Parker left Game 5 against Portland in the second quarter, Mills responded with 18 points, three steals, three rebounds and two assists in 26 minutes as the Spurs rolled to a 104-82 victory to close the series.

"He is very aggressive," team

mate Boris Diaw said. "At the same time, he had to be a leader and he had to be under control like Tony does. He did it tonight."

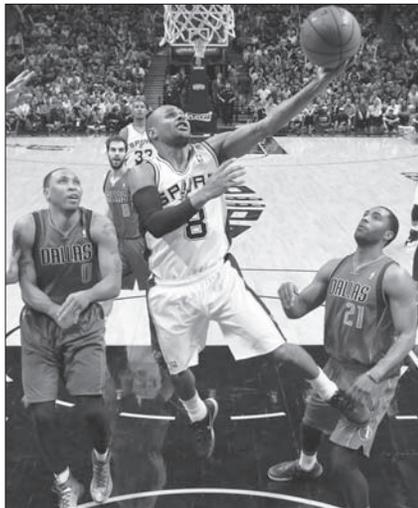
Parker sat out 14 games this season, including two weeks for what Popovich deemed "rest."

The Spurs were without their All-Star point guard, and Mills' presence was a big reason behind that success. He averaged 10.2 points and 1.8 assists in a career-high 18.9 minutes per game.

"It was huge, it was huge," Parker said of Mills' development. "Patty's played great this year. He had a hard time the first couple of years to try to find a spot, but this year he came in and he was ready."

Popovich made no bones about what was keeping Mills from being a viable option in his previous two seasons with the Spurs.

"He was a little fat ass," Popovich said. "He had too much junk in the trunk. His decision making wasn't great, and he wasn't in great shape. He changed his entire body. He came back svelte and cut and understood you have to make better decisions, point-guard type decisions. He did all those things better and he earned it."



Tom Fox, Dallas Morning News/MCT

Spurs guard Patty Mills finds an easy layup against the Dallas Mavericks defense during the first round of the NBA playoffs. Mills' emergence as a reliable back-up to point guard Tony Parker this season has been a key factor in the Spurs' return to the Western Conference finals.

NBA CONFERENCE FINALS

East



No. 2 Miami Heat at No. 1 Indiana Pacers
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m. Sunday, CET

Season series: Tied, 2-2. The home teams held serve in each of the four meetings between the teams with the best records in the conference. The first three games of the series were decided by a total of 10 points before the Heat blew out the Pacers on April 11 to briefly move ahead of Indiana in the standings. Roy Hibbert was his enigmatic self in the series, averaging 22.5 points in Pacers wins and 5.5 points in the two losses. LeBron James averaged 28.8 points in the series, including 38 and 36 in the final two meetings.

Story line: This is a series everyone has been waiting for. The teams seemed destined for an Eastern Conference Finals rematch after the Heat beat the Pacers in seven games last year en route to their second straight title. The Pacers surged out of the gates when this season opened, but staggered down the stretch and looked sloppy for long stretches of their first two rounds against Atlanta and Washington. The Heat took a more measured approach to the season and dispatched the Bobcats and Nets with ease in the playoffs.

Key matchup I: Hibbert vs. Heat frontcourt. The Pacers' big man has been a mystery for most of the last two months, but he does have the size to give the Heat trouble in the paint. If he plays with the aggressiveness and confidence that he did in Indiana's two wins in the regular season, the Pacers will have a chance. If not, it could be a quick series.

Key matchup II: Heat's poise vs. Pacers' volatility. The Pacers can look like confident world-beaters one night and a disjointed team falling apart the next, a sign of a group that is still getting used to life in the spotlight. The veteran Heat have lived in the headlines going on four years now and rarely get rattled, which serves them well during a long playoff series.

X-factor: Dwyane Wade. The Heat guard missed 28 games in the regular season for injuries or rest, all with an eye toward being ready for this series. He's averaging 17.9 points on 50 percent shooting in the postseason, including 28 in the clinching victory over Brooklyn in the semifinals.

