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UKRAINE UNREST



- As bodies languish, separatists hamper access to crash site
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MLB

Josh Donaldson rallies A's past Orioles with 3-run walk-off homer

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THE BEASTS OF KABUL

Lt. Dur Mohammed says he has no access to new parts for the Afghan army's tanks and has to cannibalize other vehicles to keep them running.

Josh Smith/Stars and Stripes

Afghan army's rusty tank relics still roll into battle

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

With a collective belch of black smoke, the line of old Soviet tanks rattles to life. No two vehicles have the same fading paint scheme, and some still feature the insignia of Afghanistan's communist government of the 1980s.

Penders are bent and rusted. In the treads of one tank are the tangled coils of the last barbed-wire fence it drove through. Amid the

haze and the clanking of metal tracks, the hulking machines barely look ready to drive around the block, let alone fight a war.

Once a common fixture of the Soviet invasion and, later, the civil war between the Taliban and the Northern Alliance, tanks are now only rarely used in today's unconventional war in Afghanistan.

But from a base on the outskirts of Kabul, a few hundred Afghan soldiers still ride rusting museum pieces into battle against the Taliban.

SEE TANKS ON PAGE 3



ONLINE

Go inside the Afghan army's Soviet tanks: stripes.com/go/afghantanks

Lawmakers raise concerns about Afghan drawdown

By DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Afghan election crisis and unraveling of Iraq have lawmakers and regional allies thinking President Barack Obama should reconsider his decision to withdraw virtually all U.S. troops from Afghani-

stan by the close of 2016.

The White House says Afghanistan is a different situation from Iraq, which has been mired in sectarian violence since shortly after U.S. troops left, and the drawdown decision is a done deal.

Some lawmakers, however, say they are uncomfortable with Obama's plan, which re-

sponds to the American public's war fatigue and his desire to be credited with getting the U.S. out of two conflicts. Ten senators, Republicans and Democrats, raised the drawdown issue at a congressional hearing Thursday.

They argued that it's too risky to pull American troops out so quickly, especially with

the Afghan presidential election in the balance.

They don't want to see Afghanistan go the way of Iraq, and they fear that the Afghan security force, while making substantial gains, won't be ready for solo duty by the end of 2016.

SEE DRAWDOWN ON PAGE 2

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“He is nice and knocked out on the floor for you. I drug him out to the living room.”

— A Florida father to a 911 dispatcher. When the father found a man sexually abusing his 11-year-old son, he beat the man unconscious. When asked by the dispatcher if any weapons were involved, the father said, “my foot and my fist.”

See story on Page 7

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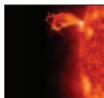
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MIDEAST

Drawdown: US plan based on Afghan security force's strength

FROM FRONT PAGE

Under Obama's plan, announced in May before Sunni militants seized control of much of Iraq, some 20,200 American troops will leave Afghanistan during the next five months, dropping the U.S. force to 8,900 by year's end. That number would be cut in half by the end of 2015, with only about 1,000 remaining in Kabul after the end of 2016.

Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, testified this past week before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He spoke highly of the 352,000-strong Afghan security force that assumed responsibility for the country in June 2013 and lauded them for keeping violence down during the recent election.

“We had over 300 campaign events involving thousands of people, some as large as 20,000,” Dunford said. “The Afghan forces secured all of those campaign events.”

The U.S. withdrawal plan, however, is based on being able to fix the Afghan security force's shortcomings by the end of 2016.

Dunford described gaps in planning, programming, budgeting, delivering spare parts, fuel payment systems — things the U.S. military takes for granted. Afghanistan also needs to brush up its intelligence operation and develop the nascent air force.

Dunford laid out his best-case scenario under the current plan:

■ The Afghan presidential election is resolved.

■ Afghan security forces continue to improve and are sustainable by 2017, so a small U.S. presence inside the U.S. Embassy in Kabul — a “security cooperation office” — is sufficient.

■ Shortfalls in the Afghan forces are addressed.

■ The U.S. and other donor nations continue to fund the Afghan government, security forces and development projects.

■ Afghan-Pakistani relations improve and the two nations have adequate capabilities — and the will — to counter terrorism.

His worst-case scenario: The election remains unresolved; Afghan-Pakistan relations sour and both countries fall short of battling extremist militants; al-Qaida or other militant groups regain their footing in the border



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez, D-N.J., right, and ranking member Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., have expressed concerns about a complete withdrawal from Afghanistan by 2016.

region and plot attacks against the U.S.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a critic of Obama's plan, said trying to meet the goals for a successful outcome was like “kicking a 65-yard field goal into the wind.”

“There's a disaster in the making to our homeland and to losing all the gains we fought for inside of Afghanistan by drawing down too quick and not being able to help the Afghans in a reasonable fashion,” Graham said.

Earlier this month, Obama's special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, James Dobbins, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that despite declining security in Iraq, the president was not “presently disposed to reconsider the decision.”

“Afghanistan isn't Iraq,” Dobbins said. “In Iraq, the 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” with the United States.

“In Iraq, they could get along without us, at least temporarily, because they had plenty of money. In Afghanistan, they can't

possibly get along without us,” he said.

Sen. Robert Menendez, the committee chairman, said it was still hard not to draw the comparison.

“When the administration announced plans to completely draw down forces from Afghanistan by 2016, I was concerned about the plan, and I still have concerns,” said Menendez, D-N.J.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the top Republican on the committee, said he was happy that Obama had decided to leave 9,800 troops in Afghanistan next year. But Corker was against putting a two-year timeline on a virtually complete withdrawal.

“It's amazing. When we talk to people within the administration that know things like this — say, are pretty tuned in — they say, ‘Hey guys, don't worry about this, this is just a plan, we're going to reassess.’ But you're telling me, as a special envoy, this is concrete — right now this is not just a plan, but this is the way it's going to be.”

“I think this reflects the president's intentions,” Dobbins said. He acknowledged that other countries in the region support the continuation of a U.S. and NATO military mission in Afghanistan

for at least several more years.

“Pakistan, Uzbekistan and China all fear Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for their own hostile militant groups,” he said. “India fears Afghanistan again becoming a training ground for terrorist groups targeting them. Russia remains concerned about the flow of narcotics. Iran and Pakistan fear new floods of refugees.”

A senior Pakistan defense official visiting Washington last week told The Associated Press that the entire basis of the drawdown has not been met.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to comment publicly on U.S. policy, said the withdrawal plan was based on having a peaceful transition from outgoing Afghan President Hamid Karzai to a new government, Afghanistan's signing the security agreement and assurances the Afghan security forces will be able to hold the country together once the international forces leave.

“Tell me, has any one of them been met?” he asked.

He said he had come to Washington carrying a message: Pakistan wants the president to take another look.

DODDS SPORTS

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MIDEAST

Tanks: For Afghan army, keeping aging fleet operational presents challenges

FROM FRONT PAGE

Here at the 11th Division's base, the Afghan National Army's lone tank battalion has about 44 T-55 and T-62 tanks that are in some kind of working order. About 20 to 25 can actually be started and used at any one time. In early July, at least eight tanks were deployed against Taliban forces in nearby Kapisa province, officials said.

"These tanks are useful for the terrain of Afghanistan because Afghanistan is mostly a mountainous country," said Col. Ali Reza, commander of the division's quick-reaction force. "And if the enemy is stationed in the higher areas, these tanks are quite useful to eliminate them."

The T-55, first introduced in the early 1950s, was a mainstay of Warsaw Pact forces through much of the Cold War. Its simplicity, reliability and powerful 100 mm gun also made it popular with Third World armies that found it difficult to maintain and operate more sophisticated machines. The T-62, a development of the T-55 with a smoothbore 115 mm gun, followed in the 1960s.

Afghanistan operated hundreds of each variant during the 1980s and '90s.

But the country has not acquired any new tanks since the civil war that toppled the Soviet-backed regime and led to the Taliban takeover, Reza said. After the Taliban were pushed out by the U.S.-led coalition, international military aid has largely supplied lighter armored vehicles rather than tanks.

Troops with NATO's International Security Assistance Force often cite maintenance and logistics as one of the



PHOTOS BY JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Abandoned tanks sit in a yard at a base on the outskirts of Kabul. These tanks are used to supply parts to other old tanks that have been kept running since they were provided to the Soviet-backed regime in the 1980s and early 1990s.

greatest failings of the Afghan military. But the mechanics who have kept the Soviet-era rust-buckets of the tank battalion running with nothing more than scavenged parts give an indication of what Afghan forces can do.

Still, it's a war of attrition. There are only so many leftover tanks to raid for spare parts, and even ammunition is running low, battalion officers said.

"In this latest operation we were only able to send eight of our tanks to Tagab district," said Col. Mohammed Nawroz Hidayat, the tank battalion commander. "Over there the enemy is holding the strongest strategic points in the highest places, and the Humvees and the military vehicles provided by the international community are not strong enough to reach out there so we have to send as many tanks as we can,

but haven't been able to send more anywhere else."

While not widely considered to be a particularly useful counterinsurgency weapon, when the army wants to use the tank forces, they are often hamstrung by the lack of new parts. The tanks are kept running by cannibalizing parts from the dwindling pile of other old tanks.

"We don't get any new spare parts for these tanks, we only use from other tanks, the damaged tanks," said Lt. Dur Mohammed, who oversees much of the battalion's maintenance.

That forces Afghan mechanics to get creative, pulling old engines from tanks that look like they long ago should have been cut up for scrap. The fact that the vehicles are almost entirely mechanical and lack complicated modern electron-

ics makes them easier to be patched together.

While the armored force relies on the rusting pile of Soviet-era vehicles for parts, all of the ammunition for the large guns also comes from aging government stockpiles that date to the early 1990s.

"That ammunition is [decreasing] because we don't have any supplies," Hidayat said.

The decades of wear, the recycling of parts and the old ammunition can make for an unreliable weapon.

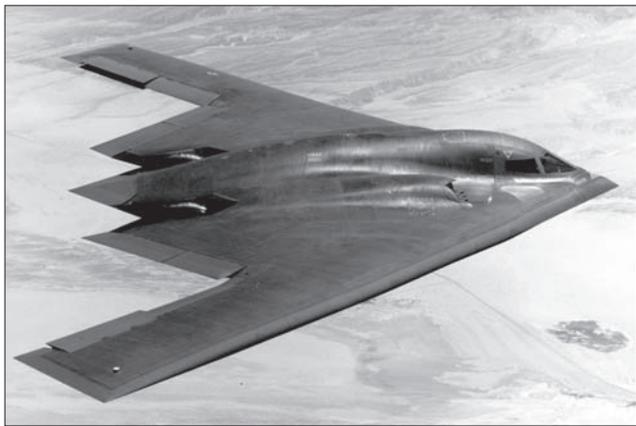
"We can't guarantee that they will work perfectly in battle because they have been used for three decades of war," he said.

Zubair BabakarKhail contributed to this report.
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Afghan National Army soldiers dismount from a tank during an exercise at their base in Kabul.

MILITARY



U.S. Air Force

The B-2 Spirit, which turned 25 last week, is expected to be in operation until 2058.

B-2 stealth bomber to get major upgrades

By MATT CAMPBELL
The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The most intimidating aircraft in the world turned 25 years old last week and is about to become even more advanced.

The nation's fleet of B-2 stealth bombers, the pride of Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, is poised to get nearly \$10 billion in upgrades over the next several years to ensure it remains the most fearsome attack platform in the U.S. arsenal.

The bat-winged aircraft first took to the sky on July 17, 1989.

At Whiteman, about 70 miles southeast of Kansas City, the pilots and the people who maintain the B-2 are looking forward to upgrades to the aircraft's communications, avionics and other systems — even as the Air Force contemplates buying a whole new bomber.

If a newer, faster and possibly pilotless bomber comes into service in the mid-2020s, experts say the B-2 still will play a vital role in the nation's defense. In fact, the Air Force plans to keep it in service at least until 2058.

That is good news for west-

central Missouri. The Air Force reports that Whiteman, which employs more than 7,600 people, had an economic impact on the region of more than \$650 million in 2013.

"I think the aircraft should be able to fly until 2058," said retired Col. Mel Dealie, who piloted the B-2 in combat missions over Afghanistan. "Its role will have to evolve, as well as the munitions it delivers will have to evolve, as threats evolve."

The current fleet of 20 B-2s has received incremental upgrades over the years. But Northrop Grumman last month was awarded a Defense Department contract capped at \$9.9 billion for even more improvements. It is a flexible order, but it apparently will include a new receiver designed to withstand the high-altitude electromagnetic pulse of a nuclear detonation, according to DoD-Buzz.com, a defense and acquisition journal.

Whiteman invites the public on base about once a month. On a recent Friday, the B-2 Spirit of Hawaii looked a bit overexposed in the bright sun as school groups and others got a chance to get fairly close to a plane that is usually

cloaked in secrecy.

Three B-2 pilots gave The Kansas City Star a glimpse of what it is like to fly the aircraft.

"It's pretty easy, actually," said Ian Hart, a flight lieutenant with Britain's Royal Air Force in an exchange program at Whiteman. "It's designed with a good autopilot, so it can help you out. You're talking about being able to go anywhere in the world, and that takes a long time. So it's got to be designed around being relatively easy to fly."

Midair refueling by connecting to another aircraft, however, is tricky.

"You wouldn't want to ever do any damage, so you have to be very careful," Hart said.

Flying the B-2 is expensive, so air time for the pilots is limited. When they do exercise, they might stay over the Midwest or head to the western United States.

"It's very common for the average pilot to fly two or three times a month in that aircraft," said Maj. Matt Bruckner. "That is augmented with our simulator training, as well."

Pilots also keep their skills sharp by flying a T-38 supersonic trainer.

Testimony ends in Ventura defamation trial

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Attorneys for both sides rested their case Friday in former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura's defamation lawsuit against the estate of "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle.

Closing arguments are scheduled for Tuesday, the (Minnesota) Star Tribune reported. On Monday the two sides will meet with the federal judge overseeing the trial to work out the instructions he will give to the jury.

Ventura's lawsuit claims that Kyle, who died last year in Texas, ruined his reputation by writing in his 2012 best-selling book

that he punched a man he called "Scuff Face" at a California bar in 2006 after the man said U.S. Navy SEALs "deserve to lose a few." Kyle later identified the man as Ventura.

Ventura testified that he was not involved in a fight with Kyle. Both men were former SEALs.

Ventura is pursuing the lawsuit against Kyle's estate. Attorneys for Kyle's widow, Taya Kyle, presented several witnesses including a former SEAL who testified he saw the punch.

Jurors also saw a video deposition that Chris Kyle gave in November 2012. Near the start, Kyle

told Ventura's attorney, David Bradley Olson, that he wasn't concerned about the lawsuit. But later on, Kyle, who's regarded as the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history, acknowledged he was indeed afraid of being sued.

Legal experts have said Ventura has to prove that Kyle made up the story and profited from it, or at least acted with reckless disregard for the truth, and that Ventura's reputation was hurt as a result. Kyle's book has made more than \$3 million in royalties, and the judge in the case has ruled that profits from an upcoming movie could be subject to damages, too.

Professor aims to resume research on cannabis, PTSD

By ASTRID GALVAN
The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Veterans, medical marijuana activists and scientists welcomed the first federally approved research into pot as a treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder.

But their hopes for the research were dashed when the University of Arizona fired researcher Suzanne Sisley, who undertook the study after clearing four years of bureaucratic hurdles.

Sisley, a medical doctor who also taught and researched at the university, sought the project after years of treating military vets who told her that marijuana was the only drug that helped them improve symptoms of the disorder that affects up to 20 percent of those who served in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

The university said it let Sisley go on June 27. In a letter to Sisley, released Friday to The Associated Press, the university said she was fired because funding for part of the work she did with the medical school was running out and because the telemedicine program she worked with is shifting direction.

Chris Sigurdson, a spokesman for the university, said the school is committed to continuing the project and is looking to replace Sisley with another researcher who can raise more money.

Sisley said she lost the job because state legislators who opposed her work had put pressure on the university — a claim the school denies.

Her study would have measured the effects of five different potencies of smoked or vaporized marijuana in treating symptoms of PTSD in 50 veterans.

"Basically, ours would have been the first and only controlled study looking at marijuana effects on PTSD. There are very few randomized control studies," Sisley said.

Sisley said the battle is not over. She is asking the university to reinstate her. If she fails, she intends to try to get another university to take on the project.

Ricardo Perea, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, said the end of the study is a tremendous dis-

service to military vets.

Perea, of Tucson, said his symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder — anxiety, insomnia, depression — were eased when he smoked marijuana.

"It allowed me to get some much-needed rest and sleep because I was suffering from insomnia," Perea said. "It reduced my anxiety attacks. It just allowed me to regain something that I had lost overseas during my deployment and allowed to me reconnect with those around me."

Getting federal approval to research marijuana is a laborious and long process. While the federal government approves and funds many studies that look into the negative effects of cannabis, it has been reluctant to approve those that consider its positive ones.

Marijuana is classified as a Schedule I substance under the federal government's Controlled Substance Act, meaning it is too high risk for abuse and has no accepted medical applications. "In regards to medical marijuana, the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) of course recognizes the pain and suffering of individuals with serious illness and their need for medication," DEA spokesman Matt Barden said. "However, the DEA has repeatedly concluded that marijuana has a high potential for addiction and has no acceptable level of medical use."

Marijuana research advocates argue that if the federal government were to allow and fund medical marijuana research on a large scale, it would have the evidence it needs to reclassify the drug.

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NATION

Flow of child immigrants slowing for now

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The flood of children crossing the Mexican border illegally and without their parents has slowed down in recent weeks, two senior Obama administration officials said.

Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas have found fewer than 500 children crossing the border illegally this week, the officials said Friday. Last month, agents arrested as many as 2,000 child immigrants per week.

The Obama administration has been struggling to deal with a flood of more than 57,000 children traveling alone since Oct. 1. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said earlier this month that as many as 90,000 unaccompanied child immigrants could be apprehended by the end of the budget year in September. Most of the children are from Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The volume of child immigrants has significantly taxed resources at the Homeland Security and Health and Human Services departments in recent months and prompted President Barack Obama to ask Congress to approve an emergency \$3.7 billion spending bill to deal with the situation he has called an "urgent humanitarian crisis."

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the latest trends in



CLEM MURRAY, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

The Independence Hall Tea Party Association rallies Friday in front of the building housing the Mexican Consulate in Philadelphia. The rally drew about a dozen demonstrators, like Christopher Collopy, right, and about 100 counterdemonstrators espousing pro-immigrant views.

border arrests, said Friday it's too soon to know what has led to drop in border arrests. They said illegal border crossings along the Mexican border tend to slow during the summer.

Customs and Border Protection has launched a public relations campaign to warn would-be immigrants and their families in Central America that the trip to the U.S. border is dangerous

and immigrant children will face deportation after they are apprehended. But because the trip through Mexico can take weeks or even months, recent border crossers are unlikely to have seen

much of the campaign. Obama is scheduled to host a White House meeting with the presidents of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala next week to discuss the problem.

Slain robbers' families say police acted appropriately

By FENIT NIRAPPIL
The Associated Press

STOCKTON, Calif. — The families of two slain bank robbery suspects said that police in the Northern California city of Stockton acted appropriately when they engaged in a gunbattle with their sons.

