

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 73, No. 46 © SS 2014 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2014

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Free to Deployed Areas

CRISIS IN IRAQ



Militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant stand with a captured Iraqi army Humvee outside an oil refinery in Beiji, Iraq, on Thursday.

AP

US sending 300 military advisers

Obama vows no combat troops, urges inclusive agenda | Page 10

Latest developments

- Obama to send up to 300 to Iraq to help train and advise.
- ISIL militants hang banners at Beiji oil refinery; Baghdad claims it still controls facility
- Obama administration signals al-Maliki should go, convinced the Shiite leader is unable to govern
- Petraeus: "This cannot be the United States being the air force of Shia militias or a Shia on Sunni Arab fight."

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'Transformers 4' premiere gets big Hong Kong bash

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Fixing VA crisis may cost billions, impede reform bill

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Deteriorating situation in Iraq gives Congress pause about Afghan withdrawal

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MLB: Kershaw throws no-hitter against Rockies >> Back page

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we Europeans want the United States to remain committed to European security, we must show a commitment to pick up our part of the bill."

— Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO Secretary General

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2. Former Marine in Texas says VA has classified him as dead
3. DOD identifies 17 recovered from 1952 plane crash in Alaska
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"Murdered: Soul Suspect"

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Iraq woes stir fears over Afghanistan

By DONNA CASSATA
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The deteriorating situation in Iraq is giving Congress pause about President Barack Obama's plan to withdraw U.S. forces from Afghanistan by the end of 2016, with fears that hard-fought gains could be wiped out by a resurgent Taliban.

Senior Obama administration officials insist Afghanistan is not Iraq, with a population far more receptive to a continued U.S. presence and the promise of a new unity government. But the officials could offer no assurance that Afghanistan won't devolve into chaos after Americans leave, as Iraq has.

"There's no guarantee," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told a Senate panel Wednesday. "It is up to the people of Afghanistan to make these decisions, their military, their new leadership that will be coming in as a result of their new government."

The U.S. military mission in Iraq ended in December 2011 after eight years of war that cost hundreds of billions of dollars and more than 4,400 U.S. lives, a conclusion welcomed by a war-weary nation. The Obama administration had proposed keeping a residual U.S. force in Iraq to continue training Iraqis, but Baghdad rejected Washington's demand that its troops be granted immunity for prosecution while in the country.

In the absence of the Americans, the fast-moving Sunni insurgency of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant has prevailed over Iraqi security forces, conquering several cities, and is threatening the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described for Congress on Wednesday how some Iraqi security forces abandoned the fight against the ISIL.

"Two divisions and part of two, and one national police organization did in fact throw down their arms and in some cases collude with [the ISIL] and in some cases simply desert in northern Iraq," Dempsey said.

Lawmakers fear a replay in Afghanistan after 2016 when U.S.



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Firefighters work Thursday near the scene of an attack in Torkham, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan.

forces leave. Last month, Obama announced that about 10,000 troops would stay in Afghanistan at the end of this year but be fully withdrawn by the end of 2016.

In a private White House meeting Wednesday, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., pressed Obama about his definitive timetable for drawing down American troops, especially in light of the crisis in Iraq. The president defended his plan as the right approach, according to a congressional aide familiar with the talks who wouldn't discuss it publicly by name because the meeting was private.

On Thursday, McConnell publicly criticized Obama, arguing that the president has decided to withdraw forces without considering the ramifications.

"He seems determined to pull out completely, whether or not the Taliban is in a position to re-establish itself, whether or not al-Qaida senior leadership finds a more permissive environment in the tribal areas of Pakistan, and whether or not al-Qaida has been driven from Afghanistan completely — one of our primary aims in this conflict from the beginning," McConnell said in a

speech on the Senate floor.

At two separate hearings on Capitol Hill, Republicans and Democrats pressed administration officials about whether history would repeat itself and whether Afghan forces could defend the country after the U.S. leaves.

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., asked whether the time line "emboldens militants in the country to wait (us) out."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., predicted a reconstituted Taliban will threaten Afghanistan as the ISIL has done in Iraq. "We've seen this movie in Iraq," McCain said.

James Dobbins, the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, countered that in Iraq, "people didn't want us and not a single Iraqi politician was prepared to advocate our staying. In Afghanistan, the people overwhelmingly want us to stay, and every single contender in the presidential election said they would sign the (bilateral security agreement)."

Western powers are counting on a peaceful transition in Kabul, but last weekend's runoff vote has prompted allegations of

election fraud. Candidates Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani hope to succeed President Hamid Karzai, who was prevented from seeking a third term.

At the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee hearing, Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., wondered what the U.S. had learned from Iraq that could be applied to Afghanistan and whether its forces could defend themselves.

Dempsey said he was concerned about Afghanistan's future and said the U.S. military would continue to work on building a resilient Afghan force.

"But at the end of the day, a security force is only as good as the instrument that wields it, and that's the central government," the general said.

He added that Afghans are "more tenacious fighters than their Iraqi counterparts."

The Afghanistan war has lasted more than a decade, cost billions of dollars and killed more than 2,100 members of the U.S. military. Obama has public sentiment on his side in taking steps to end the conflict, while a number of lawmakers are resistant to keeping U.S. troops in the country beyond 2016.

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PHOTOS BY RAHMAT GUL/AP

U.S. soldiers investigate the scene of a suicide attack in Torkhman, Nangarhar province, Afghanistan, on Thursday. Afghan officials say three Taliban suicide bombers targeted NATO fuel trucks at the border with Pakistan, setting off a gunbattle with police guards.

Taliban strike NATO supply trucks in east Afghanistan

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Three suicide bombers touched off a battle on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border Thursday that destroyed dozens of trucks carrying NATO military gear out of the country, Afghan officials said.

Insurgents attacked a parking lot at a busy border crossing in Nangarhar province just before 5 a.m., placing magnetic bombs on trucks carrying military vehicles out of the country, according to Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, spokesman for the Nangarhar provincial government. The attack sparked an hours-long gunbattle, leaving all three attackers dead and three truck drivers injured.

The trucks were attacked near the Torkhman border crossing in eastern Afghanistan, a major transit point for military gear headed out of the country to the Port of Karachi in Pakistan. The attack comes one day after a fuel tanker was blown up on a road in eastern Afghanistan, leaving two civilians dead and six more injured.

The Taliban, who often exag-



An Afghan policeman stands guard near the scene of the attack.

gerate the effect of their operations, claimed responsibility for Thursday's attack, saying they destroyed nearly 50 trucks and more than 90 military vehicles.

Afghan trucking officials have complained that the roads have gotten more dangerous for their drivers in the past year, as the NATO-led International Security

Assistance Force pulls troops and materiel from the country ahead of the Dec. 31 deadline for all foreign combat troops to leave Afghanistan.

The attack comes at a time of uncertainty for Afghanistan.

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Bergdahl made false claims about atrocities, former colleague says

By THOMAS GIBBONS NEFF
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — An Army veteran who served alongside Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in Afghanistan said Wednesday that the long-captive soldier was deeply frustrated with the mission and had lodged false allegations that their unit had carried out atrocities.

Bergdahl "didn't understand why we were doing more humanitarian aid drops, setting up clinics and helping the populace instead of hunting the Taliban," former Spec. Cody Full told lawmakers during a hearing on the exchange of Bergdahl for five Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "He wanted to hunt and kill."

The House Foreign Affairs committee held a hearing on Wednesday on the exchange of Bergdahl for five Taliban prisoners and its implications on U.S. national security.

The Taliban released Bergdahl on May 31 after he had spent nearly five years in captivity. Bergdahl, the last American servicemember to be held captive in Afghanistan, went missing from his remote outpost in June 2009 and was seized shortly thereafter.

In exchange for his release, the Taliban officials were transferred to Qatar, where they will be held for a year before being sent back to Afghanistan.

Both the terms of the prisoner swap and the Obama administration's failure to notify Congress in advance have been the subject of persistent criticism. Bergdahl has also been criticized by some former members of his unit who believe he sought to desert the Army.

Full, who was honorably discharged and served with Bergdahl in the same fire team, the military's smallest type of organized unit, railed against Bergdahl's attitude during his deployment in 2009 and rejected media reports that he was a sensitive young man trying to define himself during a time of war. His handwritten journal, along with essays, stories and emails provided to The Washington Post, painted him as a soldier full of worry

about his own mental health and the situation in Afghanistan.

"Bergdahl was complaining to his parents that our platoon was committing atrocities instead of helping the local populace," Full told members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "But he was telling our platoon that we needed to stop trying to win hearts and minds and focus more on killing the Taliban."

Full also dismissed suggestions that Bergdahl's platoon had dis-

ciplined its soldiers. "It's a ridiculous charge," Full said. "Security was always in place. These acts of common sense survival did not jeopardize the security or put anyone in danger."

Bergdahl, who is not believed to have spoken to his parents since his release, is currently recovering in San Antonio, Texas, after a brief stay at Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany. He is set to be released in the coming weeks following the completion of reintegration treatment.

The Army has opened an investigation into the circumstances of Bergdahl's disappearance and capture. While the investigation, led by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dahl, has started, there is no concrete timeline for its completion and Bergdahl is not expected to speak with investigators until after he finishes his recovery.

Former Spec. Cody Full served with Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl

Pakistan: Military offensive forces 80,000 to flee region

The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Nearly 80,000 people have fled a tribal region in northwest Pakistan over the last two days, an official said, as the military continues its offensive in the rugged area near the Afghan border.

The military launched the operation in North Waziristan Sunday night, saying it was going after militants who have long used the region as a base from which to launch terrorist attacks.

A curfew already in place Saturday pre-

vented residents from leaving until it was lifted Wednesday morning. The offensive has so far consisted of airstrikes, but the lifting of the curfew to allow residents to flee could signal a wider ground offensive to come.

Arshad Khan, the head of the region's disaster management authority, said 79,000 people left North Waziristan Wednesday and Thursday. Even before the operation was announced about 63,000 people had left because of previous airstrikes and fears of a larger offensive.

Residents have been streaming out of the

region in trucks, cars and tractors loaded down with possessions such as mattresses, fans and television sets. Some have even brought their livestock.

Almost all have opted to stay with family or in rented houses instead of at a camp established for them.

Pakistan has long been criticized for failing to target militants in the North Waziristan region. The U.S. says that militants such as the Haqqani network use the region as a base from which to attack Afghan and NATO troops in neighboring Afghanistan.



B.K. BANAGSI/AP

Pakistani tribal families arrive in Bannu, Pakistan, on Wednesday after fleeing their homes in the northwest region.

MILITARY

US-Vietnam ties warning with China rift

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The United States flag once flew over 25,000 acres of airfield and port facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, one of the military's largest bases at the height of the Vietnam War.

Although it is doubtful that the valuable South China Sea port would be shared by U.S. forces, a hearty welcome from Vietnam to visiting U.S. warships and aircraft is growing increasingly likely.

When China moved a \$1 billion oil rig in May into waters claimed by Vietnam, the ensuing sea standoff accelerated a warming U.S.-Vietnam military relationship like few other events could have, defense analysts and diplomats told Stars and Stripes following a regional security summit this month.

China's claim to about 90 percent of the South China Sea, largely based on what it calls historical discoveries, threatens Vietnamese claims to resource-rich waters and islands near their continental shelf. While the U.S. takes no position on territorial sovereignty, Vietnam's interests — along with those of several other nations bordering the South China Sea — align with U.S. principles of freedom of navigation and international law.

The United States also wants to protect what is, according to a 2012 U.S. estimate, \$1.2 trillion in U.S. trade transiting along South China Sea shipping lanes.

"There have been remarkable strides already made in the last few years, and it's been very rapid since 2010 in terms of U.S.-

Vietnam military relationships," said Christian Le Mière, senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Continued assertiveness by China in the South China Sea will only further convince the Vietnamese that they should be expanding their international alliances, and that includes the United States."

The U.S. Navy has been making port visits to Da Nang in recent years, engaging in activities that started with sports and ship tours with Vietnamese sailors, and developed into a joint search-and-rescue exercise last year. Greater U.S. Navy access to Cam Ranh Bay, further south near Nha Trang, would represent a bigger step in the military-to-military relationship.

The deep water port is about 7 miles from open sea and is capable of accommodating aircraft carriers, and its facilities recently underwent millions of dollars in upgrades. Its airport is used by both Vietnamese military forces and by commercial carriers.

U.S. Military Sealift Command ships have visited for repairs — the first came along with former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in 2012 — but no active U.S. Navy ship has visited the port since the Vietnam War.

On May 31, with senior Chinese military officials in attendance at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit in Singapore, Vietnamese Defense Minister Gen. Phùng Quang Thanh touted Cam Ranh Bay to all comers, commercial and military.

"Vietnam sees that it is a waste if [Cam Ranh Bay] is not put into use, so we are considering our own investments, management and construction of the port to



Jay C. PUGH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A Vietnamese officer watches the rescue-and-salvage ship USNS Sargat steam into Da Nang, Vietnam, in April in support of a low-level exercise between the U.S. and Vietnam. A standoff at sea between Vietnam and China is accelerating the already warming relationship between the U.S. and Vietnamese militaries, according to security analysts.

provide services to ships from all countries," Thanh said.

However, analysts agree that Vietnam will take a cautious approach to engagement with the U.S., balancing the relationship with other large powers. Russia remains Vietnam's most important defense supplier. The Russians are building six Kilo-class submarines for the Vietnamese, and they'll have a regular presence at Cam Ranh Bay as well.

Most analysts don't see the Russian presence as a sticking point. But U.S. rotational basing at Cam Ranh Bay, similar to the agreement struck earlier this year granting U.S. access to Philippine-run bases, is out of the question for now.

Instead, the U.S. and Vietnam can send an effective message to China through regular port visits, refueling stops and other measures, said Carlyle Thayer, a professor emeritus at the University of New South Wales in Australia and Southeast Asia analyst who

was in Hanoi when the China confrontation began.

Vietnam paved the way for such engagement on May 20 in a little-noted but potentially important decision to join the Proliferation Security Initiative, Thayer said.

The PSI was created by the U.S. and Poland in 2003 as an international effort to interdict vessels carrying weapons of mass destruction, and it has since garnered signatories from more than 100 countries.

Vietnam joined with China in strenuously arguing that the PSI violated international law, until Hanoi changed its mind last month.

"It's a bait on the hook to request the United States to assist in standing up their ability to conduct maritime reconnaissance and surveillance and link to shore-based radars and other technical equipment," Thayer said.

The additional U.S. presence could force China to act less ag-

gressively in the area, while at the same time allowing Vietnam to show that it took no provocative action against China.

Although China and Vietnam have each accused each other of ramming ships and stoking tensions, it is clear that Vietnam can't afford to be the aggressor against the much larger Chinese fleet.

Vietnam's functional coast guard is 40-odd vessels and most of them are relatively small, at 400 tons or less. China's coast guard includes dozens of ships more than twice that size, and that's assuming China sticks to a pledge of not using its navy — though Vietnam says China has already sent warships to the oil rig confrontation.

"[Vietnam's fleet] is like a junior varsity team playing football against NFL pros," Thayer said. "Guess who's going to be pushed down the field?"

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Bankruptcy of sister firm raises concerns about Naples base landlord

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — An Italian court has ruled that a sister firm of the company that owns and maintains the Navy support site here is bankrupt, raising concerns about the landlord's financial shape and the impact of the ruling on the base.

The three-judge panel with a civil court in Naples ruled this week that the firm Mirabella Spa is financially insolvent, with no way of meeting its short- and long-term commitments — including a large sum of unpaid taxes — and an inability to raise money through banks.

Mirabella Spa is the construction arm of Gruppo Mirabella, which includes Mirabella SG, the firm that receives \$42 million

annually from the U.S. as owner and maintainer of the Navy support site in Grigicchio, Naples. The support site provides housing, commissary and exchange stores for families assigned to bases in the area, including an installation at the Naples airport in Capodichino, home to U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, and NATO's Joint Forces Command in nearby Lago Patria. Naples' D'Avessa, the support site provider, said Gray said Gruppo Mirabella warned him about the ruling last week and assured him operations on the base would continue as normal. Several skilled workers on the base are employees of Mirabella Spa but are expected to continue working or switch to another company in Gruppo Mirabella, Gray said he was told.

"We have not seen any impact," he said.

"Could there be? Absolutely. That's why we're tracking it."

The ruling adds to the Navy's unease over the financial condition of Gruppo Mirabella, which owns several developments in the area. Base officials who have worked closely with the company say it has been hit hard by the economic recession. Base workers employed by Mirabella Spa and Mirabella SG have gone on strike repeatedly on claims of irregular pay, causing work to be delayed.

"Absolutely it's a concern," Gray said. "We have gone to them on multiple occasions and said we pay you on time, we expect you to pay your workers on time so they show up to work and we don't suffer these labor disruptions that affect residents on the support site."

Gruppo Mirabella is hoping for a renewal of base contracts in 2015, which would be funded in the coming fiscal year if approved.

Mirabella Spa owed 63 million euros in unpaid taxes between 2003 and 2014, according to reports in the Italian newspapers Il Mattino and Corriere del Mezzogiorno. Tax authorities raided the company's office last summer to seize cash, and they seized company properties. Banks finally refused to lend the firm money, according to reports.

"At this point we have our contingency plans and we're watching and waiting to see what happens," Gray said.

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MILITARY

NATO: Russia again ups forces near Ukraine

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Thousands of Russian troops are back near the Ukrainian border, marking an escalation in tensions only weeks after Moscow began pulling back troops from the area, NATO's top official said Thursday.

"I can confirm that we now see a new Russian military buildup — at least a few thousand more Russian troops deployed to the Ukrainian border, and we see troop maneuvers in the neighborhood of Ukraine," NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said during a visit at the London-based Chatham House think tank.

The return of troops to the border again raises the specter of further Russian intervention in Ukraine, which in turn would prompt an international response, according to Rasmussen.

"I consider this a very regrettable step backwards and it seems that Russia keeps the option to intervene further," said Rasmussen, as quoted by The Associated Press. "So the international community would have to respond firmly if Russia were to intervene further. That would imply deeper sanctions which would have a negative impact on Russia."

Rasmussen's comments come amid a flurry of military activity. Last week, NATO accused Russia of sending several tanks into Ukraine to support pro-Russian militants. Moscow has dismissed the claim.

Rasmussen, speaking in London, said Europe must do more to counter Russia's increased defense spending.

"Indeed, since 2008, Russia has increased its defense spending by around 50 percent while, on average, NATO allies have decreased theirs by about 20 percent," Rasmussen said. "This gap needs to be addressed."

"If we Europeans want the United States to remain committed to European security, we must show a commitment to pick up our part of the bill," Rasmussen said.

Despite the increases in Russia's defense spending, its total remains far below the level of NATO's 28 member states. According to statistics compiled by Stockholm's International Peace Research Institute, the combined defense expenditures of all NATO nations in 2013 amounted to \$1.02 trillion, while Russia's were \$90 billion.

Meanwhile, British jets were scrambled Tuesday to intercept several Russian fighters flying near NATO airspace in the Baltics, where an ongoing alliance air policing mission has witnessed a spike in Russian activity in recent years.

The Russian jets were armed, failed to file a flight plan and turned off their transponders, making them a safety hazard and invisible to commercial air traffic

control, according to a NATO official, who spoke under the usual conditions of anonymity.

"Over the last years we have seen an increase in Russian air activity close to our borders. We think this is because of increasing investment in defense," the official said. "These Russian fighters and bombers were armed and were not cooperating with civilian air traffic control, which is why NATO intercepted them. I want to stress that at no time have Russian jets violated NATO

airspace."

Britain's Defense Ministry said its Typhoons intercepted seven Russian aircraft, which appeared to be taking part in a training exercise.

Once airborne, the British jets identified the aircraft as a Tu-22 bomber, four Su-27 fighters, one Beriev A-50 early warning aircraft and an An-26 transport aircraft, the defense ministry reported.

"Since the start of the crisis in Ukraine we have seen a mod-

est increase in Russian air activity close to NATO's northern and eastern borders," the NATO official said.

The U.S. military said no American jets were involved in the intercept.

"Our increase in exercises and deployments to Poland and the Baltic nations has been in response to their concerns about Russian military actions in the region," the U.S. European Command said in a statement.

NATO air policing in Baltic air-

space has been going on for more than 10 years. During that time, NATO aircraft have routinely identified and escorted Russian aircraft in its vicinity. Since the crisis in Ukraine, NATO has tripled the aircraft on alert as part of the alliance's effort to reassure eastern members.

Last week, Russia also sent bombers near U.S. airspace, flying close to Alaska and California and prompting the U.S. Air Force to scramble fighter aircraft.

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MILITARY

Cost of scramble to solve VA wait crisis: \$54B yearly

By TOM PHILPOTT

Like a waiter bringing the check after a high-spirited meal in a fine restaurant, the Congressional Budget Office has dampened some good vibes among lawmakers who rushed to solve the access-to-care crisis for veterans.

CBO estimates the cost of requiring the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide non-VA medical care to any enrolled veteran who cannot get a VA medical appointment within 30 days, or who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility, to be a stunning \$54 billion annually.

That estimate takes into account language in both the House and Senate versions of the bill that would end new guarantees on access to non-VA care after two years. But by then, CBO predicts, 2 million more vets who don't use VA care today will be drawn to it by new ease of access.

Veterans' service organizations, though grateful overall, are worried about unintended consequences of HR 4810, as passed by the House, and of HR 3230, as modified and passed by the Senate. If politicians aren't truly committed to treating more vets, then VA budgets to run existing facilities could be put at risk, and many vets won't see gains in access in the long term.

