

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 73, No. 71B © SS 2014

MIDEAST EDITION

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

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US Embassy in Tripoli evacuated

Military relocates diplomats to Tunisia as clashes intensify between rival militias

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military helped evacuate on Saturday about 150 staff from the American Embassy in Tripoli, which was abandoned amid escalating militia violence.

Embassy personnel were driven to neighboring Tunisia, with U.S. F-16s, Ospreys and surveillance aircraft flying overhead to ensure security, the Defense Department said. "All embassy personnel were relocated, including the Marine security guards who were providing security at the embassy and during the movement," Pentagon press secre-



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

A MV-22B Osprey prepares to leave Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily, to escort approximately 150 personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya, early Saturday.

tary Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement.

A team of crisis-response Marines forward-positioned

in Sicily, Italy, were part of the evacuation effort. It was launched at 5 a.m. on Saturday and involved the movement of

roughly 150 State Department personnel, the Marines said.

Some of the assets used by the Marines included Ospreys and KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft.

A Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force, focused on crisis response missions in Africa, is stationed at a Spanish air base in the city of Moron. However, elements of the unit are periodically positioned in southern Italy. Since May, Marines have been forward stationed at Sigonella, Sicily, to ensure a speedy response should an evacuation from Libya be ordered.

SEE TRIPOLI ON PAGE 9



**JOINT FORCES'
VERY OWN**

SWISS ARMY KNIFE

Limited number of multipurpose amphibious ready groups creates global security gap

PAGE 3

HENDRICK SIMOES/AP

Aircraft line the freshly repainted deck of the USS Bataan while in port in Bahrain last week after the amphibious ready group spent 135 consecutive days at sea. The Navy has reluctantly agreed to reduce its amphibious fleet requirement from 38 to 33, a move the Marines have repeatedly warned against over concerns that the force won't be able to quickly deploy to international hot spots.

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"I never imagined I would live to see my name cleared. I always told everyone I was innocent, and now people will finally believe me."

—Michael Phillips, a Dallas man who served 12 years for a 1990 rape that prosecutors now say he didn't commit

See story on Page 9

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COMING SOON

Science & Medicine

Study: People don't really care for being alone with their thoughts



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MILITARY

Afghan Taliban leader: No pact with US

By Amir Shah
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — In a blow to hopes for peace talks, the Taliban's reclusive leader warned Friday that a bilateral security pact allowing thousands of U.S. troops to stay in Afghanistan beyond the end of this year will mean free fighting.

The Americans and NATO allies are winding down combat operations but want to leave a residual force to help train Afghan security forces and conduct counterterrorism operations amid fears government troops are ill-prepared to face a relentless insurgency and the security vacuum could pave the way for an al-Qaida resurgence in the country.

President Barack Obama has announced he wants to leave nearly 10,000 Americans in Afghanistan for two more years. The Afghan government has agreed in principle to a security agreement that would allow them to stay but the deal has yet to be signed. Both candidates vying to replace outgoing President Hamid Karzai have promised to sign it, but they are locked in a dispute over election results.

Mullah Mohammad Omar called on the candidates not to sign the agreement.

"We believe the war in Afghanistan will come to an end when all foreign invaders pull out of Afghanistan and a holy Islamic and independent regime prevails here. Presence of limited number of



MITCHELL PROTHERO, McCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU/MCT

People line up to get water from a common well in Bartella, Afghanistan. Afghan Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar issued a message calling on followers to prevent civilian casualties and to be friendly toward ordinary people "to win their hearts and minds."

troops under whatever title it may be will mean continuation of occupation and the war," he said in a message issued ahead of the Eid al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The message was translated into Dari, Arabic, English and Pashto.

Violence continued Saturday as a bomb blast killed four civilians, an official said. A bomb hidden in a motorcycle killed the civilians in Marjah district and wounded four others, said Omar Zwak, a spokesman for the governor of Helmand province.

Meanwhile in Kabul, Afghanis-

tan's Independent Election Commission stopped a recount in the runoff presidential election. Commission chairman Ahmad Yousuf Nouristani told reporters that the recount will resume later next week after celebrations marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Unofficial and disputed preliminary results of the June 14 runoff election showed former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai well ahead of his rival, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah.

But since fraud was alleged on both sides, a deal negotiated

by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry provides that every one of the 8 million ballots will be audited under national and international supervision over three or four weeks.

Mullah Omar's comments Friday come as international forces already have largely moved to the background and let Afghan forces take the lead in the fighting, making it harder for the Taliban to argue that they are waging war against a foreign occupying force. Deadly attacks targeting Afghan policemen, soldiers and civilians have increased.

