

STARS AND STRIPES®

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MALAYSIA AIRLINES FLIGHT 17



LAYING BLAME

Obama points finger at Russians after evidence suggests airliner was shot down by separatist missile, calls for cease-fire in Ukraine

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States began building a case Friday that would pin the blame for the downing of the passenger jet over eastern Ukraine on separatist forces supported by Russia, in a disaster that could dramatically escalate the crisis in Ukraine. President Barack Obama called for an immediate cease-fire to

allow for an unfettered investigation.

Evidence indicates that Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was shot down by a surface-to-air missile from an area controlled by Russian-backed separatists, Obama said at the White House. He warned that the incident showed the crisis in Ukraine won't be localized or contained to the region.

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- Terrible history of planes getting shot out of the sky
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A piece of the Malaysia Airlines plane lies in the grass as a group of rescue workers and volunteers searches the crash site near Rozsypne, Ukraine, on Friday.

DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

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Israel begins ground offensive against Hamas in Gaza

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The ground offensive does not scare us, and we pledge to drown the occupation army in Gaza mud."

— Sami Abu Zuhri, a Hamas spokesman, talking about Israel's stepped-up push into Gaza

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MIDEAST

Afghan hopeful credits US deal

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Somber and reflective, Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah said his country was on the verge of a "very serious, serious situation" before he struck a U.S.-brokered deal with his rival to avert the crisis by holding a fully audited vote count.

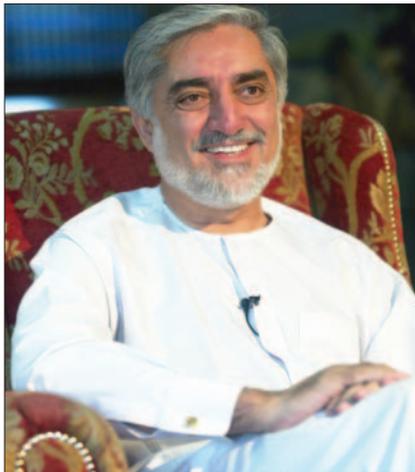
The former foreign minister, who is in a deadlocked contest to succeed President Hamid Karzai, told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday that he holds out hope that the outcome will bring Afghanistan closer to his vision of a country ruled by democratic institutions and laws. "It's not like a win-lose situation; it's a sort of win-win situation," he said.

Asked about a published report that some supporters were ready to seize the presidential palace by force before the deal because they feared the June 14 runoff was being decided fraudulently, he declined to discuss details.

"But it was a very serious, serious situation, not just in Kabul but throughout the country," said Abdullah, an opposition leader with strong support in northern Afghanistan, especially among the ethnic Tajik community and loyalists of the former Northern Alliance militia.

There already had been widespread reports that Abdullah was under pressure from angry backers to declare himself the victor in the contest against former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, and that he was resisting their pressure. A report by The New York Times on Tuesday suggested the outlook for Afghanistan was even more dire than publicly known — that Abdullah's backers were ready to march on the palace. Abdullah did not specifically deny the report.

A veteran of the movement that resisted the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in the 1990s and swept into Kabul after it allied with U.S. forces following the 9/11 attacks, Abdullah said he decided on the deal with Ahmadzai for an audited ballot return followed by a national unity government because "this was the right decision for the country, and for the future



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Afghan presidential candidate and former Foreign Affairs Minister Abdullah speaks during an interview with The Associated Press at his residence in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.

of the country."

But his demeanor indicated he is still bitter that many ballots may have been cast illegally for his opponent. "We didn't need this and we don't need this," said Abdullah, who has experienced vote fraud before. He reluctantly conceded the 2009 presidential election to Karzai in spite of widespread reports of stuffed ballot boxes.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry swept into Afghanistan on June 11 to try to engineer a way out of the dispute, and by shortly before midnight on Saturday, the two candidates were at Kerry's side declaring they had found a way out of the deadlock.

Still, Afghanistan's serious challenges were underscored yet again Tuesday when a suicide car bomb exploded in Paktia province in a busy market near a mosque. Officials reported at least 89 killed, which would make it the largest single suicide attack since 2001,

the year the Taliban fled the capital and later resumed a guerrilla campaign against the new Western-backed Afghan government.

"People were shocked, and we are shocked, but this is the sad reality of Afghanistan," said Abdullah.

On a brighter note, he said he had just held his first meeting with Ahmadzai since the declaration of the political accord — "our first meeting one-on-one after quite a while." They embraced at Ahmadzai's home, and Abdullah said he invited Ahmadzai to continue their planning at his home in two days.

He suggested that they would be able to work together, no matter whom the internationally supervised ballot audit eventually declares a winner.

"Before the elections, before both of us becoming candidates, we used to both of us get together to meet. We used to discuss is-

'It's not like a win-lose situation; it's sort of a win-win situation.'

Abdullah Abdullah Afghan presidential candidate

sues," Abdullah said. He said they discussed how, together, they would "strengthen the trust of the people over the process."

Abdullah said the formula for the national unity government still needs to be worked out.

"I think now we have a better prospect for the future of this country. One is that the technical side, the votes of the people of Afghanistan, will be counted, will be audited — through a process ... an internationally supervised mechanism. That was the key for us because the legitimacy of the future government of Afghanistan is important."

"Then there is framework for cooperation between both sides in political terms — based on the agendas for reform for good governance, for strengthening the national unity, and so that is also good," he said. "Hopefully, everything will stay in the right track."

He confirmed that the agreement envisages eventually a constitutional grand council, or Loya Jirga, that could see Afghanistan switch to a parliamentary form of government with both a president and a prime minister.

Abdullah said it has taken Afghanistan 13 years to reach a stage in nation-building that is still "a mess." He said Karzai had had better opportunities than any leader in Afghanistan's history — military backing, billions of dollars in support from the international community and a sense of national consensus in the beginning.

"That opportunity was not utilized in the best way. I have no doubt that Afghanistan could have been a very different place."

But despite that, he said he has hope that it is not too late.

"There is an opportunity — that opportunity will not be there forever," he said. "We need to save Afghanistan."

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MILITARY



U.S. ARMY/AP

National security leader Chelsea Manning, who has been diagnosed with gender dysphoria, will receive treatment from the military.

Manning to begin gender treatment

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — National security leader Chelsea Manning has approved the Army's recommendation to keep the Army private in military custody and start a rudimentary level of gender treatment, a defense official said Thursday. Defense officials have said the Army doesn't have the medical expertise needed to give Manning the best treatment.

The initial gender treatments could include allowing Manning to wear some female undergarments and possibly provide some hormone treatments.

The decision raises questions about what level of treatment

Manning will be able to get and at what point she would have to be transferred from the all-male prison to a female facility.

In May, Manning's lawyer, David Coombs, contended that civilian prisons were not as safe as military facilities. In a statement, he said, "It is common knowledge that the federal prison system cannot guarantee the safety and security of Chelsea in the way that the military prison system can."

The former intelligence analyst was sentenced in August for six Espionage Act violations and 14 other offenses for giving Wikileaks more than 700,000 secret military and State Department documents, along with battlefield video, while working in Iraq in 2009 and 2010.

After the conviction, Manning announced the desire to live as a woman and legally changed her name to Chelsea Elizabeth Manning from Bradley Edward Manning.

Army reprimands former sexual assault prosecutor

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's former lead special victims prosecutor was relieved of his duties last month after an investigation into a claim by a fellow Army sexual assault prosecutor that he had groped her during Washington-area legal conference on sexual crimes.

Lt. Col. Jay Morse has received a general letter of reprimand in connection with the case, normally a career-ending administrative action, but is not being criminally charged, an Army official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said.

Morse, the former head of the Army's Trial Counsel Assistance Program who supervised nearly two dozen other prosecutors who focused on sexual crimes, has maintained he is innocent of the allegations but has told the Army he will soon retire.

The Washington Post was first to report the Morse reprimand. Stars and Stripes first reported the allegations in March after Morse was suspended after a fellow prosecutor said he'd tried to kiss her and grab her buttocks against her will.

The sexual assault was alleged to have taken place on March 3, 2011, in a hotel room.

An Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon said an investigation by the Army Criminal Investigation Command had recently ended, but would not provide details of the findings.

"Based on the substantiated findings, the commanding general of the Military District of Washington took appropriate disciplinary action," Lt. Col. Alynne Conway wrote in an emailed state-



Lt. Col. Jay Morse

ment. "In addition, Lt. Col. Morse was suspended from his duties as the chief, Trial Counsel Assistance Program, and was subsequently relieved. Other appropriate administrative actions are ongoing."

Morse had denied any nonconsensual contact with the woman and in March underwent a polygraph examination. In results filed in a military court, the examiner concluded there was no indication Morse was lying when he answered "no" to questions of whether he had touched or tried to kiss the woman over her objections.

Should a board determine Morse did not serve honorably in the lieutenant colonel rank, he could be forced to retire at a lower pay grade that could cost him hundreds of thousands of dollars over the course of his life.

Morse is currently assigned to the Army Judge Advocate General's office at the Pentagon.

In April the Army took what several legal experts say was perhaps the unprecedented step of ordering Morse to stop his military defense attorney from conducting an investigation into the case. The order followed an objection by the alleged victim, a captain, over questioning of witnesses.

Morse appealed and the restriction was lifted, but only because the Criminal Investigation Command had finished its own investigation that is not on behalf of the government or the suspects, officials said.

Legal experts characterized the unusual order as a reflection of the chaotic state surrounding the military's handling of sexual assault, reports of which rose 50 percent last year from 2012. The Pentagon has made unilateral changes to some policies governing the response to sexual assault and Congress has legislated others. Among them are measures that criminalize retaliation for reporting sexual assaults and requirements that only senior officers be allowed to decide not to proceed with an investigation.

But some legislators and victim's advocates say the changes don't go far enough. They have pushed — unsuccessfully so far — to strip top commanders of authority over criminal prosecutions involving their subordinates.

In a similar case, the former chief of the Air Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, Lt. Col. Jeffrey Krusinski, was acquitted last November in civilian court of assault and battery against a woman who said he had grabbed her buttocks outside a Washington-area bar.

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House members say war funding should not be 'slush fund'

By JENNIFER HLAID
Stars and Stripes

\$65.8B

Combined amount of contingency funding sought by the Department of Defense and State Department for use on long-range needs.

in terms of what we allocate in the base budgets and what we say is war funding and something that belongs in the OCO account," he said.

Committee members stressed that they want to ensure that Afghanistan does not go the way of Iraq — where the Islamic State has seized several key cities and is threatening Baghdad — and said they want to provide sufficient funding to preserve security gains in Afghanistan.

"If you want to see the consequences of a precipitous withdrawal, look no further than Iraq," Ryan said. "We can't make the same mistakes in Afghanistan."

Still, Ryan and other committee members said they are concerned that some of the language is overly vague and amounts

to the DOD and the Department of State asking for a "blank check."

Adm. James Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the contingency funds are used for expenses over and above peacetime deployments, and the money in the budget request is allocated intentionally and thoughtfully.

Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work said the Pentagon sees the contingency funding not as a slush fund, but "funding our wartime operations," including the expenses inherent in a drawdown, with strict rules about how the money can be used.

"We always believed that OCO would last for several years, at least for reset and reconstitution," Work said.

On Wednesday, Work and Winnefeld told the House Armed Services Committee that the contingency budget, created to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, is needed to pay for operations elsewhere.

On Thursday, Winnefeld argued that just because operations don't take place in Afghanistan doesn't mean they are not in support of the effort in Afghanistan.

Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., said that when

the Overseas Contingency Operations budget was established, it was for "unforeseen and temporary costs of war."

Garrett said he would like to hear Work describe the funding requirement as enduring because he doesn't believe anyone who supported the contingency budget "believed that we'd be here 13 years later and hearing that."

And, he said, all of the things in the proposed budget said he would like to see, particularly since some are based on commitments made in at the 2012 NATO summit in Chicago, and, therefore, should be a part of the DOD's base budget request.

"The world is a dangerous place, Ryan said, and "we have to be prepared for it. But the money must be allocated clearly and properly, he added."

"Let's make sure that we give our warriors and our civilian people on the front lines what they need, when they need it, to do their jobs to keep us safe. And that ought to be something in the base budget, not with these emergency [funds]," Ryan said.

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MILITARY

F-35's no-show at air show disappoints

By DANICA KIRKA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The failure of the Joint Strike Fighter to travel to England this week for a premier air show heaped further embarrassment on its developers as they try to convince skeptics that the \$400 billion program was a price worth paying.

The plane couldn't cross the Atlantic to be gazed at by industry experts at the Farnborough Airshow in southern England, as experts try to sort out the causes of a recent engine fire — fueling the ammunition of critics who have questioned whether there is a bigger and more systemic problem with the fighter jet.

"It's another hiccup in a series of them," said Winslow T. Wheeler, a critic of the program and director of the Straus Military Reform Project.

Wheeler said the complexity of the plane, which is designed to combine stealth, maneuverability and attack capabilities in a single aircraft, makes it vulnerable to multiple troubles. The only thing different now was that the plane was getting close attention because of the air show, which alternates every year between Paris and Farnborough.

He said the plane's failure to make it to this year's show and the ensuing negative publicity will make people wonder about the cost of the fighter, now estimated at \$80 million each.

"The politicians are that much more agitated," he said.

The F-35B Lightning II, the new, multirole fighter, was supposed to be the centerpiece at Farnborough, the debutante to watch at the premiere event in aviation.

But after days of pushing the deadline to announce whether it would come as planned, the Defense Department was forced Tuesday to announce it would not. But it wouldn't make the trip because in light of the fire, the engines had to be inspected every three hours, making a flight across the Atlantic impractical.

The extent of the dashed marketing for the F-35 was clear Wednesday as it left the exhibit space that had been earmarked for the plane empty except for a few posters and video screens showing the plane.

One poster dubiously asked "Need a lift?" The United States is supposed to build almost 2,500 of the planes. Nine partner countries, including the U.K., Denmark and Italy, are involved in the plane's production, too.

Industry representatives at the show were just plain disappointed at its absence.

"I'm disappointed," said Larbi Ouchelouche, the project manager of SPEEL Praha Ltd., a company that makes the flight recorders known as black boxes. "We were really looking forward to seeing it."



AUDREY McAVOY/AP

Training with China

Chinese sailors put down U.S. Coast Guardsmen playing the role of merchant mariners aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Waesche* off Hawaii on Wednesday. Chinese sailors boarded the Coast Guard cutter *Waesche* for a drill checking cargo as part of Rim of the Pacific exercises the U.S. is hosting in Hawaii waters this month.

Study: Combat, suicide risk share indirect link

By GREGG ZOROYA
USA TODAY

One of the first comprehensive efforts to explain recent suicides among soldiers during and after their deployments in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan finds an indirect link between deployment, combat and self-destructive urges, according to a paper published Thursday.

The two scientists who conducted the study — one of them a former Army research director — argue that high rates of depression or post-traumatic stress disorder flowing out of the combat experience can lead to suicidal behavior.

The illnesses can lead to a sense of burdening others and social isolation. Add to that loss of personal relationships a familiarity with firearms, and the resulting toxic stew can drive suicides among troops and veterans.

The paper published online in Current Psychiatric Reports surmises that this could help explain an astonishing rate of 22 veterans committing suicide each day, as estimated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Suicides among Army active-duty soldiers reached an historic high of 185 in 2012 or a rate of nearly 30 deaths per 100,000,

triple the Army rate of 2004 and double what is reported among civilians.

While the number of Army suicides among active-duty soldiers declined in 2013 by 19 percent, suicides among Army National Guard and reservists reached a record 151 in 2013.

"It's best to view the increase in military suicides as a result of an increase in mental health issues of service members driven in large part, but not entirely, (by) combat and deployment experiences," wrote the authors, retired Col. Carl Castro, former director of psychological health research for the Army, and researcher Sara Kintzle, both with the University of Southern California.

They note, however, that there is no specific reason scientists can cite with absolute certainty to explain the rise in military suicides.

But they note that just ahead of increased suicides was a surge in mental problems in the military. Hospitalizations for depression doubled, increased by five-fold for substance and tenfold for PTSD.

A sense of hopelessness and being a burden, plus the loss or straining of relationships can occur during crucial life transitions, the authors say, such as re-

turning from combat, leaving the military or growing old.

"What former service members in both vulnerable age groups share is that they are experiencing a period of transition," the authors wrote.

That is when the worst problems can occur for those already struggling with poor mental health, they say. They called upon both the Pentagon and the VA to do a better job of assisting troubled veterans through crucial periods of transition.

"The majority of veterans find purpose and meaning in their military service. It can be a struggle to find that same sense of purpose as a civilian which may ultimately lead to feelings of despair," the paper says.

Aircraft lands in Uganda road with US personnel

KAMPALA, Uganda — A small aircraft carrying U.S. military personnel made an emergency landing in the middle of a highway after running out of fuel, Ugandan police said Friday.

Phillip Mukasa, a spokesman for Ugandan police, said the Piper aircraft with eight people on board — including two crew members — was returning to Uganda's Entebbe International Airport when it had to make an emergency landing in Mityana town, some 41 miles from the Ugandan capital of Kampala.

No one was hurt and the aircraft wasn't damaged, he said, although motor traffic flow was seriously disrupted.

"The pilot made an emergency landing and it was in the middle of the road," he said. "They are all safe and no one is injured."

Man guilty of helping Army son with bribes

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Federal prosecutors say the father of a former soldier has pleaded guilty to helping his son launder \$250,000 in bribes from contractors in Afghanistan.

The U.S. attorney's office in Memphis says Jerry Dennis, 68, of Horn Lake, Miss., pleaded guilty Wednesday to money laundering conspiracy. He faces up to 20 years in prison at sentencing scheduled on Nov. 20.

Dennis' son, former Army 1st Sgt. Jimmy Dennis of Clarksville, and another former soldier, James C. Pittman of Rossville, Ga., pleaded guilty in May to accepting money in exchange for steering work to favored Afghan contractors.

Pakistan: US missile strike kills 15 militants

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani security forces captured a key Taliban commander linked to a 2003 assassination attempt on former President Pervez Musharraf, officials said Wednesday as a U.S. drone strike killed 15 militants near the country's border with Afghanistan.

Adnan Rashid, a former air force officer-turned-militant, was arrested during a raid July 11 on a militant hideout in Pakistan's troubled northwestern tribal region, following a tip from local sources, two intelligence officials told The Associated Press.

Also Wednesday, an American drone fired four missiles at a militant hideout in the town of Datta Khel in North Waziristan, killing at least 15 militants, two other Pakistani officials said.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

Hundreds flee fires in Wash.

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — A small north-central Washington town and a nearby hospital have been evacuated ahead of a wind-whipped wildfire that has already burned at least 35 homes, authorities said.

Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said late Thursday he's heard of no injuries from the Carlton Complex of wildfires.

The sheriff issued his highest evacuation notice Thursday for Pateros, a town of about 650 people along the Columbia River. Residents drove south to Chelan. A hospital in nearby Brewster was evacuated as a precaution, with the patients sent to Omak.

"The whole town was evacuated," Rogers said in a telephone interview as he drove the 8-mile stretch between Brewster and Pateros. "It was a chaotic mess but we got everybody on the highway."

"There's nobody in Pateros" except a few "stragglers" who stayed, he said, adding the fire was burning in the town, although the small business district was believed intact.

Rogers said perhaps 15 to 20 homes have been burned in Pateros and another 20 homes in the Twisp-Winthrop area. He had no estimate of how many homes have burned in the entire county of about 40,000 people.



TED S. WARREN/AP

A plane drops fire retardant on the Chivaukum Creek Fire near Leavenworth, Wash., on Thursday. The blaze closed a section of U.S. Highway 2, and resulted in the evacuation of nearly 900 homes.

The situation in Brewster, population about 2,400, was "pretty good," Rogers said. "It looks like Brewster's OK."

A law enforcement officer in the county for 30 years, and sheriff for 12, Rogers said this fire is the worst he's seen. All of his officers are working and help is coming from nearby Chelan and Douglas counties.

"Hold on," he said as he drove, "I've gotta go through a little bit of fire."

He said the fire had jumped U.S. Highway 97 and was burning along the Columbia. Sections of several highways were closed in the county.

Early Friday, the Okanogan County Sheriff's dispatch office said the roughly 300 residents of the Chilwilt Valley, about 15 miles north of Pateros, evacuated late Thursday night.

Two major power lines, one feeding Pateros and one feeding Winthrop and Twisp, have burned, causing a widespread power outage in the county, said Scott Miller, the county's emergency manager.

The Carlton Complex of fires has burned across at least 28 square miles of the scenic Methow Valley. About 100 miles to the south, the Chivaukum Creek Fire chased people from nearly 900 homes as it burned near the Bavarian-themed village of Leavenworth.

That fire sent a light dusting of ash over Leavenworth, where the German-style motif provides a backdrop to Oktoberfest and a Christmas tree lighting festival.

The fire's smoke plume rose 25,000 feet into the air. The blaze closed 15 miles of U.S. Highway 2 in the area.

Border funds stall as break looms

By ED O'KEEFE AND WESLEY LOWERY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, raised doubts Thursday that Congress will be able to fulfill President Barack Obama's emergency funding request to address the growing influx of illegal migrants crossing the U.S.-Mexico border before lawmakers leave Washington for their summer recess. Asked about the prospect of approving Obama's \$3.7 billion request before a five-week break begins Aug. 1, Boehner said "I would certainly hope so, but I don't have as much optimism as I would like to have."

Boehner said that no decision has been made yet by his leadership team on how to proceed on the issue. A "border working group" of Republican lawmakers is due to give Boehner a set of policy recommendations on how to deal with the crisis, but has not yet said when they will deliver their proposals.

Asked why he has less optimism than before that lawmakers will be able to move quickly on the subject, Boehner said that "There's just been some comments made by our colleagues across the aisle that are going to make this much more difficult to deal with."

That was a reference to growing opposition among Democrats to change a 2008 law that grants extra protections to youths from Central American countries who cross the U.S.-Mexico border. Republicans and some Democrats have said it will be necessary to tweak the law in order to fulfill Obama's request for emergency funding.

"I don't know how Congress can send more money to the border to begin to mitigate the problem if you don't do something about the '08 law that is being abused. And it's being abused," Boehner told reporters at his weekly news conference.

Shortly before Boehner spoke, the head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reiterated that it would be not acceptable to change the 2008 law. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., made his comments at the start of a committee hearing on the border crisis.

Menendez and other members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus met with Obama at the White House on Wednesday to convey their opposition to changing the law. During the meeting Obama told the group that he wanted "to find a way to ensure due process but also speed things up" in the processing of young migrants, according to another lawmaker in the room.

US territories exempted from health care law

By JASON MILLMAN
The Washington Post

Looking for a place where the Affordable Care Act doesn't apply? Try moving to the U.S. territories, where the Obama administration just provided a pretty big waiver from the law's major coverage provisions.

The Affordable Care Act's design dealt a problem to the territories. It required insurers there to comply with the law's major market reforms — guaranteed coverage, mandated benefits, limits on profits — without requiring residents to get coverage or providing subsidies to help afford coverage. The territories — Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands — have been warning for years that it would destroy their insurance markets. The individual mandate and the subsidies are the major ways the ACA tries to bring healthy people into the individual insurance market to balance out sick patients who can no longer be denied coverage.

That was until Wednesday, when the Obama administration told the territories that the cover-

age requirements actually don't apply to them. The exemption was posted on a Health and Human Services website Thursday.

It's an apparent reversal from last July, when an HHS official told the territories that there was nothing the agencies could do to help them out.

"However meritorious your request might be, HHS is not authorized to choose which provisions ... might apply to the territories," wrote Gary Cohen last year. He was then the head of the HHS office overseeing the health care law's insurance market reform and left the department earlier this year.

What sparked the latest change? The definition of "state" in the Public Health Service Act indicates that the ACA market rules don't apply to the territories, HHS wrote.