Gregory Jon Martinez said Friday that he believed that police's use of lethal force was justifiable and expressed condolences for the family of the hostage found dead after the hour-long robbery, car chase and gunbattle.

"We hold no animosity or blame the Stockton Police Department for behaving the way they did," Martinez said, noting that some of his family members are in law enforcement. "We believe that given the circumstances, the department behaved in a manner that was appropriate."

His son, Alex Gregory Martinez, 27, was one of two suspects killed Wednesday; a third survived after authorities said he used Misty Holt-Singh as a human shield during the gunfight with police.

The father expressed condolences to Holt-Singh's family, hours after the victim's family

gave an emotional news conference in which they expressed compassion for the families of the dead suspects.

"We're so, so sorry that this happened. I wish I could take away their pain," he said.

The mother of the other slain suspect, Gilbert Renteria Jr., 30, said she believed her son was a good person who made a terrible decision that ended his life.

Holt-Singh's family was launching their own investigation into the incident, announcing in the news conference that they were seeking documents, dispatch logs, video and other evidence police gathered during and after the violence.

Family attorney Greg Bentley said he also wants police department guidelines and protocols for high-speed pursuits and the use of deadly force as well as video taken by witnesses.

Holt-Singh, 41, was taken hostage in a Bank of West branch by AK-47-wielding robbers while her 12-year-old daughter waited outside in the car. She was shot while in the back of the suspects' stolen SUV during the ensuing gunbattle after they stopped fleeing and turned to face police with their assault rifles.

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NATION

Seesaw battle over same-sex marriage

By NIRAJ CHOKSHI

The Washington Post

The same-sex marriage movement suffered setbacks in two states Friday, while enjoying an advance in one.

A federal appeals court ruled Oklahoma's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional, affirming a federal judge's January decision while keeping the state's ban in place for now.

Meanwhile, the Colorado Supreme Court ordered the Denver County clerk to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex

couples, and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor ruled that Utah may continue to deny marriage benefits to more than 1,000 married same-sex couples.

The Oklahoma ruling represents a safe advance for the movement, which has enjoyed a string of legal victories since the Supreme Court struck part of the Defense of Marriage Act last summer, thereby granting federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

In its Friday ruling, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a January decision in which U.S.

District Judge Terence Kern struck Oklahoma's ban, writing that the constitutional guarantee of equal protection under the law "is not a scarce commodity to be meted out begrudgingly or in short portions."

In a survey last year, Gallup found that 3.4 percent of Oklahomans identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

The 2-to-1 ruling comes from the same panel that last month affirmed a similar decision striking Utah's ban. That Utah ruling represented the first time an appellate court applied the Supreme

Court DOMA decision to state marriage bans. In both cases, the panel stayed its own ruling, pending the state's appeal.

Oklahoma may now either ask the full bench circuit court to reconsider the case, or it can opt to appeal directly to the Supreme Court as Utah has, according to the Human Rights Campaign, a pro-gay marriage group.

The Supreme Court weighed in, albeit tepidly, on Utah's ongoing fight over same-sex marriage. In a two-sentence order Friday, Sotomayor put a lower court's May decision on hold pending

appeal, thereby allowing Utah to continue denying marriage benefits to more than 1,000 same-sex couples wed during a 17-day window in late December and early January.

In Colorado, the state Supreme Court ordered the Denver County clerk to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Shortly after the 10th Circuit's Utah ruling last month, clerks in the state — which is also part of the 10th Circuit — began allowing same-sex marriages.

Thousands of felons could have drug sentences lessened

By JERRY MARKON AND RACHEL WEINER

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Sentencing Commission decided Friday that nearly 50,000 federal drug offenders currently in prison are eligible for reduced sentences, a move that could flood the nation's courts and prosecutors with applications for leniency.

By a unanimous vote, the commission made retroactive an earlier change that had lightened potential punishments for most future drug offenders who are sentenced starting in November. Friday's move extends that change to 46,000 current inmates, allowing them to have their cases reviewed again by a judge.

The action by the commission — an independent agency that sets sentencing policies for federal crimes — means that nearly half of the nation's 100,000 federal drug inmates can apply for reductions. Those eligible could have their sentences shaved by an average of about two years, the commission says. The move has until November to void the move, which would take effect next year,

but there is little indication of opposition in Capitol Hill.

The sentencing commission vote is the latest sign of an emerging shift in the country's approach to criminal justice, particularly illegal drugs, in which the prevailing tough-on-drugs mentality is giving way to an increased emphasis on treatment and health. Democrats and some Republicans have supported slicing sentences for federal drug crimes, while at least 30 states have modified drug-crime penalties since 2009.

Yet the issue remains highly emotional for many, with the sentencing commission receiving more than 60,000 letters before Friday's vote, including from dozens of lawmakers, judges, attorneys and advocacy groups. The overwhelming majority favored the change, the commission said.

Advocates hailed the decision — which applies to most trafficking cases regardless of the drug — as among the most significant drug-law reforms in a generation, saying it will help reverse years of tough policies dating to the 1970s that have included controversial mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenders.

Unlicensed mortician had remains of 50, officials say

By DENISE LAVOIE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — An unlicensed funeral director accused of stealing more than \$12,000 from an elderly couple could face more charges after authorities found 12 bodies and the cremated remains of more than 40 others in two self-storage units he rented, authorities said Friday.

Joseph O'Donnell, 55, of Boston, was being held on \$10,000 bail in a larceny case when investigators found the cremated remains Wednesday at a Somerville

self-storage business. On Thursday, they found 12 sets of human remains at a similar business in Weymouth.

Suffolk District Attorney Daniel Conley said no foul play is suspected and investigators were working to identify the remains.

Conley's spokesman, Jake Wark, said no charges have been sought against O'Donnell in the discovery of the human remains, but authorities are conducting a criminal investigation. O'Donnell's funeral director's license lapsed in 2008.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Forrest Harrison holds the hand of his daughter, Avery, 5, on Friday as he looks over the rubble remaining from his home after a wildfire destroyed it the night before in Pateros, Wash.

Wash. fire damage 'hard to believe'

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS AND GENE JOHNSON

The Associated Press

PATEROS, Wash. — Residents strolled through the smoldering rubble of their neighborhoods, some wearing surgical masks to protect their lungs from the smoke and ash lingering in the air of the riverside community they call "Paterodise."

"Paterodise is hurting right now," said one, Stephanie Brown, as she surveyed what was left of a friend's home.

A wind-driven, lightning-caused wildfire racing through rural north-central Washington destroyed about 100 homes Thursday and Friday, leaving behind solitary, brick chimneys and burned-out automobiles as it blackened hundreds of square miles in the scenic Methow Valley northeast of Seattle.

The Okanogan County town of Pateros, home to 650 people, was hit especially hard. Most residents evacuated in advance of the flames, and some returned Friday to see what, if anything, was left of their houses.

Residents of the small town of Malott, north of Pateros, were

told to leave their homes Friday as the fire advanced, as were some living in outlying areas of nearby Brewster.

"We basically evacuated the whole town" of Malott, Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said Friday night. Several hours later, he said, one home had burned in Malott but the fire threat in Brewster had eased.

Malott is home to about 500 people, while the population of Brewster is about 2,400.

There were no reports of injuries, the sheriff said, adding he knew the overall damage toll has grown but he didn't have an updated number.

In Pateros, a wall of fire wiped out a block of homes on Dawson Street. David Brownlee, 75, said he drove away Thursday evening just as the fire reached the front of his home, which erupted like a box of matches.

"It was just a funnel of fire," Brownlee said. "All you could do was watch her go."

Next door, the Pateros Community Church appeared largely undamaged.

Carol Hamshaw said her home, her daughter's home and her brother's home were all destroyed

Thursday.

"It's hard to believe until you stand here and see it," she said.

The pavement of U.S. Highway 97 stopped the advance of some of the flames, protecting parts of the town. The mayor, Libby Harrison, lost her own home of the past five years, and said she expected most people to rebuild.

"As a community, you come together and make a big thing better," she said.

Firefighters poured water over the remnants of homes Friday morning, raising clouds of smoke, steam and dust. Two big water towers perched just above the town were singed black. Ash fell like snowflakes.

The fire consumed utility poles from two major power lines, knocking out power to Pateros as well as the towns of Winthrop and Twisp to the north.

Gov. Jay Inslee said about 50 fires were burning in Washington, which has been wracked by hot, dry weather, gusting winds and lightning. Some 2,000 firefighters were working in the eastern part of the state, with about a dozen helicopters from the Department of Natural Resources and the National Guard.

NATION

Teenager's death puts focus on caffeine powder

By ANN SANNER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The sudden death of a healthy high school senior has ramped up attention on unregulated caffeine powder, leading federal health authorities to warn consumers to stay away from the substance.

A recent autopsy found that Logan Stiner, 18, had a lethal amount of caffeine in his system when he died May 27 at his home in LaGrange, Ohio, southwest of Cleveland. The county coroner said Stiner had more than 70 micrograms of caffeine per milliliter of blood in his system, as much as 23 times the amount of a typical coffee or soda drinker.

His mother has said she was unaware her son took caffeine powder. The prom king and wrestler was days away from graduation. He had planned to study at the University of Toledo.

"I don't think any of us really knew that this stuff was out there," said Jay Arbaugh, the Keystone Local Schools superintendent. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said Friday that it's investigating caffeine powder and will "consider taking regulatory action." The agency said it was aware of the teen's death and cautioned parents that young people could be drawn to it.

Caffeine powder is sold as a dietary supplement, so it's not subject to the same federal regulations as certain caffeinated foods. Users add it to drinks for a pick-me-up before workouts or to control weight gain.

A minuscule amount of caffeine powder packs a punch. Merely 1/16th of a teaspoon can contain about 200 milligrams of caffeine, roughly the equivalent

found in two large cups of coffee. That means a heaping teaspoon could kill, said Dr. Robert Glatter, an emergency room physician at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York.

The powder is almost impossible to measure with common kitchen tools, the FDA said. Volume measures like teaspoons aren't precise enough and a scale may be needed.

'The thing about caffeine is just because you see it every day, just because it's naturally occurring ... doesn't mean it's safe.'

Dr. Bob Hoffman
medical toxicologist

arrived at his hospital with high, rapid heart rates.

"They're starting to latch on to the powders more because they see it as a more potent way to lose weight," Glatter said.

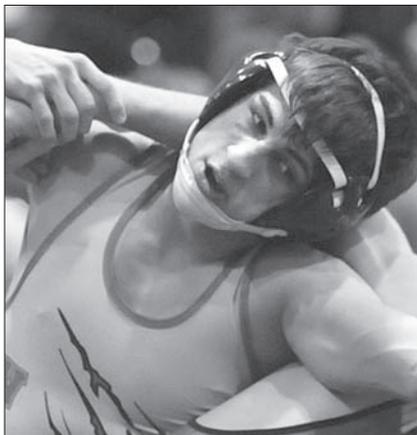
Health officials worry about caffeine powder's potential popularity among exercise enthusiasts and young people seeking an energy boost.

Dr. Henry Spiller directs a poison control center at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Colum-

"The difference between a safe amount and a lethal dose of caffeine in these powdered products is very small," said FDA spokeswoman an Jennifer Dooren.

Glatter said he's seen several younger patients experience complications from caffeine in the last few months.

Some have arrived at his hospital with high, rapid heart rates.



STEVE MANNHEIM, THE (LORAIN COUNTY, OHIO) CHRONICLE TELEGRAM/AP

High school wrestler Logan Stiner, of LaGrange, Ohio, pictured in a Jan. 16 match, died after consuming a powdered caffeine supplement.

bus, Ohio. Over a week or so this month, the center took reports of three people hospitalized for misusing caffeine powder.

"I can't believe you can buy this," Spiller said. "Honestly, I mean, it's frightening. It makes no sense to me."

Federal investigations have recently prompted some companies to pull products with added caffeine.

Last year, Wrigley halted sales and marketing of Alert caffeinated gum after FDA discussions. In 2010, the federal agency forced manufacturers of alcoholic caffeinated beverages to cease production of those drinks. Authorities also have said they would take action if they could link deaths to consumption of energy drinks.

Hospitalizations from energy drinks have been on the rise.

The number of emergency department visits involving energy drinks doubled — from 10,068 visits in 2007 to 20,783 visits in 2011, according to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Most of the cases involved teens

or young adults.

A full teaspoon of powder could contain 3,200 milligrams of caffeine.

In that concentrated amount, a person can experience adverse effects in a matter of minutes, said Dr. Bob Hoffman, a New York University medical toxicologist.

The brain becomes alert, then agitated and confused. The heart-beat picks up and can become dangerously irregular. A consumer can feel nauseous, vomit and potentially have a seizure.

"The thing about caffeine is just because you see it every day, just because it's naturally occurring — it comes from a plant — doesn't mean that it's safe," Hoffman said.

Three weeks before Stiner's death, students at Keystone Local Schools attended an assembly on heroin overdoses and painkillers, Arbaugh, the superintendent, said. "We were addressing things we thought we should be addressing."

Next year, he said, the dangers of caffeine powder will be added to the district's drug and alcohol awareness programs.

Police: Dad beat up man he said was abusing son

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — A Daytona Beach father beat an 18-year-old man unconscious after finding him sexually abusing his 11-year-old son early Friday morning, police said.

The father called 911 around 1 a.m. after he walked in on the alleged abuse, police said. When officers arrived, they found Raymond Frolander motionless on the living room floor.



Frolander

He had several knots on his face and was bleeding from the mouth.

"He is nice and knocked out on the floor for you," the father told the 911 dispatcher. "I drug him out to the living room."

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reports that the father — who was not identified by police — told investigators he walked in as Frolander was abusing the boy.

When asked by the 911 dispatcher if any weapons were involved, the father said "my foot and my fist."

The father has not been charged with any crime.

"Dad was acting like a dad. I don't see anything we should charge the dad with," Daytona Beach Police Chief Mike Chitwood said. "You have an 18-year-old who has clearly picked his target, groomed his target and had sex with the victim multiple times."

Frolander is charged with sexual battery on a child under 12. He is being held without bail. It was not immediately known whether he'd hired a lawyer.

According to the arrest affidavit, Frolander admitted the abuse.

Doctor sues NYC strip club over alleged credit card scheme

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The three evenings started innocently enough: The cardiologist says he and a woman who introduced herself as a nursing student went to dinner and, on one occasion, a concert at Madison Square Garden.

They ended, he says, in a drug-induced blur.

Dr. Ziad Younan alleges his companion, Karina Pasucci, and three other women drugged him into a semi-conscious state and charged more than \$135,000 to his credit card at the behest of the well-known New York City strip club Scores.

Younan sued Scores and the women

Wednesday, countering a lawsuit the strip club filed against him in May after he challenged the charges late last year as fraudulent. He claims he has no memory of being at the club and never authorized the charges.

The Holmdel, N.J., resident wants Scores' lawsuit against him tossed and he wants the club and women to cover unspecified damages, court costs and attorney fees.

It's the latest legal chapter in a tawdry tale that made national headlines in June when New York prosecutors indicted the women and a club manager on grand larceny, assault, forgery and other charges.

The five were also accused of targeting a banker, a hedge fund executive and a real estate attorney in a credit card scam dur-

ing the last four months of 2013.

All told, prosecutors say, they racked up charges worth about \$200,000.

A woman who answered the phone at Scores on Wednesday said the club had no comment. Lawyers for Pasucci and two other women could not immediately be reached.

Pasucci's lawyer, Patrick Parrotta, said after her arrest that she was a college student with no criminal record who worked as a waitress at Scores in Manhattan but never stripped there.

Helen Wu, a lawyer for defendant Marsi Rosen, said Wednesday: "This alleged victim has a case of buyer's remorse and my client is innocent."

Younan alleges in his lawsuit that Scores

participated in the scheme — "the club handles the money," he says Pasucci texted him two days after their last encounter — and that it pressured the women to coerce him into paying up with a barrage of messages and calls.

"I don't need to speak with swindlers," Younan says in one reply to the collection calls, according to the lawsuit. To Pasucci, he says he wrote: "You are a manipulative, conniving thief. Please do not call me."

The 41-year-old Younan says in the lawsuit that the collection calls turned into public disparagement. Scores representatives, he says, told New York media in April that he had an "insatiable" appetite for the club and was "coherent until he saw the bill."

UKRAINE UNREST

Rebels hamper access to site of plane crash

By PETER LEONARD
AND EYGENY MALOLETKA
The Associated Press

HRABOVE, Ukraine — Armed separatists hampered access to the Malaysia Airlines crash site Saturday, limiting the movements of international monitors and raising concerns that evidence showing who brought the plane down and killed the 298 people onboard would be lost, tampered with or destroyed.

At the crash site itself in rebel-held eastern Ukraine, the speed of decay was unmistakable. Dozens of victims' bodies lay decomposing in the summer heat, either flung upon the ground in contorted positions after Flight 17 was shot out of the sky or piled Saturday into body bags that emergency work-

ers left by the side of the road.

"Some of the body bags are open and the damage to the corpses is very, very bad. It is very difficult to look at," Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe spokesman Michael Bociurkiw told reporters in a phone call from the site.

Flight 17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was carrying 283 passengers and 15 crew Thursday when it was shot down in eastern Ukraine close to the Russian border, an area that has seen months of clashes between government troops and pro-Russian separatists. The victims came from 13 nations, including 192 Dutch citizens and 80 children.

At an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, the U.S. pointed blame at the separatists,



EYGENY MALOLETKA/AP

Emergency workers on Saturday carry the body of a victim at the crash site of a Malaysia Airlines jet near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine.

saying Washington believes the jetliner likely was downed by an SA-11 missile and "we cannot rule out technical assistance from Russian personnel."

Ukraine on Saturday accused Russia of helping separatist rebels destroy evidence at the crash site — a report the rebels denied.

Bociurkiw said the 24-member monitoring delegation was given some access Saturday to the crash site but their movements were being limited by the rebels. The

“The integrity of the site has been compromised, and there are indications that vital evidence has not been preserved in place.”

Low Tjong Lai
Malaysian transport minister

site sprawls across sunflower and wheat fields between two villages in eastern Ukraine, encompassing eight square miles.

"We have to be very careful with our movements because of all the security," Bociurkiw said. "We are unarmed civilians, so we are not in a position to argue with people with heavy arms."

The government in Kiev said militiamen have removed 38 bodies from the crash site and have taken them to the rebel-held city of Donetsk. It said the bodies were transported with the assistance of specialists with distinct Russian accents.

The rebels are also "seeking large transports to carry away plane fragments to Russia," the Ukrainian government said in a statement.

In Donetsk, separatist leader Alexander Borodai denied that any bodies had been transferred or that the rebels had in any way interfered with the work of observers. He said he encouraged the international community of specialists with distinct Russian accents.

As emergency workers loaded about 80 bodies of plane victims into bags Saturday, Bociurkiw stressed that his team was not at the site to conduct a full-scale investigation.

"We are looking at security on the perimeter of the crash site, looking at the status in the condition of the bodies, the status in the condition of the debris, and also personal belongings," he said.

One passenger's body was seen still strapped into an airline seat, with bare toes peaking out under long jeans. Another body was flung face-up into a field of blue flowers.

Ukraine also urged Moscow to insist that the pro-Russia rebels grant international experts the ability to conduct a thorough, impartial investigation into the downing of the plane — echoing a demand that President Barack Obama issued a day earlier from

Washington.