Executives of 17 major veterans' groups and military associations shared these and more concerns in a June 17 letter to chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate veterans affairs committees. They will lead House-Senate conferences in ironing out differences between their separate bills. Plans are to have a final bill to President Barack Obama by July 4.

"While we appreciate the speed with which you have moved, the opportunity for veterans organizations and other key stakeholders to provide substantive input to the process has been limited," warned the executives.

One big worry is that in mandating expansion of VA's purchased-care authority, Congress must commit to forcing VA to accurately estimate and budget for the added health costs. Congress, in turn, must fully fund the new authorities and not rely on budget "gimmicks" or shift funds from accounts needed to run VA hospitals, clinics and other health care programs.

"Unless additional funding is provided specifically for the expansion of purchased care, needed care will remain delayed and VA facilities will be forced to continue making tradeoffs," veterans' groups warned. They fear the VA having to choose between "providing additional care through purchased care [or] expanding information capacity for the future through additional hiring of clinicians, purchase of equipment or

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expansion of infrastructure."

The House passed its bill, from its VA committee chairman, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., unanimously. The Senate bill drew only three "no" votes, with all from Republicans worried about billions of dollars in unfunded costs. Sens. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, Ron Johnson, of Wisconsin and Jeff Sessions, of Alabama even wrote to House colleague Miller, usually a reliable deficit hawk, not to allow a final bill out of conference committee that would balloon VA health budgets.

Miller responded that he "is committed to paying for the reforms in a responsible manner that is fair to the taxpayers and to our veterans."

The Senate-passed Veterans Access to Care Act from VA committee chairman Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., would expand VA reliance on medical services contracts with non-VA health care providers so any eligible veteran who requests VA care gets it promptly.

CBO calls it "broad new authority" that would entice about 2 million more veterans to enroll in VA care, many shifting in from Medicare or Medicaid. The 8.3 million veterans already enrolled in VA care would seek to increase their use of VA care by about 75 percent, CBO estimates, given the new VA mandate on swift access or the convenience of local providers.

"All told" CBO said, "if the bill was fully implemented, some veterans would ultimately seek additional care that would cost the federal government about \$54 billion a year, after accounting for savings to other federal programs."

VA care, the CBO noted, "requires no premiums, imposes no deductibles and assesses low, or for many veterans, no copayments," and therefore would be attractive. But because new access mandates are to end after two years, about 6 million eligible veterans not currently enrolled

"would not change their health care arrangements for that short period."

New authorities in the House bill would expire two years after enactment but cover ongoing treatments up to 60 more days. Authorities, requirements and funding under the Senate bill would expire Sept. 30, 2016.

The Senate tagged its VA wait-time fix as an emergency appropriation, which lifts a requirement to find budget offsets to cover the cost. The House bill isn't paid for, except partially with funds once earmarked for VA employee bonuses. Miller and staff were looking for other offsets.

In a floor statement Wednesday, Miller criticized the Senate for giving VA a "blank check" to improve access to care. He recalled "hearing after hearing" on VA "wasteful spending" and "bloated bureaucracies."

"It is imperative that Congress follow a more methodical approach to funding new requirements, which preserves Congress' oversight responsibility to protect taxpayer resources provided on behalf of America's veterans. This is the House position and we ought to fight for it," Miller said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120, email milupdates@starsandstripes.com or twitter: [Philpott/Military_Update](https://twitter.com/Philpott/Military_Update).

DOD: Remains of 17 recovered from '52 Alaska crash

Stars and Stripes

The Department of Defense announced Wednesday that the remains of 17 servicemen have been recovered from a C-124 Globemaster aircraft that crashed in Alaska on Nov. 22, 1952.

A total of 52 crewmembers and passengers were aboard the aircraft that departed from McChord Air Force Base, Wash., and was heading to Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska. Due to bad weather at the time, search-and-rescue crews were unable to locate and recover any of the servicemen, according to a DOD statement.

On June 9, 2012, an Alaska National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew spotted aircraft wreckage and debris on Colony Glacier, west of Mount Gannett. Later that month, recovery operations began. In 2013, additional artifacts were visible and JPAC conducted further recovery operations.

DOD scientists used forensic tools and circumstantial evidence in the identification of 17 servicemen, the DOD statement said.

The remaining personnel have yet to be recovered, and the crash site will continue to be monitored for future possible

recovery.

The following have been recovered and will be returned to their families for burial with full military honors:

Army

- Lt. Col. Lawrence S. Singleton
- Pvt. James Green Jr.
- Pvt. Leonard A. Kittle
- U.S. Marine Corps
- Maj. Earl J. Stearns

Navy

- Cmdr. Albert J. Seeboth

Air Force

- Col. Noel E. Hoblit
- Col. Eugene Smith
- Capt. Robert W. Turnbull
- 1st Lt. Donald Sheda
- 1st Lt. William L. Turner
- Tech. Sgt. Engolf W. Hagen
- Staff Sgt. James H. Ray
- Senior Airman Marion E. Hooton
- Airman 1st Class Carroll R. Dyer
- Airman 1st Class Thomas S. Lyons
- Airman 1st Class Thomas C. Thigpen
- Airman Howard E. Martin

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NATION

Screening of migrant child sponsors resumes

By AMY TAXIN

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — The federal government has resumed checking the fingerprints of people other than parents who step forward to care for migrant children detained at the border amid concern by immigrant advocates that skipping the screening could put children at risk.

Kenneth Wolfe, a spokesman for the Administration for Children and Families, said late Wednesday that the agency overseeing the shelter program for migrant children has gone back to a previous policy of only exempting parents and legal guardians from having their fingerprints taken. He said no child was harmed by the more lax fingerprint policy.

The number of Central Ameri-

can children apprehended at the border with Mexico has surged in recent weeks and could reach 90,000 this year. To speed children through shelters and to free up bed space, officials had stopped running fingerprint checks against criminal databases for parents and other sponsors who offered to care for them, immigrant advocates said.

Until last year, advocates said officials had checked the fingerprints of all sponsors, including parents.

"Anytime you are reducing the requirements, that is a concern," said Kimi Jackson, director of the South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation Project, which offers know-your-rights presentations to children in detention. "There are people who will sponsor kids out in order to use them



SUE OGROCKI/AP

A vehicle on Tuesday is driven by one of the entrances to Fort Sill, Okla., where hundreds of immigrant children are being housed temporarily.

for things that are not in their best interest."

Immigrant advocates say rising

gang violence and threats have driven the children to leave their countries and trek across Mexico

to reach the United States. Since last month, the Obama administration has opened temporary shelters on military bases to help care for the children until they can be reunited with sponsors, preferably parents or close adult relatives. Most of the children are reunited with family, according to Wolfe's agency.

Advocates say the government faces a daunting task of balancing speed and safety when releasing the children, many who are fleeing violent crime back home, to relatives or friends they haven't seen in years.

The average stay of a migrant child in a shelter is now near 35 days. It was 61 days between 2008 and 2010 in a study of 14,000 children by the Vera Institute of Justice.

Executions persist in some states in spite of concerns

By JIM SALTER

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — With Florida carrying out the nation's third execution in less than 24 hours, some pro-death-penalty states — particularly in the South — appear unfazed by the recent furor over how the U.S. performs lethal injections.

A botched execution seven weeks ago in Oklahoma amplified a national debate about the secretive ways many states obtain lethal-injection drugs from loosely regulated compounding pharmacies. Before Tuesday, nine executions were stayed or delayed — albeit some for reasons not related to the drug question.

Amid the court battles, many pro-death-penalty states kept pushing to resume executions, including the three carried out during the quick burst this week. Georgia and Missouri executed prisoners about an hour apart late Tuesday and early Wednesday, and John Ruthell Henry was pronounced dead at 7:43 p.m. EDT Wednesday after receiving a lethal injection in Florida.

Austin Sarat, professor of jurisprudence and political science at Amherst College, said there has been a regional divide when it comes to how quickly states are returning to the business of putting prisoners to death.

"I think what you're going to see is kind of a division where some areas, some states, predominantly in the South, are going to dig in their heels," Sarat said. "Other states are going to proceed more cautiously and impose, if not an official moratorium, more of a de facto moratorium until things get sorted out."

The executions in Georgia and

Missouri were the first since April 29, when Oklahoma prison officials halted the process because drugs weren't being administered properly into the veins of inmate Clayton Lockett. He died of a heart attack 43 minutes after the process began.

Lawyers for death row inmates have cited concerns that what happened in Oklahoma could be repeated, and they've challenged the secretive ways many states obtain lethal-injection drugs from loosely regulated compounding pharmacies.

There appeared to be no noticeable glitches in the Georgia, Missouri or Florida lethal injections. Marcus Wellons, 59, was put to death in Georgia for the 1989 rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl. In Missouri, John Winfield, 46, was executed for killing two women in St. Louis County in 1996.

Henry, 63, was convicted of killing his estranged wife and her son in 1985.

Four states are responsible for 21 of the 23 executions so far this year: Texas with seven, Florida with six, Missouri with five and Oklahoma with three. Georgia and Ohio have performed one each.

Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, a nonprofit that opposes executions and tracks the issue, said that while 32 states still have the death penalty on the books, the number of states actually performing executions has dropped sharply. Pennsylvania, for example, still has the death penalty but hasn't executed anyone since 1999. Utah has had one execution since 2000. Maryland and Washington had two in that same span.

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NATION

Timely warning saves residents in storm

Tornado strikes SD town, destroying homes; only 2 hurt

By CARSON WALKER
The Associated Press

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. — A timely warning allowed an entire South Dakota city to shelter from a tornado that razed dozens of homes and businesses but injured only two people, officials said Thursday.

Dedrich Koch, a Jerauld County prosecutor, said everyone was accounted for after the twister hit Wessington Springs just before 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Tornado alarms sounded several times, prompting residents to head to the city's emergency shelter in the basement of the courthouse, Koch said.

Ten businesses were destroyed and at least 43 houses were damaged or destroyed in the city of about 850 residents, he said early Thursday.

National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Heitkamp said law enforcement in Wessington Springs reported that the tornado went right "through the heart of town."

The American Legion, a bar, an auto dealer and several farms were destroyed or damaged.

"Right now we are securing areas," Koch said late Wednesday.



BRIAN KIRK, KDLT/AP

A tornado hit Wessington Springs, S.D., on Wednesday, damaging homes and businesses and injuring two people, according to the National Weather Service and a hospital spokeswoman.

day. "We'll assess damage and cleanup in the morning when we get some light."

Lindsy Meyers, spokeswoman for Avera Health, said a woman was treated at the hospital in Wessington Springs and that she is in good condition.

Koch said that woman and her husband suffered minor injuries when the tornado hit their home near Alpena, about 15 miles east of Wessington Springs. He had no further details and did not identify the couple.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard arrived in the city about 125 miles northwest of Sioux Falls late Wednesday. He issued a statement saying at least 100 South Dakota Nation-

al Guard soldiers and equipment would be deployed to the city.

The city was without power overnight and Koch said generators would be made available. Meyers said some of the hospital's windows were broken in the storm and that the facility was operating on backup power.

He said the Red Cross would provide bedding and food for displaced residents.

Jaime Hoefert, of Wessington Springs, told KELO-TV she saw the tornado move over hills and through the town.

"We did see at least three homes destroyed with lots of structural damage around that area on the south side of town," Hoefert said.



CONNOR MCCROREY, TVNWEATHER.COM/AP

National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Heitkamp confirmed that a tornado touched near Alpena, S.D., on Wednesday as well as nearby in Woonsocket and Wessington Springs.

Teacher raped after being left alone with sex offender

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A teacher at an Arizona prison was alone in a room full of sex offenders before being stabbed and sexually assaulted by a convicted rapist, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press about an attack that highlighted major security lapses at the facility.

The attack occurred Jan. 30 at the Eymann prison's Meadows Unit, which houses about 1,300 rapists, child molesters and other sex offenders. The teacher was administering a high school equivalency test to about a half-dozen inmates in a classroom with no guard nearby and only a radio to summon help. The Department of Corrections issued only a bare-bones press release after the attack, but the AP pieced together what happened based on interviews and investigatory reports obtained under the Arizona Public Records Act.

After the last of the other inmates left, Jacob Harvey asked the teacher if she could open the bathroom and then attacked her, records show. Harvey is accused of stabbing her in the head with a pen, forcing her to the ground and raping her.

The teacher told investiga-

tors that she screamed for help, but none came. Afterward, Harvey tried to use her radio to call for help. It had apparently been changed to a channel the unit's guards didn't use, so Harvey let the woman use a phone, according to the reports.

Carl ToersBijns, a former deputy warden at the prison, said the assault highlights chronic understaffing and lax security policies that put staff members at risk.

"Here you've got a guy that commits a hell of a crime ... and he's put into an environment that actually gives him an opportunity to do his criminality because of a lack of staffing," said ToersBijns, who was deputy warden at the Eymann prison in Florence until retiring in 2010 and oversaw the Meadows Unit for 19 months.

Department of Corrections spokesman Doug Nick said classrooms at prisons across the state are having cameras installed. But he said no administrative investigation was launched because there was no need, and no one was disciplined. He said all prisons are dangerous places and staff are trained accordingly.

Nick also said that not having a guard in classrooms or nearby "follows accepted corrections practices nationwide."

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NATION

Suit: Eagle death permits are illegal

Federal rule allows wind-energy companies to kill birds for 25 years without prosecution

By DINA CAPIELLO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A conservation group says it's suing the Obama administration over a new federal rule that allows wind-energy companies to seek approval to kill or injure eagles for 30 years.

The lawsuit from the American Bird Conservancy was expected to be filed Thursday in federal court in San Jose, Calif. A copy of the complaint was obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The group argues that the rule, which extended by 25 years the length of time companies may kill or injure eagles without fear of prosecution, is illegal because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service failed to evaluate the consequences and ensure it would not damage eagle populations. The Obama administration classified the rule as an administrative

change, excluding it from a full environmental review.

"In the government's rush to expand wind energy, shortcuts were taken in implementing this rule that should not have been allowed," said Michael Hutchins, the national coordinator of the conservancy's wind energy program.

Under President Barack Obama, wind energy has exploded as a pollution-free energy source that can help reduce the gases blamed for global warming. But it is not without environmental costs.

An AP investigation last year documented dozens of eagle deaths at wind farms, findings later confirmed by federal biologists. Each one is a violation of federal law, but the Obama administration to date has prosecuted only one company, Duke Energy Corp., for killing 14 eagles and 149 other birds at two Wyoming wind farms.

The wind energy industry sought the change to reduce its liability.

Self-defense gun laws again put to test

By SADIE GURMAN
The Associated Press

DENVER — A Colorado prosecutor said he's frustrated that the state's "Make My Day" law prevents him from charging a man who killed an acquaintance during a drunken brawl that spilled into his home, becoming the latest test to self-defense gun laws nationwide.

The New Year's Day shooting involving "foolish, drunken children" likely was not what lawmakers had in mind when they adopted Colorado's law, Mesa County District Attorney Pete Hautzinger said. It protects homeowners from prosecution for using deadly force when someone illegally enters their home and there's reason to believe that person will commit a crime.

Self-defense laws such as Colorado's have received renewed attention recently after deadly shootings in Montana, Minnesota and Nevada.

After a six-month investigation, Hautzinger decided last week not to file charges against Joseph Hoskins, 36, in the death of Randy Cook, 47.

After a night of drinking at a party in the western Colorado city of Grand Junction, Cook and another man went to fight Hoskins outside his house. The fight moved inside and to Hoskins' bedroom, where the homeowner said Cook

tried to snatch away his shotgun. Hoskins tackled Cook and shot him, according to Hoskins' account of the night, which was relayed to investigators through an attorney.

‘These grown men ... acting like drunken children, and as a result, a good man got killed, and I can't hold anyone accountable for it in the criminal justice system.’

Pete Hautzinger
Mesa County, Colo.,
District Attorney

in an ongoing Facebook feud between Hoskins and the other man that had been brewing for days before they decided to square off, he said.

"It sticks in my craw to be unable to hold Joseph Hoskins

accountable for his actions," Hautzinger said.

Hoskins did not return calls seeking comment, and his attorney, Terry Ryan, said he could not talk about the case.

Cook's brother, Stacey Cook, said aspects of the investigation remain undone. Prosecutors should have looked more closely at video evidence showing Cook walking away from the brawl and Hoskins following and taunting him before they fought, he said.

Beginning with Florida in 2005, at least 22 states have expanded the self-defense principle known as the "castle doctrine," the premise that a person has the right to defend his or her home against attack. Colorado was not among them. The broadened laws say the doctrine can be applied to confrontations outside the home.

The laws make it easier for a person to shoot someone and avoid prosecution by saying they felt an imminent danger, which has increasingly placed the burden on prosecutors to prove self-defense did not occur, said Steven Jensen, vice president of the Washington-based Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.

"It has created an increase in investigation and an increase in frustration among prosecutors when trying to make decisions," he said. "You have to proactively anticipate that self-defense is going to be claimed."

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IRAQ



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Iraqi Shiite tribal fighters raise their weapons and chant slogans against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant after authorities urged Iraqis to help battle insurgents in Baghdad's Sadr City on Wednesday.

Obama: US will send up to 300 military to Iraq

Servicemembers to serve advisory role to help Iraqi forces

By LARA JAKES AND JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said the United States is sending up to 300 military advisers to help Iraqi forces stem violent sectarian fighting and is prepared to take targeted military actions if they would help fight the growing threat from extremist militants. Obama said Thursday U.S. forces will not be returning to combat in Iraq but will help train Iraqis.

The president said the U.S. has increased its intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations in Iraq to better understand the threats to Baghdad.

Obama, who offered an update to U.S. operations in Iraq after meeting with his national security team, said the United States is forming joint operations centers in Baghdad and northern Iraq.

Obama and his national security team met to discuss how strongly to press Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to undertake reforms and make his government more inclusive. Top U.S. officials believe that giving more credence to Sunni concerns about al-Maliki may offer the best opportunity to stave off another deadly round of sectarian fighting of the kind that engulfed Iraq



PAOLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

President Barack Obama speaks about the situation in Iraq on Thursday at the White House in Washington.

less than a decade ago. U.S. officials said there was concern within the administration that pushing al-Maliki too hard might stiffen his resolve to stay in office and drive him closer to Iran, which is seeking to keep the Shiite leader in power.

The Obama administration wants to see evidence of a leadership transition plan being put in place in Iraq.

All of the officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the internal deliberations by name.

Vice President Joe Biden spoke with the Iraqi leader Wednesday and emphasized a need for him

to govern in an inclusive manner. Biden also spoke to Iraq's Sunni parliamentary speaker and the president of Iraq's self-ruled northern Kurdish region.

Al-Maliki, who has long faced criticism for not making his government more inclusive, went on a diplomatic offensive Wednesday, reaching out in a televised address to try to regain support from the nation's disaffected Sunnis and Kurds. His conciliatory words, coupled with a vow to teach the militants a "lesson," came as almost all of Iraq's main communities have been drawn into violence not seen since the dark days of sectarian killings nearly a decade ago.

Crisis in Iraq prompts soul-searching among vets who served there

By GREG JAFFE AND KEVIN MAURER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The sudden collapse of Iraqi forces in the face of lightly armed insurgents has catalyzed an emotional debate within the U.S. military about a war that, just a few years ago, seemed on the brink of going down in history as a success.

In an echo of the post-Vietnam era, some military officers believe the war could and should have been won. They blame civilian leaders — chief among them President Barack Obama — for failing to press harder for a political agreement that would have allowed the military to remain on the ground long enough to secure victory.

"Anyone who was there during the surge came away very encouraged about the future of the country if we had continued to stay engaged," said retired Col. Peter Mansoor, who served as a top adviser to Gen. David Petraeus in Baghdad and wrote a history of the latter years of the war.

That argument is deeply reminiscent of the aftermath of Vietnam War, when the Army blamed its defeat on President Lyndon B. Johnson and other micromanaging civilian leaders who put restrictions on the military's use of firepower and chose bombing targets from the White House.

It's countered by others who witnessed the chaos of the war up close. On his Facebook page, Maj. Andrew Rohrer, who served in Iraq as a junior officer, blamed feuding Iraqi politicians for the country's collapse, calling the war "an Iraqi problem that we never could have fixed in a hundred years."

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Wednesday acknowledged both arguments. The Iraqi army and police needed a longer-term U.S. military advisory presence to help with planning and logistics, he said, but a few thousand U.S. advisers wouldn't have prevented the chaos caused by the Iraqi political leaders' score-settling and sectarian behavior.

"The problem today is that the [Iraqi] government hasn't acted responsibly," Dempsey said in Senate testimony.

How the U.S. military resolves today's internal debate could have profound implications for the shape of its future force. Those who blame America's political leaders for the recent failings in Iraq are more likely to support a big, conventional military that can, if needed, function as an effective occupation force. Skeptics are more inclined to champion a smaller military that relies more heavily on precision firepower, technology and advisers to support local fighters and minimize America's potential losses.

The outcome of this internal debate could also influence the

advice that top generals give regarding future conflicts. "Iraq has become a proxy for the debate about Afghanistan, Syria and Iran," said Peter Feaver, a Duke University political scientist and former National Security Council official.

For both sides, the debate over who lost Iraq remains raw and emotional. Many of today's military officers still carry fresh memories of friends killed in battle.

"My sadness is not for the Iraqis, but for the wasted effort so many of us gave and bought at so high a price," said one Army officer who was granted anonymity to discuss his feelings about the conflict.

Today, most Iraq War veterans feel tremendous pride in their service, mixed with a deep cynicism regarding the war's goals and its outcome. A Washington Post poll of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans taken a few months before the re-

cent chaos found that only 44 percent believed the Iraq war had been worth fighting. Nearly 90 percent, though, said they would volunteer to serve again. Those somewhat contradictory feelings have grown more intense in recent days. As the president weighed his military options in Iraq, Col. Steve Miska, who spent 40 months in the country, called his brother, who is also a veteran of multiple Iraq tours. The war had consumed much of the two brothers' lives since the 2003 invasion. Now the two career soldiers — one an officer, the other a sergeant major — were on the verge of retirement.