The department said group health plans in the territories must still comply with other requirements in the law, such as the ban on lifetime and annual limits, a ban on rescission and a coverage of preventive benefits (which includes contraception coverage).

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NATION

Shipwreck's gold inventory released

By AMANDA LEE MYERS
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Deep-sea explorers recovered millions of dollars in gold and silver and a slew of personal items that are a virtual time capsule of the California Gold Rush, according to newly unsealed court documents obtained by The Associated Press that provide the first detailed inventory of a treasure trove being resurrected from an 1857 shipwreck at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean.

The recovery effort at the SS Central America shipwreck, about 200 miles off the South Carolina coast, began in April and is expected to continue throughout the summer.

The operation is being directed by a court-appointed receiver of an Ohio company that had been led by a treasure hunter-turned-fugitive named Tommy Thompson, who first found the Central America in 1988 — a monumental achievement funded by a group of central Ohio investors who never saw a penny.

Immediately after finding the ship and recovering a fraction of its garden of gold, Thompson became embroiled in a decades-long legal battle over who had rights to the treasure and how it was

being dispersed. None of the investors ever saw a return, despite the gold selling for about \$50 million, though Thompson's supporters say the majority went toward legal fees and loans.

In August 2012, after he failed to show up for several court hearings, a warrant was issued for Thompson's arrest. He has been a federal fugitive ever since.

Meanwhile, the Central America and its gold sat untouched since 1991, the last time Thompson and his team were at the site.

The new recovery operation was made possible after the court-appointed receiver awarded a contract to Tampa, Fla.-based Odyssey Marine Exploration to conduct the recovery in hopes of bringing up more treasure and paying back investors.

The inventories, unsealed by a federal judge in Virginia late Wednesday, show that Odyssey Marine has brought up 43 solid gold bars, 1,300 \$20 double eagle gold coins, and thousands more gold and silver coins.

Bob Evans, an Ohio scientist who was on both the original and current expeditions, said in a statement "the variety and quality of the coins being recovered is just astonishing."

DC officials rip House Republicans over push to undermine gun laws

By ILEANA NAJARRO
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — District of Columbia leaders lambasted congressional Republicans on Thursday for proposing to undermine a vast swath of city gun laws, making a case that their efforts would make the nation's capital less safe while their chief antagonist, a lawmaker from Kentucky, watched.

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., briefly attended the Capitol Hill news conference called in response to his amendment to the District of Columbia budget, which passed through the House on Wednesday.

The amendment would prevent the city from using federal money to enforce virtually all local gun laws, meaning police and city officials could enforce only federal firearms laws. The city's gun-control laws are among the tightest in the nation, restricting the open or concealed carrying of guns outside the home, banning assault-style rifles and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and requiring gun owners to register their weapons with D.C. police.

Those laws previously have been challenged by other bills and amendments, but Sen. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C., said the fact that Massie's measure

was able to pass the House presented a "clear and present danger" to Washington residents and visitors.

D.C. Mayor Vincent Gray, a Democratic candidate for the District of Columbia's gun laws with helping to drive down violent crime, while Alfred Durham, an assistant D.C. police chief, said the amendment would make it harder to protect the city.

Gray cited the Washington News-Enterprise's headline "D.C. September, in which the mentally ill perpetrator purchased his gun outside the city, as evidence that the District of Columbia's gun laws were beneficial.

"That gun was not purchased in the District of Columbia," Gray said. "That gun was not gotten from the District of Columbia. It came from a neighboring state, Virginia, whose gun laws are far more permissive than the District of Columbia and doesn't have the level of background checks that we have."

In a meeting with reporters shortly after the news conference, Massie said the Navy Yard shooting in fact demonstrated that the District of Columbia's gun control did not work and said "all their laws do right now is to keep honest citizens from having firearms and bearing firearms."



RAMON ESPINOSA/AP

Students stand behind a business in April in Havana, Cuba, while looking for a signal to connect their smartphones to the Internet.

Inspector general probing 'Cuban Twitter' program

By JACK GILLUM
AND DESMOND BUTLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The inspector general for the nation's international aid agency is probing a once-secret Obama administration program that created a social media network in Cuba, The Associated Press has learned.

The review centers on the U.S. Agency for International Development's Twitter-like service in Cuba, which was meant to circumvent Internet restrictions on the island and to undermine the government. USAID has been criticized for using the program to conduct overt political messaging and for not fully informing Congress about the scope of its work there.

The inquiry follows an AP investigation in April that revealed the existence of the "Cuban Twitter," known as ZunZuneo. That report found USAID contractors deployed the primitive text-messaging service by hiding sources of taxpayer money and not telling subscribers it was backed by the U.S. government nor that it gathered private user data for political purposes.

USAID's inspector general confirmed Thursday it was focusing on the Cuban Twitter program and that it's examining in part whether appropriate manage-

ment controls — including proper oversight of ZunZuneo — were in place. It said it plans to publish its findings when the review is complete. Inspectors general act as auditors within federal agencies.

The Obama administration has said ZunZuneo was not covert but "discreet," and that it served an important, nonpolitical purpose by helping information flow more freely to Cubans. But the AP found instances in which organizers drafted or sent politically charged messages, which the State Department said would be "troubling" if confirmed.

In April, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee asked USAID to turn over all records about the Obama administration's secret Cuban Twitter program as part of a broader review of the agency's civil-society efforts worldwide.

Separately, Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate appropriations subcommittee for foreign operations, also asked for details about the program. His office said Thursday that USAID has not turned over the information yet, a delay the Vermont Democrat called "unacceptable."

Those requests followed a series of congressional hearings during which lawmakers debated whether USAID — best known for its humanitarian efforts — should be running such a cloak-and-dagger mission instead of spy agencies

like the CIA. It's unclear whether the IG investigation will focus on whether or not USAID may have violated federal law or if it conducted a covert operation.

ZunZuneo organizers wanted the social network to grow slowly to avoid detection by the Cuban government. They hoped the network would reach critical mass so that dissidents could organize "smart mobs" — mass gatherings called at a moment's notice — that could trigger political demonstrations, or "renegotiate the balance of power between the state and society." At its peak, ZunZuneo drew in more than 68,000 Cubans, according to USAID, before it mysteriously disappeared in 2012.

USAID said it has handed over all politically oriented messages from ZunZuneo to congressional investigators.

The agency publicly launched ZunZuneo shortly after the 2009 arrest in Cuba of American contractor Alan Gross. He remains imprisoned after traveling repeatedly to the country on a separate, clandestine USAID mission to expand Internet access using sensitive technology that only governments use.

USAID administrator Rajiv Shah has said publicly that the program complied with U.S. law and congressional oversight.

NATION

Violence of chase prompted police to fire on robbers

By SCOTT SMITH
AND MARTHA MENDOZA
The Associated Press

STOCKTON, Calif. — Misty Holt-Singh planned to be gone for just a few minutes when she stepped into her local bank. Instead, she became the victim of three robbers who had gone there, too, planning to take both money and hostages.

As her 12-year-old daughter sat waiting in the car, Holt-Singh, 41, and a pair of bank employees were forced into a stolen SUV at gunpoint just as police converged on the parking lot. What followed was a chaotic, hourlong chase through the Northern California city that ended with a furious gunbattle. When it was over, the mother of two was dead in the back of the vehicle.

Police said a suspect, the only

one of the three to survive, used her as a human shield as the bullets flew back and forth. An autopsy may determine whether the one that killed Holt-Singh was fired by officers or the robbers.

Most police departments discourage shooting at getaway cars during chases. But the taking of hostages and hail of bullets coming from the suspect's vehicle forced Stockton police to make the split-second decision to use their own weapons while knowing they might harm an innocent civilian.

"When you have a hostage in there, it changes the ballgame altogether because you can't risk the life of a hostage to stop the bad guy," said Timothy Clemente, a retired SWAT expert for the FBI.

But, he added, "if these guys are driving down the highway and they're spraying AK-47 fire and a lot of innocents are put in danger



CRAIG SANDERS, STOCKTON (CALIF.) RECORD/AP

Police investigators survey the scene of a bank robbery Wednesday in Stockton, Calif.

by that fire, then maybe my return fire is absolutely needed to cease their action."

Stockton police Chief Eric Jones said Thursday that any and all responsibility lies with three hometown robbers.

"The fact that these three violent gunmen put our community at such jeopardy is deplorable," Jones said. "The gunmen had not the slightest intent of a peaceful resolution as they continued to cause mayhem and havoc. Every minute the incident continued, the stakes rose intensely for our officers and for our entire community."

In the drama that unfolded Wednesday afternoon, the suspects entered the Bank of the

West branch wearing hooded sweatshirts and sunglasses and with guns drawn, San Joaquin County Chief Deputy District Attorney Ronald Freitas said. They tied up a security guard, took over the bank and went to the vault to get money, he said.

On the way out, they abducted Holt-Singh and two women who work at the bank as they made their getaway. It's not clear whether the employees were targeted before the holdup.

During the chase, the two bank employees jumped or were thrown from the stolen SUV, one of them while it may have been going more than 50 mph. At least one suffered a gunshot wound. Both were ex-

pected to survive. Police managed to shoot out the tires of the vehicle, and the getaway attempt ended in a flood of gunfire.

In the aftermath of the shootout, police and FBI agents sorted through hundreds of bullet holes in 14 police vehicles, citizens' cars, homes and businesses along the route of the chase.

The sole surviving suspect was identified as Jaime Ramos, 19, of Stockton, who wasn't injured. Ramos was scheduled to be arraigned on Monday, and Freitas said prosecutors anticipate charging him with murder and other charges that could make him eligible for the death penalty.

Pot edibles now growing industry

By LISA RATHKE
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Move over, pot brownies.

The proliferation of marijuana edibles for both medical and recreational purposes is giving rise to a cottage industry of baked goods, candies, infused oils, cookbooks and classes that promises a slow burn as most states legalize the practice and awareness spreads about the best ways to deliver the drug.

Edibles and infused products such as snack bars, olive oils and tinctures popular with medical marijuana users have flourished into a gourmet market of chocolate truffles, whoopie pies and hard candies as Colorado and Washington legalized the recreational use of marijuana in the past year.

"You're seeing a lot of these types of products like cannabis cookbooks," said Erik Altieri, spokesman for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "They've always been popular among a subset of marijuana, but with the fact that more and more people from the mainstream are able to consume, there's a lot more interest."

Many pot users turn to edibles because they don't like to inhale or smell the smoke or just want variety. For many people who are sick or in pain, controlled doses of edibles or tinctures can deliver a longer-lasting therapeutic dose that doesn't give them the high.

And there's money to be made. BlueKudu, in Denver, started producing marijuana chocolate bars for medicinal purposes three years ago. Since recreational use became legal this year in Colorado, owner Andrew Schrot said, the wholesale business has more than doubled its sales from several hundred chocolate bars sold at a profit through dispensaries to more than 1,000 at \$9 to \$17 a piece.



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Mike Fitzgerald discusses how to prepare a cannabis-infused cooking oil during a cooking class at the New England Grass Roots Institute in Quincy, Mass.

"There seems to be quite a bit of intrigue about the infused products from the general public and consumer, especially tourists," Schrot said.

Cooking classes have sprung up. One in Denver — led by a chef who has turned out chocolate-covered bacon and Swedish meatballs with a marijuana-infused glaze — has grown so popular that it will be offered every week in August. It's also part of a vacation package that provides pot tourists with a stay at a cannabis-friendly hotel (vaporizer and private smoke deck included), a visit to dispensaries and growing operations.

Students are advised not to smoke before they come to class because there's a lot to learn about the dosing, and they will be sampling foods along the way.

"By the end of the class, everybody's pretty stoned," said founder J.J. Walker.

Mountain High Suckers in Denver sells lollipops and lozenges for medical marijuana users and plans to release treats for recreational users at the end of August. The company hopes they will take off.

"People are turning the corner and making lots of money in the rec department, and we expect to almost double the business in a year," said Chad Tribble, co-owner of Mountain High.

TV show puts 'lanes' on a DC sidewalk

By JESSICA GRESKO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pedestrians walking along a sidewalk in the nation's capital Thursday found themselves with a choice.

"No cellphones," said lettering on one side of the sidewalk. "Cellphones," the other lane said. "Walk at your own risk."

The walkway warnings, which ran about a block on Washington's 18th Street, weren't the work of city officials. Instead, they were put there by the brains behind a National Geographic television show as part of a behavior experiment.

A National Geographic Channel spokesman acknowledged the channel was behind the temporary signage and said pedestrians' reactions were being filmed for "Mind Over Masses," a new series. But the spokesman, Chad Sandhas, declined to discuss details of the experiment during the filming, which he said would continue Friday.

A notice on the website of the city's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development said the new science series "uses what we know about human behavior" to develop innovative solutions to everyday problems. "The notice said the show planned to create "Fast and slow lanes" on the sidewalk, "allowing participants to choose."

On Thursday afternoon, many pedestrians seemed to ignore the markings, though there were some who took pictures of the novel signage or stopped to watch someone in a gorilla suit eating a banana that was also somehow part of the filming.

Irene Padakar, 54, a secretary, said she noticed the markings at the beginning of the sidewalk. But she acknowledged that less than a block later, she was back on her phone, walking in the lane marked no cellphones.



CURR OWEN/AP

Pedestrians walk along the block in Washington, D.C., that was divided as part of a behavior experiment into two sections: one for cellphone users and the other for those not using a cellphone.

UKRAINE UNREST

Ukraine searchers comb sunflowers for plane debris

BY PETER LEONARD
AND DMITRY LOVETSKY
The Associated Press

ROZSYSPNE, Ukraine — Emergency workers, police officers and even off-duty coal miners spread out Friday across the sunflower fields and villages of eastern Ukraine, searching the wreckage of a Malaysia Airlines jet shot down as it flew high above the country's battlefield.

The attack Thursday afternoon killed 298 people from nearly a dozen nations — including vacationers, students and a large contingent of scientists heading to an AIDS conference in Australia. At least 189 of the dead were from the Netherlands.

U.S. intelligence authorities said a surface-to-air missile brought down Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 as it traveled from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power told the U.N. Security Council in New York on Friday the missile likely was fired from a rebel-held area near the Russian border.

The Ukrainian government in Kiev, the separatist pro-Russian rebels they are fighting and the Russian government that Ukraine accuses of supporting the rebels all denied shooting the plane down. Moscow also denies backing the rebels.

After holding an emergency

session, the U.N. Security Council called for "a full, thorough and independent international investigation" into the downing of the plane.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Friday for a cease-fire in eastern Ukraine and urged the two sides to hold peace talks as soon as possible. A day earlier, Putin had blamed Ukraine for the crash, saying Kiev was responsible for the unrest in its Russian-speaking eastern regions. But he did not accuse Ukraine of shooting the plane down and did not address the key question of whether Russia gave the rebels such a powerful missile.

The Ukrainian Interior Ministry released a video purporting to show a truck carrying the Buk missile launcher it said was used to fire on the plane with one of its four missiles apparently missing. The ministry said the footage was filed by a police surveillance squad at dawn Friday as the truck was heading to the city of Krasirod toward the Russian border.

There was no way to independently verify the video.

Ukraine's state aviation service closed the airspace Friday over two border regions gripped by separatist fighting — Donetsk and Luhansk — and Russian airlines suspended all flights over Ukraine.

Blame: US official at UN says 'Russia must end this war'

FROM FRONT PAGE

"This should snap everybody's heads to attention," Obama said.

What the exact circumstances of the crash were still being determined, Obama pointed his finger at Russia for providing support to separatists that he suggested enabled them to shoot down the plane. He said such an attack wouldn't be possible without sophisticated equipment and training — "and that is coming from Russia."

"Obviously, we're beginning to draw some conclusions given the nature of the shot that was fired," Obama said in a stern address at the White House. "There are only Obama types of war aircraft missiles that can reach up 30,000 feet and shoot down a passenger jet."

Officials from the FBI and the National Transportation Safety Board were on their way to Ukraine to help determine what happened, Obama said. He warned that evidence must not be tampered with as a United Nations-backed investigation goes forward, and he said, "We will hold all its members, including Russia, to their word" in allowing access to the crash.

Obama said one American warplane and the nearly 300 killed and identified the U.S. citizen

as Quinn Lucas Schansman. No other details were available on the passenger.

At the United Nations earlier Friday, U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power delivered an extraordinary speech rebuking Russia and noting that the U.S. could not rule out that Russian personnel had assisted separatists in firing a missile at the plane.

"Russia can end this war," Power said. "Russia must end this war."

The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending a single investigator to Ukraine as part of a U.S. delegation to assist with the investigation.

The White House has taken the lead in forming the U.S. delegation, according to an official familiar with the effort.

A second U.S. official said all available evidence, including satellite imagery, pointed to the plane being shot down by an SA-11 anti-aircraft missile fired from eastern Ukraine by Ukrainian separatist forces. The U.S. detected three discrete events associated with the shootdown, the official said: the launching of the missile from the Ukraine side of the border, the missile's impact with the plane, and the plane slamming into the ground.



MINHAI METZEL/AP

A Buk M2 missile system is displayed at a military show in June 2010 at the international forum "Technologies in machine building 2010" in Zhukovsky, Russia.

Russia missile system at center of airliner tragedy

BY SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

While much remains unclear about the downing of the Malaysian airliner over eastern Ukraine, most analysts believe it was hit by a Russian-built anti-aircraft missile fired by a system that NATO innocuously calls "Gadfly."

Military analysts say the SA-11 Buk missile system likely was responsible for downing the plane Thursday and killing all 298 people aboard. The system, which is in the service of both the Russian and the Ukrainian armies, is also reported to be in the hands of pro-Russian separatists fighting against the Ukrainian military.

Rebels in June claimed to have a Buk missile launcher but now have denied that. If they do have one, it is unclear where they would have procured it.

While not among Russia's most modern surface-to-air missiles — such as the long-range S-200 and S-300 that are designed to intercept ballistic missiles — upgraded versions of the Buk are considered highly capable and a major threat to combat aircraft. In fact, Russia found itself on the receiving end of the Buds during the 2008 war with Georgia, when Georgian forces used the system to shoot down three Russian SU-25 ground support jets and even a TU-22 strategic bomber on a reconnaissance mission.

The highly mobile Buk system, which consists of a tracked vehicle carrying four missiles and another equipped with a set of radars, was first introduced into service in the late 1970s and has undergone a series of upgrades. It has been exported widely because of its ability to engage targets at

both high and very low altitudes. Most versions are capable of hitting targets above 70,000 feet.

Analysts said the Buk's 18-foot missiles, which reach speeds of more than three times the speed of sound, are more than capable of taking down an airliner flying at a set altitude and taking no evasive measures. The explosive warheads have a proximity fuse designed to spray a target aircraft with thousands of pieces of shrapnel.

"If you have a capable weapons system like that with a trained crew skilled in the operation of that system, it's a pretty easy task," said Gideon Ewers, a former senior official of the International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations, which represents over 100,000 commercial pilots worldwide.

The Boeing 777, which had taken off from Amsterdam and was bound for Kuala Lumpur, was flying along a standard international air corridor used daily by hundreds of civilian airliners between Europe and Asia.

Eurocontrol, the Brussels-based European air traffic control body, said Ukrainian authorities had closed the airspace over the east of the country to civilian aircraft flying altitudes of up to 32,000 feet. But Flight MH17 was cruising at 33,000 feet when it was struck. On Thursday, the region was declared off-limits to all civilian flights.

Ukraine and Russia immediately traded blame for the incident, with the Ukrainians accusing the pro-Russian rebels who control that region of the country of having shot down the airliner. President Petro Poroshenko called the incident an "act of terrorism." Moscow, meanwhile, laid the

blame on Kiev's door, saying the incident was reminiscent of the accidental downing of a Russian airliner in 2001 by a Ukrainian surface-to-air missile.

Ewers suggested that whichever side shot it down probably did so through "mistaken identity," likely believing Flight MH17 was an enemy aircraft.

"I'm almost convinced that whoever shot it down didn't mean to shoot it down," said Ewers, now an aviation consultant. "They may have intended to shoot something down, but not a civilian 777."

Ewers noted that it was highly unusual for civilian airliners to still be flying over an active war zone, where several Ukrainian warplanes have been shot down in recent days. He added that several international airlines had filed flight plans to avoid that airspace entirely.

"It appears that aviation authorities in Ukraine believed that the rebels were armed only with shoulder-fired missiles that have a range of up to 15,000 feet, and that flight levels above that would guarantee safety," he said.

Retired Brig. Gen. Kevin Ryan, director of the Defense and Intelligence Project at Harvard University's Belfer Center, told CNN the launcher in question was apparently operating independently of the command-and-control unit, which includes a more sophisticated radar system than likely was available to the launch crew.

Ryan said it takes weeks or months to train the crew to fire the system.

"This is not the kind of weapon a couple of guys are going to pull out of a garage and fire," he told CNN.

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UKRAINE UNREST

Family again feels pain of tragic loss

Stepdaughter of woman whose brother died on Malaysia Flight 370 was on Flight 17

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — In an almost incomprehensible twist of fate, an Australian woman who lost her brother in the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 learned on Friday that her stepdaughter was on the plane shot down over Ukraine.

Kaylene Mann's brother Rod Burrows and sister-in-law Mary Burrows were on board Flight 370 when it vanished in March. On Friday, Mann found out that her stepdaughter, Maree Rizk, was killed along with 297 others on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, which U.S. intelligence authorities believe was shot down by a surface-to-air missile.

"It's just brought everyone, everything back," said Greg Burrows, Mann's brother. "It's just ... ripped our guts again."

Burrows said his family was struggling to understand how they could be struck by such horrible luck on two separate occasions with the same airline.

Rizk and her husband Albert, of Melbourne, were returning home from a four-week holiday in Europe, said Phil Lithgow, president of the Sunbury Football Club, with which the family was heavily involved. Albert, a real estate agent, was a member of the club's committee, Maree was a volunteer in the canteen and their son, James, plays on the club's team.

Despite the twin tragedies, Burrows said he holds nothing against Malaysia Airlines.

"Nobody could predict they were going to get shot out," he said. "That was out of their hands."



Airlines take risks over hotspots

The Associated Press

The possibility that the civilian jetliner downed over war-torn eastern Ukraine with nearly 300 people onboard was hit by a missile could have profound consequences for the world's airlines.

Airlines might have to be more vigilant about avoiding trouble spots, making flights longer and causing them to burn more costly fuel, an extra expense that is often passed onto passengers through higher fares. They may even be forced to reconsider many international routes.

In the hours after Thursday's disaster involving a Malaysia Airlines jet, carriers around the globe began rerouting flights to avoid Ukraine. Some had been circumventing the country for weeks. Experts questioned the airline's decision to fly near the fighting, even as Malaysia's prime minister said that the plane's route from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was

declared safe by international aviation authorities.

John Cox, a former airline pilot and accident investigator, said despite the cautions, the airspace was not closed. The Malaysia Airlines crew filed a flight plan and "Russia and the Ukraine both accepted the airplane into their airspace," he said.

Rerouting planes around war zones costs airlines money, as the planes burn more expensive jet fuel. Aviation expert Norman Shanks said many airlines continued to fly over Ukraine despite warnings because it offered a shorter route that saved money on fuel.

Greg Raiff, an aviation consultant, said that if airlines must avoid flying over all the world's hot spots, flight times would be extended, requiring extra fuel and pilots. That might make some routes uneconomical, forcing airlines to abandon them.



MOHAMMAD SAYYAD, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

People look for family members in an Iran morgue the day after Iran Air Flight 655 was shot down over the Persian Gulf by the guided-missile cruiser USS Vincennes in 1988.

Terrible history of planes getting shot out of the sky

By ISHAAN THAROOR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sadly, there is a long history of passenger craft being prey to overzealous military forces. In some instances, the causes of the disaster are still shrouded in mystery. Here are some of the worst events.