"The integrity of the site has been compromised, and there are indications that vital evidence has not been preserved in place," Malaysian Transport Minister Low Tjong Lai said at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed in a phone call Saturday that an independent, international commission led by the International Civil Aviation Organization should be granted swift access to the crash site, said government spokesman Georg Streiter.

The commission should examine the circumstances of the crash and recover the victims, said Streiter, adding that Merkel urged Putin to use his influence over the separatists to make that happen.

In Moscow, Deputy Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov questioned Ukraine's willingness to present a full accounting of its inventory of surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles in the region.

The location of the black boxes remains a mystery, and the separatist leadership remained adamant Saturday that it had not located them. Bociurkiw also said he had received no information on their whereabouts.

Aviation experts say, however, not to expect too much from the flight data and cockpit voice recorders in understanding how Flight 17 was brought down.

The most useful evidence that's likely to come from the crash scene is whether missile pieces can be found in the trail of debris that came down as the plane exploded, said John Goglia, a U.S. aviation safety expert and former National Transportation Safety Board member.

Forensic experts attempt to ID victims

By MIKE CORDER
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Forensic teams fanned out across the Netherlands on Saturday to collect material including DNA samples that will help positively identify the remains of victims killed in the downing of the Malaysia Airlines plane over Ukraine.

Police said in a tweet that 40 pairs of detectives from the National Forensic Investigations Team would be visiting victims' relatives over the coming days.

Their aims is to build a database of material including DNA and photographs of distinguishing features like scars and tattoos that can be used to identify bodies and body parts recovered from the crash site in eastern Ukraine.

The airline released the full list of passengers and crew on Saturday and appealed to family and friends of the victims to contact the carrier so it can get a full picture of the next of kin.

"In the past 45 hours, the airline together with various foreign embassies have made every effort to establish contact with the next-of-kin but is still unable to identify many more family members," Malaysia Airlines said in a statement.

Across the Netherlands, at sports clubs, schools and churches, friends met Saturday to console each other and attempt to come to terms with what happened.

The European Union police coordination body Europol said



A woman passes flowers placed in front of the restaurant Asian Glories in Rotterdam, Netherlands, on Saturday. Both of the restaurant's owners, Jenny Loh and Popo Fan, were killed when the Malaysian jetliner was shot down over Ukraine on Thursday.

Saturday it would assist Interpol and other agencies in identifying victims in Ukraine.

"We will do our utmost to support the work that must be done following this horrific incident, where hundreds of families and friends to the innocent victims on board Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 are grieving and left with unanswered questions," Europol Director Rob Wainwright said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Malaysia Airlines said it is assessing security in Ukraine before making a decision on possibly flying next of kin to the country where their family members lost their lives.

A spokesman for the airline said family members were being cared for in Amsterdam while a

team from the carrier, including security officials, is in Ukraine assessing the situation.

The spokesman, who declined to be named in line with company policy, said the team was trying to travel "500 kilometers (310 miles) through difficult territory" to reach the area where wreckage of the Boeing 777 landed.

Dutch Foreign Minister Frans Timmermans was in Kiev on Saturday, pushing for a fully independent, international probe into the downing of the plane, a day after Prime Minister Mark Rutte steered clear of appointing blame but vowed to rest until the perpetrators are brought to justice if it is proven to be an attack.

CRISIS IN IRAQ

Iraq denies Camp Speicher's in militant hands

Spokesman says government troops repelled attack on former US base; at least 27 killed in Baghdad bombings

From wire reports

On Saturday, Iraqi military spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi denied reports that militants had captured Camp Speicher, saying government troops repelled an attack on Friday and the base remains fully in government hands.

Three security officials confirmed that the militants launched an assault on the airfield late Thursday, blasting through an outside wall of the base and destroying one helicopter. One of the officials said the other helicopters at Speicher were "evacuated" from the base to prevent them from being damaged, but they have since been returned to duty.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

A resident of Tikrit, Ahmed Jassim, said by telephone that clashes were taking place around Speicher on Saturday, but "the gunmen are outside the camp." The center of Tikrit is still under insurgent control and is being shelled by the Iraqi military, he said.

Earlier media reports said Islamic State gunmen overran the base on Friday and killed or captured hundreds of Iraqi government troops who



HADI MIZBAN/AP

Civilians inspect the site of a bomb attack in the Jihad neighborhood of Baghdad on Saturday.

had been trying to retake Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

The government has been on a three-week campaign to recapture Tikrit, which

fell to the Islamic State on June 11. Military spokesmen earlier last week had confidently announced a final push to recapture the city.

Iranian-trained militias leading charge against Sunni militants

By ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — Iranian-trained Shiite militias that accounted for a significant portion of U.S. combat deaths during the Iraq War are now at the leading edge of the Shiite-led Iraqi government's battle to repel the Sunni militants who seized a vast area of Iraqi territory last month.

The militias, which experts and U.S. officials say are also funded by Iran, are working closely with Iraqi forces in the field and coordinating with U.S. forces on strategy in the fight against the Islamic State, according to militia fighters, tribal leaders and government officials.

"It is like any army in that there are divisions inside it ... and each one has its specialties," Qasim al-Khazali, leader of the League of the Righteous militia, said in a rare interview at his office in the Shiite holy city of Najaf.

But the presence of fighters who were implicated in the deaths of hundreds of U.S. troops and Sunni civilians several years ago scores the growing potential that Iraq's crisis could spiral into another devastating sectarian war.

The militias' prominent role also suggests that despite having dispatched some 300 American military advisers to Iraq, the United States is wielding little influence here on the ground.

On Friday, the United Nations said both sides in the conflict — including the Islamic State and associated groups, as well as the Iraqi armed forces and militias — have committed rights viola-

tions over the past month that may amount to war crimes.

At least 1,531 civilians were killed and 1,763 were wounded in June, the world body said. Both sides, it said in its report, had carried out summary executions and other extrajudicial killings.

Cooperation confirmed

On the battlefield, al-Khazali said, all fighters wear Iraqi military uniforms, making troops and militiamen almost indistinguishable to civilians. But their operations differ, he added. "The military has the artillery and aerial force. We have the fighters who go down on the ground and purge the areas."

Government officials confirmed the level of cooperation, although a few claimed that the militias had been incorporated into the military's efforts as "individuals" rather than groups.

The Pentagon and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad did not respond to requests for comment on the issue.

Key figures such as al-Khazali, from the League of the Righteous, and Hakim al-Zamili, from a militia formerly known as the Mahdi Army, were jailed on terrorism charges during the U.S. occupa-

tion but were later released by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government.

Less than three years after U.S. forces departed, these men and their factions appear emboldened by Iraq's newest conflict.

Al-Khazali said that in addition to plotting strategy side by side with army commanders, the League of the Righteous is also helping to train volunteers.

Al-Zamili, a lawmaker from radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr's bloc, said that in recent weeks he has acted as "general coordinator" for al-Sadr's "peace brigades" militia, the former Mahdi Army which has taken control of the religiously mixed city of Samarra, once a flashpoint for sectarian violence.

In 2007, as sectarian killings racked the nation, U.S. forces arrested al-Zamili, who was then deputy health minister, on charges that he used American funds, Health Ministry employees and government ambulances to run death squads targeting Sunnis.

An Iraqi court acquitted al-Zamili a year later, and these days he serves as a member of the security and defense committee in Iraq's parliament, where the League of the Righteous also holds seats.

Another Shiite militia, the Badr

"The military has the artillery and aerial force. We have the fighters who go down on the ground and purge the areas."

Qais al-Khazali
leader of the League of the Righteous militia



AP

An Iraqi Shiite fighter with the "peace brigades" patrols during a sand storm in Samarra, Iraq.

Brigade, is under the control of Iraq's current transport minister.

Presence justified

Militia leaders justify their presence on the front lines by arguing that the army is too weak to go it alone.

"The Iraqi army kicks down doors, and the house turns out to be booby-trapped — it explodes and 30 people get killed," said one high-ranking League of the Righteous member who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press. "Our people are clever, and they have a strategy, so we don't have people killed that way."

The Iranian-backed fighters from the League, the Salaam Brigades and another group, the Hezbollah Brigades, already have two wars under their belts, fighters said.

Known for their use of sophisticated Iranian-made roadside bombs that can penetrate American armored vehicles, the groups fought against both the United States and Iraqi Sunnis during the U.S. occupation here.

The earlier reports said that late Thursday, the Islamist forces stormed Camp Speicher, a former U.S. military base named for a pilot who disappeared during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, and overwhelmed the troops there.

Also Saturday, a series of bombings, including three over a span of less than 10 minutes, killed at least 27 people across Baghdad, shaking the fragile sense of security the capital has maintained despite the Sunni militant offensive raging across northern and western Iraq.

The attacks are among the most significant in Baghdad since insurgents led by the Islamic State captured Mosul last month at the start of its blitz. After Mosul's fall, the government moved aggressively to try to secure Baghdad amid fears it might fall as well, and the city has seen few major attacks in recent weeks.

The Sunni militant blitz, led by the Islamic State extremist group, has pushed into areas west of Baghdad and also has established a presence in a belt of Sunni areas running south and north of the capital. Baghdad itself has a predominantly Shiite population.

More recently, league and Hezbollah fighters have traveled to Syria to join President Bashar al-Assad's forces battling Syria's predominantly Sunni rebels.

'A fundamental role'

Although they may have suffered fewer casualties than Iraq's regular armed forces, al-Khazali said his men are "playing a fundamental role in defending Baghdad." They are also fighting in the militant-held provinces of Salahuddin and Anbar and in mixed areas of Diyala and Babil provinces, he said.

The militias' track records and current activities appear to heighten the risk of full-scale sectarian war erupting.

"Iraq's Sunnis are terrified of these militias, which have proven even more brutal and sectarian in nature than official security forces," said Erin Evers, the Iraq researcher for Human Rights Watch. "With militias in control of the fight in many areas, Sunnis will feel pushed into the arms of Sunni groups."

WORLD

Israeli troops fight Hamas, find tunnels in Gaza

By **IBRAHIM BARZAK** and **ARON HELLER**
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops uncovered more than a dozen cross-border tunnels and battled Gaza militants on the second day of an open-ended ground operation Saturday, as the Palestinian death toll climbed past 330 and diplomats scrambled to revive cease-fire efforts.

The Israeli military said it had severely diminished the arsenal of Hamas, the Islamic militant group ruling Gaza, but the militants have continued to fire rockets.

In the northern Gaza Strip, Palestinian officials reported intensified Israeli airstrikes, shelling and numerous civilian casualties. Gaza Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Kidra said the new round of strikes raised the death toll from the 12-day offensive to more than 330 Palestinians, many of them civilians and nearly a fourth of them younger than 18.

In Israel, a Gaza rocket killed a man near the southern city of Dimona and wounded four people, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said, marking the second Israeli civilian casualty from the fighting. An Israeli soldier was killed after the start of the ground operation, likely from friendly fire.

The Israeli military said during its first 24 hours on the ground in Gaza troops discovered 13 tunnels into Israel — some as deep as 30 yards — that could be used to carry out attacks. Israel said it launched the offensive to deal with that threat. On Saturday, the military said it thwarted a second infiltration attempt through just such a tunnel, killing one militant and forcing the others to return to Gaza.

The military also said it has hit 2,350 targets in Gaza, including 1,100 rocket launchers, during the 12 days of fighting. Militants have fired more than 1,600 rockets since July 8.

"We have struck hard on the two main strategic assets of Hamas: the rockets and these tunnels," Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said.

Israel said it has encountered little resistance on the ground so far, and has killed about 20 militants in sporadic gunbattles. Three soldiers were wounded in overnight fighting, one seriously, the military said.

In one case, it said troops encountered a man who appealed for medical assistance before pulling out grenades and trying to hurl them at soldiers. He was shot dead, authorities said. Troops also encountered a donkey with explosives strapped to it.

Israel launched the ground operation late Thursday after its air campaign on the Hamas-ruled territory failed to halt the unrelenting rocket fire. The rate of Palestinian casualties has risen since the ground offensive began — Al-Kidra said more than 90 Palestinians have since been killed.

Casualties could quickly mount further if the military moves further into urban areas.

Some 50,000 Palestinians already are staying in United Nations shelters, according to UNRWA, the U.N. refugee agency for Palestinians.

Early Saturday, Israeli tank fire killed at least five members of the Al Zawaydi family at their home in Beit Lahia, including two children. In a separate incident, tank shell fire killed three members of the Hamooda family in their home, among them two children.



MATTHIAS HIEKEL, DPA/AP

Rescued vehicles attend to the site of a wrecked bus next to a highway Saturday near Dresden in eastern Germany.

9 dead, 43 hurt in Germany bus crash

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Several buses crashed Saturday on a German highway near the eastern city of Dresden, leaving nine people dead and 43 injured, police said.

The crash, which happened about 2 a.m. Saturday, involved a Polish bus, a Ukrainian bus and a Polish minibus, said Dresden police.

According to a preliminary investigation, the Polish bus hit the rear of the Ukrainian bus and then broke through the median barrier, crashing into the oncoming minibus.

Two people aboard the Polish bus and all seven people in the minibus were killed. At least six of the dead were Polish citizens, police said.

"In my 36 years of work as a professional firefighter, I've never witnessed an operation



RICO LOEB, DPA/AP

A policeman examines bus wreckage Saturday on a highway near Dresden in eastern Germany.

with such a large number of dead and injured," Dresden fire chief Andreas Ruempel told German

public broadcaster MDR. The injured were taken to hospitals in Dresden and Radebeul.



KHALIL HAMRA/AP

Palestinian mourners pray Saturday at Bilal mosque in the Khan Younis refugee camp, southern Gaza Strip, during a funeral for nine Palestinians killed in an early-morning Israeli missile strike.

Highway collision in China kills 38

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A truck loaded with flammable liquid collided with a bus on a highway in southern China on Saturday, killing at least 38 people.

The state-run Xinhua News

Agency said the truck rear-ended the bus about 3 a.m. on the Hutun Expressway in Hunan province, with the truck's driver and passenger among the dead. Five people were also injured.

Xinhua said the flames destroyed a total of five vehicles

before being extinguished five hours later.

Images broadcast on Chinese state television showed both vehicles severely burned and what appeared to be passenger belongings scattered on the road.

WORLD



YOUSSEUF BAN/AP

A man washes his hands with disinfectant to prevent the spread of Ebola before entering a hospital in the capital city of Freetown, Sierra Leone, on Tuesday.

'There is no such thing as Ebola'

As death toll surges in Sierra Leone, health experts battle stigma, misinformation

BY CAELAINN HOGAN
The Washington Post

"I don't believe in Ebola," Craig Manning's local driver told him as he chauffeured the viral emergency specialist through Freetown, Sierra Leone, where infection rates are rising. The man came from a rural part of the country where people were already dying from the virus. He was adamant, like many others in his community, that "there is no such thing as Ebola."

He is wrong. The epidemic, the deadliest on record, continues to batter Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, with 85 new cases and 68 new deaths reported in only four days earlier this month, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Sierra Leone bore the brunt of new infections and deaths, with 49 new cases and 52 deaths reported. The total number of cases stands at 982, with 613 deaths as of July 17.

Yet, as the Ebola virus continues to spread in West Africa, so do the rumors. Some say you can contract Ebola from a motorcycle helmet. Others say you can cure the deadly virus by drinking Nescafé mixed with cocoa and sugar—or with two large onions.

It's Manning's job to take onions out of the equation.

A health communications strategist with the Viral Special Pathogens Branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Manning was sent to Guinea at the first outbreak of the Ebola crisis in March. When one of his colleagues, Pierre Roland, an expert on Ebola, gave a pre-

sentation at the U.S. Embassy in Conkary about mitigating risks of transmission, Manning recorded him. He then had the edited 30-second snippets translated into 10 local languages and broadcast over local radio stations and TV.

When the virus spread to Sierra Leone, Manning followed it, teaming up with BBC Media Action to bring together radio station managers from across the country to help spread the word.

Manning said aggressive intervention is necessary to prevent more people from becoming infected, but ensuring local populations understand Ebola first is essential. For instance, in areas where the virus has spread, relatives wash bodies by hand before funerals, putting families at risk of new infections.

"People do not easily accept the idea that teams will take their deceased loved one, put them in a bag and bury them somewhere different," said Manning. "The challenge is to strike a balance."

This balance demands communication, according to WHO spokesperson Daniel Epstein.

"There are a set of beliefs and myths that impede our messages about treatment—it is a huge challenge," he said.

Doctors Without Borders has been unable to gain access to some affected areas due to hostility from the people there. Local communities fear outsiders are bringing the virus with them or want to exterminate the infected, since so few who get treatment return alive.

WHO is helping coordinate information sessions on Ebola to train local leaders how the virus is transmitted and how people can stop it.

"It is necessary for any group engaging in Ebola control to provide health education prior to initiating any other intervention," said Rashid Ansumana, a researcher at Mercy Hospital Research Lab in the city of Bo, Sierra Leone, where 15 physicians treat a population of more than 150,000. Ansumana comes from the city of Kailahun, an epicenter of the outbreak, and said a large number of new infections are going undetected. His family lives in constant fear.

"One false rumor that is circulating is that health officials might inject suspected

Ebola patients with lethal substances," he said. He suggested HIV prevention protocols, which people are familiar with, can be used to explain how Ebola can be transmitted through blood or other body fluids.

In 2012, Mercy Hospital used the crowdsourcing platform Ushahidi to monitor an outbreak of the highly infectious Chikungunya virus, technology he believes could be employed to combat Ebola.

Crowdsourcing data during emergencies has become an important new way to quickly source information about people at risk and to locate the epicenters of the crisis, used to great effect during the earthquake in Haiti to aid a targeted, effective response.

"In West Africa, someone who has Ebola might not seek testing or treatment due to the monetary costs or the fear of getting a positive result for the virus, the impact and potential stigma that has for their family," said Kathryn Jacobsen, associate professor for epidemiology at the Department of Global and Community Health at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. For diseases such as malaria, she said, people in this region will often go to a local pharmacy where medication is available without a prescription, rarely going to hospital.

"To have people reporting in cases through text messaging would be a very helpful system," she said.

WHO has been operating emergency Ebola hotlines in the affected countries that get 200 to 300 calls a day. The organization is exploring text messaging, since 40 percent of affected populations use mobile phones.

'In West Africa, someone who has Ebola might not seek testing or treatment due to the monetary costs or the fear of getting a positive result for the virus, the impact and potential stigma that has for their family.'

Kathryn Jacobsen

George Mason University Department of Global and Community Health

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OPINION

More US troops should go to Iraq

By MICHAEL O'HANLON

The solution to the violence in Iraq is political, not military. But if a suitable government can be formed in Baghdad, the United States should consider its military options. And to be effective, America's troop presence in Iraq should exceed the hundreds of special operations advisers that President Barack Obama has announced this far.

Certainly, no one should expect the United States, after the huge military effort of the past dozen years, to redeploy main combat units to Iraq to try to counter the territorial advances of the extremist organization known as the Islamic State. Lesser but still significant American military assistance doesn't make sense, either, absent a new government that incorporates Sunni and Kurdish politicians in meaningful power-sharing. Many Iraqi Sunnis now consider Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki the "Shiite Saddam" and despise him even more than the Islamic State. They will not cooperate with Baghdad or with us — and the Obama administration is therefore right to focus first and foremost on Iraqi politics at present.