"What a mess," Miska texted his brother as ISIL troops pressed towards Baghdad last week.

"Hopefully all our guys that gave their lives didn't do it for nothing," his brother replied. The two then spoke on the phone. Miska insisted that their service — especially during the 2007 surge — had made a difference in Iraq. At that point in the war, Sunni and Shia death squads had taken hold of the capital. "I have no doubt that we helped stop a civil war," Miska recalled telling his brother. "I have no doubt we saved thousands of Iraqi lives."

For him, the current mess in Iraq defies any simple explanation.

"I don't think the military lost in Iraq," Miska said. "We created a window of opportunity, just didn't break the Iraqis' way."

"I don't think the military lost in Iraq. We created a window of opportunity. It just didn't break the Iraqis' way."

Col. Steve Miska

IRAQ

Militants fly flags over large oil refinery

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB
AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi soldiers and helicopter gunships battled Sunni militants for a third day on Thursday for control of Iraq's largest oil refinery, the loss of which would be a devastating symbol of the Baghdad government's powerlessness in the face of a determined insurgency hostile to the West.

The two sides held different parts of the sprawling Beiji facility, which extends over several square kilometers of desert. The facility accounts for just over a quarter of the country's entire refining capacity and goes toward domestic consumption for things like gasoline, cooking oil and fuel for power stations.

The militants, led by the Al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, clearly hope to get millions of dollars in revenue from operating the refinery — as they did for a while after seizing oil fields in neighboring Syria. More broadly, however, capturing the facility could weaken Prime Minister Nouri al-

Maliki's hold on power by calling into question his ability to stop the militants' advance anywhere in Iraq.

A witness who drove past the facility said the militants manned checkpoints around it and hung their black banners on watchtowers. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared reprisals.

One of the militants laying siege to the refinery confirmed by telephone that the facility remained in government hands, saying helicopter gunships slowed the insurgents' advance. The militant identified himself only by his alias, Abu Anas, but there was no way to verify his identity or location.

A top Iraqi security official also said the government still held the facility but that the refinery's workers were evacuated to nearby villages.

The army officer in charge of protecting the refinery, Col. Ali al-Qureshi, told state-run Iraqiya television by telephone that the facility remained under his control. He said his forces had killed nearly 100 militants since Tuesday.



AP photo

Smoke rises from an oil refinery in Beiji, Iraq, on Thursday.

Photos obtained by The Associated Press showed the charred skeletons of destroyed army vehicles sitting by a road that runs past the facility. The photos, taken Thursday, also show U.S.-made Humvees captured by the militants flying jihadi banners and heavily armed militants manning a checkpoint. In the background,

there is heavy black smoke rising up from the refinery.

Any lengthy outage at Beiji risks long lines at the gas pump and electricity shortages, adding to the chaos already facing Iraq. It produces around 300,000 barrels per day.

Gasoline produced at the refinery largely goes to northern Iraq

and its closure has caused a shortage in the region. In Irbil in Iraq's Kurdish region, lines stretched for miles for open gas stations as angry motorists shouted at each other. Some bought fuel to power generators as electricity went out in some areas held by the Islamic State.

"Everybody in Mosul and the (northern) Nineve province is coming to Kurdistan to fill up on gas," said a resident of a village near Mosul who gave his name as Mohammed. "And they don't have enough here."

The assault on the refinery also has affected global gasoline prices, as the U.S. national average price reached \$3.68 per gallon, the highest price for this time of year since 2008, the year gasoline hit its all-time high in America.

It isn't clear what the insurgents would do if they fully captured Beiji. In Syria, the Islamic State has control of some smaller oil fields, but government air raids have limited their ability to profit from them. Militants have, however, refined oil into usable fuel products at primitive refineries.

Sykes-Picot Agreement: Line in the sand still shapes Middle East

BY SLOBODAN LEXIC
Stars and Stripes

The stunning victories by Islamic militants in northern Iraq have drawn attention to a militant group whose goal is an Islamic state encompassing parts of Iraq, Syria and other countries of the eastern Mediterranean.

To outsiders, the goals sound delusional. But many Arab politicians have complained for years that the current political divisions of the Middle East are artificial, drawn by European imperialists of a bygone age to keep the Arab peoples weak and divided.

Here's a look at who's responsible for the current borders in the Middle East that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant is fighting so hard to redraw:

Sykes-Picot Agreement

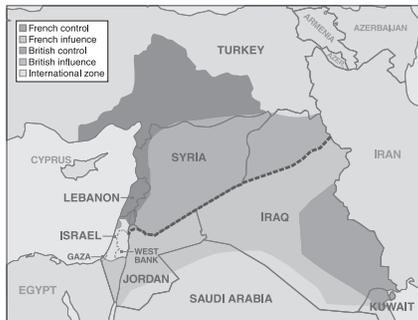
In the midst of World War I, two minor French and British officials, Mark Sykes and Francois-Georges Picot, held a series of secret meetings in 1915 during which they drew a blueprint to carve up the Ottoman Empire, which was fighting alongside Britain and France's German enemy.

Sykes and Picot divided Ottoman territories in what was once called the Fertile Crescent into British and French zones of influence along an east-west axis stretching from the Mediterranean to Iran.

France was allocated Syria and Lebanon, while Britain would control what is now Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan and Iraq.

Britain had long coveted the re-

The Sykes-Picot line dividing the Middle East during World War I between Britain and France



Noca Anti-rav/Stars and Stripes

gion to secure land and sea routes to British India. Britain offered a piece to France and to Russia as incentives to continue the war against Germany, though the Russians disavowed the deal after the Bolshevik Revolution took Russia out of the conflict in 1917.

Under pressure from President Woodrow Wilson, who insisted local populations determine their own political future, the British and the French agreed not to colonize the region outright but instead to establish "indigenous governments and administrations in Syria and Mesopotamia," or Iraq.

After Wilson suffered a stroke in 1919, the two European powers

dropped the pretense and established direct rule over the newly acquired territories.

Although there was some change in the 1915 division, including expanding Britain's control of northern Iraq and dropping claims on what is now part of Turkey, the basic division into French and British zones, along artificial borders drawn up in secret by outsiders, was the basis for the modern borders between Syria and Iraq.

What did Arabs think?

Sykes and Picot never consulted local inhabitants or political leaders in the Middle East. In

fact, the world learned of the plan only after the new, communist government in Russia published the text in party newspapers.

According to James Barr, author of the book "A Line in the Sand: Britain, France and the Struggle that Shaped the Middle East," many officials in Britain, France and the United States realized the flaws of the plan and that "the Arabs weren't getting anything."

A major flaw: Britain had encouraged local Arab leaders, including the ancestor of the Jordanian royal family, to join a revolt against the Ottoman Turks, promising them an independent Arab kingdom in the former Turkish territory. Much of what the Arabs expected ended up under French and British control.

The British then subdivided their zone into Palestine, Jordan and Iraq. Britain installed two sons of their chief Arab ally onto the thrones of new kingdoms in Jordan and Iraq, but held on to most of the power itself.

The affected territories — Lebanon and Syria in the French zone and Iraq, Jordan, Israel and Kuwait in the British zone — did not achieve full independence until after World War II.

Were Arabs satisfied?

Yes and no. Since World War II, several Arab nationalist leaders and pan-Arab movements have attempted to unite the countries established as a result of the Sykes-Picot divisions. Arab nationalists, most of them secularists, argued that the colonial-era divisions were designed to keep the Arabs weak and divided, depriving them

of the glories of Medieval Islamic empires that were once far more advanced in education, science, trade and governance than their European contemporaries.

Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser sought to unify the country but unsuccessfully to unite his country with the republics of Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Plans to unify Jordan and Iraq, whose kings were from branches of the same family installed by the British, fell apart after the Iraqi king was overthrown in 1958.

Saddam Hussein, who at the time was vice president, ousted the president and seized full power in 1979 to block a planned unification of Syria and Iraq, which would have sidelined him politically.

Palestine

Separately from the Sykes-Picot agreement, the British government in 1917 agreed to "view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people," despite opposition from local Arabs who formed the vast majority of the population. Sykes and Picot had agreed that an "international administration" would be established in an area that was later to become Palestine, but London never implemented that part of the accord.

Sykes died in Paris in 1919 of flu, without seeing his plan implemented. He was 39. Picot, the great-uncle of former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, died in Paris in 1951 at the age of 80.

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WORLD

Militant an unlikely leader before Benghazi

By ERIN CUNNINGHAM,
NIZAR SARIELDIN
AND DAVID A. FAHRENTHOLD
The Washington Post

TRIPOLI, Libya — Ahmed Abu Khattala — the Islamist militant captured by U.S. forces in Libya during the weekend — did not seem to have the personality for leadership. He was a standoffish oddball, the son of a government employee, who had spent more than a decade in the brutal prisons of ruler Moammar Gadhafi.

But, in the chaotic time after Gadhafi's fall, Abu Khattala had two credentials that led people to follow him. The prison time was one. The other was a fierce disdain for anyone who had worked with Gadhafi's government.

In a country full of guns and anger, Khattala came to command his own militia. He appeared to be untainted in a country where few leaders had no connections to the hated, old leadership.

Commanding a brigade "is a very complicated task, and he is a very simple man," said Mohamed Abu Sidra, a prominent member of Libya's General National Congress, who had spent time in prison with Abu Khattala. At the time, Abu Sidra said, he was surprised to hear that Abu Khattala — known in prison as a loner who talked to himself — was in charge of something so big.

Now, Khattala's militia is blamed for two of the most infamous acts of violence in Libya's bloody postrevolutionary years. One was the 2011 killing of Gen. Abdul Fattah Younis, a former Gadhafi loyalist who had defected to lead the rebels fighting the ruler.

The other was the reason that Abu Khattala was snatched in a joint Special Operations-FBI mission last weekend. Abu Khattala is suspected of serving as a ring-leader in the attacks on an American compound in Benghazi in 2012 that left four dead, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens.

By 2012, the formal militia he commanded during the uprising had been dismantled, but people here say he had a core following of mostly young jihadists and Islamists from his neighborhood whom he could rally and that he was giving orders to



Glass, debris and overturned furniture are strewn inside a room Sept. 12, 2012, in the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya, after an attack that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens.

them on the night of the Benghazi attack.

Since then, however, it appears that the personality that had briefly turned Abu Khattala into a leader had turned him into a loner again.

He was said to move about Benghazi by himself — a reckless decision, because both the Americans and a renegade anti-Islamist general were probably looking for him. Some of the more powerful militias had tried to rein in his movements and put him under their protection, according to one former Benghazi fighter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of potential backlash.

"His followers are shocked" by the news of his capture, the former fighter said from Benghazi. "They can't believe it."

Abu Khattala is apparently in his early 40s; his exact age is unclear. Ali Soufan, a former FBI agent who tracks extremists, said Abu Khattala was born in 1973 in Benghazi. Soufan said he comes from a middle-class Libyan family; his father was a government employee and is now retired. He has a younger brother who was born in 1975 and works in the medical field, Soufan said.

Abu Khattala was arrested in about

1991 by the Gadhafi government for his involvement in Islamist militant activities in Benghazi. Soufan said Abu Khattala spent a long stint in the infamous Abu Salim prison in Tripoli.

He apparently was released in 2004 as part of an amnesty program sponsored by Saif al-Islam Gadhafi, the dictator's son.

After his release, Abu Khattala — a burly man — had started a small construction company in Benghazi, hiring local youths to help paint and build houses, his neighbor said. In 2012, he told reporters from the Reuters news agency that he did not attend university, had never left the country and was unmarried.

"He was a quiet man, a mysterious man," said a neighbor, who spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution from Islamist militias there. Others who met Abu Khattala in Benghazi describe him as extremely serious and resolutely opposed to the efforts to build a democratic state.

"Nobody in the neighborhood really knew him," the neighbor said, adding that even he was unsure if Abu Khattala had married.

In 2011, a rebellion against Gadhafi began in the east of Libya, where Benghazi

is located. Abu Khattala used his local network to collect money for food, clothes and even weapons for the fighters.

Eventually, Abu Khattala took up arms, himself. He started a small Islamist militia called Obeida ibn al-Jarrah and later came to ally himself with Ansar al-Sharia, though militia leaders here say that relationship is somewhat murky. That militia, whose name means "partisans of Islamic law," espouses an extremely conservative Salafist strain of Islam.

"He is a jihadi," said Adel Hasi, a former rebel commander who last met with Abu Khattala earlier this year to discuss building an Islamic state in Libya. Unlike the rest of the brigades fighting Gadhafi, Abu Khattala "refused to cooperate with any army or police who had defected to the rebels," he said.

Abu Khattala lived in the family home in the al-Laithi district of Benghazi, known for its unusually large population of Islamist militants, according to locals. The modest, concrete-brick home remains unpainted and is a drab, steely gray. In the salon where Abu Khattala receives guests, two flags adorned with the Muslim profession of faith, and associated with al-Qaida and jihadist movements, are mounted on a wooden cabinet.

The evening of Sept. 11, 2012, brought an unprecedented level of scrutiny to Islamist groups in Benghazi. That night, Islamist militias attacked the U.S. diplomatic mission in the city, then assaulted a nearby CIA compound early the next morning. The chaotic assault led the diplomatic post in flames and resulted in the deaths of Stevens and three other Americans. To this day, the attacks are a controversial topic in U.S. politics.

Abu Khattala has always denied involvement in the Benghazi attacks, but U.S. officials have repeatedly blamed him and Ansar al-Sharia. In August, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia filed charges against him.

Abu Khattala has also been named a "specially designated global terrorist," allowing officials to freeze his financial assets and bar American citizens and companies from doing business with him. Multiple journalistic sources have linked him to the attacks: A Long 2013 investigation by The New York Times referenced a number of witnesses who placed Abu Khattala at the scene during the attack on the diplomatic post and said he appeared to be directing it.

Watchdog accuses Syria's Kurdish party of abuses

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — An international rights group said Thursday that Kurdish authorities ruling three enclaves in northeastern Syria have committed abuses, including arbitrary arrests of political opponents, and have failed to address abductions and unresolved killings in areas under their control.

Human Rights Watch said in a new 107-page report that the Kurdish Democratic Union Party also has used children in its armed wing known as the People's Protection Units.

Kurds are the largest ethnic minority in Syria, making up more than 10 percent of the country's

prewar population of 23 million. They are centered in the impoverished northeastern province of Hassakeh, wedged between the borders of Turkey and Iraq.

President Bashar Assad's forces largely pulled out of Hassakeh in late 2012 when the Syrian military was stretched thin by fighting with rebels elsewhere in the country, effectively ceding control of the area. Their withdrawal sparked a fierce competition between rebels and the Kurds.

The Kurdish Democratic Union Party, or PYD, is affiliated with the Kurdish PKK movement in Turkey, which long fought for autonomy in the southeast.



BILAL HUSSEIN/AP

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres greets a Syrian child Thursday during his visit to Khaldeti, south of Beirut, Lebanon.

Chinese man gets death in fatal 1-child dispute

BEIJING — A Chinese court on Thursday sentenced to death a man who killed two government workers and injured four other people in an argument related to the one-child policy, China's official news agency reported.

In addition, He Shenguo was ordered to pay \$45,000 in compensation after he was convicted of intentional homicide by the court in southern Guangxi region, Xinhua reported. Calls to Fangchenggang Intermediate People's Court rang unanswered.

He slashed people at a family-planning office after it refused to register his fourth child because he hadn't paid a fee levied on parents who break family-planning rules.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bail set in robbery of 101-year-old vet

NV CARSON CITY — A 27-year-old man has been returned to Carson City to face charges in the home invasion robbery of a 101-year-old veteran and his caretaker over Memorial Day weekend.

Robbie Hernandez, of Carson City, was arrested in Sparks on an unrelated charge and later identified as a suspect. The Nevada Appeal reported he was booked into the Carson City Jail, and his bail was set at \$1.25 million.

Authorities said Hernandez and Jordan Burkhart, 24, of Wellington, forced their way into James Sorrentino's home looking for a safe, but Sorrentino doesn't have one. After ransacking the home, they fled with a wristwatch, pocketknife and wallet containing \$30.

The two are charged with conspiracy to commit burglary, home invasion, assault and crimes committed against someone over 60.

Sorrentino is a World War II Army Air Corps and Air Force veteran.

Toss of drug-filled ball into prison falls short

MI JACKSON — Michigan authorities said a man tried to throw a football loaded with drugs and cellphones into the yard of a state prison.

State Trooper Toby Baker said Sunday's throw in Jackson fell short, with the football landing between two fences, not in the yard where prisoners exercise.

An officer at the G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility saw the man throw the football, and officers arrested the suspect.

The Detroit Free Press and the Jackson Citizen-Patriot said the ball contained heroin, marijuana, tobacco, three cellphones and chargers.

Christen D. Moore, 22, was arraigned Tuesday in Jackson District Court on contraband charges and ordered jailed.

Mayor resigns over 'poopgate' incident

CA LOS ANGELES — The mayor of San Marino resigned Tuesday after a video uproared over his being caught on surveillance video tossing a small bag of dog poop into a neighbor's yard.

Dennis Kneier announced his resignation in a letter addressed to fellow City Council members, saying that the June 7 incident was a "lapse in judgment" and has caused embarrassment.

"I can understand why this matter has some questioning my ability to lead the council," he wrote.

The controversy began after Kneier's neighbor, Philip Lao, discovered the small bag outside his home. He reviewed video from his home's surveillance cameras, which showed Kneier tossing the bag. Soon after the incident, the video, which Lao shared publicly, went viral.

Lao believed the mayor intentionally tossed the bag in retribution for putting a "No Poop Zone"

THE CENSUS

.289

— 3½ times more than the legal level in Pennsylvania — the girl has recovered. Police said they are still investigating the friend's possible involvement.

The blood-alcohol content percentage of a 13-month-old girl who was hospitalized after drinking from a sippy cup police say contained vodka. Police in Erie, Pa., charged Jessica Bachmaier, 26, with child endangerment and furnishing alcohol to a minor Tuesday. Bachmaier told police that she had put only water and baby formula in the sippy cup and that she believed a friend added the vodka. Despite suffering the high level of intoxication



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Perching pretty

Smithsonian exhibitions expert Richard Gould helps prepare Martha, the last surviving passenger pigeon — who was stuffed for posterity after her death in September 1914 — for her new exhibit at the Smithsonian's natural history museum in Washington. A new scientific study this week shows how pigeon populations fluctuated wildly but people ultimately killed off the species. Some geneticists are working on the long shot hope of reviving the passenger pigeon from leftover DNA in stuffed birds.

sign outside his home and publicly opposing a proposed dog park.

Police cite man for DUI checkpoint warning sign

OH CLEVELAND — A suburban Cleveland man says police violated his First Amendment rights of free speech when they cited him for holding a sign warning motorists to turn if they wanted to avoid a police DUI checkpoint.

Douglas Odolecki, 43, held a sign the night of June 13 in Parma that said: "Check point ahead! Turn now!"

He and his attorney are fighting the citation. Odolecki said police sometimes abuse their authority and he believes he's fighting for a just cause.

A Parma police spokesman said city attorneys previously determined the part of the sign telling motorists to turn is illegal.

It's not the first time Odolecki used the sign or got into trouble for it. Parma police arrested him

in September 2012 for having a knife in his pocket while holding the sign.

Make-A-Wish tour ends with hard helo landing

HI HONOLULU — An Illinois family of six making a Make-A-Wish trip to Maui is safe after a hard helicopter landing.

The Fraser family from Belleville, which includes four teenage daughters, was on a Sunshine Helicopters flight just before 10 a.m. Tuesday. The pilot lifted off from Kahului Airport for a tour of Wahee Valley.

Company owner Ross Scott said the helicopter experienced mechanical failure at 2,500 feet.

He said the pilot looked for a safe place to land and auto rotated, which means disengaging the engine from the main rotor system so the helicopter's rotor blades move just by the upward flow of air during descent. The helicopter landed in 8 feet of ele-

phant grass. Scott said that cushioned the landing.

Maui firefighters said no one onboard required medical attention.

Former porn star seeks school board seat

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A former porn star is looking for a new role as a school board member.

David Mech, 38, of Boca Raton, has qualified for the Palm Beach County School Board's District 3 seat.

Mech was known as Dave Pounder while a performer in adult films. He began a math tutoring business a few years ago.

Along with another candidate, John Michael Hartman, Mech is challenging incumbent board member Karen Brill.

The Palm Beach Post reported that Brill made headlines earlier this year with a short-lived proposal to enforce a dress code for parents on school property.

Nuns sue strip club, say it's a nuisance

IL STONE PARK — Nuns living in suburban Chicago are suing a strip club next to their convent, saying they are dealt with drunkenness, litter and public violence.

The Sisters of St. Charles named Club Allure Chicago and the village of Stone Park in their lawsuit, claiming the club violates Illinois zoning laws. Those laws mandate 1,000 feet between adult entertainment facilities and schools and places of worship.

Sister Noemia Silva said the nuns "hear the music when they're praying" and they're fighting for the club to close. The sisters' property includes three chapels.

Stone Park Village Attorney Dean Krone said the village has acted legally and reasonably. Club representatives said they aren't a nuisance to the nuns and the claims have no backing.

From wire reports

FAITH

Burning faith

Zoroastrians, who stress good deeds and fire, gather in Iran to remember princess

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI
The Associated Press

CHAK CHAK, Iran — Adherents of the Zoroastrian religion from around the world gathered at a mountain shrine in central Iran last week to celebrate their Persian roots, praying in remembrance of a princess who fled the seventh-century Arab invasion.