EI AI Flight 402

A passenger flight headed from Vienna to Tel Aviv in July 1955 strayed into Bulgarian airspace, then firmly in the Eastern bloc, and was intercepted by two Bulgarian fighters who shot it down. The aircraft exploded in air, killing all 58 people aboard.

Libyan Arab Airlines 114

In 1973, a passenger aircraft headed to Cairo from the Libyan capital Tripoli got lost due to bad weather — a sandstorm — and malfunctioning equipment and drifted into Israeli airspace. Two Israeli Phantom fighter jets approached the plane, reportedly thinking it was an Egyptian MIG. Their missile strikes led the plane to crash-land in the Sinai desert. Five of the 113 people on board survived.

Itavia Airlines Flight 780

On June 27, 1980, a passenger plane left the northern Italian city of Bologna for Palermo, Sicily, but it never made it. Wreckage of the plane was found in the Tyrrhenian Sea. There were no survivors among the 81 who boarded. The plane crash is still the subject of innuendo and debate. Initial theories suggested a terrorist bomb blast on board, but subsequent investigations concluded the plane was likely caught in the midst of a dogfight



AP

The remains of the fuselage section of the Libyan Boeing 727 airliner downed by Israeli fighters in 1973.

between NATO fighter jets and Libyan MIGs.

Korean Airlines flight 007

On Sept. 1, 1983, KAL 007, from New York to Seoul with a stopover in Anchorage, veered from its usual flight path into Soviet territory. Two Soviet fighter jets intercepted the plane and ordered it to change trajectory, but the passenger plane's pilot reportedly did not respond. A missile strike sent the flight on a tailspin into the Sea of Japan. All 269 people on board perished, including 61 Americans.

The incident spiked Cold War intrigue and to this day is shrouded by conspiracy theories. The United States at the time dubbed it a "massacre"; the Soviets accused the U.S. of hatching a deliberate provocation. Inquiries since the fall of the U.S.S.R. seem to point to the event being a sad misunderstanding.

Iran Air Flight 655

The American missile cruiser USS Vincennes shot down an Ira-

nian passenger plane headed to Dubai over the Persian Gulf in 1988.

The ship had been engaged in skirmishes with Iranian vessels and supposedly thought the slow-moving IR655 was an Iranian fighter jet.

All 290 passengers on board perished — a tragedy that still echoes profoundly in Iran and shapes its views of the United States. The U.S. has never formally apologized for the attack, but in 1996 agreed to pay \$62 million to the families of the victims.

Lonair flight 602

In 1998, a flight from the restive Tamil northern heartland of Sri Lanka to the capital Colombo disappeared with all 48 passengers. Wreckage of the aircraft was discovered 14 years later, in 2012, by a Sri Lankan navy vessel.

It's not certain how it crashed, but initial reports claimed the plane was shot down by the MANPAD batteries of the now defeated Tamil Tiger rebels.

WORLD

Israel sends ground troops into Gaza Strip

By IBRAHIM BARZAK
AND TIA GOLDENBERG
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops pushed deeper into Gaza on Friday to destroy rocket launching sites and tunnels, firing volleys of tank shells and clashing with Palestinian fighters in a high-stakes ground offensive meant to weaken the enclave's Hamas rulers.

Israel launched the operation late Thursday, following a 10-day campaign of more than 2,000 airstrikes against Gaza that had failed to halt relentless Hamas rocket fire on Israeli cities.

Israel's first major ground offensive in Gaza in just over five years came as Egyptian ceasefire efforts stalled. Earlier this week, Israel accepted Cairo's offer to halt hostilities, but Hamas refused, demanding that Israel and Egypt first give guarantees to ease the blockade on Gaza.

Israel had been reticent about launching a ground offensive for fear of endangering its own soldiers and drawing international condemnation over mounting Palestinian civilian deaths.

It remains unclear how long the offensive will last and what Israel's eventual goal may be — other than its stated goal of stopping the rocket attacks.

Israeli leaders have said the aim is to weaken Hamas militarily and have not addressed the possibility of driving the Islamic militants from power.

Hamas has survived Israeli offensives in the past, including a major three-week ground operation in January 2009 from which it emerged militarily weaker, but in each case it recovered. The group controls an arsenal of thousands of rockets, some long-range and powerful, and it has built a system of underground bunkers.

But Hamas is weaker now than it was during the previous two offensives — from 2008-09 and 2012 — with little international or even regional support, even among traditional Gaza supporters Turkey and the Gulf-state of Qatar.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius was traveling Friday to Egypt, Jordan and Israel as part of a diplomatic push to stop the fighting in Gaza.

He said in a statement that he wants a cease-fire and a lasting truce "that responds to Israel's



LEFFERS PITARAKIS/AP

A Palestinian man inspects damage Friday from an Israeli strike at a house in the Shajaiyeh neighborhood of Gaza City, northern Gaza Strip. Three family members were killed overnight when a tank shell hit the house, according to the family.

security needs and Palestinian economic needs."

The operation may be its best opportunity for Israel to rid the strip of the group — which much of the world considers to be a terrorist organization.

But an operation that lasts weeks could take a heavy toll in both casualties and cost, and most Israelis have no wish to re-take Gaza, which the country effectively gave up in 2005.

Egypt supports a cease-fire, but not Hamas or its conditions, which include a lifting to the siege of Gaza and completely open borders into the Sinai — where Egypt is already fighting Islamic extremists.

Israeli defense officials said soldiers faced little resistance during the first night of the ground operation, but the longer the military keeps a presence in Gaza, the greater the risk for heavy casualties on both sides.

Forces are expected to spend a day or two staking ground and are working in the north, east and south of the Gaza Strip. Then, they are expected to move to the



DUSAN VRANIC/AP

An Israeli tank moves into position Friday near the Israel and Gaza border.

second phase, which is to destroy tunnels, an operation that could take up to two weeks.

After thousands of troops had been on standby for several days, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he ordered the military to prepare for a "significant expansion" of the ground

offensive.

"Since it is not possible to deal with the tunnels only from the air, our soldiers are doing it also from the ground," he said before a special Cabinet meeting in Tel Aviv.

"We chose to begin this operation after the other options were

exhausted and with the understanding that without the operation, the price we will pay can be very high."

Throughout the night, the thud of tank shells echoed across Gaza, often just a few seconds apart. Several explosions from Israeli missile strikes shook high-rise buildings in central Gaza City and sent pillars of smoke into the sky.

The wounded were rushed to Gaza's main Shaifa Hospital, including several members of the same family struck by shrapnel from tank shells. Among those hurt were a toddler and a boy of elementary-school age, their bodies pocked by small, bloody wounds.

Gaza health officials said at least 20 Palestinians have been killed since the ground operation began, including three teenage siblings killed by shrapnel from a tank shell attack. At the morgue, one of the victim's faces was blackened by soot and he and his siblings were all wrapped in white burial shrouds.

The Israeli military said it killed 17 militants in different exchanges of fire, while 13 were captured after surrendering. It was not immediately clear if the militants were among the casualties reported by Gaza authorities.

"The ground offensive does not scare us and we pledge to drown the occupation army in Gaza mud," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said in a statement.

The Israeli military said one soldier was killed in the northern Gaza Strip, the first Israeli casualty among troops. The circumstances behind the death of Staff Sgt. Eitan Barak, 20, were not immediately clear, with Hamas' military wing saying it ambushed Israeli units in the northern town of Beit Lahiya and caused casualties but Israeli media saying it was likely a case of friendly fire.

Tanks, infantry and engineering forces were operating inside the coastal strip. The military said it targeted rocket launchers, tunnels and more than 100 other targets, and that a number of soldiers were wounded throughout the night.

Since the July 8 start of the air campaign, more than 260 Palestinians have been killed and more than 2,000 wounded, Palestinian health officials said. In Israel, one civilian died and several were wounded.

Germany's Merkel seeks 'sensible' talks with US on spying

By FRANK JORDANS
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany wants "sensible talks" with the United States on the two countries' spat over alleged American spying, Chancellor Angela Merkel said Friday, indicating that Berlin is still aiming for a formal accord.

Washington has dismissed the idea of a "trust agreement" demanded by Germany since reports last year that the U.S.

National Security Agency was conducting mass surveillance of German citizens — and eavesdropping even on Merkel's cellphone. The discovery of two alleged U.S. spies in Germany earlier this month further stoked German anger, prompting Merkel to demand the departure of the CIA station chief in Berlin.

"Trust can only be restored through talks and certain agreements," Merkel said in her first lengthy news conference

and the two spy cases came to light. "We will seek out such talks, though I can't announce anything concrete right now."

She said she doesn't expect "quick agreements."

Merkel, who grew up in communist East Germany, where state surveillance was a fact of life, said her administration and that of U.S. President Barack Obama have "different positions on what's needed to guarantee security and at the same time

protect personal data."

While the Obama administration has remained largely silent, U.S. commentators have defended the need to spy on even close allies such as Germany, citing the country's close links to Russia and fact that several members of the 9/11 terror cell lived in Hamburg before the attacks.

Despite the spy row, Merkel insisted that Germany and the U.S. remain close partners "and nothing about this will change."

WORLD



Demonstrators chant pro-Islamic State slogans as they carry the group's flag in front of government headquarters in Mosul, Iraq, on June 16.

UN: 5,576 civilians killed this year in Iraq

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Violence in Iraq has killed more than 5,500 civilians over the first six months of the year, the U.N. said Friday in a new report that documents the massive humanitarian toll of an ongoing Sunni militant offensive in the country.

The Islamic State extremist group and other Sunni insurgents seized control of the city of Fallujah, as well as part of the nearby city of Ramadi in Anbar province in early January. The militants then launched a massive blitz in June that has brought a huge swath of northern and western Iraq under their control.

In its report, the U.N. mission to Iraq said that since 5,576 civilians

were killed and another 11,665 wounded in Iraq from Jan. 1 through the end of June. Another 1.2 million people have been driven from their homes by the violence, it said.

Numbers from a U.N. report reveal a sharp increase in Iraqi civilian deaths in the first six months of 2014. Among the statistics:

5,576 civilians killed

11,665 civilians wounded

1.2M Iraqis driven from their homes by violence

of civilian deaths during the first six months marked a sharp increase over the previous year. In all of 2013, the U.N. reported a little more than 7,800 civilians killed, which was the highest annual death toll in years.

The fighting "has inflicted untold hardship and suffering on the civilian population with large-scale killings, injuries, and destruction and damage of livelihoods and property," the U.N. said.

The report also documents human rights abuses by both sides of the conflict that may constitute crimes against humanity or war crimes.

The U.N. said the Islamic State group and its allies have committed "systematic and egregious violations" against civilians, including killings, sexual violence, kidnappings, destruction of property and attacks on places of religious worship.

It also documented violations by government forces, including summary executions of prisoners and detainees. The U.N. urged all sides to ensure the protection of civilians, and to respect international law and humanitarian law.

Also Friday, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's office said the ailing leader would return Saturday from Germany, where he has been receiving medical treatment since 2012.

Militants tailor rule to held regions

Group varies imposition of Islamic law between areas in Syria and Iraq

By **BASSEM MROUE**
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Across the broad swath of territory it controls bridging Syria and Iraq, extremist militants from the group known as the Islamic State have proven to be highly organized administrators. Flush with cash, they fix roads, police traffic, administer courts, and have even set up an export system of smuggled crude from oil fields they control.

But the extremists — a mix of Iraqis and Syrians and also foreign fighters from Arab countries and non-Arab regions like the Caucasus — run the risk of provoking a backlash from the people they have come to rule.

Unlike Lebanon's Hezbollah or the Palestinian militant group Hamas, which have deep roots in their communities, the Islamic State group is not a grass-roots movement and its sway over its populations is ultimately based on violence, not necessarily a groundswell of support for its vision of a hard-line Islamic caliphate. While it has been welcomed by some disenfranchised Iraqi Sunnis as potential saviors from the Shiite-dominated government in Baghdad, many consider the group an alien entity.

In recognition of that, the group has varied the imposition of the radical version of Islamic law they advocate. In their main stronghold in Syria, the city of Raqqa, they have unleashed it without reserve, killing perceived offenders and cutting off the hands of thieves in

public.

But in Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, they have been more cautious. They've taken some steps like banning alcohol and painting over street advertisements that show women's faces — but have held off on strict punishments for now.

The Iraqi city of Duluyiah is a prime example of the possibility for overreach.

Weeks ago, a small group of Islamic State fighters and other insurgents entered the Sunni-majority city just north of Baghdad and were welcomed by residents, said one resident, Jassim Mohammed. But within days, the Islamic State fighters came with lists of "wanted" men, including police officers and local businessmen.

That prompted an uprising by residents who forced the militants out, leaving the town under control of Sunni tribesmen, Mohammed said.

On Sunday, Islamic State fighters stormed back into Duluyiah, seizing the mayor's office, police station, local council and courthouse.

There has also been less dramatic pushback. In Mosul, the militants offered three local figures the post of governor of Ninawaah — the province of which Mosul is the capital — and each refused, said Laith, a civil servant in the city who asked to be identified only by his first name for his own safety.

"People are worried that the (Iraq) government might come back and that they would be pun-

ished for dealing with the Islamic State," he said.

The leader of the Islamic State group appears to recognize that over the long-term his fighters are not governors. In an address after the June 9 fall of Mosul, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi appealed to Muslims around the world with practical skills — scholars, judges, doctors, engineers and administrators — to flock to the regions his group controls to help build the state.

Over the past month, the group has consolidated its hold over an impressive stretch of territory, roughly 435 miles from end to end. From its westernmost end on the outskirts of the Syrian city of Aleppo, it stretches across northern Syria and most of the east then bridges into most Sunni-dominated areas of northern and western Iraq up to the edges of Baghdad.

Among the first moves it took in parts of Syria that it captured were to set up various Islamic administrative departments staffed by its fighters and sympathizers: Islamic courts to settle disputes; "Hisba" offices, which enforce Shariah rules; and "Daawa" offices for proselytizing and spreading its ideology.

The showcase of the extremist group's vision is Raqqa, a city of 500,000 in northern Syria along the Euphrates River. There, the militants have banned music and smoking and forced women to cover up. They have killed violators of Shariah in the main square, including by beheadings, and have hung the bodies of some on crosses.

Another priority has been to provide services. In Raqqa, the group pays wages to city employees, rebuilds damaged power lines and has kept up water and electricity services. During the holy month of Ramadan, it has distributed food and other aid to residents in Raqqa, Iraq's Mosul and other areas.

The Islamic State group has no shortage of resources. It seized money from Iraqi banks estimated in the tens of millions of dollars. It has captured almost all the major oil and gas fields of eastern Syria, including the al-Omar oil field, Syria's largest, with a capacity to produce 75,000 barrels a day. According to several activists in the region, the group has resumed some pumping and has secured revenue by selling crude oil to merchants at lower-than-market prices and exporting to Iraq and Turkey through middlemen with tanker trucks.

In Raqqa and other parts of Syria, the group also takes a cut of all humanitarian aid and commerce.

"Any trade outside the framework of the Islamic State is forbidden. Buying, selling, everything must be through the State," said an opposition activist in Raqqa who asked not to be identified out of fear for his safety.

The militants have held off on imposing strict Shariah rules in Mosul, a city of 2 million, four times the size of Raqqa. If Raqqa is a guide, however, the harsher implementation may come.

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OPINION

When should the US opt to use force?

By ROBERT KAGAN
 The Washington Post

Was the Iraq War the greatest strategic error in recent decades, as some pundits have suggested recently? The simple answer is no. That honor belongs to the failure to take action against al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden before the attacks that killed nearly 3,000 Americans on U.S. soil on Sept. 11, 2001. And if one wants to go back a few decades further, it was the failure to stop Hitler in Europe and to deter war with Japan, failures that dwarf both Iraq and Vietnam in terms of their tragic consequences and the cost in lives and treasure.

Therein lies the conundrum. One kind of error can come from doing too much, from using force too quickly, extravagantly or, as is usually the case, ineptly. The other can come from doing too little, from not using sufficient force quickly enough to remove or deter a threat before it strikes or from hoping that there is an alternative to force until it is too late to act effectively. Nor should it be surprising that the first kind of error often leads to the second. The lesson of 9/11 for many who lived through it was that passivity in the face of threats was dangerous. This thinking surely informed the George W. Bush administration's actions on Iraq, and it informed the support given those actions by 77 members of the Senate, including a majority of Democrats, when they authorized the use of force in October 2002. Then Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. expressed the common view at the time that Saddam Hussein, if left "unfettered," posed an "imminent threat" and the only question was whether "we address it now or do we wait a year or two or three." Similarly, the lessons learned after U.S. global passivity in the 1930s produced the global activism, sometimes to excess, of the Cold War era.

It is possible to argue, as historians and analysts have, that in both cases the

pendulum swung too far, that excessive activism led to excessive paranoia and cynicism. This is among the central criticisms that George Kennan and others have leveled against the United States over the years, a tendency to swing wildly from one end of the spectrum to the other.

The question now is whether the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction, whether the response to what many perceive as the profligate use of force is going to be to abjure force altogether.

Some might argue that the United States should return to a more traditional approach to the use of force, perhaps presuming that the past decade was abnormal. In fact, however, for more than a century the United States has employed force as a tool of foreign policy rather frequently.

Depending on how one chooses to count, the United States has undertaken roughly 26 armed interventions since 1898 across the Western Hemisphere, Asia, Europe and the greater Middle East: from Cuba and the Philippines in the 1890s to the Persian Gulf, Haiti and the Balkans a century later to Iraq and Afghanistan in the 2000s. If one includes the dispatch of smaller numbers of troops, as well as naval and air operations such as President Ronald Reagan's bombing of Moammar Gadhafi, President Bill Clinton's four-day air campaign against Iraq in 1998 or President Barack Obama's action in Libya, the number is at least six times higher. This does not include covert operations of the kind that President Dwight Eisenhower ordered against Jacobo Arbenz in Guatemala and Mohammad Mossadegh in Iran or threatening nuclear attack against recalcitrant nations, another favorite tool of Eisenhower. Counting only the larger interventions, with "boots on the ground," there has been one intervention on average every 4½ years since 1898. Overall, the United States has been engaged in combat somewhere in the world in 52 out of the past 116 years, or roughly 45 percent of the time. Since the end of the Cold War, the

rate of U.S. interventions has been higher, with an intervention roughly once every three years, and U.S. troops intervening or engaged in combat in about 25 years more than 75 percent of the time, since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Nor has it mattered whether administrations have been Republican or Democratic, or whether presidents have been alleged "liberal internationalists" such as Clinton or alleged "realists" such as George H.W. Bush, who ordered three military interventions in his four years in office.

Should the United States return to that norm or depart from it? One can easily point to the cases in which military force has failed to achieve its objectives and where it probably would have been better not used. But in other cases, the use of force has been effective, sometimes more so than it seemed at the time. When the Korean War ended, few Americans considered it a success, but the marvelous economic and political vitality of South Korea today and its role as a key ally of the United States stem from that "Forgotten War." In my view, the willingness of the United States to use force and to threaten to use force to defend its interests and the liberal world order has been an essential and unavoidable part of sustaining that world order since the end of World War II. It is also an essential part of effective diplomacy. As George Shultz observed while secretary of state, "Power and diplomacy always go together ... The hard reality is that diplomacy not backed by strength is ineffectual."

The question today is finding the right balance between when to use force and when not to. We can safely assume the answer lies somewhere between always and never. Perhaps we can move away from the current faux-Manichean struggle between straw men and caricatures and return to a reasoned discussion of when force is the right tool.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Afghan democracy must be engineered from ground up

Bloomberg News

Dogged U.S. diplomacy last weekend kept alive, for now, the prospect of the first peaceful transition of power in Afghanistan. Yet for democracy to ever take root in Afghanistan's stony soil, the effects of an earlier and less helpful U.S. intervention must be reversed.

Secretary of State John Kerry was in Kabul to resolve a dispute between former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani, the two presidential candidates in a June 14 runoff who have each claimed victory amid allegations of voting fraud. Plans by Afghanistan's election monitors to perform a partial audit of polling stations with higher-than-expected turnout failed to allay the fears of Abdullah, whom preliminary results put in second place; he threatened to form his own government. Kerry hammered out an agreement between the two men for an audit of all 18 million votes cast, with the certified winner to form a "government of national unity."

Even a full-scale audit, supervised by monitors under the auspices of the United Nations, won't eliminate the possibility of fraud. Still, it will shore up public faith in the voting process and the credibility of the winner.

Yet plans for a national unity government remain unclear. The loser may play

the role of chief executive or de facto prime minister to the winner's cabinet. Cabinet positions and other nominees may either be formally allocated or the losing side would be able to nominate candidates "based on capacity, ability, qualification and expertise," as one representative from Ghani's camp put it. The Afghan constitution may be amended in two years to create the position of prime minister, along with other reforms. In other words, the bazaar is very much open.

The good news is both candidates have experience that, on paper at least, might make them good leaders; both have agreed to sign a bilateral security agreement with the United States, which is crucial to a continued American military presence; and, last but not least, both seem to recognize that the winner-take-all model embodied in an all-powerful chief executive holds ill for stability in a country riven by ethnicity and geography.

That was the system favored by the U.S. when the constitution was drafted. As a 2003 U.S. diplomatic cable reported, the U.S. ambassador told a French constitutional expert that "Afghanistan needed a strong President given all the vectors of power" and to avoid "endless crises." With U.S. support, then-President Hamid Karzai stripped out provisions for a prime minister in the draft constitution. He also arrogated to himself powers that made

him, in effect, King Karzai, with the ability to appoint "high-ranking officials" and a big chunk of parliament. Karzai has used his powers to try to balance Afghanistan's many ethnic factions, yet the country's history suggests that strong central government has been the exception, not the rule, and is not to be confused with good governance.

In addition to creating the post of prime minister, Afghanistan's next leaders would be wise to consider other changes that devolve power away from Kabul. Allowing district elections for governors and district administrators, with term limits, would make them more responsive to local concerns; enabling these elected officials to raise and spend taxes locally would also advance that end. Encouraging the development of political parties, which Karzai has resisted, would in the long run both strengthen the functioning of parliament and weaken ethnic and regional power blocs.

"Democracy" — an abstract concept cynically invoked by Afghan politicians of all stripes, from monarchists to communists — still smells foreign to many Afghans. They want representative institutions that grant them some control over their own lives. They don't want them imposed from outside or above. Whether the outside world likes it or not, Afghans want to decide what's best for them largely on their own.

OPINION

Republican first round pits Paul against Perry

BY MARGARET CARLSON
Bloomberg News

Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, are the first would-be contenders for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination to go mano-a-mano.

The fight is sharply drawn, in an op-ed in the Washington Post, Perry warned of a growing "isolationism" in the country, singling out Paul as "curiously blind" to growing threats in Iraq. Perry also reminded voters that he had served in the military and governed a large state, two achievements that Paul, who was first elected to the Senate in 2012, can't claim.

Paul took the incoming and quickly tossed it back in a piece published in Politico on Monday under the headline "If Rick Perry is Dead Wrong."

Taking a swipe at Perry's new smart-man glasses, he said the eyewear didn't allow the governor to see the world any more clearly. He pointed out that Perry believed, even before the recent victories by Sunni insurgents, that the United States should send more troops into Iraq. Wondering pointedly how Perry found the time to go after him, what with 60,000 undocumented immigrant children on his border, Paul said that to call him an isolationist was to tar the whole country with the same brush. Like him, an overwhelming majority of Americans don't want Americans to die for the Iraqis who "dropped their weapons, shed their uni-

forms and hid" at the first sign of trouble, he wrote.

They have reason to go at it. As potential candidates, both have to seize the momentum away from noisier potential competitors such as New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Sen. Ted Cruz, of Texas. The usual way for a Republican to stand out is to grab at shiny electoral objects such as taxes, guns, gay marriage, abortion and rejection of anything involving President Barack Obama.