But what would be the right American contribution to an Iraqi-led military campaign against the Islamic State? Both drones and manned aircraft would probably be useful tools, but they might not be enough. Indeed, the history of trying to make a difference on the ground through pinpricks from the sky in wars such as this one is hardly encouraging. We tried that in Kosovo with several hundred aircraft in 1999, and achieved success only after increasing our air power threefold and hinting at a ground invasion two months later. Air power helped a great deal in Afghanistan in 2001, but only because we had an effective military ally in the Northern Alliance, which made it possible to isolate and then target the enemy from the air, as George Washington University political scientist Stephen Biddle has shown. We had manned and unmanned aircraft in Iraq from 2003 through 2006, yet we were losing the war there until the combination of the Sunni Awakening and the troop surge turned things around.

None of the breakthroughs in drone technology in the years since changes the basic facts: It remains very hard to find and destroy an enemy of any significant size from the air absent good intelligence gained largely on the ground, and absent an ability to protect one's allies on the ground from retribution by the enemy. U.S. troops do not need to attempt these functions again. But our military options need to help restore the Iraqi army's ability to do so.

Fortunately, there are many options between limited airstrikes and all-out invasion. Even the total of all the options I consider plausible would not require more than 10,000 U.S. troops in Iraq at most — roughly the number that the United States originally planned to keep in Iraq after 2011 and roughly the number that the Obama administration intends to have in Afghanistan next year. That would involve real costs and risks to American troops, but the numbers would not be enormous.

One option is to deploy a significant number of special operations teams, well above and beyond the several hundred American



Iraq Shiite fighters with the Peace Brigades patrol during a sandstorm July 12 in Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq.

advisers sent to Iraq over the past month. If the Islamic State has 10,000 dedicated fighters whom U.S. and Iraqi units must ultimately take off the battlefield, the experiences of Sunni and Afghanistan during the past decade suggest that we would need to conduct perhaps several thousand raids informed by good intelligence to counter the threat. Ideally, combined U.S. and Iraqi forces would strike hard early in any operation so that the enemy would not have time to adjust, carrying out many of these raids in the first couple of months. This would require having up to several dozen U.S. commando teams in Iraq or based in neighboring countries, totaling 1,000 to 5,000 troops, for a mission lasting perhaps several months at peak intensity.

A second option involves a type of military unit developed in recent years in Afghanistan called a Security Force Assistance Team. This is a group of 10 to 20 U.S. soldiers who embed with local forces at the small-unit level. Since the Iraqi army has in some cases dissolved, such advisory teams — which live with and deploy into the field alongside local troops — could be crucial to restoring the good tactics, unit cohesion, leadership confidence and tenacity that Iraqi units will require. Assuming that they might be deployed with most of Iraq's army battalions, there could be a need for up to 100 such teams deploying for several months, and up to one or two years at most. Add logistical and intelligence support for these teams, as well as quick-response units that could help them if they got in trouble, and the numbers would again reach into the low thousands.

None of this would appeal to Americans weary of overseas engagement in general, the war on terror in particular and

Iraq most of all. And a recent classified military assessment reported by the New York Times found that some Iraqi units are infiltrated by Sunni extremists or Iranian-backed Shiite personnel, making it difficult for U.S. forces to work with some of them, at least in the early going. But accepting some risk is necessary. The alternative may be to see a brutal group that seeks a caliphate over much of the Middle East — and that continues to recruit and warp the minds of thousands of fighters holding Western passports — entrenched in much of Iraq and Syria. That prospect is incompatible with U.S. national security interests.

Indeed, by indicating a willingness to do more now, as Iraqis consider alternative ruling coalitions, Washington may also help prod the Iraqis to choose a more unified leader than Maliki. Substantial forms of military assistance may prove a significant inducement to pick a better leader.

Of course, for an American president who has been intent on ending two wars and getting U.S. troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan on his watch, returning to Iraq in the manner I sketch out here would be a bitter pill. But it would not be incompatible with Obama's assertion that he has ended the main U.S. combat roles in both countries, since even if several thousand troops were to remain after Obama leaves the White House, those residual forces would be much less than a tenth of their peak sizes in either place.

Most of all, it is what may be needed to keep America safe. And that, of course, is the president's main responsibility to the nation.

O'Hanlon is a senior fellow and director of research for the foreign policy program at the Brookings Institution.

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OPINION

A look at downed plane and Ukraine's rebels

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY
Bloomberg News

There is one important reason Ukrainian authorities are so sure that pro-Russian rebels shot down a Malaysia Airlines jet: An account on the Russian social network Vkontakte, which relays official dispatches from insurgent military leader Igor Girkin, aka Strelkov, boasted about the rebels shooting down a plane at about the time of the crash.

The Boeing 777, on its way from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur with 295 people on board, crashed between the village of Grabovo and the mining town of Thorez in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine. Air-traffic controllers lost touch with it at 4:20 p.m. local time, pravda.com.ua reported.

The Vkontakte account reported at 5:37 p.m. Moscow time (4:37 in Donetsk) that a large plane — identified as an Antonov An-26 transport plane, “has just been shot down near Snizhne,” a town close to where the Malaysia Airlines plane went down. This appears to be an edited version of a floating post that is available only in screen shots now (I have one).

In that initial version, the post went on: “We warned them not to fly in our skies. And here’s a video of another bird going down. The bird fell behind a coal heap, residential areas were not hit, peaceful people did not suffer.”

The realistic version of events is that the rebels thought they were aiming a ground-to-air missile at a Ukrainian transport plane. The government is using such planes to drop supplies to servicemen surrounded in a rebel-held area not far from where Flight MH17 crashed.



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

A pro-Russia fighter secures the area on Friday as a delegation from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe arrives at the crash site of the Malaysia Airlines passenger jet near the village of Hrabove, eastern Ukraine.

Even if new information surfaces absolving the trigger-happy Strelkov and his men, there is no denying the fact that the conflict in eastern Ukraine is their doing. Strelkov’s top cadre includes military recruitment enthusiasts like himself who

have fought in numerous local conflicts just because they like it.

Strelkov’s account is full of tales of the rebels’ clashes with the inept, bumbling Ukrainian troops; the barely trained army, the National Guard made up of recent

street-revolution activists, patriotic volunteers with little fighting experience. The area is full of angry, badly trained people and serious military hardware.

The rebels recently seized the Buk ground-to-air missiles, capable of shooting down planes at high altitude, from a Ukrainian base, according to Russian state news agency Itar-Tass.

Both sides have more weapons than they know how to use. Ukraine never expected to fight a war at all, especially not with Russian nationalist fighters, apparently backed and armed by Russia. It was started by these fighters and by local insurgents unhappy about the Ukrainian nationalist government in Kiev. It is a battle of amateurs and semiprofessionals — an emotional, dirty, ad-hoc war and a major accident waiting to happen.

The only solution is for professionals to intervene, separate the sides and oversee their disarmament. If the downing of Flight MH17 proves to be the work of participants in the conflict, the United Nations will have cause to send in peacekeeping troops. If Russian President Vladimir Putin insists that he will be as guilty as those responsible for the crash.

The other alternative is for shocked politicians in Russia, Ukraine and the West to agree that the conflict should end immediately. Strelkov and his fighters, however, are not quite the Putin puppets they are often thought to be. They have their own scores to settle with the Kremlin and nothing to lose. I doubt that the fighting can be stopped by political means.

Bloomberg View contributor Leonid Bershidsky is a Moscow-based writer.

Why Israel and Hamas need each other in perverse way

By AARON DAVID MILLER
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — In her fascinating book “A History of God,” Karen Armstrong posits that people believe in God because God “works for them.” That is to say, God is compelling because the idea of a divine being serves a useful purpose in people’s lives. That utilitarian argument may be masked beneath a deep layer of spiritual devotion — but it’s a pragmatic decision all the same.

The same logic works, to a large degree, in explaining the motives and interests of Israel and Hamas toward one another. As the current Gaza conflict proves once again, these two actors — in a perverse way — need each other.

That’s not to deny the enmity that marks the ties between Hamas and Israel, or the existential rhetoric that drives the tone of their public accusations. It’s perfectly reasonable to assume that if Israeli and Hamas leaders had one wish, it would be to destroy the other.

But in the practical world of Israeli-Palestinian politics, getting rid of one another is neither achievable — nor perhaps even desirable. Indeed, because it’s not an option, Israel and Hamas have not only made do with each other’s existence, they have tried to figure out how to derive the maximum benefit from one another.

The Israeli-Hamas bond goes back to the very inception of the Palestinian Islamist organization. Israel didn’t create Hamas in 1987, but in an effort to counter the more secular Fatah and Palestine Liberation Organization in the 1970s, it gave a variety of Islamist groups political space and leeway.

It even granted an operating license for an organization created by Hamas’ founder, Ahmed Yassin. Paradoxically, Hamas’ very reason for being depended on the existence of Israel — even though its main aim was to destroy it.

One way to look at this is as a Middle Eastern form of mutually assured destruction. Hamas cannot destroy Israel, and Israel knows that it cannot reoccupy Gaza and eradicate the Islamist organization at a cost that it is willing to bear. So each actor uses the other for its own purposes.

For Israel, Hamas is a convenient address to achieve many of its short-term goals. In the strange world of controlled military confrontation, when it wants a cease-fire, it goes to Hamas, not to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. When it wants Israel Defense Forces soldier Gilad Shalit released from captivity, it goes to Hamas, not Abbas.

And when it needs to strike out in response to the brutal murders of three Israeli teens in the West Bank, it cracks down on Hamas — whether or not the movement’s leadership authorized the action. Hamas is a convenient target of attack — and having applauded the kidnaping of the three boys, it is probably deserving as well.

Second, Israel needs Hamas in Gaza. Of course, it doesn’t want a militant terrorist

organization launching rockets at its cities and citizens. But a Hamas that maintains order there and provides a hedge against even more radical jihadi groups is preferable to a lawless vacuum. Indeed, fewer rockets were fired from Gaza in 2013 than in any year since 2001.

I’ve often pondered why al-Qaida has never been able to set up shop in an effective manner in Gaza, or undertake a terrorist extravaganza in Israel. The absence of an al-Qaida presence is not only a result of the Israeli security presence — it’s due to the determination of Palestinians not to allow the jihadists to hijack their cause.

The last thing Israel wants is a vacuum in Gaza. In fact, Giora Eiland, former head of Israel’s National Security Council, argues that it’s in Israel’s interest that Gaza be stable, with a strong economy and central authority. Indeed, Eiland argues, a statelike structure can be held responsible in the event of a confrontation: Israel could attack national infrastructure, not just rocket launchers.

Third, Hamas presents a wonderful bogeyman for those Israelis looking to avoid dealing with the questions of how to make the two-state solution a reality. Hamas’ hostile and frequently anti-Semitic rhetoric is a gift to Israeli right-wingers, providing them with any number of talking

points about why Israel can never trust Palestinians.

The problem posed by Hamas is not just a piece of propaganda by the Israeli right. The fact is that the absence of a monopoly over the organized use of violence in the Palestinian territories poses a legitimate threat to a two-state solution. What Israeli is going to make existential concessions to Abbas — a Palestinian leader who lacks the power to silence all the guns and rockets of Palestine?

Finally, Hamas — particularly its military wing — also thrives on the existence of Israel. Hamas’ very legitimacy is derived from an ideology and strategy steeped in confrontation and resistance. However self-destructive the ideology may be, the movement represents to many Palestinians an effort to preserve their national identity and to resist Israel and its ongoing occupation. Abbas has his peace process — or what’s left of it — and his international campaign to drum up recognition of Palestinian statehood. Hamas has its resistance. It’s in the nature of its very reason for being.

As Israel begins its ground incursion, the odds don’t favor success in breaking Hamas as an organization or ending its control over Gaza. More than likely, it will only mark another bloody phase in a long struggle between two parties who can’t seem to live with one another, — or apparently without one another, either.

Foreign Policy columnist Aaron David Miller is vice president for new initiatives and a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. His forthcoming book is titled “The End of Greatness: Why America Can’t Have (and Doesn’t Want) Another Great President.”

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

City to pay family over shooting of pit bull

CA RIVERSIDE — A Riverside couple who sued police for shooting their pit bull, named Brad Pitt, will be paid \$30,000 as part of a settlement with the city.

Lindsay Gonzalez-Rivera and Luis Rivera filed the suit last year, contending that the killing was unwarranted. The couple had originally sought \$350,000.

Police were alerted to the couple's neighborhood in August 2012 to serve an arrest warrant on a murder suspect who lived two doors away.

Police said one officer who was stationed at the Riveras' backyard shot Brad Pitt after the dog surprised, cornered and attacked him.

However, the Riveras claim the officer shot the pit bull through a gate and that it wasn't a danger.

Peregrine falcons delay Navy ship's departure

RI PROVIDENCE — The Navy is ready to say goodbye to the USS Saratoga, but a family of peregrine falcons is not.

The falcons are nesting on the decommissioned aircraft carrier in Newport. The Navy has delayed the Saratoga's final trip to Texas, where it will be dismantled, until the fledglings are ready to leave.

Naval Station Newport contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after the nest was discovered in the spring.

Their experts said the falcons should be done rearing their offspring by mid-August, and recommended waiting until then to move the ship. The peregrine falcon is a protected species under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Saratoga is now scheduled to depart in late August.

Company cited for illegal trash dumping

MN RED WING — A Minnesota trash hauler has been fined after an employee unloaded garbage on a customer's driveway.

The Red Wing City Council told the Rochester Post-Bulletin that Paul's Industrial Garage was cited Monday night for "dumping almost two tons of wet, putrescible waste." Officials said it was in retaliation for an unpaid bill.

The company faces an \$1,800 fine and \$735 reimbursement fee for cleanup costs. The city also plans to issue a misdemeanor citation to the driver and misdemeanor tickets for unlawful dumping and public nuisance to the manager of Paul's Industrial Garage. A local official said several neighbors called the police after witnessing the employee dump the waste on June 20.

Man's long-lost class ring turns up in Greece

NY NEW YORK — More than 40 years after a New York man last saw his high school class ring, the love token his wife had until their wedding night popped up on a Greek island.



SETH PERLMAN/AP

Preparing to compete

Competitors warm up for the American Paint Division Performance during the Western Horse Show at the Illinois State Fairgrounds on Friday in Springfield. The horse show will run through the weekend.

How it got to Naxos after it disappeared with his bride's purse at their wedding reception is a mystery. But earlier this month, the ring arrived by mail on Staten Island for owner Stan Ostapiak, a retired police officer.

A young Greek man on the island of Naxos came across the ring in his late father's belongings, with the name of the now-defunct Seward Park High School in New York engraved inside.

Couple bringing crazed cat home after attack

FL DELAND — A cat is heading back home after spending time in quarantine following an attack on its central Florida owners that prompted a 911 call.

Police said the Russian blue cat, named Kush, went berserk inside a DeLand home July 5,

scratching owners Teresa and James Gregory on their arms and legs. The couple retreated to a bedroom and called 911.

Kush was taken to an animal shelter for 10 days. The Daytona News-Journal reported that Kush was well-behaved during the quarantine.

DeLand animal control officer Michelle Realander said the Gregorys had been leaning toward giving up the cat, but changed their minds. She said the cat will go to a veterinarian for vaccinations and then to be spayed before going home.

Man pleads guilty to turtle trafficking

SC CHARLESTON — A South Carolina man has pleaded guilty to illegally trafficking in wild turtles.

The Post and Courier of

Charleston reported that Steven Baker, 33, of Holly Hill, pleaded guilty last week in federal court to trying to sell turtles to a buyer in Florida.

Authorities said the buyer was really a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent.

Baker had a previous conviction for grand larceny and burglary and also pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of guns and ammunition.

He faces up to five years in prison and a \$20,000 fine on the wildlife charge, and 10 years and a \$250,000 fine in the weapons case.

2 women float 8 miles to safety after storm

SC HILTON HEAD ISLAND — Two Tennessee women are safe after a storm blew their paddleboards from a

THE CENSUS

3,500

The number of diapers that were lost by Phoenix Freight while in transit on May 30. Xpress Enterprises is suing the freight company for the \$24,121 refund it paid to its client, Proctor & Gamble. The Chattanooga, Tenn., trucking giant claims the diapers never arrived at the distribution center because the driver lost the shipment when his truck was allegedly stolen in Levittown, Pa. U.S. Xpress said the brokered contract required Phoenix to pay for any damage to the goods during delivery, including loss of control from theft.



Georgia island to a South Carolina island.

Cayce Underwood, 27, and Summer Underwood, 21, set out from Tybee Island, Ga., when they were caught by stormy weather and spent hours on the water Tuesday.

They abandoned their paddleboards when they were in sight of Hilton Head Island, and it took 45 minutes to make it ashore near 8 miles from where they started.

The Island Packet, of Hilton Head, reported that the half-sisters were sunburned, scraped and exhausted by their eight-hour ordeal.

Mummified remains found in garage ID'd

MI PONTIAC — Officials have confirmed that the mummified remains found in the garage of a suburban Detroit home in March were those of the woman who lived there alone.

Officials said she could have been dead for more than five years and that there was no evidence of foul play.

Authorities last week notified the relatives of Pia Farrenkopf that she had been positively identified using DNA testing, the Detroit Free Press reported.

Oakland County Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Bernardino Paciris said the cause and manner of death could not be determined because the body was mummified. Investigators said in March that they believed the remains were Farrenkopf, a self-employed financial troubleshooter who would have turned 50 this year.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE

Crime of fashion?

For some, sagging pants carry greater meaning

‘We’re not saggin’ our pants to be disrespectful. Nobody says anything when people wear short jean skirts; no one cares. It’s no different when our mothers and grandmothers wear the big hats to church. It’s fashion for them, and the sag is our fashion.’

By **SHAHID ABDUL-KARIM**
New Haven Register

Sag is swag if you ask some young people. For Trevor Smith, a college student, sagging pants are merely a fashion statement.

Others, however, worry that it perpetuates racial stereotypes, might have roots as a gay male signal and could lead to health complications based on the way it can force wearers to walk.

“It’s just fashion for us,” Smith, 18, of New Haven, Conn., said. “Everyone has a different (opinion of) it, and some people don’t know how to go with the changing times.”

“We know the meaning of the pants sagging” years ago; it’s changing now,” he said. “We don’t focus on what it meant back in the day or the negative, we wear it as part of our swag or expression.”

Opinions vary on the origin of the sagging pants movement.

Some contend that it sprang up because belts were not allowed in prison — to prevent self-harm, while some believe blacks who were enslaved were denied belts for fear they would sid in escape.

“The saggin’ started in the prison where inmates couldn’t wear belts, but in jail culture things started to transcend,” said community activist Leonard Jahad.

“The left pant leg rolled up meant you’re in a certain gang and both pant legs rolled up meant something else,” Jahad said. “When pants are down like the kids wear on the streets, in prison, it means you are available to the next man for sexual activity.”

Smith said he and his peers don’t view the sagging pants as a sexual signal, or anything more than a style choice.