At Chak Chak, 370 miles southeast of the capital Tehran, believers gathered to remember Nikbanou, a heroine of the faith who according to tradition took shelter in the mountain and prayed for help. Miraculously, the mountain was said to have opened up and given protection to the princess, the youngest daughter of the last king of the Persian Sassanian empire.

A spring slowly drips from the ceiling of the shrine, built into a cliff-side cave, giving the site its name, which means "drip drip" in Persian. Tradition says the spring is the mountain shedding tears in remembrance of Nikbanou. An immense tree stands nearby, said to have grown from Nikbanou's cane.

"We've all gathered here to remember Nikbanou and celebrate our deep Persian roots," said priest Ardeshir Khorshidian, who was dressed in white to symbolize purity.

Many pilgrims stay overnight at pavilions set up at the base of the mountain. Families sitting on rugs had picnics while children played.

Dariush Tirandazi, an Iranian-American Zoroastrian, brought his daughter Nadia, 22, so she could experience the faith in the land where it was born.

"She wanted to learn and this was our chance to come here and

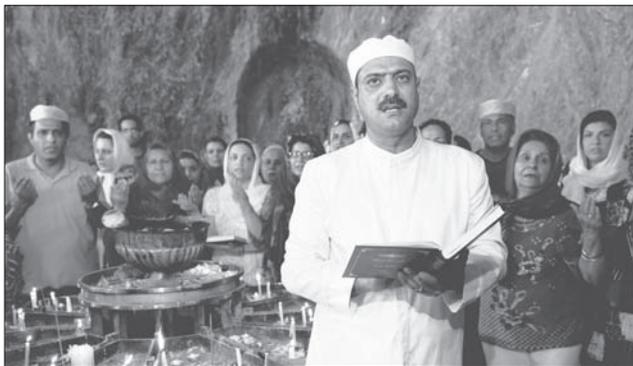


A Zoroastrian woman holds a portrait of the prophet Zoroaster, who founded Zoroastrianism as a monotheistic religion predating Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

show her the temple, to give her the chance to be with Zoroastrians and understand Zoroastrian culture and values," Tirandazi said.

Zoroastrianism is a monotheistic religion predating Christianity and Islam founded 3,800 years ago by Zoroaster. It was the dominant religion in Persia before the Arab conquest. It stresses good deeds, and fire plays a central role in worship as a symbol of truth and the spirit of God.

Thousands of Zoroastrians, like many other Iranians, immigrated abroad under former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad because



PHOTOS BY ESRAMIH NOROOZI/AP

Zoroastrian priest Kamran Lorian leads a prayer June 13 in Chak Chak, Iran, a mountain shrine. Adherents of the Zoroastrian religion from around the world gathered last week to celebrate their Persian roots, praying in remembrance of a princess who fled the seventh-century Arab invasion.



Zoroastrians kiss the gate doors of the shrine in Chak Chak.

of social restrictions and a worsening economy. Now a dozen have returned to live in Iran this past year, the government said.

President Hassan Rouhani has appointed former intelligence chief Ali Yunesi as his top aide to

specifically address the concerns of Iran's religious minorities.

Esfandiar Ekhtiari, the only Zoroastrian lawmaker in Iran's parliament, said his fellow believers have been denied top government jobs because of their religion.

Ekhtiari urged Zoroastrians living abroad to return to Iran and join the 25,000 fellow believers who live there today.

"Return to your motherland, and rest assured that we welcome you with open arms," he said.



Zoroastrians pray Saturday in Setipir Shrine in Yazd, Iran.



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NATION

Cannabis, kids a complex combination

Changing pot laws prompt review of child-endangerment legal standards

By KRISTEN WYATT
The Associated Press

DENVER — A Colorado man loses custody of his children after getting a medical marijuana card. The daughter of a Michigan couple growing legal medicinal pot is taken by child-protection authorities after an ex-husband says their plants endangered kids.

And police officers in New Jersey visit a home after a 9-year-old mentions his mother's hemp advocacy at school.

While the cases were eventually decided in favor of the parents, the incidents underscore a growing dilemma. While a pot plant in the basement may not bring criminal charges in many states, the same plant can become a piece of evidence in child custody or abuse cases.

"The legal standard is always the best interest of the children, and you can imagine how subjective that can get," said Jess Cochrane, an attorney with Boston-based Family Law & Cannabis Alliance after finding child-abuse laws have been slow to catch up with pot policy.

No data exist to show how often pot use comes up in custody disputes, or how often child-welfare workers intervene in homes where marijuana is used.

But in dozens of interviews with lawyers and officials who work in Colorado, along with activists who counsel parents on marijuana and child-endangerment, the consensus is clear: Pot's growing acceptance is complicating the task of determining when kids are in danger.

A failed proposal in the Colorado Legislature this year showed the dilemma.

Colorado considers adult mari-



BRENNAN LINSEY/AP

Moriah Barnhart plays with her daughter Dahlia, 3, who has brain cancer, at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo. Barnhart, frustrated with mainstream medical treatments and facing the possibility of intervention by child protective authorities, moved to Colorado to treat Dahlia using what some describe as cutting-edge cannabis medication.

juana use legal, but pot is still treated like heroin and other Schedule I substances as they are under federal law. As a result, when it comes to defining a drug-endangered child, pot can't legally be in a home where children reside.

Two Democratic lawmakers tried to update the law by saying that marijuana must also be shown to be a harm or risk to children to constitute abuse.

The effort led to angry opposition from both sides — pot-using

parents who feared the law could still be used to take their children, and marijuana legalization opponents who argued that pot remains illegal under federal law and that its very presence in a home threatens kids.

After hours of emotional testimony, lawmakers abandoned the effort as too complicated. Among the teary-eyed moms at the hearing was Moriah Barnhart, who moved to the Denver area from Tampa, Fla., in search of a can-

nabis-based treatment for her daughter who has brain cancer.

"We moved here across the country so we wouldn't be criminals. But all it takes is one neighbor not approving of what we're doing, one police officer who doesn't understand, and the law says I'm a child abuser," Barnhart said.

Supporters vow to try again to give law enforcement some definitions about when the presence of drugs could harm children, even if the kids don't use it.

"There are people who are very reckless with what they're doing, leaving marijuana brownies on the coffee table or doing hash oil extraction that might blow the place up. Too often with law enforcement, they're just looking at the legality of the behavior and not how it is affecting the children," said Jim Gerhardt, of the Colorado Drug Investigators Association, which supported the bill.

Child-endangerment standards remain murky in Colorado, with wide disparities in how local child-protection officers and law enforcement approach pot, said Rob Corry, a Denver lawyer who successfully argued the father's custody appeal.

Corry, who helped Colorado's 2012 campaign to legalize recreational marijuana, said the main thrust of the effort was to treat pot like alcohol.

"Think of brewing beer," Corry said. "You've got a constitutional right to do it. There's nothing wrong with it. Marijuana should be just as simple — you just keep it on a high shelf, right next to your vodka." But in practice, this is not how law enforcement treats marijuana.

The need for better standards about when marijuana endangers kids is growing by the day, said Maria Green, a Lansing, Mich., mother who lost custody of her infant daughter for three months last year.

Green grows pot to treat her husband's epilepsy, and though Michigan's medical marijuana law states parents shall not be denied custody or visitation with a child for following the statute, a legal dispute with her ex-husband led to her daughter being placed with a grandparent until it was resolved.

The ex-husband who brought the complaint declined an interview until talking with his lawyer. "I never in a million years thought that they were going to take my daughter," Green said. "I know that there's a place for child protection, but I would love to see it used to protect kids from being actually hurt."

"We moved here across the country so we wouldn't be criminals. But all it takes is one neighbor not approving of what we're doing, one police officer who doesn't understand, and the law says I'm a child abuser."

Moriah Barnhart

mother who moved to Colorado to pursue cannabis treatments for her 3-year-old daughter's brain cancer



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NATION

Rodents winning New York City rat race

By VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ines Moore stirs awake nearly every night to an unmistakable, skin-crawling sound: rats skittering around her apartment in the dark.

Sticky traps scattered around the tidy, fifth-floor walkup yield as many as three rats a night, what she believes is just a fraction of the invading army that makes her feel under siege.

"I feel good in the United States — except for this. Here, in my home," said Moore, a Dominican immigrant who can't afford to leave her rent-controlled apartment in northern Manhattan's Washington Heights.

Her neighborhood is among the most rat-infested in New York City, along with West Harlem, Chinatown, the Lower East Side and the South Bronx. They are the focus of the city's latest effort to attack a rat population that some experts estimate could be double that of the Big Apple's 8.4 million people.

Starting next month, the city's 45 inspectors will be bolstered by nine new employees of a pilot program to tackle the vermin in chronically infested neighborhoods where rats have resisted

repeated efforts to eradicate them.

Specific targets are rat reservoirs such as parks, sewers, and dumping areas where they congregate and breed. The idea is to tamp down the population where it is strongest and keep it from spreading.

‘As long as there are human beings in New York City, there will be rats, because they live off human garbage — that’s their No. 1 thing.’

The Rev. Joel Grassi, Baptist minister and professional exterminator, says that all these tunnels under there that are occupied by rats. And from there the rats fan out." Financed with \$611,000 in the

current city budget, inspectors will work with neighborhood associations, community boards, elected officials and building owners to plug up holes and put poison in rodent tunnels.

For years, inspectors responding to complaints on the city's 311 hotline have been searching for rats and their telltale signs: burrows, droppings, claw marks and gnawed holes. Besides traps and poison, the city also has used contraceptives to curb the rats.

New York's Rat Information Portal — or, appropriately, RIP — is an interactive online map that tracks Health Department violations, with searches by borough, address, block number and ZIP code. Spots marked red are deemed to be rat-infested; those in yellow have passed inspection.

The South Bronx around Yankee Stadium has the dubious distinction of being the city's most rat-infested neighborhood, according to figures from 2012, the most recent available. Inspectors gave a failing grade for infestation to at least 13 percent of more than 3,000 locations inspected in that area.

Washington Heights came in at 12 percent of inspected locations, West Harlem at 10 percent and



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

New York City is gearing up for its latest war on rats with an army of inspectors that will descend on the city's most rat-infested neighborhoods, targeting areas where rats congregate and breed.

the Lower East Side and adjacent Chinatown at nearly 9 percent.

Rats can carry and spread diseases, bite and trigger asthma attacks. In May, a 4-year-old boy died after ingesting rat poison in a Bronx homeless shelter.

It's impossible to tally the exact number of rats in New York, said the Rev. Joel Grassi, a Baptist minister and professional exterminator.

"As long as there are human beings in New York City, there will be rats, because they live off human garbage — that's their No.

1 thing," said Grassi, adding that the best way to manage the rat population is to eliminate their food supply.

"It's just part of everyday life," said Jasmine Guzman, a store manager whose two young sons happily run around their Washington Heights apartment across the hall from Moore's, after the family cleans up rat droppings.

"My 3-year-old son says, 'It's OK, Mommy, they're just looking for some stinky food,'" she said with a laugh.

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NATION



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Ihor Lakatos uses a cloth tunnel during his therapy sessions at Shriners Hospital for Children in Boston.

'I can live a life now'

Burned Ukrainian boy jubilant over ability to walk

By **BRIQUE NGWU**
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Ihor Lakatosh struggles to describe his life before the surgeries, when his severe burns went untreated for years in his native Ukraine, leaving him with one arm fused to his body, unable to walk and abandoned by his mother.

The 11-year-old boy, however, smiles widely and repeatedly makes the sign of the cross when he describes how he feels now, after a series of surgeries and physical therapy at a Boston charity hospital. "Thank you, I can walk," he said recently through an interpreter. "Thank you, I can walk. Thank you, Lord, I can walk."

Ihor returned to Boston early this year for a second round of procedures, and has been spending time showing off his newfound ability to walk, take off his jacket and climb onto a bed.

No one knows the details surrounding the fire that burned 30 percent of Ihor's body when he was about 3 years old. He was severely malnourished and unable to walk or bend his arms when neighbors in Lviv, Ukraine, urged his mother to take him to a hospital in 2011, doctors said. She did, and never came back.

The hospital provided minor care but couldn't pay for extensive treatment of Ihor. Staff there thought he was mentally impaired and took him to a special orphanage for children with cerebral palsy.

The orphanage director contacted a Ukrainian burn phy-

sician, who got in touch with Boston anesthesiologist Dr. Gennadiy Fuzaylov and sent him a photo of the boy. Fuzaylov and plastic surgeon Dr. Daniel Driscoll run a nonprofit organization, Doctors Collaborating to Help Children, which works to improve medical care for children

cal therapy to straighten elbows, shoulders and wrists. Physicians also struggled to figure out why the boy wasn't eating properly until they discovered 14 rotten teeth that they had to extract, Fuzaylov said. Doctors also determined that Ihor wasn't mentally impaired: all he simply had never been to school and was unable to hold a pencil. The fact that he had spent crucial formative years with mentally impaired children also undermined his development, doctors said.

Ihor was sent back to the orphanage in Ukraine after his first set of surgeries and will return there next month after this latest round of treatment.

The western Ukraine region where the orphanage is located has not been affected by the turmoil engulfing eastern parts of the former Soviet republic.

Occupational therapist Katherine Hartigan said she is impressed by Ihor's determination to fight through pain and frustration.

"Looking at him where he was two years ago and now, the really independent person he is, it's amazing. It's absolutely amazing," Hartigan said after a recent therapy session.

As for his future, Ihor remains up for adoption in Ukraine. But for now, he is focused on enjoying his new life in his improved body.

"I can do everything now," he said. "I can go to school ... I can go outside and play. I can eat by myself. I can go home and do my homework. I can go to bed by myself. I can do everything by myself. I can live a life now."



'Looking at him where he was two years ago and now, the really independent person he is, it's amazing. It's absolutely amazing.'

Katherine Hartigan
Ihor Lakatosh's occupational therapist

in various countries. Through the organization, they brought Ihor to Boston's Shriners Hospital for Children two years ago.

He was about 8 or 9 years old when he arrived and weighed less than 30 pounds, half the average weight for a boy his age.

"His initial surgery was done to bring his arm away from his body where it had completely scarred to his torso. That was a big one," Driscoll said.

Other operations gave Ihor the ability to bend his knees, and each was followed by extensive physi-

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'Transformers' opens worldwide in Hong Kong



PHOTOS BY KIM CHEUNG/AP

Actor Mark Wahlberg stands near a giant statue of Optimus Prime at the world premiere of the "Transformers 4: Age of Extinction" in Hong Kong on Thursday. The latest installment in the blockbuster series of Transformers films opened not in the usual entertainment hubs of Los Angeles or New York but in this wealthy Chinese metropolis, a sign of Hollywood's increasing focus on China's film market. Below, American actress Nicola Peltz is photographed on the red carpet as she arrives at the premiere.

BY KELVIN CHAN
The Associated Press

The stars of "Transformers: Age of Extinction," including Mark Wahlberg and good-guy robot Optimus Prime, were attending the film's worldwide premiere Thursday in Hong Kong, which was a key part of the blockbuster franchise's latest installment.

Wahlberg and other cast members including Stanley Tucci, Kelsey Grammer and Nicola Peltz walked the red carpet to the screening as a giant statue of Autobot leader Optimus Prime overlooked the venue next to a waterfront promenade on famed Victoria Harbor.

The film's debut in the southern Chinese metropolis ahead of its launch in New York next week is the latest sign of Hollywood's increasing focus on China's booming film market.

The fourth installment of the Michael Bay-directed franchise is due in North American and Chinese cinemas June 27. While the films have been derided by critics as superficial, mindless action flicks overloaded with computer-generated effects, that hasn't hurt their global appeal. The franchise's third film, "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," earned \$1.1 billion at the global box office,



with \$165 million from China, its second-biggest market after North America.

Production in Hong Kong last year made world headlines after it was disrupted by two extortion attempts, including an incident in which a man reportedly swung an air conditioner at Bay's head. One assailant in that incident was later sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Wahlberg stars as a mechanic who finds a rundown truck that turns out to be Optimus Prime. While most of the film is set in the U.S., Hong Kong's skyscraper-studded skyline is the backdrop for the climactic battle sequence, in which the Transform-

ers — giant, sentient robots that change into cars, jets and helicopters — trash the city onscreen.

The Autobots and their Deception enemies clash in the tenements of Kowloon and above the financial district's glittering towers. Spaceships hover above the city, tearing apart a waterfront convention center and throwing the former British colony's iconic Star Ferry about like a toy.

Other nods to China include scenes featuring the Great Wall in Beijing and the southern factory hub of Guangzhou, where a nefarious tycoon played by Tucci collaborates with Chinese actress Li Bingbing's biotech CEO character to produce robots based on the metal Transformers are made of. Four other minor roles were filled through a talent search on Chinese TV.

The premiere "can be viewed as an indication of Asia's growing importance in the global industry — and that Hong Kong, as an extension of the China market, was both convenient and meaningful for the venue," said Rance Pow, president of Shanghai-based film consultancy Artisan gateway.

China is the world's second-biggest film market, with box-office revenues up by nearly a third in the first quarter after rising 27.5 percent last year to \$3.6 billion.

Jay Leno to get top US humor prize

Newly retired from "The Tonight Show," television host Jay Leno is now being awarded the top U.S. humor prize for following in the tradition of satire and social commentary of Mark Twain, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announced Wednesday.

Leno will be honored with the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor in a performance by his fellow comedians Oct. 19 in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes people who have had an impact on American society through their humor and social commentary.

"Like Mark Twain, Jay Leno has offered us a lifetime's worth of humorous commentary on American daily life," said Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein in announcing the award. "For both men, no one was too high or too low to escape their wit, and we are all the better for it."

After learning about the prize, Leno said in a statement that he's honored and is a big fan of Twain's. He said "A Tale of Two Cities" is one of his favorite books. But apparently no one told Leno that novel was written by Charles Dickens.

Chappelle's comeback lands at Radio City

Dave Chappelle's hesitant, slow-motion comeback reached a high-motion crescendo when the comic performed a nearly two-hour set at Radio City Music Hall in New York that seemed to announce his long-awaited return.

Chappelle, who famously abandoned his acclaimed and lucrative Comedy Central show in 2005, has largely shunned the public eye since last year resuming his stand-up career. In his act Wednesday, Chappelle made up for lost time, catching up to a decade of racial and societal change, skipping from Herman Cain to Donald Sterling, his since-born-children to his return from self-imposed exile.

"I'm just back out here earning enough money to disappear again," he said.

The show was the first in nine scheduled for Chappelle at Radio City, easily his biggest platform in years.

Other news

■ An actor who played a police officer on "The Shield" TV show pleaded not guilty to murder Wednesday in the death of his wife and was ordered to stay away from his two young sons. Michael Jace entered the plea through his attorneys.

■ Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony's divorce has been finalized nearly three years after the singers separated. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John Sandoz finalized the couple's breakup Monday, awarding the former couple joint legal custody of their 6-year-old twins, records show.

■ Universal officials announced Wednesday that the new Harry Potter attraction at Universal Studios Park will open July 8. It will double the size of the Harry Potter landscape in the park.

From The Associated Press

'It's not cute if you follow Jennifer Lawrence — it's not cute if you're the second one!'

Lupita Nyong'o

The actress, 31, says she worried she would trip on her way to the podium to accept her Academy Award for best supporting actress. Lawrence tripped on her way to accept the award for best actress the year before.

AP



BUSINESS/WEATHER

Amazon's Bezos unveils Fire Phone

By JAY GREENE
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE—Amazon.com Inc. unveiled the Fire Phone smartphone Wednesday, featuring a way to differentiate the device from rivals with technology that identifies book covers, labels and barcodes to make shopping easier.

"Can we build a better phone for our most engaged customers? Can we build a better phone for our Amazon Prime member?" Amazon Chief Executive Jeff

Bezos asked at the device's launch in Seattle. "I'm excited to tell you the answer is yes."

The phone is Amazon's latest bid to more deeply control the devices that run the content it sells. The company first jumped into the device business in 2007, when it debuted its Kindle e-reader. Since then, it has launched the Kindle Fire tablet line and, in April, the Fire TV set-top box.

The Fire Phone, which sports a 4.7-inch screen, will have 2 gigabytes of RAM, a 2.2-gigahertz

quad-core processor and a 13-megapixel camera.

The phone also features Firefly, Amazon's new technology to facilitate easier shopping. Customers can use the camera to tap into servers to find data about items in front of them. Firefly can also use the phone's microphone to determine the name of a song playing nearby or a program on a TV.

With that information, Amazon can offer consumers the ability to buy those items or just learn more about them from the Web.

Bezos is so keen on Firefly that Amazon has included a dedicated Firefly button on the Fire Phone to make it easy for customers to use.

"Firefly is so easy to access. Customers are going to love this," Bezos said.