But their war of words is bigger than that and the both of them. They've begun a conversation the Republican Party has to have over a Republican president's decision to take the country into a ruinous war over the late Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. At a Politico event Monday, former Vice President Dick Cheney, who doesn't have to run again, unequivocally defended the 2003 invasion that ended up costing almost 4,500 American lives and left Iraq violently ungovernable. Cheney would say whether Paul would be a dangerous president, but he said "isolationism is crazy" and that anyone who thinks we can retreat behind our oceans "is out to lunch."

Now, Paul and Perry are the proxies in the war for the foreign-policy soul of the party between the neo-isolationist/tea party/libertarians and the strong-and-little defense establishment types. When Megyn Kelly, of Fox News, tells Cheney that "history has proven that you got it wrong," you

know Republicans are no longer knee-jerk hawks.

Wading into this briar patch is perfect for Perry and Paul. Both need to prove they're broader than their current resumes suggest. As governor, all Perry had to do was keep Texas safe from an invasion by Mexico. As a senator, all Paul has to do is run his mouth.

The three-term Texas governor's 2012 presidential run was supposed to blow everyone away, but he peaked in the polls on the hot August day he announced his candidacy. He missed every opportunity to shine in the debates and became a reference point for senior moments when he failed to remember the third Cabinet department he was set on abolishing.

As for Paul, he needs to show that he's more than just a first-term tea party-supported senator. He also needs to prove he's not a niche player like his father, former Representative Ron Paul, who helped get him to the party but will keep him from being the life of it. Dad wasn't just an isolationist but a fringe character who had no trouble reciting the institutions he would abolish, from the Pentagon to the Federal Reserve.

Rand Paul has looked a bit bumbling himself by questioning the wisdom of the Civil Rights Act. He also seems too dependent on his father's network, and a little kooky by authoring a bill to legalize interstate traffic in unpasteurized milk and putting forward a doomsday budget. He also proposed the Read the Bills Act

and the One Subject at a Time Act.

Nonetheless, he broke out of the pack, winning grudging respect — and inciting some fear — when he found a good cause in the ill-defined use of military drones. His filibuster on the subject forced the Justice Department to clarify when, where and against whom they could be deployed.

Perry is working hard at a second chance to make a first impression. After deciding not to run for a fourth term, he formed a nonprofit that allowed him to take fact-finding trips to Europe, Israel and Iowa. He checks off a lot of the activist Republican boxes: He's a gun nut (he has his own concealed-carry permit and an A+ NRA rating); he loves the death penalty; and he opposes abortion, gay marriage, taxes and Obamacare. He's been super-successful at bringing companies to Texas.

He has made himself vulnerable on immigration, however, by displaying a soft spot for the Dream Act. Come 2016, that might not be such a liability. Surprisingly, Rand Paul himself has a softer take on immigration than his party, part of his recent call for Republicans to build a bigger tent.

Before this year, Perry and Paul looked like fringe candidates (Sen. John McCain famously called Paul a "wacko bird"). Both have upped their games, and Paul is a force his party fears. If nothing else, the two are going to drag the party into a reckoning over Iraq that's long overdue. Better to have it now than in 2016.

Carlson is a Bloomberg View columnist.

Income inequality a matter of the 99 percent, not the 1 percent

BY MICHAEL R. STRAIN
The Washington Post

It would be an understatement to claim that income inequality is much discussed these days. And if you have read the Internet in the last few months, you surely witnessed the fawning, obnoxious adoration heaped upon Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century." Often bought, seldom read, Piketty's 700 pages shine a big, bright light on the fortunes of the top one percent, and have made him a hero in the eyes of the inequality left.

But should most of our attention be on the one percent? Hillary Clinton seems to think not. In a recent interview with Der Spiegel, Clinton argued that "the crux of the concern in our country" has "never been" the fact that some people earn very high incomes. "We've always had people who did better than other people. That's just accepted," she said. "The question is," she continued, "how do we get back to having an economy that works for everybody."

Clinton's focus on "the 99 percent" is exactly right — and so refreshing. The Washington Post reports that many on the left are coming around to this position, too.

In the aftermath of the Great Recession, it is easy to see why the fortunes of the top one percent would receive so much attention. The public has the sense that folks at the very top — including many who got us into this mess — are making out like bandits, while the rest of us are suffering. And in general, it's hard for many

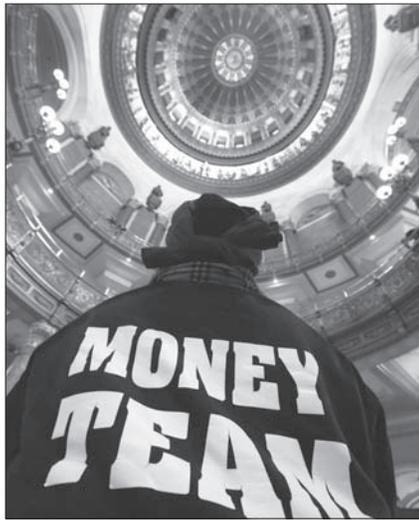
Americans to understand why the top one percent "deserve" their extremely high incomes. But that doesn't change this basic reality: If you're worried about income inequality, you should be more worried about the bottom 99 percent than the top one percent.

To see why, you have to understand what drives inequality by looking at each of these groups, the one percent and the 99 percent. Imagine that the economy has two types of workers, high-skill and low-skill. High-skill workers earn higher wages, and the demand for them increases faster than their supply, causing their wages to increase further. The wages of low-skill workers, meanwhile, remain stagnant, lifting inequality, which worsens dramatically when the wages of low-skill workers are falling while those of high-skill workers are increasing.

The data confirm this story. The economists Claudia Goldin and Lawrence F. Katz find that about two-thirds of the increase in wage inequality from 1980 to 2005 can be explained by the growing wage premium from acquiring more skills than the education. And the wage premium from going to college has increased largely because the growth of education attainment has slowed.

While this has been happening within the bottom 99 percent, the top one percent has been pulling away from the rest at a rapid clip. Is what's happening with the top one percent quantitatively more important than what has been happening within the bottom 99?

The economist David H. Autor finds that if the gains to the top one percent between 1979 and 2012



Timothy Russell, of Chicago, participates in a February rally in support of raising the minimum wage in the Capitol in Springfield, Ill.

were redistributed to the bottom 99 percent, each household would receive a one-time payment of about \$7,000. This is a large sum, but not nearly as large as the in-

crease in the skills premium. For example, Autor calculates that the earnings gap between a college educated and a high-school-educated two-earner family increased

by about \$28,000 between 1979 and 2012 — an amount four times as large as our hypothetical redistribution from the one percent to the rest. In 2012, this earnings gap was about \$58,000. Clearly, tooling up a high-school educated family would make them much better off than simply giving them their share of the excess gains of the top one percent.

In other words, for the vast majority of Americans, inequality is being driven by the skills gap — not by whatever is happening with the top one percent. If you're worried about inequality, then your most pressing concern shouldn't be about the top one percent, but instead the bottom 99.

And our national conversation shouldn't focus on the fact that some folks are doing much better than others, but instead should work towards creating the social and economic conditions wherein everyone can better their situation. This means addressing falling employment rates and earnings of less-educated workers, particularly men; fixing our broken, failing schools; creating post-secondary options in addition to the four-year BA that address the needs of 21st century firms; healing broken communities, and returning to a culture that feels comfortable discussing duties and responsibilities; reinvigorating civil society and the local institutions that subtly encourage work and responsibility; and more.

Enough with soaking the top one percent. Let's focus on the 99. Clinton J. Pickety U.

Strain is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

NATION

Fixer
upper

Lee's mansion at
Arlington receives
\$12M donation

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE
The Washington Post

After philanthropist David M. Rubenstein agreed to fund half the cost of fixing the earthquake-damaged Washington Monument, he asked National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis: "What else you got?"

"Well, I have a long list," Jarvis said he replied. At the top was the repair of the tattered 200-year-old Arlington House and Robert E. Lee Memorial in Arlington Cemetery. Its condition, Jarvis thought, was embarrassing.

Last winter, on a cold, rainy day, Jarvis gave Rubenstein a tour of the house where the famous Confederate general had lived before the Civil War. Rubenstein asked for a repair proposal.

"We proposed \$12.3 million," Jarvis said Thursday. He said Rubenstein replied: "Be glad to do that."

Thursday, Jarvis stood beside Rubenstein outside the portico of Arlington House and announced that the Bethesda billionaire was donating \$12.35 million to rehabilitate the house, grounds and slave quarters.

The majestic Greek Revival home of Lee and his family for 30 years is one of the most beautiful spots in the area. The columned mansion sits high on a hill overlooking the cemetery, the Potomac River and the District.

The money is going to the National Park Foundation, the Park Service's nonprofit, fundraising partner. The Park Service operates Arlington House.

The donation will transform the site and the experience for



PHOTOS BY NIKKI KAHN/The Washington Post

National Park Service rangers wait to greet visitors at Arlington House in Arlington, Va., on July 17. David M. Rubenstein, co-CEO of the Carlyle Group, is donating \$12.35 million to restore the pre-Civil War home of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

the 650,000 people who visit each year, Park Service officials said. The house and grounds are to be restored to the way they were in 1860.

New interior lighting will be installed. Work will be done on the damaged foundation. And a state-of-the-art climate control system will be installed.

Most of the work will happen in 2016. It will require the construction of scaffolding around the house, and could require closing the museum and the slave quarters for nearly a year.

"My goal has been for the last couple years to give back to the country some of the good fortune that I've had," Rubenstein said, as he stood flanked by Jarvis and Neil Mulholland, president of the foundation.

"The goal is to remind people of American history," Rubenstein



Arlington House is one of the major structures at Arlington National Cemetery.

said. "Unfortunately people know so little about our history ... If you get a chance to tour this [house] and you think more about history ... maybe you'll be inspired to learn more about your country. And that's really why I try to do this."

Arlington House is rich in history. It is said to be modeled on the ancient Greek Temple of Hephaestus in Athens.

Built as a tribute to George Washington, it was also the place where, at the start of the Civil War, an anguished Lee decided to leave the U.S. Army and cast his lot with the South.

And over time, it became a centerpiece for the cemetery.

Rubenstein, the co-founder of the global private equity firm the Carlyle Group, has a passion for U.S. history and has made major history-themed donations in the past. He is especially interested in George Washington, and this is his third Washington-related donation.

His Washington Monument donation paid \$7.5 million of the \$15 million in the just-completed repairs required after the 2011 earthquake. Earlier that year, he gave \$10 million to Mount Vernon for a George Washington library.

The imposing Arlington mansion, with its eight columns and grand portico, was built mostly by the slaves of George Washington Parke Custis in three stages between 1802 and 1818.

Most of the house and its columns are made of brick covered with stucco made to look like stone. There is a massive, century-old cedar tree in the backyard.

Custis, who had about 60 slaves at Arlington, was the step-grandson of George Washington. He had been raised by Washington at Mount Vernon and was devoted to the nation's first president.

Custis built Arlington as a salute to Washington, and the home's dining room sill has dishware from Mount Vernon.

Custis's daughter, Mary Anna, married Lee in the parlor of the home on June 30, 1831, and six of their seven children were born in the house, according to the Park Service.

"It is a noble-looking place, having a portico of stately white columns, which ... with a background of dark woods, forms a beautiful object in the landscape," the English novelist Francis M. Trollope wrote in 1832, according to a Park Service report.

Mary Anna Lee inherited the property when her father died in 1857, and her husband, then a highly regarded Army officer, took over its management and upkeep.

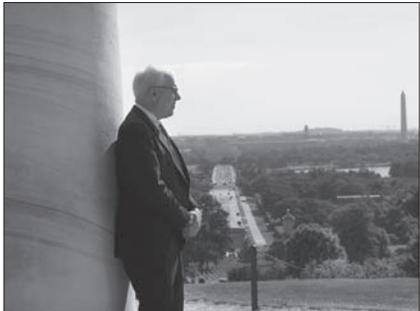
But with the outbreak of the Civil War, Lee resigned from the U.S. Army, and left Arlington for Richmond on April 22, 1861. His wife left three weeks later.

The Union army quickly occupied the property because of its strategic location.

The cemetery, which is now run by the Army, began three years later with the huge influx of dead soldiers from the bloody battles of 1864 and bitterness at Lee over his role in the war.

The cemetery marked the 150th anniversary of its founding last month.

The Lees never lived in the mansion again, although in 1883, after a Supreme Court ruling, the government paid the family \$150,000 for seizing the property, Matthew Penrod, a park ranger, said in a recent interview. He said the settlement was finalized by Lee's eldest son, Custis, and Abraham Lincoln's eldest son, Robert, who was then the secretary of war.



Washington lies beyond Rubenstein as he stands on the porch at Arlington House.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Start with being careful about what you wear.

"Improperly fitting shoes, flip-flops, sandals—obviously there's a risk to all that because your toes are exposed," Babich says. "On a Friday or Saturday night in Uptown, you see those Egyptian-style sandals. You see the wedges. Let's add alcohol and no support. You're asking for a big problem."

When summer ends, podiatrist Dr. Allan Sherman sees an abundance of arch and heel strains.

But in the heat, closed shoes are not necessarily a cure-all. Dustin Stein, women's soccer coach at Eastfield College, remembers his team playing on turf in Louisiana one summer. Their cleats melted.

"Obviously if it's melting," says Stein, an athletic trainer, "you're baking your feet inside your shoes."

Thus, Sherman's description of summer feet. They are, he says, "almost a petri dish."

Diabetic problems

Summer foot problems are magnified for diabetics, who often suffer from neuropathy, or numbness, in their feet.

"I tell them not to go outside barefoot," Babich says. "One patient went out to get the mail on a 112-degree day on hot asphalt. They walk out slowly, stand at the mailbox, walk on back. They might as well have walked on an iron."

Some diabetics know what to do, he says; others haven't a clue. "I've pulled out of red, swollen feet a gold clasp from a necklace. That's on top of needles, staples, wood, glass."

A blister between the toes of a healthy person tends to heal; not necessarily so for a diabetic, he says. He's had some tell him, "I can't believe I got a blister from flip-flops and am now in the hospital on IV antibiotics."

General advice

For all those problems, there are solutions. Our experts say you should:

Wear sunblock. Put it on the tops of feet as well as bottoms, which are exposed when you sit in a lounge chair, Sherman says.

Limit time in flip-flops. You need them by the pool and in public showers, Sherman says, because you can pick up plantar-wart virus by walking barefoot around the pool. Plus, who knows what bacteria the showers hold?

Remove athletic shoes and socks after working out. Take out the shoe's removable liner; otherwise, Sherman says, the shoe will stay wet between it and the sole. Put the liner outside to dry.

Wear wicking socks when exercising outdoors. Unlike cotton, Sherman says, wicking socks "take moisture away from skin and help our skin breathe easier. They allow better health, a better

environment." **Stretch your feet to prevent strains.** Roll a ball around your arch to stretch your muscles, Sherman says. Also, sit down, bring the soles of your feet together and intertwine your toes.

into the shoe, which will help absorb moisture and keep the shoes spread."

Pay attention if your foot hurts. Anything that happens to your feet affects the rest of your body, Stein says. "If one is injured, you'll overcompensate. You'll put more pressure on the opposite foot, which can cause a break or stress injury in the leg, knee, hip."

Employ basic hygiene. "Some

of the football players and soccer plays have the most disgusting feet," Stein says. "Make sure you're washing your feet. Don't let your toenails grow out."

Be careful about pedicures. People without medical issues are at risk for ingrown toenails and infection, Babich says. "Put that with someone who is compromised from circulation or immune system problems and the likelihood of increased risk during a pedicure goes up."

The mindful pedicure

Marcia Lopez, a lead nail technician at Cooper Spa Dallas, says she not only wants feet to be pretty: Her goal is to keep them healthy, too. Which is why she pays careful attention to her workspace.

"You're scrubbing the feet. You're scrubbing skin," she says. "Bacteria is always on the skin. If everything isn't cleansed properly after each client, you can cross-contaminate."

Adds Lopez, who has worked at Cooper for seven years: "You don't want to get a pedicure where it could cost your life."

To that end, she offers tips on making sure that painted toenails and smooth heels are all you'll bring home from a pedicure.

Observe how equipment is cleaned. Make sure the salon's foot tubs are cleaned and sanitized after each use, she says.

Observe whether files are clean before they touch your feet. "We like to use disposable files, but not everyone does," Lopez says. "If it has nail polish on it, you should not let the technician use it on you."

Double-check orangewood sticks. Because these cuticle-pushing sticks are porous and hold bacteria, only one per client should be used, she says. Again, "if you see red or pink nail polish on it, ask for a brand-new stick and don't let the technician touch you with that dirty stick."

Ask questions. The salon "should pull everything apart after each client, clean it and start over again." A lot don't want to take the time to follow daily and weekly sanitizing steps, she says. "But you're saving somebody's life if you ... do that."

Tell the technician your health issues. If you're diabetic or have thin skin, don't let the technician use a metal file, she says. Remember that a technician cannot remove an ingrown toenail or give a pedicure to someone with athlete's foot or another fungus. A good one will notice if your ankles are swollen, and might suggest

Be wary of how the nails are cut or filed. "When you cut the sides of the nail, they grow back into the skin when they're growing out and that leads to ingrown toenails," she says. "You can file the corners, but you don't want to cut them in."

Pedi ready

Take steps to protect your feet from summer hazards

BY LESLIE BARKER
The Dallas Morning News

Even after nine summers in Dallas, podiatrist Dr. Matthew Babich was yet to adjust to so many bare feet. "Any time of day," he says, "I see someone walking with their shoes off. I shake my head at it."

"When I first moved here, a neighbor mowed his lawn barefoot. Come on, really? It's not that a shoe will save a foot if it goes under a mower, but not to have anything on it blew my mind."

Summer is a harsh season on feet. Bared toes mean stubbing opportunities abound, to say nothing of pebbles, ants, sun, griddle-hot sidewalks. And those are just the natural villains. Other problems are self-inflicted.

Which is why Babich and fellow experts say summer is a prime season to take a stand in the name of foot health. With a little care, most summer foot problems can be stamped out, they say.



VERNON BRYANT, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Nail technician Marcia Lopez, left, tells customers to pay attention to equipment and how it's cleaned when getting a pedicure.

MUSIC

BY DAN DeLUCA

The Philadelphia Inquirer

It's that hot and sticky time of year when everybody absolutely must know what the song of the summer is.

It could be "Happy," the Pharrell Williams mega-hit that actually came out on the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack in June of last year but just spent 10 straight weeks atop the Hot 100.

More likely, it's "Problem," the hard-to-get-out-of-your-head hip-pop collaboration between former teen star Ariana Grande and Australian rapper Iggy Azalea. Or maybe it's "Fancy," another track with Azalea's name on it that recently topped the Billboard chart.

But we come not to crown one defining song, but to serve up a multi-genre playlist of bright and sunny (and occasionally dark and gloomy) summer songs in which the musical moods of the season are encapsulated.

They can also be streamed. The entire 26-song list is up on Spotify, and can be accessed through my "In the Mix" blog at inquirer.com/inthemix.

1. "Love Never Felt So Good," Michael Jackson. The King of Pop is dead, but has new music on the radio. "Xscape," his "contemporized" posthumous album, is mostly an exercise in pointless necrophilia, but this duet with Justin Timberlake (co-written by Paul Anka) is a dreamy summer jam.

2. "Come Get It Bae," Pharrell Williams. "Happy" didn't need to be on this list. You can turn on the radio and hear "Happy" three times an hour. This similarly elastic slice of pop-funk gives Pharrell yet another hit.

3. "Water Fountain," Tune-Yards. De-



Ariana Grande, right, sings about a sour relationship, with Aussie rapper Iggy Azalea, on "Problem." Azalea is also enjoying the success of "Fancy," a sassy ode to the good life.

12. "Problem," Ariana Grande, featuring Iggy Azalea. Nickelodeon star makes a most effective grown-up pop move by teaming with divisive Australian female rapper. Might be the most undeniable summer hit of the season ... unless it's ...

13. "Fancy" Iggy Azalea, featuring Charli XCX. The time-honored cultural appropriation debate in 2014 is embodied by Azalea, who hails from Down Under and raps in irony-free exaggerated patois as if she grew up in South Central Los Angeles. She has only one weapon with which to defend herself from charges of minstrelsy: Hits.

14. "Don't Stop," 5 Seconds of Summer. "She Looks So Perfect" is the current smash, but that song's line about "American Apparel underwear" is too creepy (in the wake of the Dov Charney sexual-predator news) to land in this mix. This ditty from these Aussie pop punk lads will have to do.

15. "I Don't Know You Anymore," Bob Mould. Post-punk legend and former Hüsker Dü leader Mould is at the top of his game on this Wall of Sound rager from the fab new CD "Beauty & Ruin."

16. "Goshen 97," Strand of Oaks. Philadelphia songwriter Timothy Showalter lays his heart on the line on this recollection of making teenage rock 'n' roll in the basement, with an assist from J Mascis of Dinosaur Jr.

17. "Black and White," Parquet Courts. Dark thoughts accompanied by driving, uplifting punk-ish rock. "Is the solitude I seek a trap where I've been blindly led?" Andrew Savage wonders. From the (relatively) summery "Sunbathing Animal."

18. "Dust, Juice, Bones and Hair," Martha. Springy DIY indie rock from the suburbs of northern England, with all four male and female members, none named Martha, trading vocals. From the charming debut CD "Courting Strong."

19. "Kong," the Notwist. German glitch-pop experts' return with their first album since 2008, and are more pleasingly poppy on this track than ever before.

20. "North Sea Girls," Wussy. Gorgeous seaside rumination by Lisa Walker of underdog Ohio band Wussy, from the new CD "Attica." Guitars shimmer while swimmers take off their coats and boldly dive in, "like it's summertime."

21. "Safe With Me," Sam Smith. Elegant longing from the 22-year-old Brit who is the breakout voice of the season.

22. "Love Me Like I'm Not Made of Stone," Lykke Li. Heartbreaker worthy of its "Love Hurts" lineage from this Swedish

songstress' fine new CD "I Never Learn."

23. "Smokin' and Drinkin'," Miranda Lambert, featuring Little Big Town. Summer-time reverie too tough-minded for easy nostalgia, as is typical of Lambert's terrifically varied album "Platinum," which stands head and



"I Will Never Let You Down" is a feel-good love song by British singer Rita Ora.

Invision/AP

shoulders above bro-country practitioners currently riding high in their pickup trucks.

24. "Hard to Be an Outlaw," Willie Nelson. Speaking of bros, Shotgun Willie takes a shot at faux hillbillies on this track penned by Billy Joe Shaver. From the 81-year-old Nelson's impressive "Band of Brothers."

25. "U Get Me High," Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers. Petty is back in a swoony groove on this encouraging track from "Hypnotic Eye," due this month.

26. "An Ocean in Between the Waves," the War On Drugs. Before you jump in the water, you have to get to the beach. There's

no better driving music to be heard in 2014 than "Lost in the Dream," the transfixing fourth album by Philly's own the War on Drugs. So let's ride it out on the wave of these superb seven minutes, shall we?



"West Coast" is the lead single off of Lana Del Rey's latest album, "Ultraviolence."

Shore Fire Media

lightly polyrhythmic pogo-pop from indie heroine Merrill Garbus.

4. "Do It Again," Roxykopp & Robyn. Smart Scandinavian dance-music team of a pair of Norwegian beatmakers and a Swedish singer, out now with a five-song EP.

5. "I Will Never Let You Down," Rita Ora. Written by then-boyfriend Calvin Harris, this is the great pop song that should turn British singer Ora into a star in the United States. It promises too-good-to-be-true happy times ahead.

6. "Summer," Calvin Harris. The Scottish EDM star gets the last word in, of course, on this driving dance track that turns out to be a bummer with a rubbery beat. In his telling, naturally, it was her fault, not his.

7. "Seasons (Waiting On You)," Future Islands. Nobody works up a sweat like Future Islands singer Samuel T. Herring, but this Baltimore synth-pop band, enjoying a breakout year, always keep the music shiny and cool.