“We’re not saggin’ our pants to be disrespectful. Nobody says anything when people wear short jean skirts; no one cares,” he said. “It’s no different when our mothers and grandmothers wear the big hats to church. It’s fashion for them, and the sag is our fashion.”

Smith acknowledged that some of his peers who wear sagging pants go to the extreme.

“Some of us do take it to the max, but it’s not like it’s to the ankles,” Smith said.

“It’s part of black culture now, but whites and Puerto Ricans wear the sag, too,” he said.

Several white male youths who wear their pants sagging were interviewed for the story. All declined to be identified.

However, they agreed it’s purely a fashion expression and a way to be connected to their black peers.

Jason Jacobs, 15, who has been wearing the sagging style since he was 9, said he wore it for the wrong reasons.

“When I first started doing it, I did it so I could stuff things into my pants; now it’s a trend everyone does,” Jason said.

“I don’t do it all the time like I used to; it was big with me at one point,” he said. “I’m trying to stop the sag because I want to be different now.”

Jason said black youths started the trend and believes “white boys have picked up on it to be like us.”

City resident Ronald Huggins, 22, who does not care for the sagging fashion, said he believes the black community is the hub for style and fashion for other ethnic groups.

“We’re the brainchild for a lot of things, and if we only realized the influence and the amount of power we have to produce positive things, we’d be setting records all over the world,” said Huggins, a Southern Connecticut State University graduate who aspires to be mayor of New Haven.

“If we can just get ourselves together, we can affect

the nation and generations to come,” he said.

The fashion has created a way of life for some who identify with the hip-hop community.

New Haven hip-hop and graffiti artist Dooley-O Jackson said hip-hop introduced the style to mainstream society because youth had no other options to express themselves.

“(Some) adults wear suits and kids wore tight shorts, so hip-hop broke the standard rules of dressing,” said Jackson, 44, who started rapping in the late 1980s.

Differentiating rap music from hip-hop culture, Jackson said, “Rap never had its own fashion; it’s always been hip-hop.”

“Pants hanging off your bottom is something that came from jail,” he said. “When hip-hop at its worst had no new swag, except jailhouse cloth clothing, the youth adopted it.”

According to hiphop-network.com, in the early 1970s the musical genre was born in the crime-ridden neighborhoods of the South Bronx.

Fashion statement or not, some towns across the country have decided sag is not swag. In New Jersey, two towns have passed ordinances banning sagging pants, and other towns have considered or adopted similar measures.

Penns Grove and Wildwood are issuing fines of \$25 on first offense.

On further offenses, fines could climb to \$1,000, as well as potential community service hours.

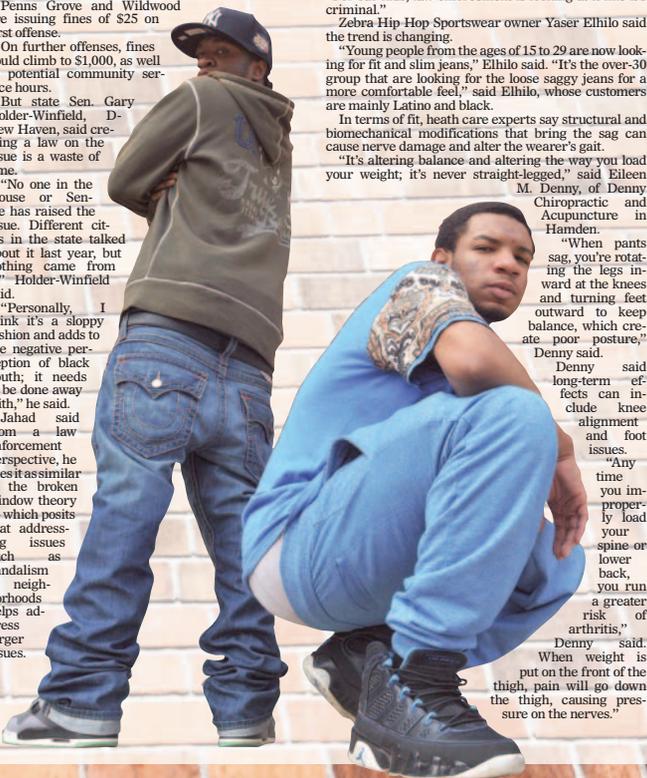
But state Sen. Gary Holder-Winfield, D-New Haven, said creating a law on the issue is a waste of time.

“No one in the House or Senate has raised the issue. Different cities in the state talked about it last year, but nothing came from it,” Holder-Winfield said.

“Personally, I think it’s a sloppy fashion and adds to the negative perception of black youth; it needs to be done away with,” he said.

Jahad said from a law enforcement perspective, he sees it as similar to the broken window theory — which posits that addressing issues such as

vandalism in neighborhoods helps address larger issues.



Trevor Smith
college student

“It’s like a quality-of-life crime; it’s seen as if your pants are down, you’re not motivated, you don’t have a job and don’t care about yourself,” Jahad said.

“This is a community accountability issue, but when we can’t police ourselves, law enforcement steps in,” he said.

Jahad believes race does play a factor when it comes to law enforcement stereotypes.

“Skateboarders and hipsters wear their pants saggy, but they’re not seen as anti-establishment,” he said. “For our kids, law enforcement is looking at it like it’s criminal.”

Zebra Hip Hop Sportswear owner Yaser Elhilo said the trend is changing.

“Young people from the ages of 15 to 29 are now looking for fit and slim jeans,” Elhilo said. “It’s the over-30 group that are looking for the loose saggy jeans for a more comfortable feel,” said Elhilo, whose customers are mainly Latino and black.

In terms of fit, health care experts say structural and biomechanical modifications that bring the sag can cause nerve damage and alter the wearer’s gait.

“It’s altering balance and altering the way you load your weight; it’s never straight-legged,” said Eileen M. Denny, of Denny Chiropractic and Acupuncture in Hamden.

“When pants sag, you’re rotating the legs inward at the knees and turning feet outward to keep balance, which creates poor posture,” Denny said.

Denny said long-term effects can include knee alignment and foot issues.

“Any time you improve properly load your spine or lower back, you run a greater risk of arthritis,” Denny said.

When weight is put on the front of the thigh, pain will go down the thigh, causing pressure on the nerves.”

Justin McClendon, left, and Trevor Smith, both of New Haven, Conn., view sagging pants as a fashion statement, while others believe they perpetuate racial stereotypes.

PETER CASOLINO, NEW HAVEN (CONN.) REGISTER/AP

VIDEO GAMES

Unanimously pleasing

‘EA Sports UFC’ a respectable first round for EA



“EA Sports UFC” features nearly 100 of the top mixed martial artists in the world, including Rashad Evans.

EA Sports

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

After the closure of “UFC Undisputed” publisher THQ, it’s been a few years since gamers have been able to set foot in the virtual octagon of the most famous mixed martial arts brand. The ability to grapple with a video game controller is back, this time from an entirely new game publisher for the latest generation of consoles.

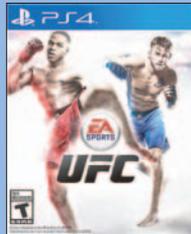
“EA Sports UFC” marks the first UFC game from Electronic Arts, which has long dominated the sports genre with series like “Madden NFL,” “FIFA” and “Tiger Woods PGA Tour,” though it’s not their first jab at a MMA game. They released the awkward “EA Sports MMA” in 2010.

This time, EA has both the cachet of the UFC and the power of next-generation consoles on its side.

The mostly robust roster of almost 100 fighters in “EA Sports UFC” features such vets as Anderson Silva and female fighters like Ronda Rousey. Bruce Lee is included as an unlockable player. The artists at developer EA Canada have meticulously recreated the scrappers — right down to their tattoos, body hair and cauliflower ears.

A similar level of detail is also available in the game’s career mode, where players can create custom fighters from scratch, adding such tidbits as nicknames, hometowns and moves before taking them from “The Ultimate Fighter” reality TV competition to a possible six-figure contract and eventually all the way to the UFC Hall of Fame.

With seemingly spontaneous commentary coming from Joe Rogan and Mike Goldberg, and fighters’ flesh deteriorating as bouts progress, the audio-visual presentation



of “EA Sports UFC” is fluidly flawless. The game’s controls — much like the actual sport of MMA — are equally accurate. They require precision, not fumbling.

However, “EA Sports UFC” isn’t a total knockout.

While it lends itself to the game’s realism, there’s a steep learning curve for navigating among striking, clinching, wrestling and grappling, which relies on an odd octagon-shaped mini-game where quick flicks of the thumb sticks block submissions. It’s unfortunate there wasn’t a smarter solution — or smarter virtual opponents.

The artificial intelligence of the challengers is often a cinch to overcome, making the game feel more like a fantasy than a simulation. It only truly feels alive when played against other humans, either in person or online. After coaching a few fighters from rookies to retirees, the only reason to replay the career mode.

Sure, for MMA devotees, “EA Sports UFC” is a must. Despite some daffy responses from the computer-controlled opponents and a too-nimble career mode, EA Sports has laid a striking foundation for a new sports series, but more casual fighting fans will want to wait for “Super Smash Bros.”

Platforms: Xbox One, PS4
Online: easports.com/ufc

‘Shovel Knight’: A delightful tribute to the side-scrollers of yore

By TIM TURI
Game Informer Magazine

The downloadable market is flush with pixelated throwbacks harking back to the NES era. So many exist that developers can’t get by on 8-bit visuals and chiptunes alone; a game has to be polished and infuse something fresh and exciting into our rosy memories. Yacht Club Games’ “Shovel Knight” not only looks and feels like a lost gem from gaming’s past, it hybridizes classic gameplay mechanics from Capcom hits while injecting a modern risk/reward system. The polished core is topped off with a familiar yet authentic visual style that drives the whole experience home.

At a glance, “Shovel Knight” looks like someone swapped out “Mega Man’s” cartoonish futuristic look with medieval castles and armored warriors. This appraisal isn’t too far from the truth, but there’s more to it than that. “Shovel Knight” fuses together “Duck Tales” pogo-jumping combat and “Mega Man’s” screen-scrolling level design.

You can slash at enemies with a chargeable shovel, gleefully bounce on enemies’ heads with your weapon and explore an overworld map reminiscent of “Super Mario Bros. 3.”



Conquered levels can also be revisited to score extra cash, and optional side bosses prowling the map like Hammer Bros. Players have a surprising amount of fun

things to do beyond beating the eight knight bosses and facing off against the evil Enchanter.

Fattening your wallet by returning to beaten levels and fighting optional bosses is important for upgrading your armored digger. Towns are filled with NPCs ready to upgrade your health, increase your magic (for using side weapons like a fire wand and

limited invulnerability), and shovel/armor enhancements that offer new abilities like digging up treasure piles faster. “Shovel Knight” eschews the traditional lives-based penalty system of the games it’s inspired by in favor of something more engaging. Players drop floating bags of cash with every death and have one chance to reclaim them after respawning at the generous placed checkpoints. “Shovel Knight” uses the ante by allowing players to sacrifice checkpoints for extra cash. It’s a unique and interesting way to soften the difficulty, though the risk/reward system loses impact near the endgame after you’ve purchased everything.

Scouring the kingdom for loot is just part of the appeal — the diverse environments and boss knights had me excited for each new level. Green goo drips from the ceiling of a treacherous fire world, turning hot lava into bouncy platforms. Piles of corpses in a graveyard sink if too many enemies cluster on them, forcing you to thin the crowd or die trying. The Tinker Knight battle begins with an imbalanced duel against the diminutive boss before the ground gives way and

you face off against his huge jousting-tank contraption. “Shovel Knight” is a bright, cheery grab bag of good times.

It looks like a simple, straightforward trip down memory lane, but I was surprised by the subtle, emotional story Yacht Club Games delivered. After some boss fights, “Shovel Knight” rests and dreams of his lost partner, Shield Knight. In his dreams she falls from the sky as he fights waves of enemies in an attempt to catch her. These recurring segments are capped off with a satisfying and memorable payoff that raises the experience to a new level.

Indie throwbacks to video games of the early ‘80s are a dime a dozen, but Yacht Club Games successfully rises to the top. The tried-and-true game design principles and elegant checkpoint system make “Shovel Knight” worth a try no matter which era of gaming you’re in.

Platforms: Wii U, 3DS, PC
Online: yachtclubgames.com/shovel-knight

TRAVEL

‘Along with Confucius, Sun Wu is one of the great philosophers born in Shandong.’

Zhao Chengfeng
Chairman, Shandong Sun Zi
Research Association



Guangrao County in China's Shandong Province is pushing ahead with a multi-million-dollar tourism center aimed at selling itself as the hometown of the man considered a "military saint" in China.

Banking on a hero

Chinese county hopes to draw visitors with claim that 'Art of War' author was born there

By KAZUHIKO MAKITA
The Yomiuri Shimbun

About 2,500 years ago in war-torn China, Sun Wu wrote what would become the world's most well-known military text.

Born in the sixth century B.C., the famed tactician who wrote a 6,000-word booklet called "The Art of War" is considered a "military saint" in China and one of its greatest ancient philosophers. He was made a general by King Helu of Wu and gained fame by defeating enemies, including the Chu Kingdom.

Studied by generals during the Sengoku ("Warring States") period in the late 15th century to late 16th century in Japan, and by American presidents including George Bush, the ideas of Sun Wu (later known as Sun Tzu, an honorific meaning "Master Sun" and sometimes written as Sun Zi) have influenced people of the East and West from ancient to modern times.

Drive northeast for about two hours on the highway from China's Jinan, the capital of Shandong Province, and you arrive at Guangrao County. The county claims Sun Wu was born nearby and has dubbed itself "Sun Wu's hometown."

Take a look around and you will find Sun Wu Road and Bingsheng (the Saint of War) Road. Go into a restaurant, and you can try a local liquor with a name that translates roughly as "military saint king alcohol."

On the outskirts of Guangrao County is a memorial temple dedicated to him. In the 1990s, the county rebuilt the mausoleum, which originally was constructed in the 12th century. Inside, panel exhibits and miniature models give a detailed introduction to Sun Wu's life and "The Art of War." Just inside the entrance stands an imposing statue of the famous general.

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles."

This quote from "The Art of War" is displayed prominently in the exhibition room: It could be the most well-known quote in China and was frequently referred by Mao Zedong when he led the Communist Party.

Zhao Chengfeng, 70, chairman of the Shandong Sun Zi Research Association, has long been entranced by Sun Wu's philosophy.

Zhao, 70, said he was "taught Sun Tzu" when he was in the military and decided to devote himself to researching the famous warrior after he retired. Zhao formed the association in 2008 to promote exchanges between domestic and overseas researchers.

"Sun Wu's 'The Art of War' is not constrained by time or national boundaries," Zhao said.

"It has a universality that can be accepted by a wide range of academic fields. Along with Confucius, Sun Wu is one of the great philosophers born in Shandong." Although Guangrao County is



PHOTOS BY KAZUHIKO MAKITA/The Yomiuri Shimbun

A statue of Sun Wu (also known as Sun Tzu and Sun Zi) stands in a Shandong Province museum in China. At about age 30, the Chinese warrior wrote the original version of "The Art of War." He was made a general by King Helu of Wu and gained fame by defeating enemies, including the Chu Kingdom.



Visitors to the Sun Tzu memorial temple on the outskirts of Guangrao County, China, view a statue of the general based on a Ming Dynasty portrait. In the 1990s, the county rebuilt the mausoleum dedicated to the military strategist.

little known outside of Sun Wu researchers, it could be on the verge of a major transformation. In March 2012, it established the Sun Tzu Cultural Tourism Area Management Committee and is pushing ahead with tourism developments aimed at selling itself as Sun Wu's hometown.

The manmade Sun Wu Lake is surrounded by a huge, 42-square-kilometer tourism district that is to include a theme park, research institute, hot spring hotel and other facilities.

While expectations are great, the project comes at a price. The theme park will require 1.6 bil-

lion yuan (about \$257 million) in investments and more than 3 billion yuan for the entire district.

Wang Tingwen, director of the Center for Sun Tzu Cultural Studies of Guangrao, said that, if successful, the area "will be a base for transmitting Sun Wu's philosophy to the world."

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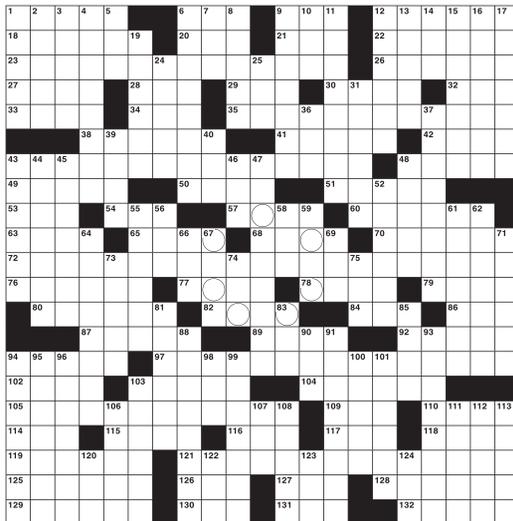
CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT BY TOM MCCOY/ EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Note: The circled letters, when read clockwise, will reveal a quote from Gertrude Stein.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| ACROSS | 57 "When You're Good to _____" ("Chicago" song) | 116 Sushi topper, maybe | 13 Stereotypical beatnik accessory |
| 1 Fighting group | 60 Aside, e.g. | 117 Hardly highbrow reading | 14 Hard water |
| 6 Understood | 63 Encyclopedic | 118 Material blocked by parental controls | 15 Pushed back |
| 9 Scientific truth | 65 Fresquent features of John Constable landscapes | 119 Fantasy title character whose name is one letter different from the creature he rides | 16 Capture |
| 12 Lives | 77 Falafel holder | 121 "We will tolerate this no more!" | 17 Fuming |
| 18 Opposite of wind up | 78 Food often with pentagonal cross sections | 125 Least plausible | 19 Bonding molecule |
| 20 Bobby on the ice | 79 "All _____" | 126 Certain wardrobe malfunction | 24 Kind of ticket |
| 21 Memphis-to-Nashville dir. | 80 Holy _____ | 127 Filler of la mer | 25 Howl |
| 22 Like yesterday | 82 Makes loop-the-loops? | 128 Mess up for Shakespeare | 31 "My, my!" |
| 23 Classic excuse for some misdemeanors | 84 Chicken _____ | 129 Covers with goo | 36 Card game with a "Chairman" |
| 26 Intimidating words | 86 Spanish "that" diale | 131 Record stat | 37 Ape |
| 27 Prefix with -graphic | 87 One summing things up | 132 Guide | 39 Letters of certification? |
| 28 Mercury, but not Earth | 89 They may come with covenants | DOWN | 40 Ending for how or who, for Shakespeare |
| 29 Workman's aid | 92 Property areas | 1 Like some measures | 43 One that's a bore? |
| 30 Heavy work | 94 Match game? | 2 Cell part | 44 Fights |
| 32 Carrier to Tokyo | 97 Words dismissive of detractors | 3 Whirlpool product | 45 Where prints may be picked up |
| 33 World's largest particle physics lab, in Switzerland | 102 Send, in a way | 4 Strike a chord | 46 Movement |
| 34 Many a drive-thru installation | 103 Urge to attack | 5 "Gross!" | 47 Send in troops, say |
| 35 Declaration from Popeye | 104 Top choice | 6 Source of great profit | 48 Some wrestlers |
| 38 _____ Anne's (popular pretzel purveyor) | 105 Expression of resignation | 7 Mercury or Earth | 52 Bonkers |
| 41 Smugglers' worries | 109 Baseball stat. | 8 District in Rome | 55 Went back over |
| 42 _____ mortal | 110 "Did gyre and gimble in the wicker"; "Jabberwocky" | 9 Sheldon's apartment-mate on "The Big Bang Theory?" | 56 Rapper _____ Rida |
| 43 Doubt-dispelling words from Lady Macbeth | 114 Take it easy | 10 "_____ questions?" | 58 Jun preeder |
| 48 Follower of lop | 115 Cast | 11 Emmy-winning drama four years in a row, with "The" | 59 1968 live folk album |
| 49 Follower of lop | | 12 Some memory triggers | 61 "Tender Is the Night" locale, with "the" |
| 51 Spectrum | | | 62 Mideast legislature |
| 53 "Alea iacta _____" ("The die is cast") | | | 64 Determines the concentration of a dissolved substance |
| 54 Matt's mutter? | | | 66 Team V.I.P. |
| | | | 67 Ocho - dos |
| | | | 69 Certain ruminant |



- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 71 "Summer Nights" musical | 88 Ones that warn before they attack | 98 What you might be in France? | 108 Rocker Bob |
| 73 Colorful, pebble-like candies | 90 Former employer for Vladimir Putin, for short | 99 Degree of disorder in a system | 111 Bequile |
| 74 Bit of trip planning: Abbr. | 91 Sunny room | 101 Pop stars? | 112 Corn chip since 1966 |
| 75 Roth _____ | 93 Ream s | 101 Bit of wisdom | 113 Clear sky |
| 81 Take up again, as a case | 94 Takes a turn | 103 Pushes aside | 120 PIP |
| 83 Yearbook sect. | 95 Strict | 106 "Baby Are You?" (1920 show tune) | 122 Barely beat |
| 85 Small power sources | 96 Work for a folder | 107 Debt note | 123 Chance, poetically |
| | | | 124 Refusals |

GUNSTON STREET



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

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.