The device also comes with a feature called "dynamic perspective," which lets users flip the phone to navigate websites, fly through items on Amazon's shopping site, and dig up new information from a map application.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 20)	\$1.3916
Dollar buys (June 20)	€0.7186
British pound (June 20)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (June 20)	99.00
South Korean won (June 20)	993.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7038/0.8879
Canada (dollar)	1.0824
China (Yuan)	6.2292
Denmark (Krone)	5.4666
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3633/0.7335
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7504
Hungary (Forint)	223.52
Israel (Shekel)	3.4442
Japan (Yen)	101.83
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2819
Norway (Krone)	6.1025
Philippines (Peso)	43.78
Poland (Zloty)	3.7080
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7208
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2884
South Korea (Won)	1,018.87
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8922
Thailand (Bath)	32.47
Turkey (New Lira)	1,4285

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.923	\$4.090	\$4.253	\$4.119
Change in price	+1.2 cents	+0.9 cents	+0.8 cents	-1.0 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.968	\$5.257	\$5.012
Change in price	--	+8.4 cents	+7.9 cents	+3.8 cents
U.K.	\$4.094	\$4.216	\$4.216	\$4.216
Change in price	--	+4.8 cents	+0.8 cents	+1.6 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.209	--
Change in price	--	--	+0.8 cents	--
Turkey	--	--	\$4.047	\$4.969*
Change in price	--	--	+0.8 cents	+0.8 cents
Italy	\$4.050	\$4.084	\$4.219	\$4.215
Change in price	-\$0.050	--	--	--

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.039	--	\$3.869
Change in price	--	no change	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.669	--	--	\$3.869
Change in price	no change	--	--	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.128	\$4.139	\$4.009	--
Change in price	-12.0 cents	-12.0 cents	-12.0 cents	-14.0 cents
Guam	\$3.799**	\$3.969	\$4.129	--
Change in price	-12.0 cents	-12.0 cents	-13.0 cents	--

MARKET WATCH

June 18, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	+98.13
	16,906.62
Nasdaq composite	+25.60
	4,362.84
Standard & Poor's 500	+14.99
	1,956.98
Russell 2000	+6.51
	1,183.13

*Diesel EFD **Mildgrade
For the week of June 21-27

(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 U.S. dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.00
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.40

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	93/68	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	84/67	Rain	Louisville	88/75	Rain	Pocatello	85/45	Pcldy	Sioux City	88/64	Cir
Ablene, Tex	90	73	Cir	Cheyenne	80/47	Cir	Fresno	98/65	Rain	Lubbock	89/68	Rain	Portland, Maine	77/52	Cir	Spokane	88/62	Cir
Akron, Ohio	83/58	58	Cir	Chicago	84/69	Rain	Grand Rapids	89/58	Cir	Macon	95/72	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	67/54	Cir	Springfield	83/69	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	80/64	64	Cir	Cincinnati	87/70	Cir	Grand Rapids	78/62	Rain	Madison	82/67	Cir	Providence	79/58	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	88/71	Cir
Albuquerque	92/63	63	Pcldy	Cleveland	80/64	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	79/69	Cir	Memphis	83/66	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	92/72	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	86/70	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	83/55	55	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	84/53	Pcldy	Great Falls	79/69	Cir	Miami Beach	85/75	Cir	Reno	90/58	Cir	Tampa	89/74	Cir
Amarillo	83/54	54	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	98/72	Pcldy	Green Bay	76/58	Cir	Miami Beach	85/75	Cir	Richmond	87/71	Cir	Tampa	89/74	Cir
Anchorage	62/48	48	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	95/75	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	79/69	Cir	Miami Beach	85/75	Cir	Roanoke	89/70	Cir	Teaneck	86/71	Cir
Asheville	86/64	64	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	85/67	Rain	Hartford	89/67	Cir	Milwaukee	75/59	Cir	Rochester	75/55	Cir	Topeka	90/69	Pcldy
Atlanta	78/74	74	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	78/48	Cir	Hartford	89/67	Cir	Missoula	82/46	Pcldy	Rochester	75/55	Cir	Topeka	90/69	Pcldy
Atlantic City	83/61	61	Pcldy	Corpus Christi	93/78	Cir	Helena	82/50	Pcldy	Missoula	82/46	Pcldy	Rochester	75/55	Cir	Tucson	103/71	Cir
Austin	82/64	64	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	92/75	Cir	Honolulu	88/74	Pcldy	Mobile	93/74	Pcldy	Rockford	65/69	Cir	Tulsa	89/71	Cir
Baltimore	86/66	66	Cir	Dayton	85/69	Rain	Houston	92/75	Pcldy	Montgomery	94/73	Pcldy	Sacramento	88/57	Cir	Tulsa	89/71	Cir
Baton Rouge	92/72	72	Pcldy	Dayton	85/69	Rain	Houston	92/75	Pcldy	Nashville	93/72	Pcldy	St. Louis	91/74	Rain	Tulsa	89/71	Cir
Birmingham	83/55	55	Cir	Denver	85/52	Pcldy	Indianapolis	86/71	Rain	New Orleans	90/75	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	89/76	Cir	Tulsa	89/71	Cir
Bismarck	76/55	55	Cir	Des Moines	88/68	Cir	Jacksonville	91/70	Pcldy	New York City	82/63	Cir	St. Thomas	89/80	Rain	Waco	91/72	Cir
Boston	82/59	59	Cir	Des Moines	88/68	Cir	Jacksonville	91/70	Pcldy	New York City	82/63	Cir	St. Thomas	89/80	Rain	Waco	91/72	Cir
Bridgport	77/58	58	Cir	Detroit	76/62	Rain	Jacksonville	91/70	Pcldy	Newark	83/63	Cir	Salt Lake City	88/57	Cir	W. Palm Beach	85/74	Cir
Brownsville	93/78	78	Pcldy	El Paso	96/74	Pcldy	Kansas City	90/69	Pcldy	Newark, Va.	85/74	Cir	Salt Lake City	88/57	Cir	Wichita Falls	95/73	Cir
Buffalo	76/55	55	Cir	El Paso	96/74	Pcldy	Kansas City	90/69	Pcldy	North Platte	87/55	Pcldy	San Angelo	90/72	Cir	Wichita Falls	95/73	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	82/48	48	Cir	Elkins	79/62	Cir	Key West	89/79	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	90/71	Cir	San Antonio	92/76	Cir	Wichita Falls	95/73	Cir
Caribou, Maine	65/46	46	Cir	Evansville	88/67	Rain	Lake Charles	91/73	Cir	Oklahoma City	90/71	Cir	San Diego	75/64	Cir	Wichita Falls	95/73	Cir
Casper	82/44	44	Cir	Fargo	83/63	Pcldy	Lansing	76/60	Rain	Orlando	91/72	Rain	San Francisco	71/55	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	83/63	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	94/72	72	Pcldy	Flagstaff	82/41	Cir	Lincoln	90/64	Cir	Philadelphia	85/64	Pcldy	Savannah	94/71	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	83/63	Pcldy
Charleston, W.Va.	87/68	68	Cir	Flint	78/57	Rain	Little Rock	93/75	Pcldy	Phoenix	107/80	Rain	Seattle	66/55	Cir	Youngstown	82/55	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	93/71	71	Cir	Fort Smith	91/72	Cir	Los Angeles	79/62	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	80/64	Rain	Shreveport	93/74	Pcldy	Youngstown	82/55	Cir

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

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 104, Laredo, Texas
Lo: Wed., 20, Silver Lake, Utah

Frazz



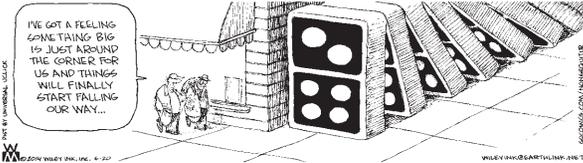
Dilbert



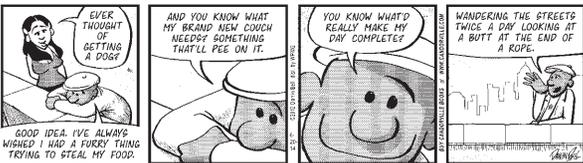
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



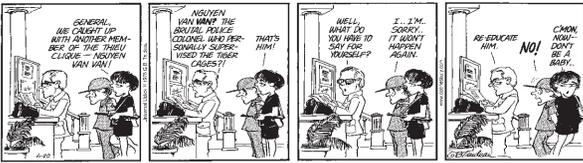
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15		16					17				
18						19	20				
21			22				23	24	25		
26	27	28		29			30				
31			32				33				
34			35				36				
37			38				39				
40						41			42	43	44
45	46	47		48	49						
50				51					52		
53				54					55		

- ACROSS**
- 1 GPS offering
 - 4 Confab
 - 8 Imperfection
 - 12 Kimono closer
 - 13 Anger
 - 14 Portrayal
 - 15 Ohioans
 - 17 Wheelbase terminus
 - 18 Posture
 - 19 Heavy weight
 - 21 Surprise cries
 - 22 Cave somewhat
 - 26 Hackneyed
 - 29 Cudgel
 - 30 Whammy
 - 31 Select from a group
 - 32 Martini ingredient
 - 33 Tarzan's mate
 - 34 Chowd down
 - 35 Journal
 - 36 Fourteen-down tactics
 - 37 Charlie who visited Willy Wonka
 - 39 Can material
 - 40 Past
 - 41 Thespian's field
 - 45 TV's Judge
 - 48 Cowboy
 - 50 On the briny
 - 51 Jannings of old movies
 - 52 Big brother
- DOWN**
- 1 Unruly groups
 - 2 Touch
 - 3 Elite alternative
 - 4 Nativity display
 - 5 Grant's successor
 - 6 Time of your life
 - 7 Nuclear cease-fire
 - 8 Money of Mali
 - 9 Bage topping
 - 10 Every last iota
 - 11 Tiny
 - 16 Small hill
 - 20 Ump's cry
 - 23 Kirk's wrathful foe
 - 24 Fast time?
 - 25 Former mates
 - 26 Wound cover
 - 27 Ballet frill
 - 28 Sir — Guinness
 - 29 Gincormous
 - 32 Retire
 - 33 Overthrow group
 - 35 Journey segment
 - 36 Deli side
 - 38 Whitewater vessel
 - 39 Unspoken
 - 42 Mideast nation
 - 43 Protuberance
 - 44 Acceptable
 - 45 Predicament
 - 46 Gl's entertainment
 - 47 Lair
 - 49 Ms. Thurman

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

6-20 CRYPTOQUIP

F D G S R R V S N D V H S P S F V P K H

Z P S H M V P S K N G M D G U Z U

V R R G F G Z E K Z M Z F V E S F M G V U

Z U Z P F D G L Z E Z P F D P G L Z E

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHILE OUT CAMPING, THE GROUP OF BLOOM ARRANGERS WILL BE CAREFUL NOT TO START A FLORIST FIRE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Z equals A

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OMBDUSMAN

Ernie Gates

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 30 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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Nixon's work mischaracterized

Andrew J. Bacevich made some good points in his June 18 column ("Can Obama pull a Nixon with the crisis in Iraq?"), but his criticism of Richard Nixon was off the mark and looks many worthy of criticism off the hook. Bacevich referred to Nixon's "cynicism" in ending the Vietnam War. Nixon wasn't president when the war ended, and this has something to do with the way the war ended. As Nixon's authority faded during the Watergate crisis, the U.S. Congress asserted itself, about which more later.

The Soviet Union paid the bill for North Vietnam's war effort. The Soviet purpose was to involve the United States in a big war on China's border in order to influence a "to the death" power struggle in China in favor of a faction Mao Zedong called the "pro Soviet group." The Soviet goal was to prevent a Sino/American rapprochement. The American "Best and Brightest" did not understand that there existed a possibility of a Sino/Soviet rift, or to them seemingly more far-fetched, a Sino/American rapprochement. Richard Nixon did understand the possibilities.

Nixon came into office with more than a half-million soldiers bogged down in Vietnam with no strategy, purpose or goal other than to try not to die, and a set of political circumstances bequeathed to him by Lyndon Johnson that made escalation to a costly tactical victory an impossible option. He was determined to turn over the

Tell us what you think

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conduct of the war to an increasingly effective South Vietnamese military and ensure American longer term interests in Asia through rapprochement with China. Part of the deal would include Chinese interference with Soviet land access to Vietnam across China. This, coupled with American ability to cut off sea resupply through Cambodia or through Hanoi, would give the U.S. the ability to disrupt enemy strategic lines of communication.

Immediately, even as president-elect, Nixon instructed Walter Stoessel, U.S. ambassador in Poland, to contact the Chinese to press for early negotiations and the Chinese responded positively and publicly. As the Chinese and Americans began what Nixon termed a "delicate diplomatic minute," Soviet strategy failed.

In consequence, the Soviets changed their bet on Vietnam from stimulating an expanded conflict to victory for North

Vietnam. This was a Soviet form of "containment of China" to build a powerful pro-Soviet client state on China's southern border. As the United States withdrew combat forces from Vietnam, the Soviets altered the nature of their military support to include tanks, heavy artillery and other equipment needed for large conventional battles.

Nixon had planned a massive bombing campaign against the North Vietnamese armored buildup, but postponed it when John Dean went to the federal prosecutor in the Watergate affair. As he became increasingly enfeebled by Watergate, Congress asserted its ugly little head. Military appropriations in support of the South Vietnamese were cut by more than half in 1973-74 and by another 30 percent the following year.

The result was a South Vietnamese army that ran low on ammunition, fuel and spare parts. At the end the North Vietnamese had 900 tanks with all the ammunition, fuel and spare parts they could ever need. South Vietnam had 550 tanks, many of which were not operational due to lack of parts, and they were low on fuel and ammunition.

That North Vietnam won under these circumstances should not be surprising. But the victory had nothing to do with peoples' war or guerrilla warfare at all.

The United States, not Richard Nixon, abandoned Vietnam.

Col. F. Charles Parker IV (retired)
 Brussels

The Redskins name should go, but not because US government says so

By SALLY JENKINS
 The Washington Post

Not that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has struck a governmental blow against commodified ethnic insults, I'm nervous, because I may have "disparaged" somebody this morning when I buttered my toast. After I put away the Land O Lakes butter with that Indian maiden logo on the box, I bit off a chew of Red Man tobacco and climbed into a Jeep Cherokee.

The Washington football club ought to ditch its slur of a trademark, voluntarily. It ought to do so on the grounds of basic decency and good taste, and, you'd hope, with an intelligent sense of history, context and place. If they won't do it willingly, then the rest of us and their colleagues in the NFL ought to embarrass, jeer and cajole them into it. But the method currently being employed, the mobilization of the U.S. government in favor of a correct sensibility, is wrong.

The split decision, 2-1, by the U.S. Patent and Trademark panel to cancel the Washington football club's trademark registration is hollow for three reasons. First, team management again failed the decency and intelligence test in response to it. Second, the practical effect isn't that they have to stop using the name, only that they might have trouble successfully barring others who use it. Third, and most important, government coercion is a lot more harmful than a lousy word.

Nobody would like to see a name change more than me, and no one has made more fun of owner Dan Snyder on this subject. But the USPTO decision came in a political climate that is queasy-making. It came after months of various FedEx leaning on the team in ways that make it hard to feel a sense of victory. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., has threatened to examine the

NFL's tax-exempt status. The Federal Communications Commission has threatened to bring a criminal charge against the club for "indecentcy."

The trademark case is indirectly about policing speech. Denial of a trademark registration is not the same as banning the use of a word, no. But it came in concert with several other forms of government pressure, and that fact is concerning enough to put the ACLU and Fox's Megyn Kelly in the same camp over its free speech implications.

"At first blush, it might seem obvious that the USPTO should have the ability to deny registration to racist or vulgar trademarks," Gabe Rottman, a legislative counsel for the ACLU, wrote last December in an essay considering the team's trademark question. "But, as with all things free speech, who gets to decide what's racist or vulgar? That's right, the government, which just in Vietnam managed to make these kinds of determinations."

You don't really want government agencies to become the arbiter of acceptable words and images. You really don't. The main reason you don't is because, like it or not, what's offensive is subjective. It creates "a morass of uncertainty," Rottman wrote. Consider how many offensive violations someone could find in one episode of "The Family Guy" Or "Game of Thrones," or "Orange Is the New Black."

"Being offended is the natural consequence of leaving one's home," Fran Lebowitz wrote. She added, "I do not like after-shave lotion, adults who roller-skiate, children who speak French, or anyone who is unduly tan. I do not, however, go around enacting legislation and putting up signs."

In his dissent from the trademark decision, USPTO panelist Marc Bergsman observed that "the context" in which a word is used "changes the perception of the term." For some people the word "Redskins" has

lost all of its vicious old meaning and replaced it with their beloved Sonny Jurgensen and Billy Kilmer; for others it's a hate term. Personally, I find it distasteful in all contexts. But how is a bureaucracy supposed to effectively arbitrate its "real" meaning without a lot of unintended consequences and restrictions?

Trademark law prohibits the registering of names that "may disparage" individuals or groups, or "bring them into contempt or disrepute." But in actuality American Indians are constantly treated with contempt by corporate America, and we don't even notice it. As Thomas King observes in his withering book, "The Inconvenient Indian," "Sometimes you can only watch and marvel at the ways in which the Dead Indian has been turned into products."

Indians have been turned into cars, and underwear brands, and Crazy Horse malt liquor; the football trademark case hardly rectifies the problem King identifies, which is that Americans have no respect for their own antiquities, and don't recognize how badly they continue to junk and trash them.

"Dead Indians are dignified, noble, silent, suitably garbed," King writes. "And dead. Live Indians are invisible, unruly, disappointing. And breathing. One is a romantic reminder of a heroic but fictional past. The other is simply an unpleasant, contemporary surprise."

That's got the ring of absolute truth to it. But no governmental traducing can put that epiphany into the heart of a team owner or the league commissioner, or a fan. There are competing priorities here: anti-disparagement vs. absolute free speech. Trouble is, if you over police the latter you might stifle King's ability to write so powerfully about the former. He actually toyed with ending his book "Pesky Redskins"

Sally Jenkins is a Washington Post sports columnist.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Resist new combat role in Iraq

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Given the United States' 11 years of involvement in Iraq as an invader, occupier and, most recently, facilitator and ally, it is difficult for the government and Americans to watch what is happening there with equanimity.

The United States withdrew its forces from Iraq at the end of 2011, with what is widely seen as a democratically elected government in place and with ample armed forces poised to defend that government, which America had trained and equipped. That is, of course, the strategy that the United States has also laid out for its departure from Afghanistan, at this point scheduled for the end of 2016, after 15 years there.

The edifice that Washington set up and supported in Iraq, led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, has fallen apart, in a heap of sectarianism, regional tribalism, corruption and just plain narrow-minded stupidity. The regional powers — Iran, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arabs — have backed their respective horses in the race, the governing Shiites and the challenging Sunnis, pulling the country of Iraq apart.

The likely outcome now will be a Kurdish north, a Sunni heartland probably including at least part of Baghdad, and a Shiite south — the three pieces perhaps working to a degree under the shell of the former Iraq, the one that existed prior to the U.S. invasion in 2003.

At this juncture there are key points for President Barack Obama and his team to bear in mind.

First, Obama is probably right to put a small number of U.S. troops into the Baghdad Green Zone, to keep the 5,500 American officials still in Iraq — astonishing — from being slaughtered or taken hostage by a victorious Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant or a desperate al-Maliki government. He must stick to his position that U.S. troops will not become re-involved in combat in Iraq.

Pushing Obama to use troops to save the al-Maliki government will be U.S. parties with commercial interests and investments in Iraq's status quo, some of it through the sale of arms and other products, and those who still feel committed to the previous strategy and don't want to admit that it has failed. Obama needs to resist influence by these parties, which are unable to adapt to the changes on the ground.

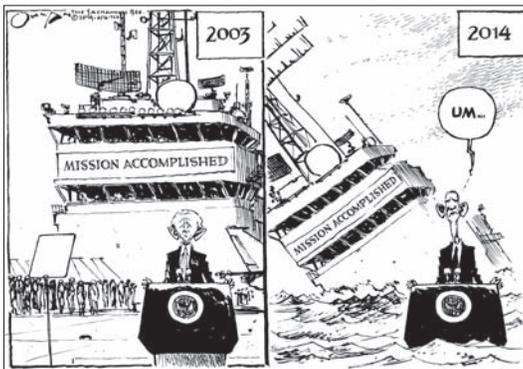
An ironic, but basically positive outcome of the new situation is that it is compelling the United States to consult with Iran on matters of common interest in Iraq. This is a long overdue development, even though the subject may be how to save the skin of the failed Shiite government and American face in the region.

Best to have no tired truckers

New Britain (Conn.) Herald

At the same time that Congress is considering whether to relax work rules for freight haulers, a truck driver's lack of sleep is being blamed for the highway crash that injured comedian Tracy Morgan and killed Connecticut resident James "Jimmy Mack" McNair.

When Mack's Kevin Roper apparently failed to slow for traffic ahead on the New Jersey Turnpike and then swerved to



avoid a crash.

Instead, his rig smashed into the back of Morgan's chauffeured limo bus, killing comedian McNair and injuring Morgan and three others.

Authorities said that Roper hadn't slept for more than 24 hours before the accident.

This comes at a time when a proposed change to federal regulations would effectively let drivers put in as many as 82 hours a week behind the wheel.

The change is backed by the trucking industry and opposed by safety advocates and the Obama administration.

An amendment that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee, sponsored by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, would repeal a requirement that drivers take a 34-hour break, including no driving from 1 to 5 a.m. on two consecutive days.

"This regulation dumps concentrated amounts of commercial traffic onto the highway system at 5:01 a.m. Monday, when people are trying to get to their offices and their businesses ... and deliver children to schools," said Phil Byrd, chairman of the American Trucking Association.

The senator and trucking industry officials said it is safer for truckers to drive at night when there is less traffic.

Those who oppose the change point out that nearly 4,000 people die in large truck crashes each year, and driver fatigue is a leading factor, according to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

Do you want to share the road with a tired trucker? We didn't think so.

Measles bug, so we must act

The (Greenville, N.C.) Daily Reflector

A disease once on its way to oblivion apparently is on the rise — and headed this way, say health officials locally and nationwide. So forget rumors you might have heard about vaccinations and make sure you and your children have had one.

That's the message coming this week from health officials about a resurgence in cases of measles nationwide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this month that measles has reached a 20-year high, and a big reason for the increase is a decrease in the number of people being vaccinated, especially children.