8. "Everything Nice," Popcaan. Decidedly dubby, laid-back track from this Jamaican dance-hall artist, born Andre Sutherland.

9. "West Coast," Lana Del Rey. Cinematic noir vibes from chart-topping "Summer-time Sadness" singer and Kimye wedding serenader. Sinister.

10. "You Love Will Blow Me Away When My Heart Aches," Son Little. Haunting soul cry from Philly's Aaron Livingston, collaborator with the Roots and RJD2.

11. "Let Me Find Out," 5th Ward Webbie. Infectiously energetic quintessential New Orleans bounce track from the amusing and profane Webbie. Whatever you're doing, don't let Webbie find out!

26
SONGS OF
SUMMER
Find your anthem of the season among these hot picks

Miley Cyrus joins Pharrell Williams on "Come Get It Bae."
Los Angeles Times

MUSIC

(Down to a)

WEIRD SCIENCE

Yankovic's mastery of parody all over his latest album

The success of any great piece of art is determined by a few key factors. Does it accomplish what it sets out to achieve?

Does it illuminate some essential aspect of the human condition? Does it change those who are exposed to it—rewire the circuitry, add new ideas that disturb the status quo? Does it build on the art of others, in the process crafting something profoundly new? Most important, does it advocate for the enduring relevance of tin(fo)l?

Under these guidelines, “Weird Al” Yankovic’s new “Mandatory Fun” is a stone cold masterpiece. Its goal remains the same since Yankovic changed the game with “My Bologna” and “Eat It”: parodying hit songs to create gut-busting laughter. Thirty years later, the Weird One hits every note.

Is it illuminating? Certainly. You will learn, for example, that beneath Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” is a way better message about a more important topic than dubiously intended swagger: good grammar. Harnessing the song’s undeniably funky music and melody, Yankovic turns it into “Word Crimes,” a song directed at online commenters and their unspeakable bastardizations of



'Weird Al' Yankovic
Mandatory Fun (RCA Records)

the English language. Yankovic implores his fans to educate themselves: “You learn the definition/of nouns and prepositions/ Literacy’s your mission/ And that’s why I think it’s a good time/ To learn some grammar/ Did I stammer?/ Work on that grammar.”

He transforms Imagine Dragons’ “Radioactive” into “Inactive,” a celebration of couch potato culture featuring dubstep warble and the chorus, “I’m really inactive!/ I’m highly inactive!/" Yankovic’s at his best on his ode to handymen, “Handy,” rapped to the tune of Iggy Azalea’s “Fancy,” where all the bragging is about carpentry skills rather than Aussie bling.

On “Foil,” Yankovic channels young New Zealand singer Lorde’s “Royals” in service of a love letter to aluminum. Opening with the singer in full Lorde mode, he explains, “I never seem to finish all my food/ I always get a doggy bag from the waiter/ So I just keep what’s still unchewed/ And I take it home, save it for later.” The solution, sung to the tune of the chorus: “Aluminum foil/ Never settle for less/ That kind of here is just the best.” No argument here.

—Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times

A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF HIS GREATEST VIDEO HITS

‘I Lost on “Jeopardy!”’ (1984)

PARODY OF: The Greg Kihn Band’s “Jeopardy”

THE VIDEO: Poor “Weird Al” bombs in every category, from Pitpourni to Famous Accordion Players, in this hilarious spoof of the pre-Alex Trebek “Jeopardy!” Adding to the fun are original host Art Fleming, who doesn’t hide his disdain for Al, and announcer Don Pardo, who relishes telling Al that he won’t be receiving a case of Turtle Wax.

MEMORABLE LINE: “I was there to match my intellect on national TV. Against a plumber, oh, and an architect, both with a Ph.D.”

‘Eat It’ (1984)

PARODY OF: Michael Jackson’s “Beat It”

THE VIDEO: “Weird Al” got every detail right—including his dorky dancing—playing a super-tussy eater in this tasty re-creation of the King of Pop’s “Beat It” video.

MEMORABLE LINE: “Have some more yogurt, I have some more spum. It doesn’t matter if it’s fresh or it’s canned.”

‘Like a Surgeon’ (1985)

PARODY OF: Madonna’s “Like a Virgin”

THE VIDEO: “Weird Al” as an inept surgeon had everyone in stitches, especially when he copied Madonna’s writhing from her “Like a Virgin” video. Of course, Madonna wasn’t wearing scrubs and posing on a gurney.

MEMORABLE LINE: “It’s a fact, I’m a quack.”

‘Smells Like Nirvana’ (1992)

PARODY OF: Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit”

THE VIDEO: Grunge and Kurt Cobain’s unintelligible screaming got spoofed in this video that featured a cow, a sheep, a janitor in a tutu and Dick Van Patten at a teen rally. Talk about Nirvana!

MEMORABLE LINE: “Here we are now, we’re Nirvana. Sing distinctly? We don’t wanna.”

‘Perform This Way’ (2011)

PARODY OF: Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way”

THE VIDEO: “Weird Al” came out of his shell, just as Gaga did at the 2011 Grammys, only he didn’t end up with egg on his face. Gaga should have been taking notes on Al’s costumes, which ranged from a beehive to a jelly bean.

MEMORABLE LINE: “Got my straitjacket today, it’s made of gold lamé.”

—Daniel Bubbeo, *Newsday*

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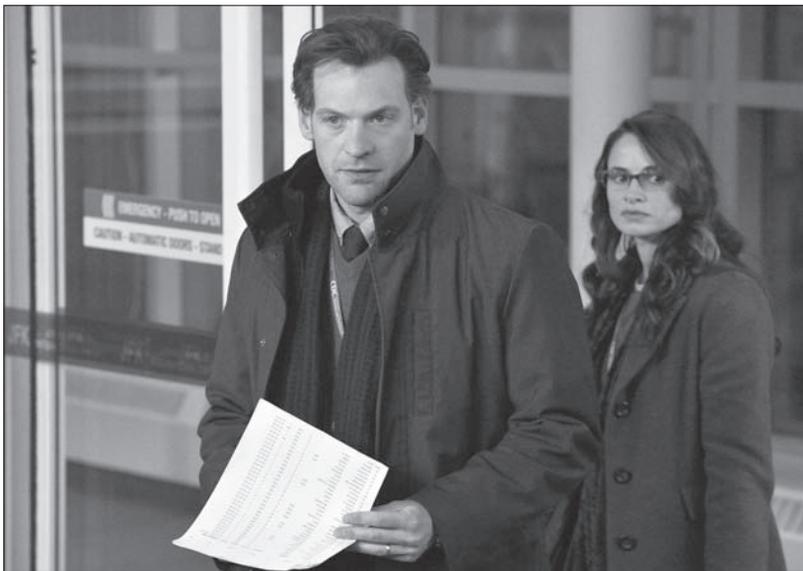
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ENTERTAINMENT



MICHAEL GIBSON, FX/AP

Corey Stoll, left, and Mia Maestro star in "The Strain." The thriller begins when a mysterious viral outbreak spreads to New York.

'The Strain' of stardom

Actor Corey Stoll talks hairpiece, role in new thriller series

By FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

This looks dire. An airliner has landed in New York with everyone on board apparently dead.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hard-charging troubleshooter, Dr. Ephraim Goodweather, is summoned to investigate.

A suspicious-looking crate the plane was carrying vanishes.

Welcome to "The Strain," a creepy new thriller about a viral outbreak threatening the human race that only Goodweather can stop.

"The Strain" can claim as co-creators Guillermo del Toro (the "Hellboy" films) and Chuck Hogan, who jointly wrote the novels that inspired the series. Carlton Cuse ("Lost") is the show runner.

The series stars Corey Stoll, who tangled with demonic Washington, D.C., in the first season of the Netflix political drama "House of Cards."

Now he's battling bloodsucking zombies who mean to take over the world.

If the premiere began with what seems like a nod to the bygone Fox series "Fringe" (dead passengers on a plane) and ended with a fatherly homage to AMC's "The Walking Dead," Stoll vows that his show will blaze its own trail.

"I've never seen a lot of the stuff we'll be doing," he says. "And there's a unique tone: a mix of goofiness and melancholy," often registered in the mix of horror, disgust and rapt fascination with which Goodweather greets the monstrous things he sees.

It's a muggy day as Stoll, 38, nurses an iced coffee in a Brooklyn diner not far from his home. He has had a few weeks to catch his breath (and thaw out) after the frigid winter shoot in Toronto, which subs for New York on "The Strain." But his schedule is about to really heat up.

Right away he'll head to South Africa for a guest role on the new season of Showtime's CIA drama "Homeland."

He has a small part in the upcoming Johnny Depp film "Black Mass," and in August heads to Atlanta for several months of shooting the much-awaited sci-fi film "Ant-



NETFLIX/AP

Stoll not only has a thriving career but a ripped physique that could shame a couch potato into hitting the gym. Still, he can't dismiss his past. As a teen he was fat, he reports, with his 6-foot-2 frame then carrying some 100 pounds more than his current 210.

Man." After that, with luck, he'll be back at work on a second season of "The Strain."

Stoll's career has taken off in the past five years. He appeared in the Angelina Jolie film "Salt," starred for a season in "Law & Order: Los Angeles" and memorably depicted Ernest Hemingway in Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris."

He considers the timing of his career to have been a blessing, particularly in one respect that, in another era, might have stopped him cold: His premature baldness, which happened shortly after college.

"I'm fortunate," he says, "to have entered the business when a bald person could play something other than a biker or prisoner or cancer patient."

Even now, few pale-pated actors (Patrick Stewart, Bruce Willis) are granted leading-man status. But Stoll never looked to be a matinee idol. He envisioned a stage career of character roles, even back at New York's High School for the Performing Arts when he had a full head of hair.

And no wonder.

'I've never seen a lot of the stuff we'll be doing. ... There's a unique tone: a mix of goofiness and melancholy.'

Corey Stoll

"I was a really fat kid," he explains. "In high school, I topped out at about 310."

What turned him around was a showcase where his teacher proposed two possible roles: the Hunchback of Notre Dame or the Elephant Man.

"I remember thinking, 'I don't want to only be playing Quasimodo for the rest of my life, so I better lose some weight.'"

He installed his parents' exercise bike in his bedroom and pumped away by the hour while The Smashing Pumpkins blasted. His improvised diet: white

rice and V8 juice.

"I was doing it all wrong," Stoll laughs. But it worked. He says he shed 100 pounds. (Today, at 6-foot-2, he weighs a buff 210 pounds.)

"The irony is, I got down to a less character-y weight — and lost my hair."

Often in his roles, his signature baldness is on full display, as with Peter Russo, the womanizing, drugs-abusing congressman in "House of Cards."

But as Eph Goodweather on "The Strain," he exhibits a full coif, complete with distinguished-looking widow's peak.

"I enjoy having a mask," he says. "A wig helps put me in character."

It serves Stoll as just another character choice. For him, hair has never been a matter of vanity, nor was its loss traumatic, he insists. "I never thought I had good looks to lose," he sums up with a shrug.

BOOKS

Author chronicles quest for rare records

By RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

Midway through her thoughtful, entertaining history of obsessed music collectors and their quest for rare early 78 rpm records, writer and music journalist Amanda Petrusich has a revelation. Focusing on one particular seeker and his knack for finding obscure titles others have missed, she describes him strategizing his search by "pursuing his prey with the kind of vehemence typically employed by a PI stalking a client's ex-wife, or a cop chasing a kidnaper. It felt calculated and thorough."

The difference? Unlike those delicate 78 rpm records, a kidnaper doesn't shatter when you accidentally brush against him, can't live invisibly in cobwebbed basements for decades and upon discovery doesn't hold the mysterious, beguiling sound of a lost

past time-traveling into the present. It is true, though, that both the record hunter and the detective might end up scouring riverbeds for remains, as Petrusich herself did while researching "Do Not Sell at Any Price: The Wild, Obsessive Hunt for the World's Rarest 78 rpm Records."

Tracing the rise of the record collectors' market from its infancy to the present, Petrusich follows the souls, mostly men, whose restless drive to unearth obscure recorded sounds has helped shape America's musical memory. In the process of collectors salvaging a vanishing history, their tastes and influence — and, for some, egomania and possessiveness — helped bring to a mainstream audience artists such as Robert Johnson, Skip James and Ma Rainey.

Petrusich examines the impulse to possess artifacts, illuminates that rush of discovery and the often sanity-testing ways in which chasing elusive, unknown platters can lead men toward pettiness, hoarding and, in some cases, an isolation akin to that of an addict.

While documenting the culture and the characters who occupy it, Petrusich also looks at her own role as one of an ever rarer breed of record collector: a female in

a mostly male realm. This means hunting for treasures at flea markets, yard sales, "in Victrola cabinets, under piles of old Denver LPs, wrapped in sheets of yellowed newspaper, in the backseats of vendors' cars, shoved under tables, in blue Tupperware bins labeled 'Old Records,' stacked indiscriminately in the high, bleating sun."

The prize for the scrounger? Probably a scratched-up 10-inch record, unplayable on your average turntable, holding hiss-filled music that might be far more easily found online, if it hasn't been totally bypassed by posterity.

To the chosen few, however, a pristine 78 on the right label is a nugget of history, a mini "Mona Lisa" that just might contain creations as transcendent as titles made famous by such record crate diggers as the late New York artist Harry Smith. His 1952 six-album collection, "Anthology of American Folk Music," is considered by many to be the first great curatorial gathering of the nation's early American folk and blues music.

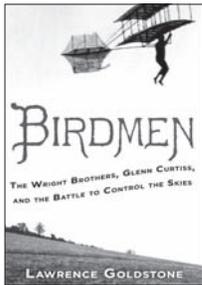
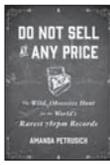
Smith, writes Petrusich, ordered the selections not based on region or academic utility but "as a poet orders words on a page, channeling, blending meaning from

nothing, becoming a physical conduit for spiritual truth."

Along with a handful of regulars at the storied New York shop the Jazz Record Center, Smith made connections between white and black music when the public's tastes were still mostly segregated. For reasons both noble and selfish (history and her budding 78 collection, respectively), Petrusich works to discover what happened to Smith's 13,000-piece collection. The answer is predictably depressing.

Diving for buried records might be the final frontier, considering the bounty of music available online. The Internet has unlocked the attic to a new generation searching for 78s not in dumpsters but in avenues such as eBay.

Petrusich follows this evolution and provides a fascinating counterpoint by profiling collectors searching other continents for equally exciting and otherwise lost recordings. Among them are next-generation curators equally interested in recontextualization and adding to the historical record.



Birdmen
Lawrence Goldstone

The flight was not even really a flight, just a short hop — some 120 feet. But in successfully flying a controlled, powered aircraft on the beach of Kitty Hawk, N.C., in 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright did what many had tried and failed to do before.

The story that Lawrence Goldstone tells in "Birdmen: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss, and the Battle to Control the Skies," his enthralling new account of flying's wild early years, is a dark one. The brothers' ingenuity is not in question, but they were also petty, vindictive, litigious businessmen who, Goldstone suggests, impeded the progress of American aviation.

At stake was a central issue: Was powered flight a concept open to all who could master it, or a patented process that could be owned? The Wrights insisted it was the latter and successfully patented flying itself, and their decisive innovation of lateral control, a twisting of the wings that provided stability. The patent claim was breathtaking in its sweep. Yet, as Goldstone shows, flying could not be contained.

— Matthew Price
Newsday



Everything I Never Told You
Celeste Ng

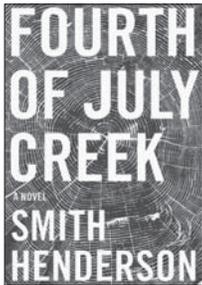
The demise of Lydia Lee, the teenage daughter of James, a Chinese-American professor, and Marilyn, his Virginia-born wife, is announced in the very first sentence. "Lydia is dead," Ng writes. "But they don't know this yet."

With this as a starting point, "Everything I Never Told You" can't help but feel a little like a mystery, and the pages that follow do reveal, gradually, the cause of Lydia's death. At its core, though, Ng's book is a conventional, domestically centered novel about an American family.

The novel unfolds in the 1970s, a time when the term "oriental" was tossed about, frequently. Still, despite the Lees' interracial status, issues of ethnic and cultural identity are largely secondary to the emotional wounds that have scarred the family. These wounds have been inflicted by the universal difficulties faced by intelligent people in the late 20th century.

The novel casts a powerful light on the secrets that have kept an American family together — and that finally end up tearing it apart.

— Hector Tobar
Los Angeles Times



Fourth of July Creek
Smith Henderson

In "Fourth of July Creek," stability is hard to come by, particularly in this time and place (rural Montana in the early 1980s).

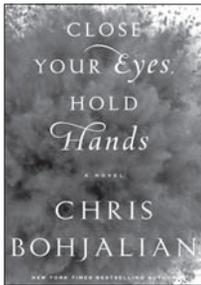
Pete, who lives in a remote cabin, has seen just about every bad thing you can think of — families living in the woods, abused children, drug-addled parents.

But Pete's experience hasn't prepared him for what happens when he meets skinny, sickly Benjamin Pearl, an 11-year-old who shows up in town one day. When Pete tries to return the boy to his family, he runs afoul of Benjamin's survivalist father, Jeremiah, a paranoid zealot.

The novel is too unsparring and serious to serve up a saintly social worker: Pete, for all his good intentions, is hiding just like Jeremiah Pearl. He has abandoned his unfaithful wife and his daughter, Rachel, now a hostile teenager. He moves to Texas, and Rachel goes missing.

"Fourth of July Creek" reveals social, cultural and economic complexities that define us even now, and it's never just an examination of the people who fall through the cracks.

— Connie Ogle
The Miami Herald



Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands
Chris Bohjalian

Surprisingly, one of the few companions that Emily Shepard — a cutter, dope smoker and sometimes "prost" — selects is Emily Dickinson. She leans on Dickinson's poetry and life story the way other teens might lean on rap music or the Bible: as a source of inspiration and pleasure, and as a filter for trying to make sense of her own experiences.

If you've already formed a mental Polaroid of Shepard, tear it up. She's more complicated than that — more innocent, wiser and possibly mentally ill.

She's on the run because a nuclear-plant has melted down catastrophically, killing 19 people and devastating the area. She fears that father, a casualty (along with her mother) and one of the plant's main operators, is being blamed for the disaster. She's afraid that she'll be forced to testify about her father's drinking problem, and that public vengeance will descend upon her.

Although "Close Your Eyes" is a novel for adults, readers of any age might find Shepard's story, sobering as it is, an awesome one.

— Jim Higgins
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



The Queen of the Tearing
Erika Johansen

As a baby, Kelsea Raleigh was sent away by her mother, the feckless Queen Elyssa, and hidden on a small farm. When Kelsea is 7, Elyssa dies, and her daughter inherits the throne of Tearing.

On her 19th birthday, a group of soldiers show up to escort Kelsea to the capital to be crowned, since it turns out she has a price on her head that many would like to earn. She arrives just in time to witness the cost of the peace with the neighboring bully state, Mortmesne, ruled by the evil Red Queen — a monthly tribute of captive men, women and children from Tearing to keep the peace.

By interrupting the shipment, Kelsea basically steps onto the world stage and instantly becomes the target of the Red Queen, the Church and everyone who has a stake in keeping the status quo intact in Tearing, including the church's evil Aunt Thorne.

The world created by Johansen in "The Queen of Tearing" is solidly drawn with interesting characters — all with hidden pasts, traumas and flashing swords.

— Tish Wells
McClatchy Washington Bureau

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

FedEx charged in illegal pharmacy case

By PAUL ELIAS
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal authorities on Thursday charged FedEx with assisting illegal pharmacies by knowingly delivering painkillers and dangerous drugs to customers without prescriptions.

The indictment filed in federal court in San Francisco alleges that FedEx Corp. conspired with two related online pharmacies for 10 years ending in 2010.

The Department of Justice announced the charges in Washington, D.C. It wants FedEx to forfeit \$820 million it says the cargo company earned by assisting the illicit pharmacies.

The Memphis, Tenn.-based delivery company is accused of shipping powerful sleeping aid Ambien, anti-anxiety medications Valium and Xanax, and other drugs to customers who had no legitimate medical need and lacked valid prescriptions.

FedEx insists it did nothing wrong. The world's largest cargo company says it handles 10 million packages per day and shouldn't be in charge of "assuming criminal responsibility" for every delivery.

"We will plead not guilty. We will defend against this attack on the integrity and good name of FedEx and its employees," company spokesman Patrick Fitzgerald said in a written statement.

Fitzgerald said the Drug Enforcement Agency has refused FedEx's request for a list of online pharmacies under investigation. Without such a list, Fitzgerald said it's impossible to know which companies are operating illegally.

The Justice Department alleges that federal officials have been telling FedEx since 2004 that it was shipping dangerous drug without a prescription. The indictment also alleges that FedEx couriers in Kentucky, Tennessee and Virginia warned executives about suspicious drug deliveries.

FedEx first disclosed the federal investigation in a regulatory filing in November 2012.

Rival shipping company UPS Inc. paid \$40 million last year to resolve similar allegations, and the Atlanta-based company said it would "take steps" to block illicit online drug dealers from using its delivery service.

Both companies said in regulatory filings that they were served with grand jury subpoenas between 2007 and 2009.

The investigation of the country's two largest shippers stems from a blitz against the proliferation of online pharmacies launched in 2005 in San Francisco. Since then, dozens of arrests have been made, thousands of websites shuttered, and tens of millions of dollars and pills seized worldwide as investigators continue to broaden the probe beyond the operators.

The executive director of Express Association of America, a trade group created by FedEx,

UPS and three other delivery services, said there is no industry-wide effort to address the policing of prescription drug deliveries.