THE RUPTURED DUCK

STRIPES CENTRAL

Stripes BLOGS

Get your fair share from our award-winning journalists at Stripes.com/blogs.

PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

GADGETS & CHARTS

'Deleted' photos not as gone as you think

By ANDREW SMITH

Special To The Washington Post

If you're selling an old Android smartphone on an online auction site, you could be giving away far more than you intend to, according to a recent investigation by anti-malware company Avast.

Going through phones that had supposedly been "factory reset," the company's researchers were able to view photos taken by the phone's original owners. In addition to the usual harmless photos of the family cat were naked selfies that the original owners would never have wanted anyone to see.

What's more, the researchers were able to do this simply by using a range of free smartphone forensic tools that are easy to use by technical enthusiasts as well as professional forensics experts.

How it works

Electronic data, stored either on a solid state drive or a traditional hard disk, persist even when we think we have wiped the storage device. Many readers will naturally assume that when you delete a file, it has been removed from your phone or computer.

The way it actually works is that the link (or reference) to the file is deleted, but the original file is still there — so that inappropriate selfie is still in your phone's storage even if you can no longer see it in the photo browser. What's worse is that the remain file is fully overwritten, you may find that the dodgy pictures remain for some considerable time.

The issue spotted by Avast is that the "factory settings" feature of some older Android phones does not overwrite every bit of data; instead, it simply removes the file references.

Which phones are affected?

Based on their research, it is only Android devices that are affected. iPhones encrypt their storage, which adds a layer of strong security.



DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Think you've deleted those naked selfies from your phone? If your phone is an Android, think again.

So even if you could see that the data existed, you couldn't see what it was as you won't have access to the original security keys.

It would seem that Windows and BlackBerry phones are not affected either. Researchers might yet discover issues, but as it stands there are no concerns.

How to protect your data

The best advice I can give if you intend to sell your Android phone is to first consider carefully how you may have used the device. If there are — or were — any pictures or data on the phone that you do not want to fall into the hands of others, then keep the phone, and do not sell or give it away.

There are also ways that you can encrypt your Android, and this is a technique worth considering.

But the only truly secure way to destroy the data is to smash the phone into little pieces, then throw it into a fire.

Personally, I prefer to store only impersonal and chaste data on my phone. Best not to take pictures of your car unless you really want others to see your kitty.

GADGET WATCH

Thin antenna light years ahead of rabbit ears

By GREGG ELLMAN

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The RCA ultra-thin indoor antenna receives local HD and digital TV broadcasts but looks nothing like those old intrusive rabbit-ear antennas my dad had on the family TV decades ago.

Instead, it's an 11-by-13-inch flat antenna that you mount on a window within 12 feet of the TV — only because the cable attached is 12 feet long.

It mounts with double-sided tape, or you can be creative and use Velcro if you want it removed at times. One side is black, the other white for a choice of the color facing the room.

Digital TV can be received in resolutions up to 1080; lower signals are enhanced to better quality since the antenna amplifies weak signals.

The setup was simple; connect the other end of the 12-foot cable, which has a coaxial connection, to your TV. A USB port needs to be connected to a power source. This can be into an outlet or even into your TV if it has one.

I tried this on an older TV that sits collecting dust in my guest room. Also, I might add, guests haven't been able to watch TV in that room for more than 10 years.

You'll have to do a channel search and read the dreaded instructions to tweak the antenna settings, but it was pretty easy, just not as simple as plug-and-play. I did end up putting it up higher on the window for better reception.

My future house guests can rest easy, knowing that bedtime TV does exist once again.

Online: rcaaudiovideo.com, \$69.99

The SyrenPro wireless (Bluetooth) speaker from iLuv got my attention at the Consumer Electronic Show in Las Vegas earlier this year, though testing an audio device on a trade-show

The SyrenPro creates a powerful stereo sound system.

iLuvMCT

floor is never a true test of the item's quality.

However, once I got it home, the speaker delivered. From my family room to poolside, the speaker cranked out music with superior audio at any volume.

The SyrenPro provided lower levels of sound indoors with great clarity.

Outdoors, I cranked up the 360-degree sound and it held its own in clarity and great amounts of bass. iLuv's iAura sound technology claims to produce a balance of low-, middle- and high-range frequencies, and I found this to be true. The product also is equipped with TrueWireless Stereo.

An internal rechargeable battery will last for up to four hours of playtime in each speaker.

The body is weather- and UV-resistant, which makes it great for outdoors, but that doesn't mean it's waterproof. It can probably handle a quick, light sprinkle, but get it indoors before the downpour.

Online: iLuv.com; \$129.99

The BookArc from iLuv South is for select Apple laptops to be used on your desktop in a space-saving manner.

While many laptop owners love the portability aspect, there's nothing like having a bigger monitor for home use, and this hardware allows you to have both.

The directions are simple; park your laptop in the stand, run the cables you need through the bottom cable management system, and your laptop becomes a desktop computer. And since the laptop is in a vertical position, look at all the desktop space saved.

The cable management system has hooks to hold the cables when the laptop is unplugged, preventing them from falling behind your desk.

No need to transfer files since you're actually still working off the same computer.

According to iLuv South, the BookArc is designed exclusively for the MacBook Pro (unibody) and MacBook Pro with Retina display.

Online: iLuv.com; \$49.99 for the BookArc. You're on your own for the larger desktop monitor and external keyboard.



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for July 13:

- "Everything I Didn't Say," 5 Seconds of Summer
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Problem (feat. Iggy Azalea)," Ariana Grande
- "Dirt," Florida Georgia Line
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Boom Clap," Charli XCX
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Love Runs Out," OneRepublic

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from June 30 to July 6:

- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
- "Problem (feat. Iggy Azalea)," Ariana Grande
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Latch," Disclosure
- "Summer," Calvin Harris
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Wiggle (feat. Snoop Dogg)," Jason Derulo
- "Classic," MKTO
- "Break Free," Ariana Grande

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 16:

- "Snowpiercer"
- "The Other Woman"
- "Rio 2"
- "Noah"
- "Rise of the Planet of the Apes"
- "Bad Words"
- "The Wolf of Wall Street"
- "The LEGO Movie"
- "Under the Skin"
- "The Grand Budapest Hotel"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the Top 10 Xbox 360 games for July:

- "Wolfenstein: The New Order," Bethesda
- "Super Time Force," Capybara Games
- "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
- "Child of Light," Ubisoft
- "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," EA Sports
- "Another World," Digital Lounge
- "Bound by Flame," Focus Home Interactive
- "GRID Autosport," Codemasters
- "Wolf Among Us: Episode 5 - Cry Wolf," Telltale Games
- "Valiant Hearts: The Great War," Ubisoft

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

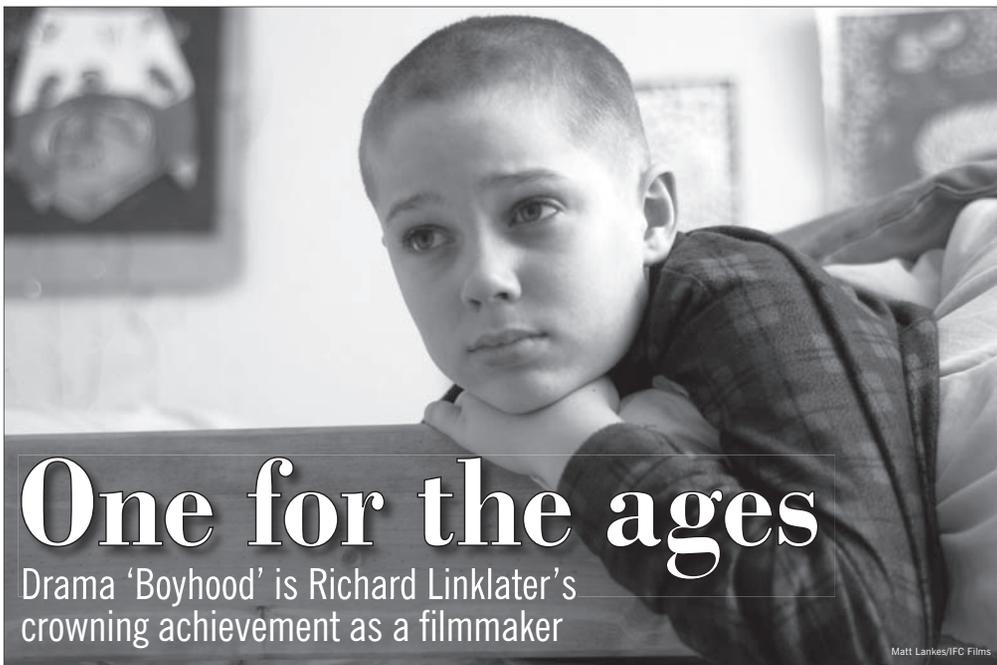
Top 5 new paid apps for July 16:

ANDROID

- Leo's Fortune
 - Topia World Builder
 - Blek
 - Wayward Souls
 - Real Drift Car Racing
- Top 5 paid apps for July 16:
- APPLE
- Minecraft - Pocket Edition
 - Heads Up!
 - Monument Valley
 - Blek
 - Afterlight

— Compiled by MCT

MOVIES



One for the ages

Drama 'Boyhood' is Richard Linklater's crowning achievement as a filmmaker

Matt Lanke/IFC Films

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

It started as “a narrative problem,” writer-director Richard Linklater says. “How do you tell a story, with actors, over a long period of time? You can’t re-cast it when you’re catching up with somebody, year by year. The change in appearance would be too abrupt.”

He wanted to find a child from first grade to college enrollment, “and I was stuck with the limitation of the physical appearance of whatever young actor I had.”

His solution is “Boyhood,” the most acclaimed film of the year, a movie that uses the same actors — children and adults — over twelve years of filming just a few days each year, telling a story of one Texas family and one boy. “It may be years before anyone works up the gumption to match its achievement,” critic A.A. Dowd said of “Boyhood.” And that’s almost certainly true.

Linklater, who turns 54 at the end of July, is best known for such talky/thoughtful films as “Before Sunrise” and “Before Sunset,” another long-term project following a couple (Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy) through a budding romance, a courtship and eventually years into a marriage that’s in trouble. To say the filmmaker, who got his start with the indie classic “Slacker,” is a patient man would be an understatement.

“Cinema makes you patient,” he says. “Sometimes it takes 10 years for a film you want to make to come together. That’s not unusual. But in this case, it was fun to have a life project that was taking just a chunk of time every year. I had to have my artistic antenna out, thinking about this

movie, all year long, every year. Parenting, growing up, all these things that are part of life I was paying more attention to, because of this film I was making.”

And he would be taking a sensitive, introspective little boy along for the ride. Ellar Coltrane, now 19, went through “multiple auditions” as a 6-year-old, trying to land this role. He, and his director, got lucky.

“Ellar’s a lot like he is at the end of the film,” Linklater says of his star. “That’s Ellar, sitting at the top of a mountain, observing, taking it all in. That wasn’t him — Mason (his character) — at the beginning of the film. But even so, there were days, every year, where I was grateful that I’d cast the perfect kid.”



Left: The cast of “Boyhood,” from left: Ethan Hawke, Ellar Coltrane, Lorelei Linklater, Patricia Arquette and writer-director Richard Linklater. “Boyhood” follows the character played by Coltrane, who began work on the film at age 6.

Top: Coltrane shoots a scene during the early stages of filming.
INVISION/AP

“Boyhood” follows Mason, a Texas boy, part of a broken family, as he copes with a stressed, working-class mother (Patricia Arquette) and sometimes-bullying big sister (Lorelei Linklater) and misses his free-spirited, often-absent father (Ethan Hawke).

Coltrane remembers that he was an aspiring child actor, homeschooled, going on “a lot of auditions, at the time I was cast.” He can’t recall much about the early years of filming, but he never lost interest in this lifelong commitment and never minded giving up a chunk of each year to making “Boyhood.”

“It’s surreal,” he says, looking at the movie now. “There’s parts that are terrifying, or could be embarrassing. It’s also kind of comforting to see those parts of

myself kind of magnified — these awkward teenage phases that you go through. Seeing them years later is a lot different from the way I experienced them. When you’re that age, you don’t feel like a complete person. Everything is this dramatic part of your personality. To see it all together and in context is a beautiful thing and kind of comforting and reassuring, existentially.”

Coltrane says he was always able to treat Mason, his alter ego, “as a character ... As much as I used myself as a reference point, I was taking those personal memories and putting them outside of myself to play Mason, putting them through a different filter.”

Linklater, despite his daughter being in the film, felt far enough

removed from the world of the kids that he would give Coltrane assignments — pick his brain for what he was going through each year, and then script accordingly. Ellar’s into “Star Wars”? So is Mason. Ellar’s about to start dating? “Take notes. Remember exactly what you and that first girl you talk to talked about,” Linklater says he told Coltrane.

The result is a movie that’s a lot like life itself — little details, arguments about the most banal things, kids testing boundaries, and a divorced couple trying to do right by their children.

A filmmaker famed for his “gift for spotting the extraordinary in the ordinary” (Film Journal International) has his career-crowning achievement.

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in



Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transported to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lower Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Job creation varies widely across US

The Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Since the Great Recession officially ended in June 2009, the U.S. economy has generated 7.8 million jobs. But the gains haven't been spread evenly across the country.

Some states have boomed. Others have struggled to add jobs.

North Dakota, benefiting from an oil and gas drilling boom, has created nearly 98,000 jobs over the past five years, a 27 percent increase — by far the best in the country. New Mexico, hard hit by federal spending cuts, is the only state that has lost jobs since the recession ended.

State performance in job creation defies political categories. The big winners over the past five years include Republican-dominated red states such as Texas and Democratic-dominated blue ones such as California. Likewise, the laggards include red (Alabama, Arkansas) and blue (New Jersey, New Mexico) states.

The Labor Department re-



ALAN DIAZ/AP

Air Force veteran Jesse Jefferson Jr., right, talks to Arianna Alexander, of the Pompano Beach Veterans Center, at a Hiring Fair for Veterans in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on Wednesday. Florida led the nation in job growth in June, a sharp turnaround from the previous month.

leased job figures for June on Friday, allowing an assessment of how states have done in this economic recovery. Compared to May, 33 states

added jobs and 17 lost them last month. The unemployment rate dropped in 22 states from May to June, rose in 14 and stayed the same in 14.

Mississippi and Rhode Island have the nation's highest unemployment rates, both at 7.9 percent. North Dakota has the lowest rate, at 2.7 percent.