Pitt County Health Director John Morrow told The Daily Reflector that with measles' virtual disappearance in years past, parents today are not aware of its potentially terrible effects.

That's one reason they might not worry much about making sure their children receive the vaccine that would protect them.

Morrow also cited a report that originated in England years ago as another reason for the decline in vaccinations. The report suggested that some of the ingredients in the vaccine could cause other childhood illnesses, including autism.

The researcher behind this report had falsified data, Morrow said, but by the time that became broadly known the rumor that the vaccine was harmful had "gone viral."

As a result, the threat of a measles comeback today is real. In the last five months, measles has caused more U.S. illnesses than in any other year since 1996, said the CDC. The disease spreads easily through the air and in a closed room infected droplets can linger for up to two hours after a sick person leaves.

There have been 16 outbreaks producing 397 cases of the highly contagious respiratory disease in 20 states, including nearby Virginia and Tennessee ...

So vigilance and awareness are in order to head it off, and it's certainly not too soon to vaccinate anyone who needs protection from this unwanted visitor from the past.

Let's just hope it's not too late.

Immigration reform took a hit

The Salt Lake Tribune

America needs immigration reform. Polls show a large majority of Americans want immigration reform.

That reform, to be worthy of the name, must include a clear path to citizenship — or, at the very least, legal status — for the more than 11 million human beings who now live in this country without benefit of proper paperwork. A recent Pew Research Center poll puts the number of Americans who favor a path to full citizenship at 76 percent.

But because he was considered insufficiently hostile to just that kind of reform, the second-ranking member of the U.S. House of Representatives was thrown out of office this month by a handful of voters in Virginia.

So even though none of Utah's Republican members of Congress currently faces a challenge from their right wing, our own delegates are even more unlikely than they were before to push through an immigration reform bill this year.

Which means it may never happen at all.

Rep. Eric Cantor, House majority leader and widely considered the heir apparent to Speaker John Boehner, lost his primary election to a hitherto unknown economics professor who overcame the incumbent's huge advantage in money and name recognition by accusing him of, among other things, being in favor of "amnesty" for undocumented immigrants.

It wasn't true. If anything, Cantor bore a lot of the credit — or blame — for bottling up the Senate-passed immigration reform bill that includes a path to citizenship. That bill had a lot of bipartisan support, including from Utah's Orrin Hatch.

But that wasn't any deterrent to the right wing echo chamber and its talk radio ringmasters whose screeching helped get Cantor bounced.

It is apparently what Utah Republicans such as Reps. Jason Chaffetz and Chris Stewart fear when they resist the entreaties of such mainstream stalwarts as the Utah Farm Bureau, Utah Restaurant Association and Utah Manufacturers Association. Those groups, and others, met with the congressmen last week to explain how a lack of reform hurts businesses, consumers and the whole of the state economy.

They rang up a big No Sale for their efforts. Stewart basically brushed the groups off by telling them he didn't see that his constituents really cared that much. Which may be true.

Immigration is one of those issues where a vast majority, who favor one path of action but don't feel vehemently about it, lose out to a much smaller, but more vocal, fringe.

That fringe ended one political career this month in Virginia. Making sure they don't go next now becomes the priority of other Republicans. Including, sadly, most of them in Utah.

Rebuff Obama's war on coal

Minot (N.D.) Daily News

It has become perfectly clear that President Barack Obama's goal is to shut down coal-fired power plants — whether doing so is essential in battling climate change or not. If he is successful, tens of millions of American families will pay much higher electric bills. And hundreds of thousands of people will lose their jobs, all to allow Obama to get his way.

Obama's schedule for wrecking the coal industry and driving up electricity prices has been obvious. First, his Environmental Protection Agency adopted rules effectively banning construction of new coal-fired power plants in the United States. He did that against the will of the people, as expressed by a majority of members of the Senate, who refused to vote in favor of his "cap and trade" scheme.

Utilities quickly revealed plans to close hundreds of older coal-fired power stations. Most will be replaced with natural gas facilities. Then, last month, Obama decided to administer the coup de grace. The EPA revealed new rules that will make it virtually impossible to operate existing coal-fired power plants.

Even Obama's administration admits that will drive electric bills up by 20 to 30 percent for many Americans. More objective analysts say bills may go up by double that amount or more. Business analysts say the president's agenda will cost the nation at least 500,000 jobs.

If technology existed to retrofit coal-burning power plants to comply with EPA limits, things would be different. But it does not. And that is part of Obama's plan. While he has been throwing away billions of dollars on so-called "alternative" energy such as solar power, Obama has been slashing federal funding for coal research. It is all part of a plan, one certainly crafted more carefully than many White House initiatives, such as foreign policy.

Unless Democratic members of the Senate begin representing their constituents, Obama will win in his vendetta against coal — while tens of millions of Americans lose.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AF

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

Pro soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
D.C.	7	4	23	22
New England	6	5	24	21
Seattle Sounders	6	5	24	22
Toronto FC	6	4	21	15
Houston	4	5	16	18
Columbus	4	5	16	18
Portland	4	4	15	22
Philadelphia	3	7	16	27
Chicago	2	7	14	27
Montreal	2	4	14	26

WESTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	10	3	32	23
Real Salt Lake	6	5	24	21
Colorado	6	5	24	21
FC Dallas	6	4	22	18
Portland	5	2	21	25
Portland	4	4	20	28
San Jose	4	4	16	14
San Antonio	4	3	16	14
Chicago	3	4	16	14

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

Wednesday, June 25

Montreal at Vancouver
Toronto FC at New York
Sporting Kansas City at Portland

Thursday, June 26

Seattle FC at D.C. United
Philadelphia at New England
FC Dallas at Columbus
Vancouver at Chicago
Los Angeles at San Jose
Real Salt Lake at San Jose

Friday, June 27

Houston at Montreal
Seattle Sounders at New York

Sunday, June 29

Toronto FC at Chicago
Chivas USA at San Jose

NWSL

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	7	4	24	23	17
FC Kansas City	7	4	24	23	17
Washington	6	6	1	19	24
Portland	6	6	1	19	24
New York	4	8	2	17	15
Portland	4	8	2	17	15
Houston	4	8	2	17	15
San Jose	4	8	2	17	15
Boston	3	8	0	9	24

Wednesday's game

Western New York 2, Chicago 0

Thursday's game

Seattle FC at Boston

Saturday's games

Portland at Washington
Atlanta FC at FC Kansas City
Seattle FC at Western New York

Friday, June 27

San Jose at Portland

Saturday, June 28

Boston at Western New York
Portland at FC Kansas City
San Jose at Seattle FC
Washington at Houston

College baseball

World Series

at TD Ameritrade Park Omaha

Omaha, Neb.

Double Elimination

x-Friday, June 14

UC Irvine vs. Texas

x-Saturday, June 15

TCU vs. Louisville 3

TCU, 3, Texas Tech 2

Virginia, 1, Mississippi 1

Monday, June 16

Texas 4, Louisville 1, Louisville eliminated

Wednesday, June 17

Vanderbilt 6, UC Irvine 4

Tuesday, June 18

Mississippi 2, Texas Tech 1, Texas Tech eliminated

Thursday, June 19

Game 10 - Mississippi (47-20) vs. TCU (45-19)

Friday, June 20

Game 11 - Vanderbilt (48-19) vs. Texas (45-20)

Saturday, June 21

Game 12 - Virginia (51-14) vs. Game 10 winner

x-Game 13 - Virginia vs. Game 11 winner

Game 14 - Virginia vs. Game 10 winner

Championship Series (Best-of-Three)

Monday, June 23: Pairings TBA

Tuesday, June 24: Pairings TBA

x-Wednesday, June 25: Pairings TBA

Boxing

Fight schedule

June 21

At Monte Carlo, Martin Murray vs. Bud Burasko, 10, middleweights; Hekkie Bader vs. Pigmy Muangthayaphong Kokietgym, 12, for Budier's WBO strawweight title; Mateusz Masternak vs. Junga Makalu, 12, for the vacant WBA interim cruiserweight title; Thomas Gage vs. Mike Alvarado, 10, rounds, cruiserweights; At Wilkes-Barre, (1) Frank Tringali vs. Dudchenko vs. Najdji Mohammed, 12, IBF light heavyweight eliminator; (2) Robert Guerrero vs. Yoshioh Kuroki, 12, welterweights; Devon Alexander vs. Jesus Soto Karass, 10, super welterweights.

June 27

At St. Charles, Mo., Ivan Redkach vs. Vincenzo Tabieri, 10, lightweights; At Las Vegas, Dominic Wade vs. Nick Briscoe, 10, middleweights; Enol Spence vs. Ronald Cruz, 10, welterweights; Marcus Browne vs. Yusaf Mack, 10, light heavyweight.

June 28

At Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, Argenis Lopez vs. Darleys Perez, 12, for the vacant WBA World lightweight title; Carlos Zambrano vs. Daniel Ramirez, 10, for the WBA Fedelatin featherweight title; At CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb., Terence Crawford vs. Martin Gammbo, 12, for Crawford's WBO lightweight title; Max Baer vs. Jose Uzcategui, 10, middleweights; At Hidalgo, Mexico, Osvaldo Novoa vs. Jose Martinez, 12, for Novoa's WBO minimumweight title.

At Foxwoods Resort, Mashantucket, Conn., Patrick Fitzgibbon vs. Robert Izquierdo, 12, super featherweights; Billy Dib vs. Alberto Garza, 10, junior lightweights.

At Grozny, Russia, Ruslan Chagiev vs. Frodo, 10, for the vacant WBA heavyweight title.

At Hard rock Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Alfonso Gomez vs. Ed Paredes, 10, junior middleweights.

July 10

At Miami, Argenis Medez vs. Rances Barthelemy, 12, for Mendez's IBF junior lightweight title.

July 11

At Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, Wash., Tursano Johnson vs. Mike Gavronski, 10, for the Continental Americas Super Lightweight title; Mike Gavronsky vs. Jonathan Maceo, 10, for the WBO International Super lightweight title.

July 12

At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Erislandy Lara vs. Canelo Alvarez, 12, junior middleweight; Anner Hernandez vs. Juan Perez vs. Melissa Herrera, 12, for the vacant interim WBA junior welterweight world championship; Juan Manuel Lopez vs. Frank Medina vs. Juan Lopez, 12, for Medina's WBO bantamweight title.

July 18

At Hypo, Japan, Zolani Tete vs. Teiru Kikuchi, 10, for the vacant IBF super flyweight title.

July 19

At Macao, Guillermo Rigondeaux vs. Juan Manuel Lopez, 12, for Rigondeaux's WBA Super World-WBO super bantamweight title.

July 25

At Chicago, Roberto Garcia vs. Breidis Prescott, 10, welterweights; At WBO International Super flyweight title eliminator.

Aug 12

At Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, Wash., Thomas Williams vs. Gabriel Campillo, 12, light heavyweight.

At Cosmopolitan, Las Vegas, Brandon Roy vs. Diego Gabriel Chavez, 12, welterweights; Jessie Vargas vs. Mike Alvarado, 12, for Vargas' WBA World junior welterweight title.

Aug 9

At New York, Shawn Porter vs. Kell Brook, 12, for Porter's WBO welterweight title.

AP spotlight

2013-14 - Jesse Owens sets a 100-meter record of 10 seconds at a meet in Chicago.

1940 - Joe Louis stops Arturo Godoy in the eighth round at Yankee Stadium to retain the world heavyweight title.

1960 - Floyd Patterson knocks out Ingemar Johansson to win the WBA World Heavyweight title.

1965 - Ken Venturi wins the Tommy Jacobs by two strokes to win the U.S. Open.

1966 - Billy Casper breaks Arnold Palmer's record in a playoff to win the U.S. Open.

1968 - The Night of Speed. In a span of 10 hours, the world record of 10 seconds for the 100 meters is broken by three men and tied by seven others at

Tennis

AEGON International

Wednesday
At Devonshire Park Eastbourne, England
Purse: AT£ 561,200 (WT250); WTA, \$710,000 (Premier)

Singles
Men: Great Outdoors
Women: Doubles

Second Round
Richard Krajicek, (1), Fr., def. Bernardo Tomic, Australia, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-2, 6-3; Martin Klizan, Slovakia, def. Donald Young, (1), Great Britain, 6-3, 6-3; Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Jarko Nieminen, Finland, 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Women
Julien Benneteau, France, def. Gilles Simon, (6), France, 6-3; Sara Serrano, United States, def. Victor Estrella Burgos, Dominican Republic, 6-3, retired; Jeremy Chardy, France, def. Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, 6-4, 7-5; Feliciano Lopez, (3), Spain, def. Tobias Kamke, Germany, 7-6 (10), 7-5.

Second Round
Angelique Kerber, (5), Germany, def. Alize Cornet, France, 7-5, 1-6, 7-6 (3); Camilla Giorgi, Italy, def. Johanna Konta, Britain, 1-6, 7-5, 7-5.

Lauren Davis, United States, def. Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-3; Caroline Wozniacki, (6), Denmark, def. Sloane Stephens, United States, 6-3, 6-3; Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenko, Russia, 6-3, 6-3; Heather Watrous, Britain, def. Flavia Pennetta, (6), Italy, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-2.

Madison Keyes, United States, def. Elena Vesnina, Russia, 7-5, 7-6 (9).

At Wimbledon, Great Britain, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 6-1, 6-4.

Doubles
Men: Great Outdoors
Women: Doubles

Alexander Peya, Austria, and Bruno Soares, Brazil, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, 6-3, 6-3.

Ken and Neil Skupski, Britain, def. Robert Lindstedt, Sweden, and Max Purcell, Britain, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 10-14.

Treat Huey, Philippines, and Dominic Inglot, Britain, def. Leander Paes, India, and Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, (2), Pakistan, 6-4, 6-3.

Colin Fleming and Ross Hutchins, Britain, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and Daniel Nestor, (1), Canada, 6-3, 6-3.

First Round
Chen Hao-ching and Chan Yung-jan, (1), Taiwan, def. Kopeckova and Gal Spear, United States, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci, (1), Italy, def. Sara Zangiacomi, Spain, 6-3, 6-3; Hecsa Schicko, Czech Republic, and Olga Danilovic, Serbia, 6-0, 9-6, 10-6.

Quarterfinals
Kvetka Peschke, Czech Republic, and Shuko Aoyama, Japan, and Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-2, 6-3; Anja Krivic, Croatia, def. Switzerland, and Flavia Pennetta, Italy, def. Liezel Huber, and Lisa Raymond, United States, 6-1, 6-3.

Topshelf Open

Wednesday
At Antares, Rotterdam
Purse: AT€ 565,000 (W500); WTA, \$250,000 (Premier)

Singles
Men: Great-Outdoor
Women: Doubles

Second Round
Thiemo de Bakker, Netherlands, def. Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-3; Jeremy Melzer, (8), Austria, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-3; Joao Sousa, Portugal, def. Mate Pavic, Croatia, 6-2, 6-3.

At WTA, (2) Spain, def. Jesse Huta Galung, Netherlands, 7-5, 7-6 (3); Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

At WTA, (1) Germany, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 6-2, 7-5; France, def. Steve Johnson, United States, 6-2, 6-2; Vasek Pospisil, (6), Canada, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 6-2, 6-2.

Women
Zheng Jie, China, def. Carla Suarez Navarro, (4), Spain, 7-5, 6-1.

At WTA, (2) Czech Republic, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Michaella Krajicek, Netherlands, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4).

Coco Vandeweghe, United States, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 6-7 (6), 6-0, 2-1, retired.

Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, def. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 6-3, 6-3; Annika Beck, Germany, def. Simona Halep, (1), Romania, 6-2, 6-2, retired.

Quarterfinals
Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Scott Lipsky, (2), United States, def. Tomasz Bednarek, Poland, and Lukas Dlouhy, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3; Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Horac Tecau, (1), Romania, def. Marin Draganja, Croatia, and Florin Mergea, Romania, 6-4, 6-4.

Marcel Granero, Spain, and Jurgen Melzer, (3), Austria, def. Andre Begemann, Germany, and Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4.

Women
Andreea Hlavackova, Czech Republic, and Zheng Jie, China, def. Eleni Daniilidou, Greece, and Eva Hrdinova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-3.

Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Darija Jurak, Croatia, and Megan Moulton-Levy, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

Wimbledon seedings

June 23-July 6
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club London

Rankings in parentheses
1. Novak Djokovic, Serbia (2)

2. Rafael Nadal, Spain (1)

3. Andy Murray, Britain (5)

4. Roger Federer, Switzerland (4)

5. Stan Wawrinka, Switzerland (6)

6. David Ferrer, Spain (7)

7. John Isner, United States (11)

8. Kei Nishikori, Japan (12)

9. Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria (13)

10. Ernests Gulbis, Latvia (10)

11. Tomasz Bednarek, Poland (14)

12. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France (17)

13. Gilles Muller, Luxembourg (18)

14. Fabio Fognini, Italy (15)

15. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia (32)

16. Fernando Verdasco, Spain (23)

17. Feliciano Lopez, Spain (25)

18. Kevin Anderson, South Africa (18)

19. Alexander Dolgopolov, Ukraine, (19)

20. Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany (27)

21. Tommy Robredo, Spain (22)

22. Gael Monfils, France (21)

23. Nicolas Pietrangeli, Spain (26)

24. Sam Querrey, United States (20)

27. Marin Cilic, Croatia (29)

29. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain (31)

30. Ana Karolinc, Croatia (3)

31. Marcell Granero, Spain (30)

32. Dmitry Tursunov, Russia (32)

Women

1. Serena Williams, United States (1)

2. Simona Halep, Romania (3)

3. Agnieszka Radwanska, Poland (4)

4. Maria Sharapova, Russia (5)

6. Petra Kvitova, Czech Republic (6)

7. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia (11)

8. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus (8)

9. Kristina Mladenovic, Germany (9)

10. Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia (10)

11. Lucie Kravancikova, Germany (9)

12. Flavia Pennetta, Italy (12)

13. Eugenie Bouchard, Canada (13)

14. Sara Errani, Italy (16)

15. Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain (15)

16. Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain (16)

17. Sam Stosur, Australia (17)

18. Sloane Stephens, United States (18)

19. Sabine Lisicki, Germany (19)

20. Alona Bondarenko, Ukraine (20)

21. Roberta Vinci, Italy (21)

22. Kiki Bertens, Netherlands (22)

23. Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic (22)

24. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium (24)

25. Alize Cornet, France (25)

26. Sorana Cristea, Romania (26)

27. Garbine Muguruza, Spain (27)

28. Svetlana Kuznetsovna, Russia (28)

29. Sorana Cristea, Romania (29)

30. Venus Williams, United States (30)

31. Klara Koulikova, Czech Republic (31)

32. Elena Vesnina, Russia (32)

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
CLEVELAND Indians - Designated LHP Josh Outman for assignment. Reinstated RHP Zach McAllister from the 15-day disabled list.

DETROIT TIGERS - Designated RHP Ryan Anderson for assignment. Signed contract of RHP Chad Smith from Toledo (C).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS - Options LHP Donnie Joseph to Omaha (PCL). Recalled RHP Lou Lorman from Omaha. Sent 3B Danny Valencia to Omaha for a rehab assignment.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS - Signed LHP Nick Wells and LHP Grayson Huffman.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
MINNESOTA TWINS - Sent OF Aaron Hicks to New Britain (PCL) for rehab assignment.

MIAMI MARLINS - Options RHP Sam Dyson to New Orleans (PCL). Reinstated RHP Nathan Eovaldi from paternity leave. Agreed to terms with RHP Brad Penny on a minor league contract.

NEW YORK METS - Options OF Matt Denker to New York (PCL). Options OF Kirk Nieuwenhuis from Las Vegas. Signed OF Ryan Howard to a one-year deal. Terms of With of Chase Raffield on a minor league contract.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS - Options LHP Xavier Cedeno to Syracuse (IL). Reinstated OF Justin Morneau from the 15-day DL. Sent OF Jeff Keppner to Harrisburg (SL) for a rehab assignment.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CINCINNATI Bengals - Announced that Josh McRoberts has opted out of his contract after being traded to the Bulls.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CAROLINA PANTHERS - Signed De Mario Adams and S Colin James to two-year contracts and OT Nate Chandler to a three-year contract extension.

MINNESOTA BENGALS - Signed RB Jeff Scott.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS - Signed DeMarcus Lawrence. Waived TE Evan Wilson from injured reserve.

WIDENADOLPH COLTS - Signed TE Dallas Clark to a one-day contract and announced his retirement. Released LB Ryan Tucker.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS - Signed QB Ryan Tannehill to a four-year contract.

LOS ANGELES KINGS - Promoted assistant coach Brent Suter to head coach. Re-signed assistant coach Brian Payne and goaltending coach Bill Ranford.

NEW YORK JETS - Released RB Mike Gooden.

OAKLAND RAIDERS - Claimed OT Emery Bennett from Tampa Bay. Released WR David Gilchrist.

NLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	Pct	GB	
Toronto	41	32	6:27
New York	37	34	2:19
Baltimore	37	34	5:21
Boston	34	38	4:27
Tampa Bay	34	38	4:27
Minnesota	34	38	4:27

Central Division	Pct	GB	
Kansas City	32	549	1:12
Detroit	36	529	1:12
Chicago	35	537	1:12
Chicago	35	537	1:12
Minnesota	35	537	1:12

West Division	Pct	GB	
Oakland	44	28	6:11
Los Angeles	42	30	5:43
Seattle	37	35	5:14
San Diego	37	35	5:14
Houston	32	41	4:38

National League	Pct	GB	
Washington	37	529	1:12
Atlanta	36	535	1:12
Miami	36	535	1:12
Philadelphia	36	535	1:12
New York	32	40	4:44

East Division	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	43	30	5:89
St. Louis	39	33	5:42
Cincinnati	35	39	5:00
Pittsburgh	34	37	4:79
Chicago	34	37	4:29

Central Division	Pct	GB	
San Francisco	42	29	5:43
San Diego	40	31	5:41
Colorado	34	38	4:72
Arizona	34	38	4:72
Arizona	31	44	1:13

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Milwaukee	43	30	5:89
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Pittsburgh	34	37	4:79
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Athletics 4, Rangers 2

Texas	ab	r	h	bi	o
LMarin cf	3	1	0	0	0
Abreu ss	4	0	2	0	0
Rios lf	4	0	0	0	0
Andrus dh	4	0	0	0	0
Chavez c	4	0	0	0	0
Snyder lf	3	0	0	0	0
Dimartino lf	3	0	0	0	0
Chirns c	4	0	1	0	0
Walters lf	4	0	0	0	0
Sardins 3b	3	0	1	0	0

Totals	33	2	6	2	0
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Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	o
E-Céspedes (2P)	2	0	0	0	0
De La Cruz (2P)	2	0	0	0	0
(10), Céspedes (1P), Moss (12), SF—Vogt.					

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tosch L2-3	5	2	0	0	1	1
S.Baker	5	2	0	0	1	1

Oakland	ab	r	h	bi	o	
Gray W-3	7	6	2	2	2	2
Heggenhoff H10	1	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas S9-10	2	0	0	0	0	2
T—2:50, A—23:175 (35,067).						

Orioles 2, Rays 0

Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi	o
Marks lf	4	0	1	0	0
Pearce lf	4	0	1	0	0
Lough Jr lf	0	0	0	0	0
A.Jones cf	0	0	0	0	0
C.Davis lb	4	0	0	0	0
N.L. Anderson lf	4	0	0	0	0
Hardy ss	3	0	2	0	0
Wright lf	3	0	0	0	0
Schoop 3b	0	0	0	0	0
Cleopich c	0	0	0	0	0

Totals	32	7	4	0	0
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Tampa Bay	ab	r	h	bi	o
Marks lf	4	0	1	0	0
Pearce lf	4	0	1	0	0
Lough Jr lf	0	0	0	0	0
A.Jones cf	0	0	0	0	0
C.Davis lb	4	0	0	0	0
N.L. Anderson lf	4	0	0	0	0
Hardy ss	3	0	2	0	0
Wright lf	3	0	0	0	0
Schoop 3b	0	0	0	0	0
Cleopich c	0	0	0	0	0

Totals	32	7	4	0	0
--------	----	---	---	---	---

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	o
E-Céspedes (2P)	2	0	0	0	0
De La Cruz (2P)	2	0	0	0	0
(10), Céspedes (1P), Moss (12), SF—Vogt.					

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tosch L2-3	5	2	0	0	1	1
S.Baker	5	2	0	0	1	1

Oakland	ab	r	h	bi	o	
Gray W-3	7	6	2	2	2	2
Heggenhoff H10	1	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas S9-10	2	0	0	0	0	2
T—2:50, A—23:175 (35,067).						

Padres 2, Mariners 1

Seattle	ab	r	h	bi	o
EnCvz lf	4	0	0	0	0
J.Jones cf	4	0	0	0	0
Mauer lf	4	0	0	0	0
Seager 3b	4	0	0	0	0
Morrison lb	4	0	1	0	0
Waller lf	4	0	0	0	0
Acikly lf	4	0	0	0	0
Z.Miller ss	4	0	0	0	0
Phinizz p	2	0	0	0	0
Medina p	0	0	0	0	0
Buck ph	1	0	0	0	0

MLB

Roundup

Nats pull off another rally, await Atlanta

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Washington Nationals are hitting again, and showing the resiliency that enabled them to put together numerous late-inning rallies earlier in the season.

It couldn't have come at a better time.

Anthony Rendon homered to spark a three-run seventh inning, and pinch-hitter Nate McLouth came through with a tiebreaking sacrifice fly as the Nationals rallied past the Houston Astros 6-5 on Wednesday night for a two-game series sweep.

"That's kind of how we've done it all year, not necessarily lately, but we grind out at-bats," Nationals outfielder Jayson Werth said. "We got some big hits late and came from behind there after a big inning for them."

It was the 17th come-from-behind victory for Washington, which extended its NL East lead to 1½ games over Atlanta and Miami. The Nationals open a four-game series against the Braves on Thursday night in Washington.

Rendon led off the seventh against Josh Zeid with his 10th home run, cutting the deficit to 5-4.

Jayson Werth walked and went to third on Adam LaRoche's single. Kyle Farnsworth (0-1) came on to face Ryan Zimmerman, who grounded into a fielder's choice, beating the relay to first as Werth scored to tie it.

Ian Desmond then doubled Zimmerman to third. After Danny Espinosa was intentionally walked, McLouth's long fly to left field scored Zimmerman with the go-ahead run.

"We just create those opportunities and we're not out of a game," manager Matt Williams said. "We feel good about one swing of the bat [and] we can get back in it. And that's what happened tonight."

Reds 11, Pirates 4: At Pittsburgh, Alfredo Simon became the NL's first 10-game winner and Billy Hamilton had three hits and three RBIs for Cincinnati.

Simon (10-3) allowed three runs on five hits and three walks in 6½ innings and Cincinnati won for the sixth time in seven games.

Pittsburgh's Gregory Polanco went 2-for-4 and became the second player in Pirates' history — joining Spencer Adams (1923) — to have a hit in each of his first eight major league games.

Red Sox 2, Twins 1 (10): Mike Napoli and David Ortiz hit consecutive homers with one out in the 10th inning as host Boston rallied to hand Minnesota its fifth straight loss.

Boston was held to one hit — a fifth-inning double by Daniel Nava — before the homers.

The Twins took a 1-0 lead in the top of the 10th on Chris Parmelee's two-out home run off Koji Uehara, snapping the closer's scoreless streak at 21½ innings.

Athletics 4, Rangers 2: Brandon Moss hit a tie-breaking double in the fifth inning as Sonny Gray pitched host Oakland past Texas, giving the Athletics the best record in the majors.

Yoanis Cespedes and Josh Donaldson each had two hits for the A's, who have won four of five and are a season-high 16 games over .500 at 44-28.

Yankees 7, Blue Jays 3: Brian McCann hit a go-ahead, two-run homer and added a bases-loaded triple to lead host New York over first-place Toronto.

The Yankees beat Mark Buehrle for the ninth straight time and handed the Blue Jays their 15th loss in a row in the Bronx.

Diamondbacks 4, Brewers 3: Light-hitting Tony Campano singled home Martin Prado to third base with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning for Arizona.

Prado doubled with one out to deep left center off Brandon Kintzler (1-3), advanced to third on David Peralta's groundout, then scored when Campana slapped one up the middle.

Padres 2, Mariners 1: Pinch-hitter Tommy Medica singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning for San Diego in its first home game since Hall of



ALEX BRANDON/AP

The Nationals' Anthony Rendon heads home after his solo home run during the seventh inning on Wednesday against the Astros in Washington.

Famer Tony Gwynn died of cancer Monday.

The light-hitting Padres honored Gwynn before the game and then cobbled together just enough offense for their second win in 10 games.

Orioles 2, Rays 0: Kevin Gausman pitched six innings, Steve Pearce's double snatched a scoreless tie and Nelson Cruz added his major league-leading 22nd home run to help visiting Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

Pearce homered during a 7-5 victory Tuesday night and put the Orioles ahead this time with a line drive down the right-field line in the fifth.

The Rays were blanked for an AL-leading 11th time, finishing with five hits and going 0-for-7 with runners in scoring position.

White Sox 7, Giants 6: Jose Abreu hit his 20th homer, a two-run shot, and Adam Dunn added a three-run drive to help host Chicago hand San Francisco its fifth straight loss.

Abreu reached 20 homers in his 58th game, the third-fewest in major league history behind Wally Berger (51) and Mark McGuire (56).

Phillies 10, Braves 5: Ryan Howard capped a big series by driving in two runs with three hits as visiting Philadelphia battered Aaron Harang to complete a three-game sweep of Atlanta.

Howard, who homered in the first two games of the series, doubled home a run in a five-run second inning and added an RBI single in the fifth. He had five hits, four walks and six RBIs in the series.

Mets 3, Cardinals 2: Bartolo Colon worked eight dominant innings in 91-degree heat and keyed the go-ahead rally with his first career extra-base hit, helping New York beat host St. Louis to avert a three-game sweep.

Eric Young Jr. and David Wright each had an RBI in a two-run sixth that put the Mets up by a run. Young added an RBI double in the seventh, aided by Colon's second sacrifice of the game. A day after dropping their sixth straight series in St. Louis, the Mets ended an eight-game road losing streak dating to June 3.

Cubs 6, Marlins 1: Jake Arrieta had a career-high 11 strikeouts in seven innings, and Nate Scherholz hit a three-run homer to lead visiting Chicago over Miami.

KC adds luck to repertoire

Bounce off second base helps Royals find new way to beat Tigers, win 10th straight

By Noah Trister

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Alex Gordon's grounder up the middle looked like a routine out — until it hit second base and took a wacky bounce, allowing the game's first run to score.

With breaks like that, it's no wonder the Kansas City Royals have won 10 in a row.

Omar Infante added a solo homer and Jeremy Guthrie pitched impressively into the seventh inning, helping the Royals extend their longest winning streak in 20 years with a 2-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday.

Kansas City has outpitched, outhit and outfielded the Tigers in taking the first three games of this series — so the Royals have no reason to apologize for a little luck along the way.

"Baseball's a funny game — you've got to take full advantage of those," Kansas City's Eric Hosmer said. "We're not complaining about it either."

The AL Central-leading Royals have not won this many games in a row since a run of 14 in 1994. They extended their division lead over the Tigers to 1½ games.

Guthrie (4-6) pitched four hits and struck out nine in 6½ innings. Drew Smyly (3-6) nearly matched him, but the Detroit left-hander was victimized by Gordon's fluky RBI single in the first inning and Infante's homer in the fifth.

J.D. Martinez homered off Guthrie in the seventh, but the Kansas City bullpen got the last seven outs, with Greg Holland pitching the ninth for his 21st save in 22 chances.

Kansas City will try for a four-game sweep of the Tigers on Thursday. The Royals began the series by pounding star right-

handers Justin Verlander and Max Scherzer, then Guthrie took the mound and breezed through the team that has won the last three division titles.

"This could be the best game he's thrown all year," Kansas City manager Ned Yost said. "He was fabulous. ... We had to go back to our old way of doing things — pitching and defense."

It was Guthrie's second straight game with nine strikeouts — he also reached the mark June 13 against the Chicago White Sox. He had some help Wednesday from his fielders, as Gordon saved a run in the fourth with a diving catch in left-center.

"I'm not that fast, but I can turn it on when I want to," the Kansas City left fielder said.

Fortune seemed to favor the Royals throughout the afternoon. With a runner on second in the first, Gordon's two-out bouncer up the middle looked like a groundout to the shortstop, but it ricocheted off second base for a hit, allowing Hosmer to come home.

In the second, Detroit's Victor Martinez dropped a nice bunt against a shifted defense, only to have the ball roll foul inches before reaching third base.

J.D. Martinez homered in the seventh, and Nick Castellanos nearly tied it later in the inning with a two-out drive to left that bounced off the fence for a double. Kelvin Herrera relieved Guthrie and retired Don Kelly on a lineout to center.

Wade Davis struck out the side in the eighth, and Holland made it through the ninth after allowing a leadoff single to Miguel Cabrera.

Smyly allowed two runs and seven hits in seven-plus innings. He struck out six without a walk.

The Tigers have lost 20 of 29 to fall out of first place.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

The Royals' Omar Infante is congratulated after hitting a solo homer during the fifth inning against the Tigers in Detroit on Wednesday.

MLB/COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

Artful: Big error costs Kershaw perfect game

FROM BACK PAGE

One batter after Dickerson reached base, rookie third baseman Miguel Rojas backhanded Troy Tulowitzki's grounder behind the bag and let fly with a strong throw to first that Gonzalez — a three-time Gold Glove winner — scooped out of the dirt to keep the no-hitter intact.

And with the crowd of 46,069 on its feet and roaring, Kershaw made quick work of the Rockies in the ninth.

DJ LeMahieu grounded out to first base on the first pitch and Charlie Culberson hit a lazy fly to right field on the next one. Dickerson then saw four straight strikes and went down swinging.

The only pitcher to have more strikeouts in a no-hitter was Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan, according to STATS.

"I've seen some great pitching performances, but it's tough to be any better than Kershaw," Colorado manager Walt Weiss said.

After his 107th and final pitch, a beaming Kershaw raised his arms above his head and waited for a huge hug from Ellis.

"I started tearing up out there in the ninth inning, just sitting out there catching and watching him throw after he got those first two outs," Ellis said. "It was pretty special."

"It's something you never forget," he added. "It's a game I'll watch on replays with my kids forever."

Kershaw, who signed a \$215 million, seven-year contract in the offseason — a record for a pitcher — gave Los Angeles sports fans their second memorable thrill in just a few days.

The Kings won the Stanley Cup at home last Friday night, their second NHL championship in three years, and brought the famous trophy to Dodger Stadium on Tuesday for a pregame ceremony.

The next night, Kershaw took over.

The only other time the Dodgers pitched two no-hitters in one season was 1956, when the team was still in Brooklyn. Carl Erskine and Sal Maglie turned the trick that year.

Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax, who tossed four no-hitters, pitched the franchise's lone perfect game on Sept. 9, 1965, against the Chicago Cubs.

"I guess haven't really thought of the ramifications of throwing

Multiple no-hitters

A list of teams with two or more no-hitters in a season, with name of team, date, pitcher, opponent and scores (denotes perfect game):

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston Red Sox
 May 5, 1904, Cy Young vs. Philadelphia, 3-0
 Aug. 17, 1904, Jesse Tannehill vs. Chicago, 6-0
 June 21, 1916, George Foster vs. New York, 2-0
 Aug. 30, 1916, Dutch Leonard vs. St. Louis, 4-0
 June 26, 1962, Earl Wilson vs. Los Angeles Angels, 2-0
 Aug. 1, 1962, Bill Monbouquette vs. Chicago, 1-0

Cleveland Indians
 Sept. 18, 1908, Robert Rhoades vs. Boston, 2-1
 Oct. 2, 1908, Addie Joss vs. Chicago, 1-0
New York Yankees
 July 12, 1951, Allie Reynolds at Cleveland, 1-0
 Sept. 28, 1951, Allie Reynolds vs. Boston, 8-0

Detroit Tigers
 May 15, 1952, Virgil Trucks vs. Washington, 6-0
 Aug. 25, 1952, Virgil Trucks at New York, 1-0

California Angels
 May 15, 1973, Nolan Ryan at Kansas City, 2-0
 July 15, 1973, Nolan Ryan at Detroit, 6-0

Seattle Mariners
 June 8, 2012, Kevin Millwood (6 innings), Charlie Furbush (7), Stephen Peyer (7), Lucas Luetge (8), Brandon League (8), Tom Wilhelmsen (9) vs. L.A. Dodgers, 1-0
 Aug. 15, 2012, Felix Hernandez vs. Tampa Bay, 1-0

NATIONAL LEAGUE
Pittsburgh Pirates
 Aug. 23, 1907, Harry Camnitz, at New York, 1-0
 Sept. 20, 1907, Nicholas Maddox vs. Brooklyn, 2-1

Cincinnati Reds
 June 11, 1938, Johnny Vander Meer, vs. Boston, 3-0
 June 15, 1938, Johnny Vander Meer, at Brooklyn, 3-0

Brooklyn Dodgers/L.A. Dodgers
 May 12, 1956, Carl Erskine, vs. New York, 4-0
 Sept. 25, 1956, Sal Maglie, vs. Philadelphia, 2-0
 May 25, 2014, Jay Beckett, at Philadelphia, 6-0
 June 18, 2014, Clayton Kershaw, vs. Colorado, 8-0

Milwaukee Braves
 Aug. 18, 1960, Lew Burdette vs. Philadelphia, 1-0
 Sept. 16, 1960, Warren Spahn vs. Philadelphia, 4-0

Chicago Cubs
 April 16, 1972, Burt Hooton, vs. Philadelphia, 4-0
 Sept. 2, 1972, Milt Pappas, vs. San Diego, 8-0

Philadelphia Phillies
 May 29, 2010, Roy Halladay, at Florida, 1-0
 May 6, 2010, Roy Halladay, vs. Cincinnati, 4-0, NLDS.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

one of these things, but it's definitely special company," Kershaw said. "It's pretty cool."

It was the 22nd no-hitter in Dodgers history — more than any other team — and the first at home since Ramon Martinez's 2-0 gem against the Marlins on July 14, 1995.

"His stuff was phenomenal tonight. I think all the guys said that. We tip our hats to him," Dickerson said.



ERIC FRANCIS/AP

Texas pitcher Travis Duke points as Texas players erupt from the dugout after the last out of Wednesday's elimination game against UC Irvine at the College World Series in Omaha, Neb.

Texas ousts UC Irvine

By ERIC OLSON
 The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Texas accounted for a couple of firsts at this year's College World Series — as in first home run and first shutout.

C.J. Hinojosa broke the CWS' long homer drought in the seventh inning, and Chad Hollingsworth and Travis Duke limited UC Irvine to four hits in the Longhorns' 1-0 win over the Anteaters in an elimination game Wednesday night.

Hinojosa's second homer of the season was the first at the CWS in 115 innings dating to last year.

"Four players fainted," Texas coach Augie Garrido chuckled, describing his dugout's reaction when Hinojosa's drive left TD Ameritrade Park.

The Longhorns (45-20), who won just the second 1-0 game at the CWS since 1985, advance to a bracket final against Vanderbilt. They need to beat the Commodores (48-19) on Friday and again Saturday to reach next week's best-of-three final.

UC Irvine (41-25), among the last four teams picked for the 64-team NCAA tournament, went 1-2 in its surprise CWS appearance

that came about after it upset No. 1 national seed Oregon State and swept Oklahoma State on the road in super regionals.

"Everybody's just heartbroken tonight," Irvine coach Mike Gillespie said. "The time will come when we're objective and realize that we accomplished a lot."

The Anteaters beat Texas 3-1 in the CWS opener last Saturday.

Hollingsworth (4-0) followed a complete-game win over Texas A&M in a regional final with another strong performance. Only two UC Irvine runners made it past first base against him, and he struck out five and walked none before he left to an ovation from fans in burnt orange. Duke got the last two outs in the 2-hour, 35-minute game for his second save of the CWS.

Hollingsworth got a boost from the biggest defensive play of the game. Irvine had a man on first in the third inning when Taylor Sparks drove a ball deep into the gap. Center fielder Mark Payton gave chase and made a running over-the-head catch that likely saved a run.

Other than Hinojosa's home run, the Longhorns did little against Evan Manarino (4-4) in his first postseason start.



ERIC FRANCIS/AP

Texas' C.J. Hinojosa raises his fist as he rounds the bases after hitting a solo home run in the seventh inning for the game's only run in Texas' 1-0 victory.

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SPORTS BRIEFS/WORLD CUP

Briefly

Shelly Sterling
seeks protection
for witnesses

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shelly Sterling's attorneys have asked a court to hold a hearing on allegations that Donald Sterling and his attorneys have threatened her legal team and the doctors who assert that the Los Angeles Clippers co-owner is mentally incapacitated.

The request was filed early Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court. There is no immediate word on whether it will be granted.

The filing claims that on June 1, Donald Sterling called Shelly Sterling's attorney, Pierre O'Donnell, threatened lawsuits and stated, "I am going to take you out, O'Donnell." The filing says O'Donnell understood that to be a death threat.

The document also alleges statements by Donald Sterling threatening the witnesses of the doctor and a letter from one of his attorneys claiming the physicians are part of a conspiracy.

NCAA president defends
group in O'Bannon trial

OAKLAND, Calif. — NCAA President Mark Emmert supports a plan to allow the five biggest college conferences to give athletes more money to cover school costs, but draws the line at paying them beyond that for what they do on the basketball court or football field.

Testifying in a landmark antitrust lawsuit filed against his organization, Emmert said Thursday he believes there is a clear difference between the proposal to pay athletes a few thousand more dollars a year and giving them the equivalent of a salary.

"You've moved into realm where you're compensating student-athletes for something other than the legitimate cost of being a student," Emmert said about giving athletes even more money than the conferences are proposing. "You've now moved into pay for play."

Under friendly questioning by an NCAA attorney, Emmert also defended the concept of amateurism, which he said has been a core principle from the time the NCAA was founded in 1905 to today. He said college athletics would not be the same if the primary focus of an athlete entering school was on getting paid for playing sports instead of getting an education.

"It's one of the most fundamental principles of the NCAA and intercollegiate athletics," Emmert said. "They have always seen and assumed that intercollegiate athletics is about the notion that these are members of the student body. They're not hired employees conducting games for entertainment. They're not a random

group of folks that just come together to play sports."

Emmert's testimony came in a much-anticipated appearance as the NCAA tries to convince U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken that its system of so-called amateurism is not anti-competitive and is the best model for regulating college sports.

Riley: Heat need
to retool, not rebuild

MIAMI — Heat President Pat Riley says Miami is ready for the offseason and the challenge of keeping LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh together going forward.

Riley opened his season-ending news conference Thursday saying that he was angry about what he calls a lack of perspective about the Heat, who have been to the NBA Finals in each of the past four seasons and won two of the past three championships.

James, Wade and Bosh can all become free agents this summer. Riley points out that winning makes everything easy and said, "What really cements a forever bond is going through what we went through this year and staying the course."

Sochi organizers post
\$261 million profit

MOSCOW — The Winter Olympics in Sochi posted a provisional surplus of \$261 million, Russian organizers said Thursday.