"It's not the kind of issue we deal with as an association," association chief Mike Mullein said. A federal jury in 2012 convicted three men of operating illegal pharmacies that used FedEx and UPS to deliver drugs without proper prescriptions. Seven others were convicted in San Francisco previously.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 21)	\$1.3872
Dollar buys (July 21)	€0.7209
British pound (July 21)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (July 21)	99.00
South Korean won (July 21)	1,006.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7058/0.5862
Canada (dollar)	1.0731
China (Yuan)	6.2080
Denmark (Krone)	5.1765
Egypt (pound)	7.7512
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3510/0.7402
Japan (Yen)	99.00
Europe (Forint)	229.39
Israel (Shekel)	3.4264
Japan (Yen)	101.40
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2823
Norway (Krone)	6.1859
Philippines (Peso)	43.52
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7025
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2412
South Korea (Won)	1,030.22
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8991
Thailand (Baht)	32.15
Turkey (New Lira)	0.1259

MARKET WATCH

July 17, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-161.39
Nasdaq composite	-62.52
Standard & Poor's 500	-23.45
Russell 2000	-17.95
1,133.60	

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	94	70	Pdly	Chatanooga	80	67	Rain	Fort Wayne	83	57	Pdly	Louisville	82	65	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	76	60	Rain	Cheyenne	88	58	Pdly	Goodland	98	69	Pdly	Lubbock	93	68	Pdly
Albany	83	63	Pdly	Chicago	82	61	Cir	Grand Junction	93	60	Pdly	Macon	87	70	Rain
Albuquerque	95	68	Pdly	Cleveland	79	61	Cldy	Grand Rapids	81	58	Pdly	Madison	81	57	Pdly
Allentown, Pa.	81	59	Pdly	Colorado Springs	81	58	Pdly	Great Falls	85	58	Pdly	Medford	95	62	Cir
Amarillo	95	63	Pdly	Columbia, S.C.	88	69	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	82	65	Cldy	Memphis	83	68	Cldy
Anchorage	65	53	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	86	70	Cldy	Harrisburg	82	62	Cldy	Miami Beach	91	76	Pdly
Ashville	74	62	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	79	63	Cldy	Hartford	87	59	Pdly	Midland-Odesa	99	71	Pdly
Atlanta	82	69	Rain	Concord, N.H.	84	56	Cir	Helena	89	59	Pdly	Milwaukee	79	61	Pdly
Atlantic City	82	62	Pdly	Corpus Christi	95	79	Pdly	Honolulu	89	76	Cldy	Minneapolis	82	65	Pdly
Austin	82	67	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	91	72	Cldy	Houston	92	75	Cldy	Missoula	84	54	Cldy
Baltimore	82	67	Cldy	Dayton	79	62	Cldy	Huntsville	83	66	Rain	Mobile	99	76	Cldy
Baton Rouge	90	73	Rain	Daytona Beach	88	73	Pdly	Indianapolis	82	61	Pdly	Montgomery	87	68	Rain
Bilings	94	61	Cir	Denver	94	62	Pdly	Jacksonville	88	71	Rain	Nashville	83	65	Rain
Birmingham	84	68	Rain	Des Moines	82	62	Pdly	Jacksonville, Fla.	88	71	Rain	New Orleans	80	75	Rain
Bismarck	91	60	Cir	Detroit	81	61	Pdly	Jamez	93	50	Cldy	New York City	80	65	Cldy
Boise	82	64	Cldy	El Paso	99	74	Pdly	Juneau	82	63	Pdly	Newark	83	65	Cldy
Boston	78	61	Pdly	El Paso	99	74	Pdly	Kansas City	82	63	Pdly	Norfolk, Va.	81	70	Cldy
Bridgport	85	60	Cldy	Elkins	76	61	Rain	Knoxville	79	65	Cldy	Oklahoma City	87	64	Pdly
Brownsville	94	80	Pdly	Erie	77	63	Cldy	Lake Charles	88	75	Rain	Omaha	85	63	Pdly
Buffalo	81	59	Cldy	Eugene	88	58	Rain	Lake Erie	88	75	Rain	Orlando	92	74	Pdly
Burlington, Vt.	83	57	Pdly	Evansville	82	63	Cldy	Lansing	81	57	Pdly	Paducah	82	64	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	83	55	Cir	Flagstaff	99	51	Rain	Las Vegas	101	84	Pdly	Pendleton	87	63	Pdly
Casper, Wyo.	93	55	Pdly	Fargo	86	64	Pdly	Lexington	80	63	Cldy	Peoria	83	69	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	90	69	Cldy	Flagstaff	82	53	Pdly	Lincoln	87	63	Pdly	Philadelphia	84	66	Pdly
Charleston, W.Va.	76	64	Rain	Flint	81	55	Pdly	Little Rock	82	65	Cldy	Phoenix	106	84	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	82	67	Cldy	Fort Smith	85	64	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Chicago	82	61	Cldy	Fort Wayne	83	57	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Cincinnati	80	62	Cldy	Grand Rapids	81	58	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Cleveland	79	61	Cldy	Great Falls	85	58	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Colorado Springs	81	58	Pdly	Greensboro, N.C.	82	65	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Columbia, S.C.	88	69	Cldy	Harrisburg	82	62	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Columbus, Ga.	86	70	Cldy	Hartford	87	59	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Columbus, Ohio	79	63	Cldy	Honolulu	89	76	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Concord, N.H.	84	56	Cir	Houston	92	75	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Corpus Christi	95	79	Pdly	Huntsville	83	66	Rain	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Dallas-Ft. Worth	91	72	Cldy	Indianapolis	82	61	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Dayton	79	62	Cldy	Jacksonville	88	71	Rain	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Daytona Beach	88	73	Pdly	Jacksonville, Fla.	88	71	Rain	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Denver	94	62	Pdly	Jamez	93	50	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Des Moines	82	62	Pdly	Juneau	82	63	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Detroit	81	61	Pdly	Kansas City	82	63	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Detroit	81	61	Pdly	Knoxville	79	65	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
El Paso	99	74	Pdly	Lake Charles	88	75	Rain	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
El Paso	99	74	Pdly	Lake Erie	88	75	Rain	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Elkins	76	61	Rain	Lake Vegas	101	84	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Erie	77	63	Cldy	Lexington	80	63	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Eugene	88	58	Rain	Lincoln	87	63	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Evansville	82	63	Cldy	Little Rock	82	65	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Flagstaff	99	51	Rain	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Flagstaff	82	53	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Fargo	86	64	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Fargo	86	64	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Flagstaff	82	53	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Flint	81	55	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Flint	81	55	Pdly	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Fort Smith	85	64	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Fort Smith	85	64	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Pittsburgh	72	62	Rain
Fort Smith	85	64	Cldy	Los Angeles	78	66	Cldy	Los Angeles	78						

SCOREBOARD

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Pro soccer

MLS

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting KC	9	5	5	32	27	17
D.C. United	9	5	4	31	26	19
Toronto FC	7	9	5	25	21	21
New England	7	9	2	23	24	24
New York Red Bulls	6	8	2	23	31	30
Philadelphia	5	8	7	22	32	34
Columbus	5	8	7	20	21	23
Chicago	3	4	10	19	25	38
Houston	3	11	3	18	20	38
Montreal	3	9	7	17	29	29

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	2	38	35	24
Real Salt Lake	7	4	7	28	24	24
Los Angeles	6	6	7	27	25	14
Colorado	7	5	6	27	27	22
San Jose	6	6	6	26	28	26
Vancouver	6	6	4	26	26	26
Chicago USA	6	6	9	23	27	27
San Diego	6	6	9	23	21	21
San Jose	4	8	4	16	18	18

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

Friday's games

Colorado at Portland
Los Angeles at Sporting Kansas City
San Jose at New York Red Bulls
Toronto FC at Columbus
Philadelphia at Chicago
New England at FC Dallas
Toronto FC at Houston
Vancouver at Real Salt Lake
Chicago USA at San Jose
Chicago at D.C. United
Portland at Real Salt Lake
Saturday, July 26
Montreal at Real Salt Lake
Columbus at New England
Chicago USA at Colorado
Portland at Vancouver
Friday, July 25
New York Red Bulls at Seattle FC

WNBL

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	10	5	3	33	24	24
FC Kansas City	10	5	3	31	24	24
Washington	8	7	3	27	28	34
Chicago	7	6	5	26	23	29
New York Red Bulls	7	6	5	26	23	29
Houston	5	10	2	17	20	30
Blue FC	3	7	7	16	16	30
Boston	3	9	2	11	20	30

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

Thursday's games

Chicago 1, Portland 1
Houston 1, Washington 1
Friday's game
FC Kansas City at Western New York
Saturday's games
Boston at Portland
Washington at Blue FC
Chicago at Seattle FC
Portland at Washington 1
Friday, July 25
Chicago at Seattle FC
Saturday, July 26
Houston at Chicago
Saturday, July 27
Blue FC at FC Kansas City
Portland at Seattle FC

Pro basketball

WNBA

Team	W	L	Pct	GF	GA
Atlanta	11	12	.478	55	55
Indiana	10	14	.417	57	61
Washington	10	12	.458	59	61
Connecticut	10	14	.417	61	67
New York	10	12	.458	59	61
Chicago	8	14	.364	54	61

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GF	GA
Phoenix	18	3	.857	72	62
Minnesota	25	10	.714	84	74
San Antonio	11	12	.478	8	8
Washington	10	12	.458	8	8
Seattle	9	15	.375	10	10
Tulsa	8	16	.344	11	11

Wednesday's games

New York 77, Atlanta 75
New York 75, Atlanta 75
Indiana 82, Chicago 64
Phoenix 101, Connecticut 85
Washington 79, Los Angeles 75
Friday's games
Saturday's games
East vs. West at Phoenix

Cycling

Tour de France

At Chamrousse, France
122.6-mile ride to the Alps from Saint-Etienne to Chamrousse, with Category 1 and 2 climbs followed by the first Hors categorie climb of this year's tour at Col du Tourmalet.

- 1. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 5:10:22, 12 minutes.
- 2. Rafal Majka, Poland, Tinkoff-Saxo, 10 seconds behind.
- 3. Leopold König, Czech Republic, Neopro, 1:04:49.
- 4. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, :50.
- 5. Thibaut Pinot, France, FDJ.fr, :35.
- 6. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 1:23.
- 7. Roman Bardier, France, AG2R La Mondiale, same time.
- 8. Laurens ten Dam, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, 1:36.
- 9. Jean-Christophe Peraud, France, Team Europcar, 1:36.
- 10. AG2R La Mondiale, 2:09.
- 11. Frank Schleck, Luxembourg, Trek Factory Racing, same time.
- 12. Haimar Zubeldia, Spain, Trek Factory Racing, same time.
- 13. Jurgen Van den Broeck, Belgium, Lotto Belsol, same time.
- 14. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, same time.
- 15. Pierre Rolland, France, Europcar, 3:01.
- 16. Rui Costa, Portugal, Lampre-Merida, same time.
- 17. Michael Rogers, Australia, Tinkoff-Saxo, 3:01.
- 18. Christophe Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, 3:30, 1:11.
- 19. Ben Gastauer, Luxembourg, AG2R La Mondiale, 3:30, 1:11.
- 20. Michal Kwiatkowski, Poland, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, 4:12.
- 21. Brice Feillat, France, Bretagne-Seche Environnement, 5:55.
- 22. Peter Stetina, United States, BMC Racing, 7:07.
- 23. Richie Porte, Australia, Sky, 8:48.
- 25. Benjamin King, United States, Garmin-Sheridan, 13:35.
- 24. Matthew Busche, United States, Trek Factory Racing, 1:59.
- 26. Jakob Jugoslav, Denmark, Astana, 3:00.
- 27. Alex Hoves, United States, Garmin-Sheridan, 38:38.
- 28. Tony Danne, United States, Sky, same time.

Overall Standings (After 13 stages)

- 1. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 56 hours, 44 minutes, 3 seconds.
- 2. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 3 minutes, 37 seconds behind.
- 3. Roman Bardier, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 4:24.
- 4. Thibaut Pinot, France, FDJ.fr, 4:40.
- 5. Tejay van Garderen, United States, BMC Racing, 5:19.
- 6. Jean-Christophe Peraud, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 5:05.
- 7. Bauke Mollema, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, 6:17.
- 8. Jurgen Van den Broeck, Belgium, Lotto Belsol, 6:29.
- 9. Pierre Rolland, France, Europcar, 8:25.
- 10. Leopold König, Czech Republic, Neopro, 8:36.
- 11. Michal Kwiatkowski, Poland, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, 8:51.
- 12. Jurgen ten Dam, Netherlands, Belkin Pro Cycling, 9:18.
- 13. Pierre Rolland, France, Europcar, 9:40.
- 14. Haimar Zubeldia, Spain, Trek Factory Racing, 10:04.
- 15. Christophe Horner, United States, Lampre-Merida, 10:44.
- 16. Richie Porte, Australia, Sky, 11:11.
- 17. Frank Schleck, Luxembourg, Trek Factory Racing, 14:00.
- 18. Geraint Thomas, Britain, Sky, 14:00.
- 19. Mikael Niemi, Russia, Sky, 14:51.
- 20. Yury Trofimov, Spain, Katusha, 16:00.
- 21. Also
- 22. Jakob Jugoslav, Denmark, Astana, 34:50.
- 23. Peter Stetina, United States, BMC Racing, 1:07:05.
- 24. Benjamin King, United States, Garmin-Sheridan, 1:39:43.
- 25. Matthew Busche, United States, Trek Factory Racing, 1:42:21.
- 26. Alex Hoves, United States, Garmin-Sheridan, 2:35:39.
- 27. Danne, France, United States, Sky, 2:58:14.

Baseball

Major League Baseball

MLB - San Diego Padres' suspended minor league 2B Ryan Adams 100 games after testing positive for an amphetamine in violation of MLB's anti-drug prevention and treatment program.

TEXAS RANGERS - Activated C George Springer for assignment. Sent DJ Jim Adair to rehab assignment following RHP Brad Miller's rehab assignment to minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS - Claimed LHP Brad Mills off waivers from Oakland. Designated RHP DeMcure for assignment.

National League

JEFF BLANCH ON THE 15-DAY DL
PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Reinstated OF Starling Marte from the bereavement list. Options of Jeff Decker to Indianapolis IL.

Baseball Association

WASHINGTON WIZARDS - Signed G-Paul Pierce.

National Football League

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Released WR Jeremy Johnson and WR Reese Wiggins.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS - Signed OT Bruce Ellington, RB Marcus Lattimore, C Ryan Miller, RB Troy Millard, RB Reaser and G Brandon Thomas on the practice squad. Released LB Alexander Lyle, LB Aaron Lynch and DT Kaleb Ramsey to the practice squad. The active/Physically Unable to Perform List.

Hockey

DETROIT RED WINGS - Re-signed FS Matt Murray to a one-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BRUINS - Agreed to terms with G John Curry on a one-year contract.

College

NCAA - Announced the retirement of coordinator of major league officials John Adams, effective April 2015.

PGA GAST CONFERENCERS - Announced Brita News Director of conference operations.

Caldwell

Named David Erdos women's tennis coach.

Announced the resignation of women's hockey coach Bill Lewis to take an assistant coaching position with New Hampshire.

Connecticut College

Named Matt Anderson men's tennis polo coach.

Named Byron Collins associate head coach and offensive coordinator of the football team.

Georgia Southern

Named Kelly Carter cross country and track and field coach.

Illinois-Chicago

Announced fifth-year assistant manager for Jay Brantley has transferred from Wagner.

Named Peter Potoczko manager for the resignation of women's basketball coach Ellen Thong.

Trinity Hill

Named Justin Goonan men's and women's club rugby coach.

Named Killian Riley men's soccer coach.

Deals

Thursday's transactions

Baseball

Major League Baseball
MLB - San Diego Padres' suspended minor league 2B Ryan Adams 100 games after testing positive for an amphetamine in violation of MLB's anti-drug prevention and treatment program.

TEXAS RANGERS - Activated C George Springer for assignment. Sent DJ Jim Adair to rehab assignment following RHP Brad Miller's rehab assignment to minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS - Claimed LHP Brad Mills off waivers from Oakland. Designated RHP DeMcure for assignment.

National League

JEFF BLANCH ON THE 15-DAY DL
PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Reinstated OF Starling Marte from the bereavement list. Options of Jeff Decker to Indianapolis IL.

Baseball Association

WASHINGTON WIZARDS - Signed G-Paul Pierce.

National Football League

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Released WR Jeremy Johnson and WR Reese Wiggins.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS - Signed OT Bruce Ellington, RB Marcus Lattimore, C Ryan Miller, RB Troy Millard, RB Reaser and G Brandon Thomas on the practice squad. Released LB Alexander Lyle, LB Aaron Lynch and DT Kaleb Ramsey to the practice squad. The active/Physically Unable to Perform List.

Hockey

DETROIT RED WINGS - Re-signed FS Matt Murray to a one-year contract.

MILWAUKEE BRUINS - Agreed to terms with G John Curry on a one-year contract.

College

NCAA - Announced the retirement of coordinator of major league officials John Adams, effective April 2015.

PGA GAST CONFERENCERS - Announced Brita News Director of conference operations.

Caldwell

Named David Erdos women's tennis coach.

Announced the resignation of women's hockey coach Bill Lewis to take an assistant coaching position with New Hampshire.

Connecticut College

Named Matt Anderson men's tennis polo coach.

Named Byron Collins associate head coach and offensive coordinator of the football team.

Georgia Southern

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Tennis

World Team Tennis

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	5	4	.556	2
Philadelphia	5	4	.556	2
Boston	5	4	.556	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Diego	5	5	.500	1
Texas	5	5	.500	1
Austin	4	5	.444	1 1/2
Springfield	4	5	.444	1 1/2

Wednesday's matches

San Diego 20, Boston 2
Philadelphia 21, Springfield 18
Washington 21, San Diego 18

Friday's matches

Boston at Philadelphia
Washington at Springfield
Texas at Austin

Tennis

World Team Tennis

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Washington	5	4	.556	2
Philadelphia	5	4	.556	2
Boston	5	4	.556	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

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Wednesday's matches

San Diego 20, Boston 2
Philadelphia 21, Springfield 18
Washington 21, San Diego 18

Friday's matches

Boston at Philadelphia
Washington at Springfield
Texas at Austin

Istanbul Cup

Thursday

At Kozal World of Sports

Purse: \$250,000 (Int'l)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Simplex

Second Round

Kurumi Nara (6), Japan, def. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 7-5 (5), 6-3 (3), 6-4.

Shuk Kunjikh, Croatia, def. Misaki Doi, Japan, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-2, 7-5.

Czech Republic, def. Shahar Pe'er, Israel, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3.

Alexandra Dulgheru, Romania, 6-3, 4-1 retired.

Quarterfinals

Janette Husárová, Slovakia, and Klouda Kováčik, Poland, def. Bojana Janjovic, Serbia, and France, 6-2, 5-7 (5), 6-4.

Misaki Doi, Japan, and Elena Svitolina, Ukraine, def. Julia Glushko, Ukraine, and Daniela Clemenscht, Austria, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Valeria Solovyeva, Russia, and Anna Tatkin, United States, def. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-4, 11-9.

Claro Open

Thursday

At Centro de Alto Rendimiento Bogota, Colombia

Purse: \$72,000 (250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Simplex

Second Round

Jimmy Wang, Taiwan, def. James Ward, Britain, 6-3, 6-1.

Ivo Karlovic (7), Croatia, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (5).

Vitor Estrella Braganca (8), Dominican Republic, def. Peter Poljanec, Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

Samuel Groth, Australia, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-4, 12-10.

Doubles

Vasek Pospisil, Canada, and Radek Stapanek (2), Czech Republic, def. Eric Lirich, Israel, and Rajeev Ram, United States, 3-6, 6-3, 10-6.

Golf

Marathon Classic

SPORTS BRIEFS/TOUR DE FRANCE

Briefly

Goodell: 2015 NFL Draft headed to LA or Chicago

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The NFL Draft is leaving New York after 49 years.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Thursday that the league has narrowed down the location of the 2015 draft to Los Angeles or Chicago. The event has been held in New York every year since 1965 and has been at Radio City Music Hall since 2006.

Goodell said after a panel at the summer TV critics' meeting that 12 cities were interested in hosting the draft, according to the Los Angeles Times. But the league narrowed the finalists to Los Angeles and Chicago after Radio City officials told the NFL that the venue wouldn't be available in April or May.

Goodell said a final decision on the location could be made by late summer.

He said the league is discussing different concepts for next year's draft because there is high interest and the NFL wants to be responsive to its fans.

OT going to trial in fan punching

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Taylor Lewan of the Tennessee Titans is headed for a jury trial in October.

The former Michigan offensive tackle is accused of punching an Ohio State fan after the Buckeyes beat the Wolverines last season. Lewan says he was breaking up a dispute and wasn't involved in a fight.

He is charged with one count of aggravated assault and two counts of assault and battery. He was told Thursday to return to Ann Arbor District Court on Oct. 27 for jury selection and trial the next day. The Titans will not be preparing that week for a game.

Lewan was drafted No. 11 overall. He is one of three players drafted this year without a contract.

Japan, MLB stars to play series

TOKYO — Hiroshima Carp pitcher Kenta Maeda will take the mound for Japan against a team of all-stars from Major League Baseball in a six-game series in November.

Maeda, who is 9-4 this season with a 2.08 ERA, was one of six players listed for the series on the national team website on Friday. The remainder of the squad will be named later.

The MLB all-stars will be visiting Japan for the first time since 2006. With the start of the World Baseball Classic that year, Japan's players' association decided to skip the series and the MLB team has not returned since.

The series will begin on Nov. 12 at Osaka Dome and will be followed by three games at Tokyo Dome before wrapping up with games in Sapporo and Okinawa.

US hoops team plans trip to Senegal

NEW YORK — The U.S. men's national basketball team will visit the African continent for the first time, conducting a coaching clinic in Senegal next month.

The Americans will travel to Dakar on Aug. 27 and join the Senegal national team in putting on the clinic for boys and girls at the Marius Niaye Stadium.

The U.S. will also tour Senegal's Gorée Island and will finish its visit by attending a reception hosted by the Senegalese government.

The trip comes a day after the Americans finish their exhibition schedule before the World Cup of Basketball with a game against Slovenia at Gran Canaria, Spain.

Diaz takes lead in LPGA event

SYLVANIA, Ohio — Laura Diaz got off to a surprising start in the Marathon Classic, shooting a 9-under 62 for a four-stroke lead in the opening round Thursday.

U.S. Open champion Michelle Wie shot a 2-over

73, and 2008 Marathon winner Paula Creamer was at 72 along with another perennial contender at Highland Meadows, Morgan Pressel.

The defending champion, Spain's Beatriz Recari, and the world's No. 1-ranked player, Stacy Lewis, a Toledo native, were well down the list at 1 under.

Winless in the past 12 years on the LPGA Tour, Diaz fired her best first-time hole-in-a-round that included nine birdies and no bogeys.

Lakers win claim on Boozer

LOS ANGELES — Carlos Boozer is headed to the Lakers' crowded frontcourt after Los Angeles made the winning bid for the veteran forward waived by the Chicago Bulls via the amnesty clause.

The Lakers made the highest bid under the NBA's modified waiver process for players who were amnestied, the team announced.

According to NBA rules, teams with room under the salary cap had to bid at least \$1.4 million, the amount of the minimum salary for veterans next season. Details of the winning bid were not provided, though ESPN.com reported that it was \$3.25 million.

Mavericks re-sign guard Harris

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks have re-signed guard Devin Harris.

The Mavericks didn't reveal contract terms in their announcement. ESPN reported Harris got a \$16.5 million, four-year deal.

Harris played for Dallas on a one-year, \$3 million deal last season. He originally had a \$9 million, three-year deal, but that was scuttled by a toe injury during training camp. He recently extended his contract. The 31-year-old Harris averaged 7.9 points, 4.5 assists and 20.5 minutes in 40 regular-season games after returning from the injury.

Also:

■ Boston Celtics officials said NBA Hall of Famer Bill Russell is doing OK after collapsing during a speaking engagement near Lake Tahoe. Team spokesman Brian Olive said Russell, 80, felt faint after the morning fall at the Hyatt Regency resort in Incline Village, Nev., but was planning on returning home to Seattle on Friday.

German World Cup captain retires

BERLIN — World Cup-winning captain Philipp Lahm has retired from playing for Germany.

The 30-year-old Lahm said on the federation's website he decided this past season to retire after the World Cup. He informed coach Joachim Loew on Monday.

Lahm played 113 games for Germany since his debut in 2004. He recently extended his contract with Bundesliga champion Bayern Munich to 2018.

Federation president Wolfgang Niersbach learned of Lahm's decision by phone Friday. He said it was "futile" to try to get him to change his mind. He described Lahm as an "outstanding player" and "absolute role model."

Chancellor Angela Merkel lauded the player who took over as captain for the 2010 World Cup when Michael Ballack was injured. She says she wanted to "express my great respect for what he has done."

Nadal, Djokovic highlight Open field

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — Defending champion Rafael Nadal and unseeded No. 11 Djokovic highlighted the men's field at the 2014 U.S. Open.

The United States Tennis Association said Thursday that Roger Federer, Andy Murray, Juan Martin del Potro and Lleyton Hewitt will also be among those who received direct entry into the hard-court Grand Slam tournament.

Nadal will defend his title in the tournament that begins Aug. 25 in New York. Djokovic will put a streak of four straight appearances in the final on the line.



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AFP

Italy's Vincenzo Nibali breaks away from Jan Bara of the Czech Republic, center, and Poland's Rafal Majka, rear, in the final climb of Stage 13 on Friday. Nibali increased his overall lead.

Tour leader Nibali dominates in Alps

By JAMEY KEATEN

The Associated Press

CHAMROUSSE, France — Stamping his dominance in the mountains and on the race overall, Vincenzo Nibali won Stage 13 of the Tour de France in the Alps on Friday up the hardest climb so far.