The Great Recession, harshest since the 1930s, began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009. Most states still don't have as many jobs as they had when the recession started. All but New Mexico have more than they did when it ended five years ago.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 21)	\$1.3872
Dollar buys (July 21)	€0.7209
British pound (July 21)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (July 21)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 21)	1,006.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	¢0.3770
British pound	\$1.7094
Canada (dollar)	1.0732
China (Yuan)	¢6.2080
Denmark (Krone)	¢5.5122
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506
Euro	\$1.3526/¢0.7393
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7512
Hungary (Forint)	228.95
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4288
Japan (Yen)	101.37
Kuwait (Dinar)	¢0.2824
Norway (Krone)	¢6.1885
Philippines (Peso)	¢43.53
Poland (Zloty)	3.07
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2406
South Korea (Won)	1,030.23
Switzerland (Franc)	¢0.8980
Thailand (Baht)	¢21.14
Turkey (Lira)	¢12.235

(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 nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., commercial rates) see the U.S. Treasury. Check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

July 18, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	123.37
	17,100.18
Nasdaq composite	68.70
	4,432.15
Standard & Poor's 500	20.10
	1,978.22
Russell 2000	18.01
	1,151.61

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.06
30-year bond	3.297

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	85	70	Cldy	Fort Wayne	82	62	PCldy	Louisville	84	69	Cldy	Pocatello	91	62	Cldy	Sioux City	90	71	Cir
Ablene, Texas	96	75	PCldy	Cheyenne	90	61	PCldy	Fresno	98	69	PCldy	Lubbock	95	71	PCldy	Portland, Maine	75	58	Cldy	Sioux Falls	88	69	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	81	63	Cldy	Chicago	83	67	PCldy	Goodland	99	67	Cir	Macon	86	69	Rain	Portland, Ore.	72	60	Cldy	South Bend	82	64	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	84	61	Cldy	Cincinnati	83	67	Cldy	Grand Junction	84	66	Cldy	Madison	82	66	PCldy	Providence	77	62	Cldy	Souke	82	59	Cldy
Albuquerque	95	70	PCldy	Cleveland	80	66	Cldy	Grand Rapids	83	64	PCldy	Medford	93	63	Cir	Pueblo	90	63	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	83	64	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	83	60	Cldy	Colorado Springs	92	61	PCldy	Great Falls	85	59	Cldy	Memphis	87	72	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	83	66	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	82	62	Cldy
Amarillo	95	70	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	87	70	Cldy	Green Bay	84	65	PCldy	Miami Beach	91	79	Cldy	Rapid City	95	65	Cldy	Syracuse	82	62	Cldy
Anchorage	62	50	Rain	Columbus, Ga.	88	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	82	65	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	99	73	PCldy	Reno	90	63	Cldy	Tallahassee	89	73	Rain
Ashwille	82	63	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	82	66	Cldy	Harrisburg	80	63	Cldy	Milwaukee	80	65	PCldy	Richmond	85	68	PCldy	Tampa	86	68	Cldy
Atlanta	84	69	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	78	57	Cldy	Hartford Springfield	81	60	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	87	72	PCldy	Roanoke	78	64	Cldy	Toledo	83	64	PCldy
Atlantic City	80	65	Cldy	Corpus Christi	95	79	PCldy	Helena	88	59	Cldy	Missoula	86	56	Cldy	Rochester	78	64	Cldy	Topeka	93	74	Cir
Austin	76	56	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	94	76	PCldy	Honolulu	98	77	Rain	Mobile	99	71	Cldy	Rockford	83	64	PCldy	Tucson	80	61	Cldy
Baltimore	82	68	Cldy	Dayton	82	66	Cldy	Houston	92	77	Cldy	Montgomery	90	72	Cldy	Sacramento	85	62	Cldy	Tulsa	91	72	Cir
Baton Rouge	90	73	Cldy	Daytona Beach	91	74	Cldy	Huntsville	88	69	Cldy	Nashville	86	69	Cldy	St. Louis	87	69	Cldy	Waco	94	74	PCldy
Bismarck	93	64	Cir	Denver	97	64	PCldy	Indianapolis	82	65	PCldy	New Orleans	90	76	Cldy	St. Petersburg	92	80	Cldy	Washington	83	69	Cldy
Boise	95	68	Cldy	Des Moines	85	70	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	89	68	PCldy	New York City	79	64	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	90	80	PCldy	Wichita Beach	90	75	PCldy
Boston	75	61	Cldy	Duluth	81	65	PCldy	Janeau	61	50	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	83	70	Cldy	Salt Lake City	92	70	Cldy	Wichita	92	73	PCldy
Bridgeport	80	62	Cldy	El Paso	100	79	PCldy	Kansas City	89	71	Cir	North Platte	100	77	Cldy	San Angelo	98	74	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	80	59	Cldy
Brownsville	94	81	PCldy	Elkins	78	58	Cldy	Key West	91	62	PCldy	Oklahoma City	92	71	PCldy	San Antonio	84	77	PCldy	Yakima	84	58	PCldy
Buffalo	77	65	Cldy	Eugene	81	55	Cldy	Lake Charles	89	76	Cldy	Orlando	93	75	Cldy	San Francisco	74	59	Cldy	Youngstown	80	60	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	82	59	Cldy	Evansville	85	66	Cldy	Lansing	82	63	PCldy	Paducah	86	66	PCldy	San Jose	79	60	PCldy				
Caribou, Maine	82	60	PCldy	Fairbanks	57	48	Cldy	Las Vegas	102	81	PCldy	Pendleton	86	61	PCldy	Santa Fe	92	62	PCldy				
Casper, Wyo.	83	60	PCldy	Fargo	92	70	PCldy	Lexington	82	68	Cldy	Peoria	83	65	Cldy	St. Marie	77	58	PCldy				
Charleston, S.C.	88	72	Cldy	Flagstaff	81	51	Cldy	Lincoln	94	74	PCldy	Philadelphia	83	68	Cldy	Savannah	87	73	Cldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	83	65	Cldy	Flint	82	60	PCldy	Little Rock	88	69	Cldy	Phoenix	107	84	Cir	Seattle	70	56	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	84	69	Cldy	Fort Smith	91	70	Cir	Los Angeles	79	65	PCldy	Pittsburgh	81	64	Cldy	Shreveport	92	72	PCldy				

National temperature extremes
 Hi: Fr., 118, Death Valley, Calif.;
 Lo: Fri., 39, Craig, Colo.; Yellowstone
 Lake, Wyo.; Stanley, Idaho; Mount
 Washington, N.H.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Majka wins Tour stage; Nibali still leads

The Associated Press

RISOUL, France — Rafal Majka of Poland won the 14th stage of the Tour de France — a second day of punishing Alpine climbs and over the highest point on the race — as Vincenzo Nibali again extended his overall lead by finishing second on Saturday.

Majka led a breakaway on the final climb in the 110-mile roller-coaster course over two infamous climbs, including the 7,742-foot Izoard pass, and a finish up to Ri-soul ski station.

The one-two result was the flip of Friday's entree into the Alps: Nibali won, and Majka was second.

The stage didn't shake up the top five standings. Nibali strengthened his hold on the yellow jersey, making the Tour from here to the finish in eight days in Paris looking more and more like a race for podium spots behind him.

Nibali crossed 24 seconds behind Majka, followed by Jean-Christophe Peraud in third, two seconds slower. Two French riders, Thibaut Pinot and Romain Bardet, conducted a two-man sprint and crossed another 24 seconds back. American Tejay van Garderen was fifth, 54 seconds back of the Polish rider. Alejandro Valverde lost a minute to Nibali.

Overall, the Italian leads second-place Valverde by 4:37, and third-place Bardet by 4:50.

Stewart back racing sprint cars after wreck

Tony Stewart was back in a sprint car on Friday night, the same series he raced in when he broke two bones in his right leg.

It was unknown if this is Stewart's first sprint car race this season because he didn't announce when he'd compete. Stewart is available because the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series is off this weekend.



LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

Poland's Rafal Majka crosses the finish line Saturday to win the 14th stage of the Tour de France from Grenoble to Risoul, France.

Stewart's runs were posted on Facebook and Twitter. Dirt track star Dustin Daggert tweeted a photo of Stewart's No. 14 car at Tri-City Motor Speedway in Auburn, Michigan. Daggert also tweeted, "Raced hard in heat against Tony Stewart! But we got him, now for the Feature!"

Stewart crashed last year at Southern Iowa Speedway in Oskaaloosa, where he flipped his 360-winged sprint car while leading with five laps remaining in the 30-lap feature. He missed the final 15 Cup races last year after breaking his leg in two places.

Angels acquire closer Street from Padres

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Los Angeles Angels acquired All-Star closer Huston Street and prospect Trevor Gott from the San Diego Padres for minor leaguers Taylor Lindsey, R.J. Alvarez, Jose Rondon and Elliot Morris in a trade on Friday night.

Street (1-0) has 24 saves in 25 opportunities and a 1.09 ERA in 33 games this season.

Street was unavailable to the Padres during their 5-4 home

loss to the New York Mets on Friday night. San Diego (41-55) is in third place in the NL West, 12 games off the pace.

In 10 major league seasons with Oakland (2005-08), Colorado (2009-11) and San Diego (2012-14), Street is 35-27 with 258 saves and a 2.87 ERA.

He has converted 109 of his last 117 save chances, the best mark in the majors in that span.

In other baseball news: ■ The Houston Astros failed to sign the first pick in this year's draft, San Diego high school left-hander Brady Aiken, before Friday's deadline.

The head of the players' association says the union is working with the pitcher and his advisers to explore "all legal options."

Aiken originally was offered a deal with a \$6.5 million signing bonus by the Astros, a person familiar with the negotiations said earlier this week, speaking on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized. But the club expressed a concern over Aiken's elbow ligament and lowered the offer, the person said.

The union is also concerned with Houston's handling of the negotiations with fifth-round pick Jacob Nix. The right-hander from Los Alamitos, California, didn't sign either.

■ The Atlanta Braves did everything they could over the last year to find a team willing to trade for struggling second baseman Dan Uggla.

Uggla's frustrating, four-year tenure with the Braves ended Friday when the team requested unconditional release waivers on a former starter still guaranteed over \$18 million for the remainder of this year and next.

In his fourth season with the Braves, the 34-year-old Uggla was batting .162 with two home runs and 10 RBI in 48 games and 130 at-bats.

Bolden leaves LSU for Eastern Michigan

YPSILANTI, Mich. — Rob Bolden has transferred to Eastern Michigan from LSU.

Coach Chris Creighton said Friday night he's glad the quarterback will end his college career with the Eagles. He will be eligible to play this fall as a graduate transfer.

The Orchard Lake, Mich., native went to Penn State out of high school and started in 15 games over two seasons. Bolden threw seven touchdown passes and 14 interceptions for the Nittany Lions. He was allowed to transfer immediately because of NCAA sanctions against Penn State's football program stemming from the Jerry Sandusky scandal, but he did not play in a game for the Tigers.

Bolden, who didn't play in a game at LSU, was switched to wide receiver from QB during spring practice.

Diaz rallies to maintain Marathon Classic lead

SYLVANIA, Ohio — Laura Diaz rallied for four birdies down the stretch to shoot a 2-under 69 for a three-stroke lead over Lydia Ko and Lee-Anne Pace after Friday's second round of the Marathon Classic.

Diaz, who has devoted more time to her family than competition in recent years, led by four shots after shooting a bogey-free 62 in the opening round. She is at 11-under 131 at the tournament's midpoint. Ko, bidding for a second LPGA Tour title as a pro to go with the two she won as an amateur, shot a second consecutive 67 to share second with South Africa's Pace, who had a 68.

Lurking another shot back at 135 are 2012 Marathon winner So Yeon Ryu and Rebecca Lee-Bentham, both of whom shot 67s.



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NBA/NFL



PHIL MASTURZO, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

Cleveland head coach David Blatt, from left, first-round draft pick Andrew Wiggins and General Manager David Griffin pose with Wiggins' and his jersey during a news conference on June 27.

Wiggins' summer stint had little of everything

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Andrew Wiggins got a little of everything out of a week in Las Vegas.

The opportunity to be teammates with LeBron James? Check.

Fans chanting his name whenever the Cleveland summer-league team was playing? Check.

Highlight-reel dunks after splitting defenders with the dribble? Check.

Trade rumors? Check, again, though he surely could have done without that distraction.

The first chapter of this year's No. 1 overall draft pick's initiation to the NBA was more hectic than he could have imagined, starting with the news that James was coming back to the Cavaliers and ending amid rumors that Wiggins himself might not be in Cleveland much longer. And after that sort of whirlwind, the night off he got Friday when the Cavaliers' stay at the NBA Summer League at Las Vegas ended was probably a much-needed one.

"It's been a great experience, getting to play, building the chemistry of the team," said Wiggins, who is expected to sign his rookie contract in the coming days.

Wiggins averaged 15.5 points per game in Las Vegas for the Cavaliers, shooting 41 percent from the floor. There was much



CARLOS GONZALEZ/MCT

Minnesota's Kevin Love has told the Timberwolves he wants to be traded, and Cleveland could be his next destination.

to like; his athleticism alone separated him from just about everyone else playing in Vegas over the last few days, and he got to the foul line 20 times in what turned out to be his summer finale.

There's also things to work on, given that he logged just one as-

sist in 120 minutes of play while being charged with 11 turnovers.

He's not a finished product, though in fairness, no one would expect him to be at this point, either.

James' announcement that he was leaving the Miami Heat after four seasons and returning to Cleveland, where he spent his first seven NBA years, coincided with the start of summer league. So, too, did never ending stream of rumors that Wiggins would be on the move soon, with several outlets reporting in recent days that the Cavaliers have decided to make him available with hopes of landing Kevin Love in a trade with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Of course, anything can happen.

But two people familiar with the situation told The Associated Press this week that the Cavaliers' position — that Wiggins will be in Cleveland this season — has remained unchanged and that he's not being shopped. The people requested anonymity because neither team was publicly commenting on trade talks, but the rumors won't stop anytime soon.

Wiggins said the Cavaliers haven't given him any reason to worry, and said he lets his agent and support system deal with the churning of the rumor mill.

"I just play basketball," Wiggins said.

NFL briefs

Vikings suspend assistant Priefer

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings will suspend special teams coordinator Mike Priefer without pay for three games this season and donate \$100,000 to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights groups, in response to former punter Chris Kluge's allegations of anti-gay slurs and taunts made by Priefer.

The Vikings announced the punishment Friday as part of a summary of findings by outside lawyers hired in January to investigate Kluge's accusations, which included a claim he was released because of his gay-rights advocacy.

The Vikings said Priefer's ban could be reduced to two games at their discretion, provided he attends individualized anti-harassment, diversity and sexual-orientation sensitivity training.

Such education has been required for all Vikings employees, coaches and players on an annual basis for the past several years, the team said, and the improvements for the programs will be considered.

Chris Madel, a former Justice Department attorney and Eric Magnuson, a former chief justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, from the Minneapolis-based law firm Robins, Kaplan, Ciresi and Miller recently presented their report to the Vikings after interviewing 31 people and examining 121 gigabytes of data.

Priefer was questioned three times. According to a 29-page analysis of the investigation by employment law consultants Little Mendelson and Donald Prophete, commissioned by the Vikings and released Friday, Priefer initially denied making a remark Kluge alleged about "putting all the gays on an island and nuking 'em" but later acknowledged he might have.

5 former players sue union over concussions

NEW YORK — Five former NFL players, including six-time Pro Bowl defensive end Neil Smith, are suing the union for not providing accurate information about the risk of head injuries.

The lawsuit on behalf of Smith, Ladell Betts, Anthony Davis, Christian Ballard and Gregory Westbrook was filed Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, with the plaintiffs claiming the NFL Players Association withheld information from the players about the risks of head injuries.

The former players are seeking medical monitoring and financial compensation for long-term chronic injuries, financial losses, expenses and intangible losses.

Plaintiffs to the "pathological and debilitating effects of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) caused by

concussive and sub-concussive impacts.

The players named former union presidents Trace Armstrong, Troy Vincent and Kevin Mawae in the suit.

The lawsuit notes that the players paid dues to the union, which assured them their best interests would be protected. But, the plaintiffs say, that did not happen.

49ers' Smith sentenced to 3 years of probation

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers linebacker Aldon Smith was sentenced Friday to serve three years of probation and to spend 11 days with a work crew after he pleaded no contest to drunken driving and weapons charges.

The sentence came after Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Daniel Nishigaya reduced three felony counts of possessing illegal assault rifles to misdemeanors. The judge noted that Smith has no criminal record involving violence, but warned the 24-year-old football star that if he violates any of terms of his probation, he will be sent to jail for 11 days.

Smith was also told to serve 235 hours of community service and pay nearly \$4,000 in fines.

The weapons charges stem from an out-of-control party at Smith's house in 2012, where he got stabbed and two people were shot. Investigators later found three rifles in Smith's house that were legally bought in Arizona, but are illegal in California.

The DUI charges were filed after Smith's car smashed into a tree in San Jose last Fall. Police said his blood-alcohol level was twice the legal limit.

Official 'double rookie' with debut as referee

IRVING, Texas — Brad Allen is one of 13 first-year NFL officials this season. Making his debut at football's highest level unique is also being one the league's three first-year referees.

"They're referring to me as a double rookie." Allen said Friday night at the NFL officiating clinic.

After being a referee in the Atlantic Coast Conference the past nine seasons, Allen will be the first official since Tommy Bell in 1962 to make his NFL debut as a referee leading his own crew.

"He's worked at the top college level, he's worked the biggest games, he's worked championship games," said Dean Blandino, NFL vice president of officiating.

"And the difference between NFL officiating and college officiating, it's getting closer from a rules standpoint. ... And we've surrounded him with a veteran crew."

MLB



BEN MAROIT/AP

The Athletics' Josh Donaldson, center left, is mobbed by teammates after hitting a game-winning three-run home run off Baltimore's Zach Britton in the ninth inning of Friday's game in Oakland, Calif. The A's won 5-4.

Donaldson, A's stun Orioles in 9th

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

OKLAND, Calif. — Josh Donaldson swiped the spotlight from Manny Machado in the bottom of the ninth inning, sending the Oakland Athletics to a stunning 5-4 comeback victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Friday night.

"Certainly there's a little irony involved in the whole thing," A's manager Bob Melvin said. Donaldson's drive over the wall in center field on a sinker from Zach Britton (3-2)

sent the A's streaming out of the dugout in front of an announced crowd of 27,232 at the Coliseum.

It was the All-Star third baseman's 21st homer of the season, fifth career game-ending hit, and third career game-ending homer — including the second this season.

But this one was even sweeter for Donaldson and the A's because it took the attention away from Machado, who hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh after creating an even bigger stir with his bat the last time he faced Oakland.

Machado threw his bat near Donaldson at third base during a plate appearance in Oakland's win at Baltimore last month after

reliever Fernando Abad threw consecutive high-and-inside pitches.

Machado was suspended five games and was fined an undisclosed amount. Abad was fined but not suspended.

In the opener of that series, Machado yelled in Donaldson's face after the third baseman tagged him on the chest, knocking Machado off his feet. The dugouts cleared briefly.

Machado, who also singled in the fifth, said before Friday's game he has moved from on the incident. Melvin also said nobody on his club had even talked about it since.

"When you see J.D. come up in the ninth, you kind of have that feeling, 'Really? Could this happen?'" Melvin said. "And it did."

Roundup

Cards knock off Dodgers

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Matt Holliday homered, doubled and drove in three runs, and Lance Lynn won his third straight start for St. Louis in a 3-2 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Kolten Wong had two hits and scored on both of Holliday's RBI hits for the Cardinals against the team they beat in the NLCS last fall.

Angels 3, Mariners 2 (16): Efrén Navarro singled home a run with two outs in the 16th inning on Friday night, and Los Angeles came out of the All-Star break with a victory over visiting Seattle.

Yankees 4, Reds 3: Jacoby Ellsbury hit a two-run homer, and David Phelps pitched host New York to a victory over Cincinnati.

Rangers 5, Blue Jays 1: J.P. Arencibia hit a three-run homer against his former team, Yu Darvish matched his season high with 12 strikeouts, and Texas beat host Toronto.

Giants 9, Marlins 1: Pablo Sandoval hit a three-run homer off one of his favorite foils, and visiting San Francisco topped Miami.

Brewers 4, Nationals 2: Scooter Gennett and Khris Davis homered, and Kyle Lohse pitched seven strong innings to help Milwaukee beat host Washington.

Indians 9, Tigers 3: Jason Kipnis hit a tie-

breaking, three-run homer, and Asdrubal Cabrera sent the next pitch over the right-field fence to cap a seven-run seventh inning and help Cleveland rout host Detroit.

Red Sox 5, Royals 4: Jonny Gomes hit a go-ahead two-run pinch homer in the sixth after another two-run shot in the inning by Xander Bogaerts, and Boston edged visiting Kansas City.

Pirates 4, Rockies 2: Travis Snider's pinch-hit double in the eighth inning scored Neil Walker to spark host Pittsburgh's win over Colorado.

White Sox 3, Astros 2: Slump-ridden Tyler Flowers drove in the go-ahead run with a seventh-inning double, and four Chicago pitchers retired the final 22 batters to lift the White Sox past visiting Houston.

Rays 6, Twins 2: Ben Zobrist homered and Evan Longoria had three RBIs to lead Tampa Bay past host Minnesota.

Mets 5, Padres 4: Travis d'Arnaud's go-ahead single in the ninth inning lifted visiting New York over San Diego for its fourth straight win.

Diamondbacks 5, Cubs 4: Paul Goldschmidt homered, Didi Gregorius had a pair of RBIs, and host Arizona overcame two home runs by Anthony Rizzo to beat Chicago.

Braves win 3rd straight

By GEORGE HENRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — For all that Jason Heyward did well, his diving catch in the eighth inning felt the best.

Heyward homered and drove in two runs, Andrelinx Simmons had two RBIs, and the Atlanta Braves won their third straight game with a 6-4 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday night.