Prediction: Heat in 6.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Pacers will have a better chance of knocking off the defending champion Miami Heat if center Roy Hibbert has a big series.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Oklahoma City will be without Serge Ibaka, center, for the rest of the playoffs after he suffered an injury to his left calf during Game 6 of the Western Conference semifinals against the Clippers.

Top: Pair of rematches ensure intriguing conference finals

FROM BACK PAGE

The Pacers have made no secret they were looking forward to rematch with Miami after pushing the Heat to seven games before losing on the road in last year's East final. Oklahoma City beat San Antonio 4-2 in the 2012 West final, and many felt it might have beaten the aging Spurs last year if the teams had met, but Russell Westbrook was injured and the Thunder were eliminated. The Thunder know it will be a challenge, but are confident after sweeping San Antonio this year in their four-game regular-season series.

"There aren't really any surprises," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "It's the conference finals, and players step up and play well. That's basically what it's all about. Everyone is going to have energy, passion and those sorts of things, but execution for more of those 48 minutes is what it's all about. To make sure that you don't have too many dry possessions offensively, to make sure defensively that everybody is on track and communicating."

"It's the same for both teams, but who will do it more for the 48 minutes. We'll see."

The Heat, led by four-time MVP LeBron James, are looking for their third straight title.

James is averaging 30 points and 7.1 rebounds in the playoffs while shooting 56 percent from the field. He told Pacers coach Frank Vogel during All-Star weekend that he expected to see him in May, and both teams held up their ends of the deal.

"It's the two best teams in the Eastern Conference," James said. "It's that simple. Both teams defend at a high level, both teams share the ball. Both teams get into the paint, and both teams have a desire to win."

After talking all season about having homecourt in a potential Game 7, they have earned it. But the Pacers haven't played well at home in the playoffs, giving up homecourt advantage in the first round against Atlanta and in the second against Washington. James said none of that matters.

"I don't believe the Pacers who struggled at home will be the team we play on Sunday," James said. The Pacers believe the challenges they have over-

come — self-inflicted or otherwise — have made them a dangerous team.

"We worked so hard to get here," Pacers guard Lance Stephenson said. "The Hawks, the Wizards, they put us through a lot. And we had (the media) talking bad about us, and I think it made us stronger."

The Spurs and the Thunder are both a little banged up.

San Antonio point guard Tony Parker strained his left hamstring in Game 5 against Portland. The Spurs aren't sure what shape the All-Star will be in for the opener.

"I'm hopeful that he'll be ready to go," Popovich said Friday. "He's going to stay off it again today and tomorrow. They're going to put him on the treadmill a little bit and a bike and shoot a little bit and see where he's at. So, we'll know more tomorrow."

Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka hurt his left calf in the third quarter of Game 6 against the Clippers, and the Thunder announced Friday that he is out for the postseason.

"We are obviously disappointed for Serge, as he is a tremendous competitor, and we know how badly he wants to be on the court with his teammates," Thunder executive vice president and general manager Sam Presti said in a statement.

Still, this shapes up to be an entertaining series: The savvy and wily Spurs trio of Parker, Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili v. the youthful, talented tandem of Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook.

The Thunder duo has been dominant. Durant averaged 33.2 points against the Clippers and the ultra-athletic Westbrook is averaging 26.6 points, 8.0 rebounds and 8.4 assists in the playoffs. The one-time new kids on the block feel they have become a veteran, battle-tested team. They won twice at Memphis and twice in Los Angeles, and they are confident going into San Antonio.

"We've been together so long, we've grown a lot," Durant said. "Guys have matured through every type of situation and every type of game. That's definitely going to help out, but we have a long ways to go."

West



No. 2 Oklahoma City Thunder at No. 1 San Antonio Spurs
AFN-Sports
3 a.m. Tuesday, CET

Season series: Oklahoma City won 4-0. Both teams were missing key players at different points of the season series, so it's hard to draw too many conclusions. But the Thunder's athleticism certainly stood out. OKC grabbed 23 more rebounds in the four games and had an average margin of victory of 9.3 points.