The Italian race leader collected his third Tour stage win by overtaking two other breakaway riders at the end of a grueling 122-mile trek from Saint-Etienne to Chamrousse ski station.

With eight stages to the finish, Nibali's yellow jersey looks an ever more permanent part of his wardrobe.

The first of two days in the snow-capped mountains lived up to its billing, as the daunting final ascent of 12 miles with an average 7.3 percent gradient shook up the overall standings.

The main casualty was Richie Porte. The Australian, who took over as Sky Team leader after 2013 champion Chris Froome crashed out in Stage 5, began second to Nibali overall but lost time

on the final climb and finished nearly 8 minutes off the pace.

Nibali, who has been calm and savvy in this race, crossed the line alone and thrust his hands in the air after winning 10 seconds ahead of Poland's Rafal Majka in second and Germany's Leopold König in third. The trailing two were far back in the overall standings, and not in contention to win the three-week race.

More important to Nibali was increasing the gap on his rivals for victory on the Champs-Elysees on July 17. Spain's Alejandro Valverde fared relatively well by placing third — 50 seconds behind Nibali — and taking second overall from Porte. But he's now 3 1/2 minutes behind overall.

"Today, I essentially wanted to gain some seconds," Nibali said. "And by doing that, I won."

Porte's troubles also meant others climbed in the standings: France's Romain Bardet, countryman Thibault Pinot and American Tejay van Garderen each moved up a spot to third, fourth and fifth, respectively.

AUTO RACING

Crash raises questions about 72-year-old driver

NASCAR can't stop Shepherd from competing

CHARLOTTE, N.C. It's been almost two decades since Morgan Shepherd last ran a full Sprint Cup season, and his last national series victory was in 1993.

He can still probably wheel a race car better than you and most of your friends. That doesn't mean the 72-year-old should be racing against the very best drivers in NASCAR.

In the Pits



BY JENNA FRYER • AP

Shepherd drew scrutiny Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway when he caused Joey Logano to crash. Shepherd was 40th, 16 laps off the pace, when second-place Logano tried to pass the slower car. Replays show little, just that Logano ended up with a wrecked car. He then publicly questioned if there should be driving tests for some competitors.

NASCAR dismissed Logano's notion, pointing out Shepherd has been approved to drive since 1970.

Shepherd has 925 starts in NASCAR's top three levels. He's got four career Sprint Cup victories, won 15 Nationwide races and even ran a full Nationwide schedule four years ago at age 69.

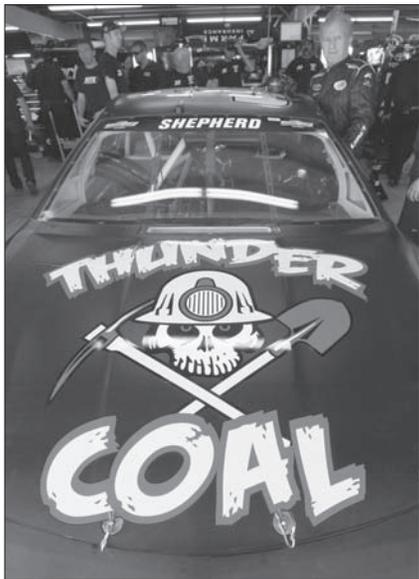
"He's been approved for decades," NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said. "You take a physical at the beginning of the year. You pass your physical. You pass inspections with your car, you qualify for the race and you run the event. He met everything he needed to meet."

That's the problem. There is no rule in place — except for drivers under 18 years old — stopping someone from competing in a national level NASCAR race.

Mark Martin, his back aching and his eyesight no longer what it once was, he called it quits last year at 54. If he wanted to race next week at Indianapolis, nobody would stop him if he showed up in a car that made the field.

Michael Waltrip, at 51, still runs four races a year. His Hall of Fame brother, Darrell, was 53 when he got out of the car following eight winless seasons.

Point is, rarely does a driver recognize when to call it a career. The love of racing, the addiction to speed, the thrill of competition, can all cloud a driver's judgment and make it impossible to see they



JIM COLE/AP

Morgan Shepherd, 72, has 925 starts in NASCAR's top three levels. He's won four Sprint Cup races and 15 Nationwide races.

aren't what they once were.

That's the case with Shepherd, who seems to have embarked on a journey to become the oldest at everything. He's the second-oldest race winner (he was 51 in 1993). He became the oldest driver to lead laps in a Nationwide race at 70, and last year he became the oldest driver to start a Cup race at 72.

That's all allowed in a sport that often fails to set standards to ensure only the best compete at the top level. In racing, those who find the dollars needed to race get the seats — often at the expense of the most talented.

So Shepherd got the funding — probably about \$75,000 — to run for Circle Sport Racing at New Hampshire. For the second time this season, he was in the field with the big boys.

But the big boys passed him again and again as Shepherd struggled with handling and perhaps meeting the minimum speed of 115 mph. NASCAR said Shepherd was not warned about failing to keep pace during the race.

Shepherd did try to stay out of the way. But spotters alleged Shepherd couldn't hold his line at the bottom of the track and hit

the corners at such a poor angle, his car would push into the center of the track. Logano spotter Tab Boyd tweeted he was "riding around like a rolling road block."

Shepherd, though, put the blame on Logano and said his age was not a factor.

"When he laid close to me, it caused me to slip into him," Shepherd said. "It's got nothing to do with my age or anything else. I've always said if I go out and I start hitting the wall and stuff, making mistakes, I'll get out of the car." Fans seemed to flock to Shepherd's defense, calling the No. 33 Chevrolet subpar equipment. Well, that's on Shepherd, who could have taken his cash to any team in an attempt to get a better ride.

The ride isn't great, but Bobby Labonte drove the same car to a 24th-place finish at Daytona. Three other drivers have driven the car this year without crashing the leaders.

Had Shepherd had an eventful full day at the back of the field all day, nobody would have said a word about his presence in the race. Nobody would have noticed him. But he was involved in one glaring incident that NASCAR must consider going forward.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

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

Last week: Brad Keselowski completed a Nationwide-Cup sweep at New Hampshire for his third victory of the season.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	670
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	658
3. Brad Keselowski	634
4. Matt Kenseth	621
5. Jimmie Johnson	598
6. Carl Edwards	574
7. Ryan Newman	573
8. Kyle Busch	567
9. Joey Logano	551
10. Clint Bowyer	548
11. Paul Menard	541
12. Denny Hamlin	530
13. Kevin Harvick	528
14. Kyle Larson	524
15. Austin Dillon	524
16. Greg Biffle	519
17. Casey Mears	515
18. Brian Vickers	507
19. Tony Stewart	502
20. Marcos Ambrose	489

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Enjilinois.com 300 at Joliet, Ill.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Joey Logano held off Penske Racing teammate Sam Hornish Jr.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won at New Hampshire for his second series victory of the year. He also won the Sprint Cup race.

Next race: Lilly Diabetes 250, July 26, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Regan Smith	611
2. Elliott Sadler	603
3. Chase Elliott	603
4. Tim Dillon	597
5. Brian Scott	577
6. Trevor Bayne	560
7. Brendan Gaughan	553
8. Chris Buescher	493
9. James Buescher	486
10. Ryan Reed	470
11. Landon Cassill	456
12. Dylan Kwasniewski	442
13. Diioda Armstrong	418
14. Jeremy Clements	397
15. Mike Bliss	372
16. J.J. Jeffrey	372
17. Jeffrey Earnhardt	333
18. Ryan Sieg	319
19. Ryan Ciec	317
20. Joey Gase	287
20. Joey Gase	269

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

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

Last week: Erik Jones won at Iowa Speedway, giving Kyle Busch Motorsports its seventh victory in nine races this season.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Honda Indy Toronto at Toronto, Ontario.

TV: AFN-Xtra, First race, 9 p.m. Sat.

urday CET; Next race, 4 a.m. Sunday CET.

Track: Streets of Toronto (street course, 1.75 miles).

Distance: 148.75 miles, 85 laps.

Last year: Chip Ganassi Racing's Scott Dixon became IndyCar's active victory leader, sweeping the double-header for the 31st and 32nd of his 33 career victories.

Last week: Ryan Hunter-Reay won at Iowa Speedway for Andretti Autosport's fifth straight victory at the track. Hunter-Reay also won this year in Alabama and Indianapolis.

Next races: Honda Indy 200, Aug. 3, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, Ohio.

Online: indycar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, Germany.

Track: Hockenheimring (road course, 2.84 miles).

Distance: 190.42 miles, 67 laps.

Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel won at Nuerburging for the fourth of his 13 2013 victories. The German driver is winless this season.

Last race: Lewis Hamilton won the British Grand Prix on July 6 for his fifth victory of the year and Mercedes' eighth in the first nine races. Hamilton cut teammate Nico Rosberg's series lead to four points. Rosberg had a gearbox failure.

Next race: Hungarian Grand Prix, July 27, Hungaroring, Budapest, Hungary.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: Mile-High NHRA Nationals at Morrison, Colorado.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 7 a.m. Monday CET; 2 p.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Bandimere Speedway.

Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Allen Johnson won the event for the fifth time, beating V. Gaines in the Pro Stock final. Spencer Massey won in Top Fuel, Cruz Pedregon topped the Funny Car field, and Shawn Gunn won in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: John Force raced to his 140th victory on July 6 in Norwalk, Ohio, beating Ron Capps in the Funny Car final. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel, Erica Enders-Stevens in Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Next event: NHRA Sonoma Nationals, July 25-27, Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma, Calif.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

ARCA RACING SERIES: Ansell Activ-Arca 150, Saturday, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Thursday, Lincoln Speedway, Abbottstown, Pa.; Friday-Saturday, Williams Grove Speedway, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Sunday, Lebanon Valley Speedway, West Lebanon, N.Y.; Late Model: Friday, River Cities Speedway, Grand Forks, N.D.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB: Sprint Car: Thursday, Lincoln Park Speedway, Putnamville, Ind.; Friday, Bloomington Speedway, Bloomington, Ind.; Saturday, Tri-State Speedway, Haubstadt, Ind.

Online: usarc.com

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/NBA



BUTCH DILL/AP

South Carolina football coach Steve Spurrier is among those who have advocated that players should get more compensation in light of the money generated by college athletics.

SEC players leave lobbying to others

By DAVID BRANDT
AND JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala.—Southern Conference players have mostly been content to let league administrators and coaches take up the drumbeat for NCAA reform—not that they're complaining.

SEC commissioner Mike Slive has even said the Big Five conferences could break away from the NCAA if players aren't compensated more properly.

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier has advocated that players should be getting a bigger piece of college athletics' substantial monetary pie for years.

Maybe the most ambivalent group in the whole process? The players.

"We're not starving," Florida quarterback Jeff Driskel said. "But at the end of the day it would be nice to receive a little more compensation."

The life of major college football players and coaches could change drastically in upcoming years once the NCAA and Big Five conferences are done re-vamping the current system.

Players at SEC Media Days were mostly pleased about the trend toward a few more perks—including scholarships that would offer full cost of attendance—but also admit they've already got it pretty good. The fact that most of those upperclassmen might not be around to benefit might make it easier to downplay.

"I think that shouldn't be a deterrent, the fact that it might not change while you're here," said Georgia receiver Chris Conley, a member of the NCAA's Student-Athlete Advisory Council.

"You've got to think about others. When you don't think selfishly, you realize that the people behind you are going to have the

same problems that you did, so you need to change those things.

"As long as the NCAA keeps evolving and growing, it can't be so stagnant because the country is evolving and growing. As long as it keeps moving forward, that's all we can ask."

The NCAA's board of directors will vote on the Big Five's push for more autonomy in August and if it's approved a cascade of changes could come quickly.

Slive said the first item on the agenda would be scholarships that include full cost of attendance, which would allow players a little more financial flexibility.

"There is some angst on the part of many, but I think many realize we're moving into the 21st century, things are different and expectations of student-athletes are different," Slive said.

Some players say they're paying attention to the proposed changes. Others say they're too busy concentrating on football.

"If it happens, it's going to be great for the players. I know that," Tennessee senior linebacker A.J. Johnson said. "But I won't be here for that. The main thing for me is I will be here for this season."

Arkansas offensive lineman Brey Cook lives with his family in Fayetteville, so he can get home-cooked meals, free laundry and other comforts of home.

"But that's not the case for most of the guys," Cook said. "A lot of guys are from all over the country. Some have children they have to take care of, and sometimes (the current situation) doesn't cut it."

Florida cornerback Vernon Hargreaves III said he thinks players should get paid.

"I think we all do. I think it's a job to play college football," Hargreaves said. "But I can't really concern myself with it because I can't do anything about it."

Trade rumors hound Cavs

Cleveland insists Wiggins not part of deal for Love

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS—Andrew Wiggins came to summer league to get an early education on the NBA game, from playing against better competition to learning about what his new coach with the Cleveland Cavaliers will demand of him as a pro.

The 19-year-old Canadian is also receiving a crash course in the NBA rumor mill.



Love

Since he arrived in Las Vegas and found out LeBron James was coming to Cleveland with him, Wiggins has heard his name brought up in possible trade scenarios as the Cavaliers pursue Minnesota All-Star Kevin Love. They continued on Thursday, with several outlets reporting that the Cavaliers have decided to make the No. 1 overall pick available, a prerequisite for the Timberwolves to get any deal for Love done.

But two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press that the Cavaliers' position has remained unchanged and that no offer including Wiggins has been made to Minnesota. The people requested anonymity because neither team was publicly commenting on trade talks.

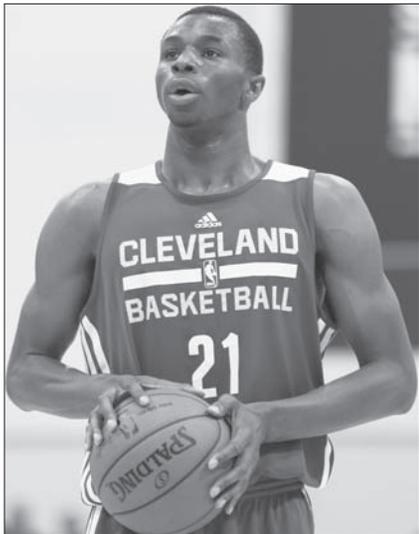
"Rumors are rumors. That's why they call them rumors," Cavs coach David Blatt said. "Sooner or later in one's career, you're going to have to deal with it. If he has to deal with it now, then so be it. It's summer league. He's learning everything as he goes along."

Wiggins scored 21 points in 31 minutes on Thursday night in a loss to the Houston Rockets. He showcased his superior athleticism by creating mismatches and getting to the free-throw line at will, making 15 of 20 free throws and getting one jaw-dropping, chase-down block in transition.

Several fans made remarks during the game about the Cavaliers getting Love, but Wiggins was unfazed. He was unavailable to reporters after the game, but Blatt said he felt no need to talk to him about the speculation.

"What you've got to like about the kid is that it doesn't make a difference if it's the fourth game of summer league in seven or eight days, or if people are funny on him or the crowd has funny things to say to him," Blatt said. "He goes out there and really plays and has a nice calm about him and a real good demeanor."

Andrew's going to be a high-level



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Andrew Wiggins has been at the center of trade speculation ever since LeBron James agreed to return to Cleveland. Several media outlets reported on Thursday that the Cavaliers had agreed to potentially include the No. 1 overall pick in a deal for Minnesota All-Star Kevin Love. Cavaliers head coach David Blatt dismissed the reports as being merely "rumors."

'Rumors are rumors. That's why they call them rumors.'

David Blatt
Cavaliers head coach

player. It's good to see."

The Cavaliers and Timberwolves have been engaged in discussions since before the draft for Love, who can opt out of his contract next summer. That stipulation gives Love tremendous influence on where he ends up, and he initially balked at joining a Cavaliers team that appeared to be in rebuilding mode after missing the playoffs and firing coach Mike Brown.

That all changed when James decided last week to leave the Miami Heat and return to Cleveland, where the Akron native played for the first seven seasons of his career. James' signing changed Love's mind about going to Cleveland and the Cavaliers again started conversations with the Wolves.

General manager David Griffin, Blatt and owner Dan Gilbert have to this point refused to include Wiggins in any offer.

That has been a deal-breaker for the Wolves, who want Wiggins to headline any package that the Cavs would offer.

It's not known if James would prefer the Cavs to hold onto Wiggins in any deal for Love, his U.S.

Olympic teammate. But what's certain is that the Cavaliers will take James' feelings into consideration before making any move. The four-time MVP is hugely influential, and his return to the Cavaliers has restored hope in a franchise that has been down and out since he left for Miami in 2010.

Wiggins has yet to sign his rookie contract, which has led to speculation that the Cavaliers were stalling on that front to make it easier to execute a trade. The minute Wiggins does sign the deal, he cannot be traded for 30 days under league rules.

But keeping him unsigned also gives the Cavaliers more flexibility to pursue free agents. They have already agreed to terms with veteran shooters Mike Miller and James Jones, and have reached out to Ray Allen as well.

The Timberwolves, meanwhile, have made it clear that without Wiggins—or an attractive deal from another team like Golden State—they are content to start the season with Love on the roster and see if they can make enough improvement next season to convince him to stay in Minnesota.

MLB

Red Sox hope to rally from AL East cellar

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — From worst to first to worst again.

For three seasons, the Boston Red Sox have been riding a surprising seesaw that has them in last place in the AL East.

But, unlikely as it seems, they can still be competitive in a mediocre division.

"No one has given up anything," manager John Farrell said Thursday. "No one has conceded anything."

The Red Sox finished last in the division in 2012, losing 50 of their 76 games after the All-Star break in Bobby Valentine's only year as their manager. Just as unexpected was their shocking World Series championship last year.

In spring training, players vowed to focus on this season and "turn the page" from that success.

Instead, they've nearly ripped the whole book apart.

The Red Sox have scored the fewest runs in the AL. Only one team in the league has fewer homers.

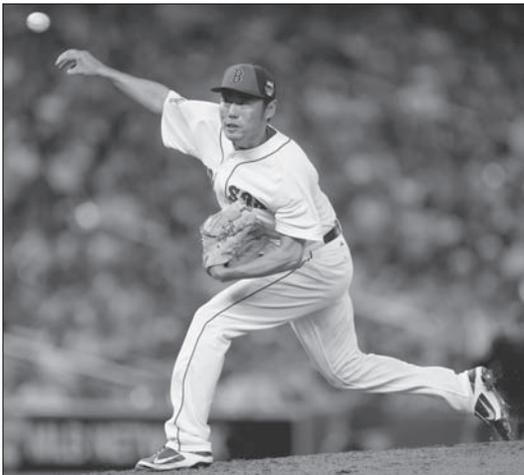
Their longest losing streak last year was three games. This year they've already had skids of 10, five and four.

Their record after 95 games last season was 58-37. This season it's 43-52, a drop of 15 wins.

And they trail the first-place Baltimore Orioles by 9½ games.

But hope remains. "We've got a lot of baseball to play," right-hander Clayton Kershaw said. "Especially in this division, it doesn't really matter what your record is at the end of the year, just as long as you're at the top of the board."

The Red Sox's success at signing veteran free agents last season was stunning — Koji Uehara, Mike Napoli, Shane Victorino, Jonny Gomes, Stephen Drew. Their failures this offseason — A.J. Pierzynski,



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Pitcher Koji Uehara has been one of the best bright spots for the Boston Red Sox this season as they sit in last place in the AL East after winning the World Series last year.

Chris Capuano, Grady Sizemore — all are gone.

Injuries have limited Victorino to 21 games. Drew is batting .151 in 28 games since returning after no team signed him as a restricted free agent.

Losing center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury to the New York Yankees was made costlier by the inability of his slick-fielding re-

placement, Jackie Bradley Jr., to hit.

But the Red Sox won four of their last five games before the break even if it was against mediocre competition, the Chicago White Sox and Houston Astros.

Left-hander Jon Lester is having his best season as the staff ace with a 9-7 record and 2.65 ERA, John Lackey is a solid No. 2 starter and Buchholz retired the last

17 batters in a complete-game shutout over the Astros in which the Red Sox scored a season-high 11 runs on Sunday.

Uehara saved 18 of Boston's 43 wins, has a 1.65 ERA and made the All-Star team.

"We've got some good pitching performances lately," Lester said. "Our bullpen has been solid all year."

Now the Red Sox must hope that young players whose roles have increased can develop quickly enough for them to pass four teams in the division. If not, they may unload veterans such as Gomes and right-hander Jake Peavy to contending teams.

Top prospect Xander Bogaerts began the season as the starting shortstop and was hitting .304 two days after moving to third base to make room for Drew. Since then, he's hit .116 (14-for-121).

"Hopefully, we turn this around and turn the whole season around," he said.

Mookie Betts began the season as a second baseman at Double-A Portland but moved up to Boston as an outfielder. Catcher Christian Vazquez was promoted from Triple-A Pawtucket after Pierzynski was designated for assignment on July 9 and has five hits in 11 at-bats.

Rubby De La Rosa has been an effective starter since first being called up on May 31.

Their best youngster, though, is Brock Holt. In 61 games, the leadoff hitter is batting .327 and has a better on-base percentage than David Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia while playing six positions.

Ortiz has 20 homers, but is batting just .250 after three consecutive seasons of .309 or better.

Peavy is 1-8 but has been hurt by the poor offense. He lasted into the eighth inning in a 3-2 loss at Houston on Saturday.

"He did a great job," catcher David Ross said. "We just didn't score enough runs for him."

Or for any of the other pitchers this season.

Baseball gets back to work

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

Sure, it was great for a couple of days. The cheers for Derek Jeter. The power of Giancarlo Stanton. The excellence of Mike Trout in the American League's 5-3 victory.

Baseball's All-Star party in the Twin Cities was a long series of smiles for players and fans. But the break is over now, and the real fun begins Friday night.

Heading into the second half of the season, there are all sorts of compelling stories from coast to coast. It could be one fun summer in California, where Oakland begins the weekend with the best record in the majors, and the Giants, Angels and Dodgers are in prime playoff position. The trade deadline is in two weeks, and the recovery of several key injured players could dramatically

affect a couple of divisions.

The A's bearded collection of shaggy misfits and stars is looking for the franchise's first World Series title in 25 years. Sensing an opportunity, general manager Billy Beane got an early jump on the deadline when he acquired pitchers Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel in a deal with the Chicago Cubs on July 4.

The blockbuster trade created an awkward scene at the All-Star game, where Samardzija was introduced with the NL reserves and then joined his new teammates in the AL dugout.

There will be no such problem for other players on the move this month. Boston pitcher Jake Peavy, Philadelphia second baseman Chase Utley, San Diego closer Huston Street and New York Mets right-hander Bartolo Colon are thought to be on the market as contenders shop for that missing piece that could pay off into October.

"I guess there's a possibility for anything, but at this point I love playing in Philadelphia," said Utley, who could veto any deal.

Jeter was warmly greeted everywhere he went this week, and the Yankees captain contributed two hits to the AL All-Star win. Any chance of his final season ending in the playoffs likely depends on the return of rookie ace Masahiro Tanaka, who is out with

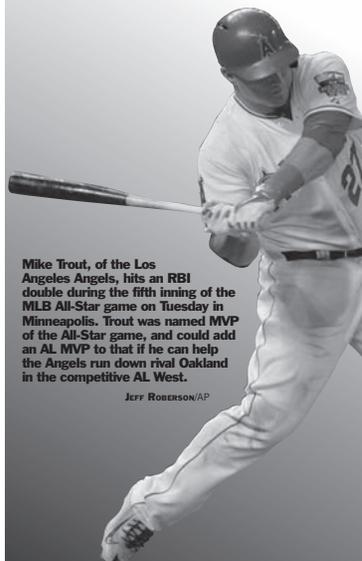
a partially torn ligament in his right elbow. He is going through a six-week rehab program but season-ending surgery is an option. Michael Pineda also could return from a back injury to New York's battered rotation.

The Bronx is one of many spots where health is an issue.