Heyward

"If they keep having (at-bats), maybe they put up another run or two," Heyward said. "Defense is going to win the game at the end of the day, but it's good to score runs, and it got us going a little bit."

Returning from the All-Star break, the Braves moved one game ahead of Washington in the NL East. Last-place Philadelphia dropped 11 games behind Atlanta.

Jimmy Rollins led off the eighth with a walk against Jordan Walden, the third Atlanta pitcher, but was thrown out at second base on Chase Utley's strikeout. Heyward, the right fielder, then charged in to make a diving catch of Ryan Howard's liner.

"You get so used to seeing him make those kinds of plays," Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez said of the 2012 Gold Glove winner. "That's why for me he might be the best right fielder, if not in the (majors), definitely in the National League."

The game was played in a steady drizzle, but the rain had nearly stopped when Braves closer Craig Kimbrel earned his 30th save in 34 chances. He got Marlon Byrd on a groundout and struck out Grady Sizemore and Cody Asche.

Ervin Santana (8-6) gave up six hits, three walks and four runs — three earned — in six innings to win for the third time in four starts. He struck out one.

Phillies starter A.J. Burnett (6-9) allowed six runs, 10 hits — the last nine with two out — and one walk in five innings. He had five strikeouts as Philadelphia lost its third straight.

Burnett was clearly mad at himself as he walked off the field after the fifth.

"Six runs in five innings pretty much nails it on the head," he said. "I was in counts where I should have made pitches and I didn't. That's the bottom line. I made pitches to get to that point, didn't make pitches after that. I don't have excuses. I didn't get it done."



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Cardinals starting pitcher Lance Lynn celebrates after striking out the Los Angeles Dodgers' Matt Kemp with the bases loaded to end the top of the third inning on Friday in St. Louis. The Cardinals won 3-2.

MLB



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/MCT

Former Oakland Athletics star Jose Canseco answers questions from the media during a gathering of the 1989 World Series Championship team before the A's played host to the Baltimore Orioles at O.co Coliseum in Oakland, Calif., on Friday.

Remorseful Canseco returns to Coliseum

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jose Canseco was nervous and scared about showing up to the reunion for the 1989 World Series champion Oakland Athletics this weekend.

Until Friday, Canseco had not been back to the Coliseum since his playing days ended and he wrote his infamous book that alleged rampant use of performance-enhancing drugs throughout baseball. He had no idea how his former teammates, coaches and fans would receive him — or if they would receive him at all.

"I'm kind of putting myself out there in the most vulnerable state possible," said the 50-year-old Canseco, who was still looking big and buff in his white A's jersey.

After meeting some of his former teammates at the ballpark, the slugger sported a smile of relief. He said he was pleased to get a positive reception from most of them, and many said it was great to see Canseco again.

But the one person Canseco most wanted to see, Mark McGwire, couldn't attend. Canseco's former "Bash Brother" is now the hitting coach for the Los Angeles Dodgers, who were playing at St. Louis.

Canseco reiterated that he regrets writing the book "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits & How Baseball Got Big," which most notably accused McGwire of using performance-enhancing drugs. McGwire has since admitted to using them.

"Mark, to me, when I played with him, I looked up to him," Canseco said. "I idolized him for a lot of reasons — the guy was on the field, he was off the field. It haunts me till this day that I said those things about him, even though obviously they were true. I could have gone about it a different way and gotten my point across."

Neither Canseco nor McGwire attended the team's 20-year anniversary, and Canseco said he has had no contact with McGwire since the book came out in 2005.

"I regret writing the book for sure," Canseco said. "I battled and fought with the thought of, 'I wish I never used chemicals or steroids.' But I don't see how bad that then when I was only 19, 20 years old, I did not really know the situation. There was no testing, no rules about it, no one really knew much about it. Teams and organizations and coaches never said, 'Don't use PEDs.' So obviously, I wish I never encountered that or encountered the individual that said, 'You want to become bigger, faster, stronger?' Use these chemicals."

'It's been a long time. Time heals everything.'

Dennis Eckersley
Former A's pitcher, on any hard feelings towards former teammate Canseco — and believes most of his teammates feel the same way.

"I mean, come on, man. It's been a long time. Time heals everything," Eckersley said. "I don't know if it's even a forgiveness thing. Just understand, understand people and accept people. I'll tell you, I've said that. I just haven't said it in a book."

Former A's pitcher Dave Stewart agreed. "I'm glad to see him. It's been years since I've seen him," Stewart said. "He was a big part of all the things we were doing back in the day. Whatever took place back then, as far as the team is concerned, we were always in position to win. And he was a big, big piece of that. I'm glad he's here. And as I look back on it, I'm glad that I had an opportunity to play with him."

Despite the initial awkwardness with some of his former teammates, Canseco said he was looking forward to reliving the "old days" with them. "I'll always remember the Oakland A's," Canseco said, "as being my family."

Texas: GM Daniels looking to retool team, not rebuild

FROM BACK PAGE

One question was answered Wednesday, when right-handed reliever Jason Frasor was dealt to Kansas City for Triple-A righty Spencer Patton. Players who are headed toward free agency, like Neal Cotts, might want to have a bag packed to leave at a moment's notice.

General manager Jon Daniels, though, said that the core players aren't likely to be dealt, but he will consider all "good baseball trades."

"We're not looking to tear this team down," he said.

That's one question for the second half. Inquiring minds have more. Here are some possible answers.

■ It can't just be injuries that derailed this season, right?

The injuries are, without a doubt, a culprit, and no team would have been equipped to survive what has happened to the Rangers.

The pitching staff was hit the hardest. Derek Holland hasn't pitched this season, Martin Perez and Matt Harrison are out for the season, and Alexi Ogando and Tanner Scheppers aren't expected back, either.

Season-ending injuries to Fielder, Jurickson Profar and Mitch Moreland have been blows to the offense.

But the injuries exposed the lack of quality prospects and replacement players the Rangers had at Triple A. They didn't really have any. They've dipped into Double A to plug holes, bringing up Nick Martinez, Rougned Odor and Luis Sardinas. Their best Triple-A option, Kevin Kouzmanoff, quickly suffered a back injury.

The Rangers' farm system has talent, but it's at Double A and below after a series of trade-deadline deals were made to bolster postseason chances. Still, those deals gutted the system of what should have been the first line of defense to injuries this season.

■ The Fielder-for-Kinsler swap is a fireable offense, right?

Not yet. Year One of the deal has been terribly lopsided, but the Rangers were looking to upgrade the production in their lineup with Fielder and believed Profar would be an adequate replacement for Kinsler.

One neck operation later, Fielder is out for the season. And don't buy into the thought that a physical should have been insisted upon before pulling the trigger. "It just doesn't happen. Besides, Fielder was baseball's Iron Man, and the medical reports from Detroit had no red flags. Keep in mind also that Fielder passed a physical in spring training.

It's still too early to judge the deal. Fielder has six years left on the contract. Let it play out before sizing Daniels for a noose.

■ If that's not fireable, how about not re-signing Nelson Cruz?

This one is pretty egregious, but, again, not fireable. The Rangers were a bat short entering the season, and Cruz could have been had for \$8 million and a few games a week in the outfield.

The idea that he was opposed to being a full-time designated hitter is accurate, but he would have settled for a split. Need proof? He was the starting DH for the American League All-Star team.

■ Who should be fired: Daniels or manager Ron Washington?

Putting a roster together and establishing quality depth are duties that fall to the general manager. The manager plays with what he is given.

That said, third baseman Adrián Beltré said that no one is to blame, and no one should be fired. But the lack of depth is glaring.

The Rangers knew all along that the condition that forced Harrison to have career-threatening back surgery cost them. They lost Holland in early January. There was time to find someone better than Joe Saunders.

Offensively, the Rangers were counting on four players at the bottom of the order to play better than they ever had. Two of them haven't reached the starting gate. Another is out for the season.

■ Will Joey Gallo join the Rangers this season?

The would be a fireable offense if he did. There's no need to rush him from Double-A. There's no need to make him a first baseman, which would be a waste of a plus-arm.

The power he showed at the Futures Game, especially batting practice if he did it, is one nose who hadn't seen him take BP previously, but not the Rangers.

An improved hitter, Gallo's future appears to be bright. But he's not a finished product and he doesn't need to be in the big leagues this year.

■ What about Luke Jackson as a call-up?

Absolutely. One of the Rangers' top pitching prospects must be added to the 40-man roster in the offseason to protect him from the Rule 5 draft. The Rangers should give him his first taste of the majors in September rather than spring training next year.

■ Everything will be fine in '15 once everyone is healthy and the new TV contract kicks in, right?

Not necessarily. The Rangers will have more money coming in, as much as \$45 million, but a contract like that will get smaller than this season.

And not everyone is guaranteed to come back healthy. The Rangers aren't counting on Harrison at all and don't expect Perez back until the All-Star break at the earliest. Fielder should be OK, but seeing is believing.

BRITISH OPEN

Scoreboard

Friday	
At Royal Liverpool Golf Club	
Hoylake, England	
Purse: \$3.24 million	
Yardage: 7,312; Par: 72	
Second Round (a-amateur)	
Rory McIlroy	66-66=132 -12
Dustin Johnson	71-65=136 -8
Francesco Molinari	68-70=138 -6
Ryan Moore	70-68=138 -6
Rickie Fowler	69-69=138 -6
Sergio Garcia	68-70=138 -6
Charl Schwartzel	71-67=138 -6
Louis Oosthuizen	70-68=138 -6
George Coetzee	70-69=139 -5
Jim Furyk	68-71=139 -5
Marc Warren	71-68=139 -5
Robert Karlsson	69-71=140 -4
Jimmy Walker	69-71=140 -4
Victor Dubuisson	74-66=140 -4
Adam Scott	68-73=141 -3
Marc Leishman	69-72=141 -3
Edoardo Molinari	68-73=141 -3
Thomas Bjorn	70-71=142 -2
Bill Haas	70-72=142 -2
Justin Rose	72-70=142 -2
David Howell	72-70=142 -2
Matteo Manassero	67-75=142 -2
Stephen Gallacher	70-72=142 -2
Shane Lowry	68-75=143 -1
Byeong-Hun An	72-71=143 -1
Branden Grace	71-72=143 -1
Hideki Matsuyama	69-74=143 -1
Graeme McDowell	74-69=143 -1
David Hoern	70-73=143 -1
Kristoffer Broberg	70-73=143 -1
D.A. Points	75-69=144 E
Gary Woodland	75-69=144 E
Thongchai Jaidee	72-72=144 E
Phil Mickelton	70-74=144 E
Jason Dufner	70-74=144 E
Keegan Bradley	73-71=144 E
Gregory Bourdy	75-69=144 E
Chris Rodgers	73-71=144 E
Ben Martin	71-73=144 E
Darren Clarke	72-72=144 E
Matt Kuchar	73-71=144 E
Hunter Mahan	73-71=144 E
Kevin Stadler	73-72=145 +1
Chris Kirk	71-74=145 +1
Martin Kaymer	73-72=145 +1
John Senden	71-74=145 +1
Billy Hurler III	73-72=145 +1
Matt Jones	71-74=145 +1
Chris Wood	75-70=145 +1
Brooks Koepka	68-77=145 +1
Paul Casey	74-71=145 +1
Angel Cabrera	76-69=145 +1
Henrik Stenson	72-73=145 +1
Ryan Palmer	74-71=145 +1
Chris Hoffman	72-73=145 +1
Jamie McLeary	73-73=146 +2
Charley Hull	74-72=146 +2
Grant Waite	73-73=146 +2
Brendon Todd	73-73=146 +2
Brandt Snedeker	73-73=146 +2
Jason Day	71-75=146 +2
Zach Johnson	71-75=146 +2
Kevin Na	76-70=146 +2
Koumei Oda	69-77=146 +2
Thorbjorn Olesen	75-71=146 +2
Stewart Cink	71-75=146 +2
Tom Watson	73-73=146 +2
Luke Donald	73-73=146 +2
Matt Every	75-71=146 +2
Tiger Woods	69-77=146 +2
Jordan Spieth	71-75=146 +2
Rhein Gilson	72-74=146 +2
Missed the Cut	
Hiroshi Inoue	73-77=147 +3
Shawn Shiomi	73-74=147 +3
Nick Watney	72-75=147 +3
Grant van Antwerp	72-75=147 +3
Lee Westwood	71-76=147 +3
Rafael Cabrera-Bello	72-75=147 +3
Anger Fisher	72-75=147 +3
Dawie Van Der Walt	71-76=147 +3
Bradachan	73-74=147 +3
A-Shley Chesters	70-77=147 +3
Jason Leonard	74-73=147 +3
K.J. Choi	72-75=147 +3
Iain Raper	73-74=147 +3
Paul McKechnie	76-71=147 +3
Oscar Florén	73-74=147 +3
Yoshinori Sukada	73-78=147 +3
Brendon de Jonge	78-70=148 +4
Yoshinori Kanai	78-70=148 +4
Boo Weekley	69-79=148 +4
Damian Green	75-73=148 +4
Miguel Angel Jimenez	75-73=148 +4
Bubba Watson	76-72=148 +4
Billy Horschel	76-72=148 +4
Ryo Ishikawa	74-74=148 +4
John Huh	74-74=148 +4
Ross Fisher	74-74=148 +4
a-Paul Dunne	75-73=148 +4
Camron Tringale	74-74=148 +4
Eric Compton	71-77=148 +4
Harris English	70-78=148 +4
Fredrik Jacobson	70-78=148 +4
Michael Hoey	70-78=148 +4
Mikko Ilonen	70-78=148 +4
Harris English	72-76=148 +4
Brett Rumford	72-76=148 +4
John Singleton	78-70=148 +4
Houromi	75-73=148 +4
Scott Stallings	75-74=149 +5
Yoshinori Kanai	76-73=149 +5
George McNeill	76-73=149 +5
Rhys Ench	73-76=149 +5
Yoshinori Kanai	75-74=149 +5
Justin Pagnanun	76-73=149 +5
Yoshinori Kanai	75-74=150 +6
Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano	76-74=150 +6
Yoshinori Kanai	76-74=150 +6
Matthew Baldwin	76-74=150 +6
Anirban Lahiri	75-75=150 +6
Victor Riu	74-77=151 +7
Y.E. Yang	75-76=151 +7
A Shun Wu	75-76=151 +7
J.B. Holmes	74-77=151 +7
James McDonald	75-76=151 +7
Chesson Hadley	70-82=151 +7
Justin Walters	77-74=151 +7
Messiah	77-74=151 +7
Bernd Wiesberger	72-79=151 +7
Todd Hamilton	77-74=151 +7



SCOTT HEPPEL/AP

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays a shot out of a bunker on the 16th hole Friday during the second round of the British Open.

Keeping eyes on the prize

McIlroy survives Black Friday, builds four-shot lead heading into weekend

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Rory McIlroy only saw birds at Royal Liverpool, mostly on his scorecard, and even one pheasant that trotted across the eighth green as he was lining up a putt. That was but a minor interruption in his command performance Friday in the British Open.

Once he made a birdie, and then another, nothing could stop McIlroy.

Not another collapse in the second round. Not anyone in the field. And certainly not Tiger Woods.

After a bogey on his opening hole stirred memories of another "Black Friday," McIlroy looked more like the Boy Wonder who won two majors in a runaway. With three birdies in his last four holes, he posted a second straight 6-under 66 to build a four-shot lead over Dustin Johnson.

McIlroy spoke of an "inner peace," and the two secret words that triggered his powerful swing and set up birdie chances on just about every hole.

"People call it the zone, people call it whatever," he said. "It's just a state of mind where you think clearly. Everything seems to be on the right track. I've always said, whenever you play this well, you always wonder how you've

played so badly before. And whenever you've played so badly, you always wonder how you play so well. I'm happy where my game is at the minute. And hopefully, I can just keep up the solid play for another couple of days."

Woods is fortunate to even play for two more days.

He started the second round only three shots behind. He finished it on the 18th hole, standing over a 6-foot birdie putt just to avoid missing back-to-back cuts for the first time in his career. Woods made the putt for a 77, matching his second-worst round as a pro in the British Open.

Woods hit driver five times — four more than he hit all week when he won at Royal Liverpool in 2006. None found the fairway. Woods was 14 shots out of the lead and still thought he had a chance, referring to Paul Lawrie making up 10 shots in one round to win at Carnoustie in 1999.

That was against Jean Van de Velde. This was Rory McIlroy, who has won both his majors by eight shots.

"Two 66s from Rory is a bit special, but he is just that — he is a bit special," Graeme McDowell said. "So he's going to be tough to catch this weekend if he keeps that up."

McIlroy was at 12-under 132 — the same 36-hole score of Woods in 2006.

AT A GLANCE

Second round

LEADING: Rory McIlroy with a 6-under 66 and was at 12-under 132.

TRAILING: Dustin Johnson, with a tournament-best 65, was four shots behind.

STILL PLAYING: Tiger Woods made his only birdie on the last hole for a 77 to make the cut on the number at 2-over 146.

GOING HOME: Lee Westwood, Bubba Watson, Webb Simpson, Ernie Els and Ian Poulter were among those missing the cut.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL REPEAT: McIlroy's 36-hole score of 132 was the same as Tiger Woods when he won at Royal Liverpool in 2006. Woods had a one-shot lead over Ernie Els in 2006. McIlroy had a four-shot lead over Dustin Johnson.

SHOT OF THE DAY: Sergio Garcia held out with a 6-iron on the second hole of eagle. Garcia held out with a 9-iron in the third round at Royal Liverpool in 2006.

CAPTAIN TOM: Tom Watson broke his own record as the oldest player (64) to make the cut.

QUOTEWORTHY: "Hopefully, I put it to bed today." — Rory McIlroy, on his streak of high scores on Friday.

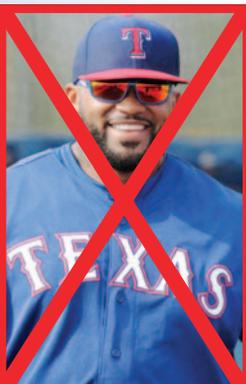
— The Associated Press

SPORTS

THE OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIP**On a roll**
McIlroy builds on lead
entering weekend | Page 31MLB

All the X's in Texas

Injury-riddled Rangers searching for answers



Prince Fielder, 1B
Salary: \$24,000,000
Injury: Neck



Matt Harrison, P
Salary: \$18,200,000
Injury: Back

By JEFF WILSON
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Only two years ago, the Texas Rangers opened the second half of the season tied for the most victories in baseball. When they open the second half of the 2014 schedule, they will have the fewest.

That wasn't the plan in November

after the Rangers traded Ian Kinsler for Prince Fielder, nor in late December after they agreed to terms with free agent Shin-Soo Choo, and not even after only one of their projected five starters was healthy enough to be in the rotation on Opening Day.

What happened? What's going to happen the rest of the season? In the offseason?

SEE TEXAS ON PAGE 30



Derek Holland, P
Salary: \$5,400,000
Injury: Left knee



Jurickson Profar, 2B
Salary: \$505,750
Injury: Right shoulder



Mitch Moreland, DH
Salary: \$2,650,000
Injury: Left ankle



Martin Perez, P
Salary: \$1,000,000
Injury: Left elbow

MCT Photos

Vikings suspend assistant coach three games
NFL briefs, Page 26

League-leading A's stun O's in 9th inning
MLB, Page 29