Story line: The rematch. These teams, which have been the most consistently successful squads in the West over the last five seasons, squared off in the 2012 conference finals. The Spurs jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but OKC ripped off four wins in a row before losing to Miami in the NBA Finals. All told, the Thunder have won 10 of the last 12 against the Spurs, bringing the latest in a long line of doubts about San Antonio's ability to stay top gun.

Key matchup I: Kevin Durant vs. Kawhi Leonard. The league's MVP meets one of the NBA's rising young stars in Leonard, the unflappable third-year swingman who relishes a challenge. The 6-foot-7' Leonard will be asked to defend perhaps the most gifted offensive player in the league, but he has had some success against Durant in the past.

Key matchup II: Gregg Popovich vs. Scott Brooks. Popovich has won coach of the year honors two of the last three seasons and is widely considered the game's best coach. All Brooks has done is win at least 50 games in four of the last five years and lead the Thunder to the finals in 2012. But he is often criticized when the offense stagnates and could slip on the hot seat if Oklahoma City falls short this season.

X-factor: Serge Ibaka. The Thunder's defensive specialist was terrific against the Spurs this season, averaging 14.0 points, 11.5 rebounds and 4.0 blocks in the four games. But the power forward will miss the rest of the playoffs with an injured left calf.

Reggie Jackson. The Thunder guard averaged 21.3 points on 68 percent shooting against San Antonio in the regular season. "If anybody watched our games, they watched Reggie Jackson basically be the Spur killer every time we play them," Popovich said.

Prediction: Spurs in 6.

— Jon Krawczynski, The Associated Press



ROCK BOWMER/AP

Spurs point guard Tony Parker will have to be at his best as San Antonio attempts to contain explosive Oklahoma City Thunder point guard Russell Westbrook.

SPORTS



Kings quest

LA back in conference finals for 3rd straight year with win over Anaheim | Page 26

NBA



Cream of the crop

Conference finals set to begin with top seeds intact

By CLIFF BRUNT
The Associated Press



After a wild start to the NBA playoffs — dramatic Game 7s, overtime games — the league's postseason has returned to normal.

The top seeds in the East and West have advanced to the conference finals.

The two-time defending champion Miami Heat have been the most dominant team in the postseason, losing just once. Meanwhile, top-seeded and wildly unpredictable Indiana has staggered into the East finals rematch with the Heat, although the Pacers did win five road games to advance.

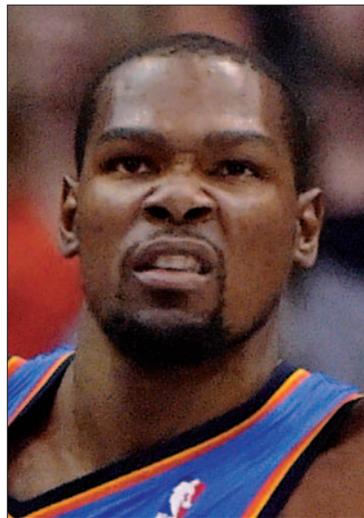
It took San Antonio seven games to eliminate Dallas in the first round, but then the top-seeded Spurs rolled past Portland in five to advance to the West finals. Oklahoma City rallied from a 3-2 deficit against Memphis, then fought through a dramatic six-game series against the Los Angeles Clippers.

The East finals begin Sunday with Indiana hosting Miami; the West tips off Monday night when OKC travels to San Antonio.

SEE TOP ON PAGE 31

Inside:

- Mills reshaped body, game to become vital cog for Spurs, Page 30
- Payne carries powerful memory as he prepares for draft, Page 30



AP Photos

The NBA playoffs have returned to form after a wild start that saw upsets and overtime finishes galore, with the top two seeds in each conference meeting for the right to compete for an NBA championship. Pictured, clockwise from top left, are Miami Heat forward LeBron James, Indiana Pacers forward Paul George, Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant and San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan.

Colorado wins as Del La Rosa flirts with no-hitter | MLB roundups, Page 29