The recovery of Reds sluggers Joey Votto (strained muscle above left knee) and Brandon Phillips (left thumb) and indispensable Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina (right thumb) could affect the bunched NL Central. The Pirates could get starting pitcher Gerrit Cole (tight lat muscle) in the first few weeks after the break.

"We know what we're capable of doing, and we're going to play like we've been there before, like we've done it before," said slugger Andrew McCutchen, hoping to lead Pittsburgh back to the playoffs for the second straight year. "That's what we've got to look forward to."

The strained right quadriceps of Toronto's Edwin Encarnacion and ailing back of Detroit's Victor Martinez also bears watching. Atlanta, which is battling Washington for the top spot in the NL East, could get a lift from the return of Evan Gattis after the catcher was sidelined by a bulging disk in his back.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Mike Trout, of the Los Angeles Angels, hits an RBI double during the fifth inning of the MLB All-Star game on Tuesday in Minneapolis. Trout was named MVP of the All-Star game, and could add an AL MVP to that if he can help the Angels run down rival Oakland in the competitive AL West.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Baltimore	52	42	.553	—
Toronto	49	47	.510	4
New York	47	47	.500	5
Tampa Bay	44	53	.454	9½
Boston	44	52	.453	9½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Detroit	53	38	.582	—
Kansas City	48	46	.511	6½
Cleveland	47	47	.500	7½
Chicago	46	51	.469	10½
Minnesota	44	50	.468	10½

West Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Oakland	59	36	.621	—
Los Angeles	57	37	.606	1½
Seattle	57	44	.563	8
Houston	40	56	.417	19½
Texas	38	57	.400	21

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Washington	51	42	.548	—
Atlanta	52	43	.547	—
New York	46	50	.474	7
Miami	44	50	.468	7½
Philadelphia	42	53	.442	10

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Milwaukee	53	43	.552	—
St. Louis	52	44	.542	1
Cincinnati	50	44	.527	3½
Pittsburgh	49	46	.516	3½
Chicago	40	54	.426	12

West Division				
	W	L	Pct GB	
Los Angeles	54	43	.557	—
San Francisco	52	44	.547	1
San Diego	41	54	.432	12
Colorado	40	55	.421	13
Arizona	40	46	.417	13½

Wednesday's games
No games scheduled

Thursday's games
No games scheduled

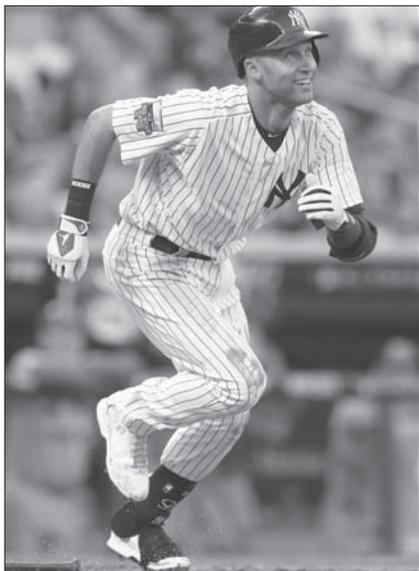
Friday's games
Texas at Toronto
Cleveland at Detroit
Kansas City at Boston
Houston at Chicago White Sox
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Baltimore at Oakland
Seattle at L.A. Angels
Cincinnati at N.Y. Yankees
Colorado at Pittsburgh
Milwaukee at Washington
San Francisco at Miami
Philadelphia at Atlanta
L.A. Dodgers at St. Louis
Chicago Cubs at Arizona
N.Y. Mets at San Diego

Saturday's games
Texas (Lewis 6-6) at Toronto (Stroman 4-2)
Cleveland (Kluber 9-6) at Detroit (VerHagen 4-2)
Cleveland (Undecided) at Detroit (Scherzer 11-3)
Cincinnati (Beuchler 9-5) at Chicago White Sox (Noesi 3-7)
Tampa Bay (Duffy 5-9) at Boston (De La Rosa 2-2)
Tampa Bay (Price 9-7) at Minnesota (Cores 5-11)
Baltimore (W.Chen 9-3) at Oakland (Lincecum 11-2)
Seattle (F.Hernandez 11-2) at L.A. Angels (Simon 12-3) at N.Y. Yankees (McCarthy 6-0)
L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 11-5) at St. Louis (J.Kelly 1-1)
Colorado (B.Anderson 0-3) at Pittsburgh (Morton 5-9)
Milwaukee (Garza 6-6) at Washington (G.Gonzalez 6-5)
Philadelphia (Hamels 3-5) at Atlanta (Uccellini 6-4)
San Francisco (Hudson 7-6) at Miami (Alvarez 6-4)
Chicago Cubs (Wood 7-8) at Arizona (Miley 6-6)
N.Y. Mets (Gea 4-1) at San Diego (T.Ross 1-0)

Sunday's games
Texas (Tepech 3-5) at Toronto (Buehrle 10-8)
Cleveland (Undecided) at Detroit (Smily 5-8)
Kansas City (Ventura 7-7) at Boston (Lester 9-7)
Houston (Cosart 9-6) at Chicago White Sox (Joh.Danks 8-6)
Tampa Bay (Archer 5-6) at Minnesota (P.Hughes 10-5)
Seattle (C.Young 8-6) at L.A. Angels (Skaggs 5-5)
Baltimore (Gausman 4-2) at Oakland (Gray 10-3)
Cincinnati (Cueto 10-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodriguez 6-2)
San Francisco (Lincecum 9-5) at Miami (Hand 0-2)
Cincinnati (Matzek 1-4) at Pittsburgh (Locke 2-1)
Philadelphia (Kendrick 4-9) at Atlanta (Undecided)
Philadelphia (Arrieta 5-1) at Arizona (Cabrera 7-5)
N.Y. Mets (Za.Wheeler 4-8) at San Diego (Lincecum 2-2)
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 11-2) at St. Louis (C.Martinez 2-4)

Calendar
July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
July 31 — Last day to trade a player without incurring waivers.
Aug. 12-14 — Owners' meetings, Baltimore.
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 40 players.
Sept. 30 — Postseason begins.

Yankees primed for big push



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The New York Yankees' Derek Jeter, in his final season, says it's too early to look at the standings. His team is sitting at .500, only five games behind the first-place Baltimore Orioles in the AL East.

New York dead even at 47-47

By ERIC BOLAND
Newday

NEW YORK — Before the New York Yankees played their final game of the first half Sunday night in Baltimore, Joe Girardi gathered the team together for a meeting.

The message, delivered in Girardi's typical direct, no-time-wasted style, was brief:

Enjoy the All-Star break and get some rest, but come back sharp and ready to go for the start of a second-half push.

The word "fight" might have been used more than any other by Girardi during a first half in which four starting pitchers hit the disabled list and a fair share of position players joined them.

"You have to continue to fight," Girardi said almost every time he was asked how his club possibly could respond to yet another player going down.

With Sunday night's 3-1 rain-shortened loss to the Orioles, the Yankees — who began the second half Friday night against the Reds at Yankee Stadium — pulled into the break at 47-47, a .500 record that is a Korschach ink test for fans, and media and the Yankees themselves.

One reaction: It is a disaster, not anything close to what managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner envisioned when he

invested nearly \$500 million in contracts during the offseason.

Or this: It's in the category of "we're-lucky-to-be-here. After all, the Yankees are only five games behind the first-place Orioles in the American League East.

"There's a lot of teams in our division that are fortunate right now," Derek Jeter said this week at the All-Star Game in Minneapolis. "It always could be worse, so you have to hang your hat on the positive side."

After not being used in the All-Star Game, reliever Dellin Betances said he was disappointed but not overly so. "I guess I could use the rest," he said with a smile. "I'll take the extra days off and be ready to help the team win a division in the second half."

In recent years in the AL East, that would be considered a long shot for a .500 team. But the division's mediocrity has kept all the teams feeling as if they're in it — which they are.

Jeter acknowledged "it's going to be tough" to make a second-half run with four-fifths of the rotation down, but he also isn't obsessing about how many games back his team is.

"We have a lot of games left. It's way too early to look at standings," Jeter said. "We play everybody (in the division). I've never been one to pay attention to standings until you get to the end of August or September."

Bright: Arrieta says change in scenery helped revive career

FROM BACK PAGE

departed after Boston's first hit with two out in the eighth.

Heading into Sunday's start at Arizona, Arrieta is 4-0 with a 1.36 ERA and a .160 opponents' batting average during his impressive six-week run.

"He's got a good slider and he's got a very deceptive way that he comes at you," Reds All-Star catcher Devin Mesoraco said. "It's really cross-bodied and it's almost like he's throwing from behind you, so it's a heck of an angle to try to hit the ball from, especially for a right-hander."

Arrieta's repertoire includes a fastball that sits in the low 90s, a big curveball and a circle change-up that he mixes in to prevent hitters from sitting on his fastball. But it's that slider and his ability to use it as a cut fastball that has been particularly effective.

"It's a cutter and a slider, depending on what I want it to be," he said before running through how he uses it in different situations. "It's one pitch, but I can throw it multiple different ways at different velocities."

Arrieta was selected by the Orioles in the fifth round of the 2007 draft out of TCU. He made his major league debut three years later at age 24, and won 10 games



ANDREW A. NELLES/AP

Chicago Cubs pitcher Jake Arrieta lays down a sacrifice bunt against the Atlanta Braves during the third inning on July 11 in Chicago.

the following season.

He drew Baltimore's opening-day start in 2011, and threw seven scoreless innings in a victory over Minnesota on the 20th anniversary of the opening of Camden Yards. It looked as if he could be a key contributor for the Orioles for years to come, but that was really the beginning of the end when it came to his time in Baltimore.

Arrieta shuffled back and forth between Triple-A Norfolk and Baltimore before he was traded to Chicago last July. The contending Orioles asked sent reliever Pedro Strop to the Cubs in return for pitcher Scott Feldman and catcher Steve Clevenger.

"I was bombarded by information from 50 different sources, which is never beneficial to anybody, I don't care who you are," Arrieta said, reflecting on his departure from the Orioles.

"You got four or five different sports psychologists trying to reach out to you, you got seven different coaches trying to implement some input, you know that never works. It just kind of made things go in the opposite direction."

Arrieta credits the change of scenery and his experience in developing a successful routine as two big reasons for his recent success. He also has a solid relationship with pitching coach Chris Bosio, who has become quite the asset for the Cubs when it comes to turning around cheap reclamation projects.

Next up for Arrieta is just building on his solid first part of the season. Chicago traded Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel to Oakland in July, making Arrieta's starts even more important for the Cubs for the rest of the year.

They believe he is up to the challenge of anchoring the staff. "I think when he goes out there on the hill, he's got a calmness about him," manager Rick Denton said. "He's got some poise and hopefully this is now a turning point, it continues to be a turning point for him in his career and he comes back to move forward and he's able to take advantage of that great stuff he's got."

CYCLING/NFL



THAO NGUYEN/AP

Lance Armstrong met in May with the panel investigating cycling's doping past in a meeting set up by the cyclist. Armstrong was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles and banned for life over his use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Armstrong meets with cycling investigators

By JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Lance Armstrong talked for several hours with cycling investigators about doping in the sport's past, said an attorney for the American who was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles for doping.

Armstrong attorney Elliot Peters told The Associated Press that Armstrong set up the meeting and sat for questions for seven hours on May 22, and described the session at a hotel outside Dulles Airport in Washington, D.C., as a "very good meeting."

"They asked him about everything... If you made a list of all the questions people would want to ask about Lance and his activities in cycling and everything else, those were the questions that were asked and answered," Peters said.

The probe has been expected to center on the International Cycling Union's handling of doping in the late 1990s and early 2000s, especially its links with Armstrong. Armstrong's willingness to meet with investigators has been seen as crucial to their efforts to determine whether former officials with the sport's governing body aided his doping as the Texan became cycling's biggest star.

Armstrong won the Tour every year from 1999-2005. Those titles were stripped after a massive report by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency detailed doping by Armstrong and his U.S. Postal Service teammates.

Peters declined to detail exactly who was in the room or what Armstrong told them, but said Armstrong met with three people "running" the Cycling Independent Reform Commission and their attorney. A spokesman for the group did not immediately return a call or text message seeking comment on Thursday.

The commission is chaired by Dick Marty, a Swiss politician and former Swiss state prosecutor. The other members are German anti-doping expert Ulrich Haas and Peter Nicholson, a former Australian military officer and war crimes investigator.

Armstrong had previously said he'd be willing to

talk to the panel, and Peters said Armstrong had him contact the commission to set up the meeting.

'He's talking in the spirit of not trying to benefit by getting somebody else in trouble, but in the spirit of let's tell the truth.'

Elliot Peters
Armstrong's
attorney

Landis. The government joined Landis' lawsuit and is seeking to recover about \$40 million in U.S. Postal Service sponsorship money paid to Armstrong and his teams. Under the False Claims Act, penalties in the case could run as high as \$100 million.

Armstrong has so far refused to provide sworn testimony to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. USADA has questioned whether Armstrong paid officials at the UCI to keep his doping secret.

Armstrong has said in interviews that former UCI president Hein Verbruggen helped him cover up doping at the 1999 Tour, a charge Verbruggen has denied. But Armstrong has denied he paid anyone or any organization to hide his doping.

CBS won't dictate use of 'Redskins' during broadcasts

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — CBS won't dictate to its announcers whether or not to use the nickname of Washington's NFL franchise during televised games this season.

CBS Sports chairman Sean McManus said Thursday he hasn't told on-air talent such as Jim Nantz and Phil Simms what to say regarding the controversy surrounding the Redskins' name.

"We don't tell our announcers what to say about any topic," McManus told the summer TV critics' meeting. "That is true about team names also. We haven't made any specific plans as far as the name. We're looking at it, but right now we don't have any change in our plan."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell added, "We don't dictate to our broadcast partners how they cover the game. That's their decision."

Washington owner Dan Snyder has vowed not to change the name, but is facing unprecedented opposition from those who consider it a racial slur.

CBS is launching Thursday night coverage of NFL games this fall in a one-year agreement with the league. CBS will air eight games that also will be simulcast on NFL Network, which will televise eight games in the run-up to the playoffs. The mix of games will include 14 on Thursday nights and two late-season games on Saturday. The schedule kicks off Sept. 11 with Pittsburgh at Baltimore.

The full slate of 16 regular-season games will be produced by CBS with its lead broadcasters and production team, including Nantz and Simms, on all Thursday night games.

NFL Network hosts and ana-

lysts will be featured in the pre-game, halftime and postgame shows along with CBS Sports announcers.

McManus said the coverage will feature a super high-definition camera suspended on a wire over the sideline and goal lines and at least one player from each team will be miked for quick turnaround video on a big play or touchdown. A former NFL referee will work as a rules analyst in the booth, and the games will get a new graphics package and theme music.

Goodell was asked about the NFL returning to Los Angeles, which has been without a team since the 1990s, when the Rams and Raiders departed.

He said the key was having a stadium that can be competitive with the league's newer stadiums, including the latest in Santa Clara, Calif.

"We would like to do that here," Goodell said. "Opportunities are starting to develop."

Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots and chairman of the league's broadcast committee, said the league's owners are concerned about not having a team in Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest market.

"A whole generation of fans have grown up without a team to root for," he said. "We want young people to be branded to a team. We want to have at least one if not two teams in downtown Los Angeles. The most important thing is to have the right facility. If you don't have something really compelling, then you won't have people here all the time."

The NFL will play three regular-season games in London, where it has been well received in the past.

"I would also believe we should have a franchise in London before the decade is out," Kraft said.



Nick Wass/AP

The Washington Redskins name is displayed on a building at their training facility at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va. CBS Sports chairman Sean McManus said Thursday he hasn't told on-air talent such as Jim Nantz and Phil Simms what to say regarding the controversy surrounding the Redskins' name.

BRITISH OPEN



SCOTT HEPPLE/AP

Rory McIlroy, who shot 66 Thursday, is 55 under par in the first round of tournaments this year. The second round is quite another story: McIlroy is a cumulative 15 over.

Scoreboard

Thursday At Royal Liverpool Golf Club Hoylake, England Purse: \$9.24 million Yardage: 7,212; Par: 72 (35-57) First Round (a-amateur)			
Rory McIlroy	32-34	-66	
Matteo Manassero	34-33	-67	-5
Brooks Koepka	33-35	-68	-4
Eduardo Molinari	33-35	-68	-4
Francisco Molinari	34-34	-68	-4
Rory Mundy	33-35	-68	-4
Sergio Garcia	34-34	-68	-4
Adam Scott	31-37	-68	-4
Shane Lowry	36-32	-68	-4
Robert Karsson	36-32	-69	-3
Marc Leishman	33-36	-69	-3
Koumei Oda	36-33	-69	-3
Rickie Fowler	32-37	-69	-3
Tiger Woods	36-33	-69	-3
Hiroki Matsuyama	32-37	-69	-3
Jimmy Walker	34-35	-69	-3
Yoshihito Tsuruda	34-35	-69	-3
Boo Weekley	32-37	-69	-3
Freddie Jacobson	35-35	-70	-2
Ashley Chesters	33-37	-70	-2
Ryan Moore	34-36	-70	-2
Niklas Iken	34-36	-70	-2
Thomas Bjorn	33-37	-70	-2
Louis Oosthuizen	33-37	-70	-2
Stephen Gallacher	33-37	-70	-2
David Hearn	34-36	-70	-2
Kristoffer Broberg	33-37	-70	-2
Hiroshi Iwata	34-36	-70	-2
George Coetzee	35-35	-70	-2
Bill Haas	36-34	-70	-2
Jason Dufner	33-37	-70	-2
Rafael Cabrera-Bello	36-34	-70	-2
Dawie van der Walt	33-38	-71	-1
Matt Jones	35-36	-71	-1
Ben Martin	35-36	-71	-1
Branden Grace	34-37	-71	-1
Stewart Cink	35-36	-71	-1
Chari Schwartzel	36-35	-71	-1
Jordan Spieth	35-37	-71	-1
Dustin Johnson	34-37	-71	-1
Hunter Mahan	37-34	-71	-1
Marc Warren	33-38	-71	-1
Graham Delatt	33-38	-71	-1
Chris Kirk	35-36	-71	-1
Zach Johnson	33-38	-71	-1
Lee Westwood	34-37	-71	-1
John Senden	35-36	-71	-1
David Howell	35-37	-72	-1
Berni Wiesberger	35-37	-72	-1
Kim Hyung-sung	36-36	-72	-1
Kiradech Anusornbarn	37-35	-72	-1
Darron Clarke	38-34	-72	-1
Harris English	35-37	-72	-1
Henrik Stenson	36-37	-72	-1
K.J. Choi	34-38	-72	-1
Riein Gilson	38-34	-72	-1
Brian Harman	36-36	-72	-1
Nick Watney	39-33	-72	-1
John Huh	34-38	-72	-1
Thongchai Jaidee	36-36	-72	-1
Ben Crenshaw	35-37	-72	-1
Justin Rose	34-38	-72	-1
Oliver Fisher	34-38	-72	-1
An Byeong-hun	36-36	-72	-1
David Duval	37-37	+1	
Tom Walsh	35-38	+3	
Luke Donald	35-38	+3	
Lee Janzen	36-37	+3	
Matt Kuchar	36-37	+3	
Oscar Floran	36-37	+3	
James McIlroy	34-39	+3	
Shawn Stefani	34-39	+3	
Brendon Todd	33-40	+1	

McIlroy's next challenge: stop freaky Friday slump

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England
Yawn.

Rory McIlroy put up a dazzling score on the first day of the British Open.

Let's see if he can do it again.

McIlroy heads into Day 2 at Royal Liverpool with a one-shot lead after a 6-under 66, a familiar position that sets him up for a good run at the claret jug — or another dose of second-round failure.

This year, McIlroy has started a couple of tournaments with 63s and another with a 64, but wasn't able to win any of them. For some reason, he's had a serious case of the yips in the second round, putting up a cumulative score of 15 over par compared with 55 under for the opening round, and 39 under on the weekend.

Talk about freaky Friday.

"It's not like I've shot good scores in first rounds and haven't backed them up before," McIlroy said. "I'm used to doing that. I just haven't done it recently.

"Hopefully," he added, "it's just one of those things and I'm able to turn it around."

McIlroy's only victory this year was in the BMW PGA Championship, where he started his week by breaking off his engagement with Caroline Wozniacki. He could have had more chances to win except for that 40 on the front nine at Quail Hollow, the 42 on the front nine at The Players Championship and the 43 on the back nine at the Memorial.

He met with Jack Nicklaus, and the topic of his freaky Fridays came up.

"I didn't mention it to him," McIlroy said. "He mentioned it to me — 'How the hell can you shoot 63 and then 78?' No, I think what we talked about was just holding a round together. And he was never afraid to make a change in the middle of the round ... to get it back on track."

The trick for McIlroy is to not get derailed in the second round. For the year, he is 55 under par in the first round and 15 over in the second round.

AT A GLANCE

First round
LEADING: Rory McIlroy shot a boggy-free 66 for a one-stroke lead and his best score in a major since winning the 2012 PGA Championship.

PURSUIING: Twenty-one-year-old Matteo Manassero holed out a birdie from 160 yards at the first hole and finished with a 67. The world's top-ranked player, Adam Scott, was another shot back at 68 in a group that included Sergio Garcia, Jim Furyk, Shane Lowry, Brooks Koepka and Italian brothers Edoardo and Francesco Molinari.

TIGER'S BACK: Playing his first major of the year, Tiger Woods bogeyed the first two holes but bounced back to shoot 69. The 14-time major champion missed the Masters and the U.S. Open after back surgery March 31.

WHERE'S LEFTY? Defending champion Phil Mickelson struggled to a 74 and showed no signs of duplicating his 2013 triumph at Muirfield.

BLUE-COLLAR PLAYER: Cheered on by the home crowd, local factory worker John Singleton played the first 11 holes at even par. Alas, he couldn't keep it going, struggling down the stretch for a 78 that might have ended his hopes of making the cut.

KEY STAT: Only three of the top 18 players had afternoon tee times — Scott, Lowry and Boo Weekley (69).

QUOTEWORTHY: "It's not like I've shot good scores in first rounds and haven't backed them up before. I'm used to doing that. I just haven't done it recently. We'll see what tomorrow brings and what they're in and try and handle it as best I can." — McIlroy

— The Associated Press

SPORTS



Avoiding the Friday slump

McIlroy tries to buck his latest trend and build on opening 66 | **British Open, Page 31**

MLB

Bright spot

Arrieta's recent success gives fans of sputtering Cubs something to cheer

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO

Each start was remarkably similar. That smooth, efficient motion. The devastating array of pitches. The easy cool that quickly spreads to his teammates, who are so confident when he takes the mound.

A year after a disappointing departure from Baltimore, Jake Arrieta is thriving in Chicago.

The 6-foot-4 right-hander is unbeaten in his last eight starts after beginning the season on the disabled list due to shoulder tightness, providing a glimmer of hope as the lowly Cubs stumbled to last place in the NL Central at the All-Star break.

"Jake knows it now, he's our new horse and that's what we want," first baseman Anthony Rizzo said. "We want him to be that ace and just keep getting all the confidence in the world because he's pitching very confident right now and it's been fun to watch."

Arrieta's undefeated stretch began with one of his shortest outings of the season, when he lasted just 4⅓ innings on June 3 against the New York Mets. He gave up seven hits and walked three, but he allowed just one first-inning run in Chicago's 2-1 victory.

Then he really put on a show.

Arrieta pitched six shutout innings against Miami, and seven more against Philadelphia. He retired his first 18 batters in a victory over Cincinnati. He was so good against the Red Sox that the fans at Fenway Park saluted him with a loud ovation when he

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Chicago Cubs pitcher Jake Arrieta is unbeaten in his last eight starts, sporting a 4-0 record and 1.36 ERA during the six-week stretch.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

NASCAR under fire for 72-year-old driver Shepherd

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Overall leader Nibali wins stage as race enters Alps

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