The figure is \$119 million higher than a previous profit figure reported in April, but is still dwarfed by the government subsidies given to the organizing committee, valued at \$420 million in December.

The surplus is only from the Sochi organizing committee, which had an operations budget of about \$2 billion. It does not cover any construction or infrastructure costs. Russia's overall spending for the games totaled \$51 billion.

Elsewhere:

■ Vladimir Klitschko will defend his WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO heavyweight belts against the undefeated Kubrat Pulev of Bulgaria in Hamburg, Germany on Sept. 9.

■ Finland's Mikko Ilonen shot a 7-under-par 64 to set a new course record on Thursday as crowd favorite Rory McIlroy struggled on the opening day of the Irish Open.

■ Former champion Caroline Wozniacki held off a strong challenge from Camila Giorgi of Italy 6-7 (7), 6-4, 6-2 in the Aegon International quarterfinals on Thursday.



DOLORES OCHOA/AP

The United States' Jozy Altidore grimaces after pulling up injured during Monday's match against Ghana. The American striker has been ruled out of Sunday's game against Portugal with a strained hamstring.

Altidore won't face Portugal

BY RONALD BLEUM

The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — U.S. forward Jozy Altidore will miss Sunday's World Cup game against Portugal because of his strained left hamstring.

Altidore was hurt in the 21st minute of Monday's 2-1 win over Ghana.

"It's bad news, but I think the team will handle this," midfielder Jermaine Jones said Thursday. "We have to handle that."

U.S. team spokesman Michael Kammarman did not reveal the severity of the strain, but said Thursday the Americans were hopeful Altidore can return at some point during the tournament. The U.S. completes the first round against three-time

champion Germany on June 26.

"We're extremely bummed for him and the team, but we bring 23 players and so this is just a chance for somebody to step up," midfielder Kyle Beckerman said.

Aron Johannsson replaced Altidore for the second half against Ghana. Chris Wondolowski is the other striker in the squad who could join Clint Dempsey in the attack.

"I would say there's a lot of similarities," Beckerman said. "They both help the team in offense, defense. They do a lot of stuff that's not on the stat sheet. They're both tricky with the ball, and they both have a nose for goal."

Johannsson, a 23-year-old who was born in Mobile, Ala., and grew up in Iceland, scored 26 goals last season for AZ Alkmaar

in the Netherlands. Wondolowski, a 31-year-old Californian, led Major League Soccer with 18 regular-season goals in 2010 and 27 in 2012 and tied for lead with 16 in 2011.

"Wondo is more the finisher in the box," Jones said. "Aron is more maybe the guy who's good with the ball and tries to go one against one."

Dempsey has not decided whether he will wear a mask to protect his nose, which was broken during the Ghana game by John Boye's shin to his face during a battle for a header in the 31st minute.

Defender Matt Besler, who left the Ghana match at halftime because of a sore hamstring, should be available for Sunday's game in Manaus, Kammarman said.

Teammate says
Ronaldo fit for US

The Associated Press

CAMPINAS, Brazil — Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is fully fit to play against the United States in their crucial Group G match at the World Cup, a teammate said Wednesday.

Ronaldo needed an ice pack for his troublesome left knee during the day's earlier training session, once again raising concerns about the world player of the year's fitness.

But backup goalkeeper Beto said the Real Madrid star would be ready for the showdown with the United States on Sunday in the Amazon rain forest capital of Manaus.

"Cristiano is 100 percent fit to play. Every match, if he starts to play, it is because he is fit to play, he's ready to play," Beto insisted. "He loves football but his body is the most important thing for him ... so if he starts a match he is ready, he is fit, so I don't think that is a problem."

Portugal was humiliated in a 4-0 defeat by Germany in their World Cup opener. Ronaldo was doubtful to play before that game, but declared himself fit. He went on to produce a subdued performance.

Ronaldo has been hampered by tendonitis and a muscle injury since before the tournament, creating plenty of speculation about how he would perform in Brazil.

Beto said the 29-year-old Real Madrid forward was "sick of reading things about him that are not true."

Though his knee had been bandaged in previ-



PAULO DUARTE/AP

Cristiano Ronaldo leaves Wednesday's training with ice on his left knee. Portugal plays the U.S. in Group G on Sunday needing a victory.

ous training sessions, Ronaldo started without one Wednesday. After some light work with the rest of the first team, followed by some stretching, the world player of the year had the knee ice-packed.

The rout against Germany means Portugal badly needs a victory over a United States team that made a winning start to the tournament, beating Ghana 2-1.

WORLD CUP



Costa Rica's Joel Campbell, a father-to-be, runs with the ball under his shirt and sucking his thumb after scoring against Uruguay last week. Campbell is one of many players creating animated celebrations after scoring a goal during the World Cup.

NATASHA PISARENKO/AP

Let the show begin

Scorers are getting more creative with their goal celebrations

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

Flying Dutchman Arjen Robben took off straight for the goal, ran around the back side of the net, then came sliding into the sideline on his knees. He spread his arms wide, blew kisses, made a fist, pointed and stuck out his tongue.

Costa Rica's Joel Campbell, a father-to-be, stuffed the ball under his shirt, cradled it and stuck his thumb in his mouth before pointing to the sky following a goal against Uruguay.

There have been some memorable goals so far in this World Cup, along with some equally notable and animated celebrations.

Some of the theatrics are planned carefully. Others burst forth at the spur of the moment.

But are soccer players ready for "Dancing with the Stars?" "I would say overall everyone needs to put a little more commitment into whatever they're doing," offered professional dancer Cheryl Burke, who just completed her 17th season on the show and has been catching as many games as possible.

"They could make it a little bit better by adding maybe a couple more moves or maybe even add some comedy to it, whether it's dipping a guy or twirling to the next set of guys."

For Campbell, the goal was a tribute. "I'm going to have a son soon, which is why I celebrated my goal the way I did," he said. "Celebrating his arrival with a World Cup goal is the best thing that can happen to me. ... It brings me such happiness to be blessed to be a father. The celebration was for the baby and for all of the family."

Colombia's Pablo Armero performed a rhythmic dance he does at every chance, even for an Adidas ad. It became a sensation in Brazil called the "Armeration" after he started doing it while playing for the Brazilian club Palmeiras in 2010.

When Oribe Peralta scored on a putback in Mexico's opener, his mouth dropped open and his arms began moving simultaneously as if he were performing bi-cops curls while running in triumph. He dropped to both knees for a long slip-and-slide on the wet grass.

Swarmed by teammates Dani Alves and Fred, Brazil's Neymar spread each arm out to the side and gave himself wings to soar across the field.

On Friday, the Oranje's Robin van Persie made a mad dash, teeth clenched, straight to the sideline to high-five his coach and teammates

after scoring on a beautiful diving header in a 5-1 win over defending champion Spain. After his second goal, van Persie stuck out his tongue and did a leaping scissors kick.

"The ones that made me

laugh are the ones to go for because people love to see that, especially when a team works so hard to create a goal and they actually score," Burke said. "A couple made me smile and laugh."

The knee slide has been among the most popular exclamation point.

Chile's Eduardo Vargas did it Friday, then teammate Jorge Valdivia ran around with his pointer fingers at his temples to signal he's crazy after scoring two minutes later.

Oscar of Brazil flopped to the turf and wept with his face to the grass as the sideline erupted. He signaled a heart with his hands.

"I just like when the emotions come and take me and you go from there," said American Mix Diskerud, who scored his first international goal in a May 27 exhibition win against Azerbaijan. "I don't really plan any celebrations. I don't have any somersaults or anything like that."

Italian forward

Chile's Eduardo Vargas celebrates a goal against Spain last week with a slide on the pitch.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Marco Balotelli is known for not celebrating after goals. But for the big ones, he often lets loose.

Like when he took off his shirt and flexed his muscles after scoring both goals in Italy's win over Germany in the semifinals of the 2012 European Championship. Or when he gestured to the crowd after scoring the winner against England in Italy's 2-1 victory Saturday.

Obafemi Martins of the MLS Seattle Sounders owns the acrobatic backflip. Others without that same athleticism find other ways.

Former Italy forward Alberto Gilardino mimicked a violinist when he scored against the United States at the 2006 World Cup.

In 1994, there was Brazil's Bebeto "rock-in" 'the baby."

At the 2002 World Cup in South Korea, Ahn Jung-Hwan celebrated his tying goal for South Korea in a draw with the U.S. by swinging his arms and moving his legs in a speedskating motion imitating American Olympic star Apolo Anton Ohno. It came about four months after Ohno captured his first career gold medal in the 1,500-meter short-track at the Salt Lake City Olympics despite not crossing the finish line first. South Korean Kim Dong-Sung was disqualified.

In 1999, Liverpool star Robbie Fowler got down on his knees and put his left hand over his left nostril and simulated snorting on a white line after scoring against Everton. The display brought him a four-match suspension and fine.

Whether orchestrated or purely spontaneous, emotions are running high.

"Scoring a goal, no matter where it is, is a huge feeling," Diskerud said. "It's just an overwhelming feeling and you see 10 players chasing you to celebrate the goal you scored with them."



WORLD CUP

Mandzukic, Croatia eliminate Cameroon

BY CHRIS LEHOURITES
The Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil — Mario Mandzukic scored two goals Wednesday to keep Croatia in the mix at the World Cup with a 4-0 win over 10-man Cameroon, which will be going home after the group stage.

Mandzukic, who returned to the team at the Arena da Amazonia after sitting out the opening loss to Brazil through suspension, headed in a corner from Danijel Pranjc in the 61st minute and then knocked in a rebound in the 73rd of the Group A game.

Ivan Perisic also scored one goal and set up another for Ivica Olac.

Cameroon was reduced to 10 men after midfielder Alex Song was given a red card for elbowing Mandzukic in the back in an

off-the-ball incident in the 40th minute.

The team started without the injured Samuel Eto'o, the team's best player.

Croatia now has its future in its own hands. If the 1998 World Cup semifinalists beat Mexico on Monday, they will guarantee themselves a spot in the second round. The Mexicans will advance with only a draw.

Cameroon is out, however, and can only play spoiler in its final match against five-time champion Brazil, also on Monday. If the 1990 World Cup quarterfinalists beat Brazil, the host country could still advance or be forced out of the tournament on goal difference.

Song is the cousin of Cameroon great Rigobert Song, one of only two players to be sent off at two different World Cups.



MATT DUNHAM/AP

Italy's Claudio Marchisio scores the opening goal against England on Saturday. Marchisio and his teammates completed 93.2 percent of their passes, according to Opta Sports.

Scoreboard

First round						
GROUP A						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Brazil	1	0	1	3	1	4
England	1	1	0	2	2	3
Croatia	1	1	0	5	3	3
Cameroon	0	2	0	0	5	0

GROUP B						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-Netherlands	2	0	0	3	6	6
x-Chile	2	0	0	2	1	6
Australia	2	0	0	2	1	6
Spain	0	2	0	1	7	0

GROUP C						
	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	1	0	0	3	0	3
United States	1	0	0	2	0	3
Ghana	0	1	0	2	2	0
Portugal	0	1	0	2	4	0

A passive approach

Italy keeps ball moving to deal with heat

BY ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

MANGARATIBA, Brazil all it tik-Italia.

Italy has taken Spain's famed "tiki-taka" system and revamped it to deal with Brazil's heat and humidity. The Azurri mesmerized England by completing an astounding 93.2 percent of their passes during a 2-1 win on Saturday according to data company Opta Sports — the highest accuracy recorded in a World Cup match since the statistic began to be recorded in 1966. The previous record belonged to Denmark at 92.7 percent from a 6-1 win over Uruguay in 1986, according to Opta.

FIFA, however, gave Italy an 89-percent passing completion. For long stretches, Italy's midfielders simply passed the ball back and forth between themselves. It was a strategic decision to deal with stifling conditions at the tournament's Amazonian venue of Manaus.

Expect more of it on Friday when the Azurri face Costa Rica in Recife, where kickoff could come under a torrid sun at 1 p.m. local time. "We don't have players that make runs for 40 or 50 meters without touching the ball. We get the ball to our most skillful players without squeezing



Group D
Italy vs. Costa Rica
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Friday CET
12:30 a.m. Saturday JKT



MATT DUNHAM/AP

the energy out of them.

"It's very hot and our way of playing takes less effort," De Rossi added. "I've seen squads that after a half hour are running at 2 kilometers per hour." No wonder Prandelli used five midfielders against England in a 4-1-4-1 formation. De Rossi lined up just in front of the defense, and wingers Antonio Candreva and Claudio Marchisio surrounded central midfielders Marco Verratti and Andrea Pirlo.

By the time Italy scored the opening goal Saturday, England didn't know how to react. On a corner, Candreva made a short pass to Verratti who slipped the ball across the pitch toward Pirlo, who stepped over it to fool the defense and let Marchisio find the target from beyond the area. "We've had a strong midfield for many years now and this one is especially rich with players who have different qualities

Italy head coach Cesare Prandelli gestures from the touchline during Saturday's Group D match against England at the Arena da Amazonia in Manaus, Brazil. Italy won 2-1. and complement each other," De Rossi said. Pirlo is the player with the most touches (117) and passes (108) so far at the World Cup, according to Opta. He completed 103 passes with only five failed deliveries against England. De Rossi completed 99 passes,

WORLD CUP

Reign by Spain comes to surprising halt

Defending champs' world rule over as loss to Chile ends title chances

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO— With its superstar aging and its loyal coach slow to blend in young talent, Spain's glorious reign as the superpower of world football was bound to end.

The Spanish weren't favored to repeat as World Cup champions. But few expected the utter collapse that ended Wednesday with a 2-0 loss Chile, knocking Spain from contention and ending the run of the greatest team of the century.

Chile's pace and skill produced a dominating win similar to so many Spanish victories over the past six years. Spain was outplayed, out-run and out-fought.

The 5-1 beating by the Netherlands Friday was shocking and foretold where coach Vicente del Bosque's team was heading: Home.

"If you think about everything accomplished, and you told me we would be eliminated in group stage, I wouldn't believe you," del Bosque said.

"We have no excuses. It's a sad day for all of the players."

Six of Spain's squad has played at least 100 national team games while winning the 2010 World Cup and the European Championships in 2008 and 2012.

"Success is not eternal," said Chile coach Jorge Sampaoli, whose hyperactive energy around the dugout was shared by his team. "This generation could not continue with that success and you can understand it."

"It's very special the fact we were able to play today against the World Cup champions the way we did," Sampaoli said, and "eliminate them with courage, intensity and attack."

Del Bosque acknowledged that his players were "too slow, timid from the start."

"We thought we were in good shape, it was tough to even choose the 11 players that would line up, but the reality was quite different," del Bosque said. "The second half against Holland and the first half against Chile were like a weight crashing down on us."

Chile twice came close to scoring in the first 90 seconds, and led in the 20th minute when Eduardo Vargas finished a slick move of incisive passing that was truly Spanish in its execution.

The second followed in the 43rd when Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas punched a free kick to the feet of Charles Aranguiz, who fired a rising shot right back past the veteran captain, who took much of the blame for the loss to the Netherlands.

"I only ask fans for forgiveness, we did everything we could," said Casillas. The 33-year-old came to the World Cup after a second straight season as second-choice goalkeeper at Real Madrid and a glaring error in its Champions League final win last month.

Spain came to Brazil with a very similar — but older — team to the 2010 squad. They added Brazilian-born striker Diego Costa, but he failed to score and was substituted in both matches.

Spain's "tiki-taka" style of play — keeping the ball for long stretches with short passes, and only shooting when you had a clear opening — had not been working as well in recent years. Brazil defeated Spain 3-0 in last summer's Confederations Cup final, a warm-up for the World Cup.

Spain became the third straight European defending World Cup champion to flop in the group stage. France in 2002 and Italy



MANU FERNANDEZ/AP

Spain's Sergio Busquets reacts after missing a chance to score against Chile on Wednesday.

four years ago also failed to advance, or even win a match.

Spain's players agreed that they did not read their opponents well, or know when to clamp down and control the games through keeping possession as it has been known to do.

"The commitment wasn't there," said Casillas, who owned up to perhaps his two worst performances in 156 appearances for Spain. "From the very first moment everything went awry."

Spain can at least end that streak in a consolation game Monday against Australia. Chile and the Netherlands will play to decide the Group B winner. Both will advance to the final 16 knockout round, but the winner will be

seeded higher.

"We didn't know how to maintain our hunger or that conviction needed to win a tournament. The joy and success we've experienced is over," veteran Xabi Alonso said. "We lost our knowhow, which has helped us win so many of these important games. It doesn't feel like our other tournaments."

Alonso, who along with Casillas and Xavi may have seen their international careers come to an end, said Spain was not mentally prepared for Brazil, while the team's physical state was not at its peak either.

"We didn't do anything different to what we did in South Africa or the two Euros," said forward Fernando Torres, ineffective as a second-half substitute. "We came with the same mentality, approaching the games the same way."

Torres also said Spain was "just not good enough."

Perhaps the Euro 2012 final was the high point of the era: A 4-0 dismantling of Italy on a similarly balmy evening in Kiev, Ukraine.

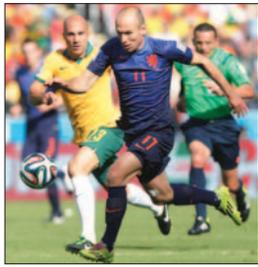
Then, the team was joined in locker-room celebrations by Crown Prince Felipe. He could not be in Rio de Janeiro. One hour after the match ended in the Maracana, at midnight in Madrid, he formally became king upon the abdication of his father, Juan Carlos.

On Thursday, Spain woke up to a new king, but no longer rulers of world football.

Dutch top Aussies, clinch spot in knockout round

By CHRIS BRUMMITT

The Associated Press



JON SUPER/AP

Australia's Mark Bresciano, left, tries to keep up with the Netherlands' Arjen Robben on Wednesday.

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil — Louis van Gaal can pinpoint the moment he knew his Netherlands team would be able to hold off Australia and secure the win that ultimately put the Oranje through to the knockout rounds of the World Cup.

With just over 20 minutes to go in a frantic, seesawing match, Australia missed a golden chance to take a 3-2 lead.

Sitting on the bench, van Gaal saw that as the sign and turned to his assistant coaches to tell them.

"I said to Patrick Kluivert and Danny Blind, 'We're going to win this match because if they miss that kind of chance, we will score the goal.'"

Seconds later, he was proved right. From the very next attack, substitute Memphis Depay droye a swerving, speculative shot toward the goal from 25 yards. Australia

goalkeeper Maty Ryan didn't sight it early enough and the ball shot past his outstretched right hand.

It capped a game that intensified suddenly when a 20th-minute solo run and strike by Arjen Robben was canceled out seconds later by a stunning volley from Australia's inspirational veteran Tim Cahill.

Australia then went ahead with a second-half penalty, only for Robin Van Persie to equalize four minutes later.

The result left the Netherlands, which thrashed defending champion Spain 5-1 in its opening game, on the verge of advancing from Group B. That was confirmed a few hours later when Chile beat Spain, knocking the 2010 World Cup winners and Australia out of contention.

"Bitterly disappointing," Australia manager Ange Postecoglou said. "Just for the players, they were magnificent. They took it to a world-class team. Full credit to them, but I just feel bitterly disappointed

they weren't able to get some reward out of it today. We came to this World Cup and we're playing against three of the best nations in the world."

When Robben opened the scoring, giving him a third goal for the tournament, another roar seemed to be in the works. But that was only for only a matter seconds, with Australia equalizing after Ryan McGowan sent a long, looping pass from the midfield to Cahill, who volleyed over Jasper Cillessen onto the underside of the bar in one of the best goals of the tournament so far.

"Most games are decided on moments and we had our moments," Postecoglou said. "We could have gone 3-2 up and we really had momentum at that time. And unfortunately Matty Lekic just couldn't get the right purchase on it to put it away."

Van Persie, who has scored three goals in the tournament, will miss the next game after drawing his second yellow card.

SPORTS

Reign in Spain over

Chile ends defending champion's hopes for repeat | **World Cup, Page 31**Artful
Dodger

Kershaw throws LA's second no-no of year

By **JOE RESNICK**
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A pair of Cy Young Awards, three straight major league ERA titles, a 20-win season — and now a no-hitter.

There isn't much more for Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw to accomplish besides winning a World Series ring.

Kershaw dominated the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday night, striking out a career-high 15 and allowing his only baserunner on a throwing error by shortstop Hanley Ramirez in Los Angeles' 8-0 victory.

Kershaw's gem gave the Dodgers both no-hitters in the majors this season. Josh Beckett tossed one May 25 in Philadelphia.

"I am so amazed," Kershaw said. "Beckett told me he was going to teach me how to do that, so I have Josh to thank."

Cheered on by his wife in the stands, Kershaw (7-2) retired his first 18 batters before Corey Dickerson led off the seventh with a slow bouncer to Ramirez. His throw on the run went wide past first baseman Adrian Gonzalez for a two-base error — ending any chance for a perfect game.

But that was it for the Rockies against the 26-year-old Kershaw, who shrugged off the miscue and came oh-so-close to pitching the 22nd perfect in the majors since 1900.

"He had command of everything. I told him between innings: 'It's not fair when you have a devastating slider and a devastating curveball in the same night,'" Dodgers catcher A.J. Ellis said. "And when he does that, nights like this are really possible."

SEE ARTFUL ON PAGE 27

'I am so amazed.'

Clayton Kershaw
Dodgers pitcher

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw celebrates his no-hitter against Colorado on Wednesday at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles.

KYUSUNG GONG, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

Shelly Sterling says Donald Sterling made threats
Sports briefs, Page 28Texas sends UC Irvine packing in elimination game
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