The Taliban's one-eyed chief reiterated his support for assaults on government officials and troops who are cooperating with the U.S.-led coalition, but he called on followers to take measures to prevent civilian casualties and to be friendly toward ordinary people "to win their hearts and minds."

He did not mention the peace process, which is virtually on hold anyway until the new president is chosen.

Mullah Omar also condemned Israeli airstrikes that have killed hundreds of Palestinians as Israel fights Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of Afghan protesters took to the streets in Kabul on Friday to show solidarity with the Palestinians. They chanted slogans against Israel, the U.S. and the U.N., saying the world needs to do more to protect the innocent men and women of Gaza.

Teen gets 7½ years for killing 3 Marines in Afghanistan

By Dan Lamothe
The Washington Post

A teenager accused of carrying out an attack at a U.S. base in Afghanistan in August 2012 that killed three Marines and left one injured was sentenced to 7½ years, the maximum allowed under Afghan law for minors, the Marine Corps confirmed Friday.

The sentence came as a surprise to the families of the victims, who said they had been promised by Marine officials that the suspect would be tried as an adult, with the possibility of the death penalty.

Staff Sgt. Scott Dickinson, 29, Cpl. Richard Rivera, 20, and Lance Cpl. Gregory Buckley Jr., 21, were killed while working out in the gym of the base in Helmand province. Aimuddin Khudairah, then 17, who worked for the local Afghan police chief, was accused of stealing a Kalashnikov assault rifle and opening fire on the unarmed Marines.

Michael Bove, a lawyer assisting Buckley's family, said the relatives were not told about the trial date until Thursday.

"Yesterday, we received reports that, in fact, the murderer already

had been tried and sentenced as a juvenile," Bove said in a letter Friday to a Marine lawyer involved in the case, Maj. Jennifer Parker. "Neither you nor the Marine Corps notified the Buckley family of this development, and they were left instead to scramble to confirm rumors communicated to them from the press and other sources."

The letter, a copy of which was provided to The Washington Post, alleges that the Buckley family was "misled, abandoned and betrayed" by the Marine Corps because Marine officials did not

share the trial date ahead of time, even though they were aware of it on Monday.

Parker did not return a request for comment. Col. Sean Gibson, a Marine spokesman at the Pentagon, defended the Marine Corps in a statement Friday. He said a staff judge advocate with the Marine unit in Afghanistan notified the families by email on Sunday that the shooter would be tried as a juvenile.

On Monday, the lawyer learned that the trial would begin the next day but failed to convey that information to the families by email, Gibson said.

DODDS SPORTS

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MILITARY

Ambitious force stretched by high demand

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The amphibious assault ship USS Bataan returned to open waters Friday after undergoing much-needed maintenance after its near-record 135 days at sea in an area of heightened tension, which put a strain on the amphibious ready group and the ship's crew.

The Bataan amphibious ready group's long stint at sea was symptomatic of how stretched the Navy's amphibious fleet is. Responding to flashpoints across the Middle East and in the Mediterranean Sea stretched the Bataan group's resources almost to the limit as officials warn that the Navy is struggling to meet security challenges around the globe because of a smaller fleet.

The Bataan group, with more than 4,000 sailors and Marines, is in the midst of an eight-month deployment that started in February. The group, based in Norfolk, Va., has spent most of its time in the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea as flashpoints from Syria, Iraq and Libya to Ukraine have prompted the U.S. to show a stronger presence in the region.

An amphibious ready group is often referred to as the "Swiss army knife" of the joint forces, but the Navy has reluctantly agreed to reduce its fleet requirement from 38 to 33 in an era of shrinking defense budgets. It is a move the Marines have repeatedly warned against.

"Whether it's terrorists organizing in a land campaign or whether it's a disaster at sea that requires a humanitarian intervention, one will still see a wide array of ranges of military operations," said Marine Brig. Gen. Gregg Olson, commander of Task Force 51/59 and in charge of the amphibious forces deployed to U.S. 5th Fleet. The fleet is based in Bahrain and covers the Middle East region.

In May, Bataan's participation in a large-scale annual exercise in Jordan was cut short when it was ordered to the Mediterranean for the possible evacuation of U.S. personnel from Libya because of escalating fighting there.

Last month, fighters with the Islamic State, which seeks to create a caliphate across swathes of Syria and Iraq, threatened Baghdad. As a result, the USS Mesa Verde, an amphibious transport dock ship that is part of the Bataan ready group, was ordered into the Persian Gulf for a potential Iraq contingency operation, stretching the group's assets near its limits. The group also includes the amphibious dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall and the embarked 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"We came right up to the line a couple of times, but we never stepped over the point to say, 'We can't do that because we don't have X,'" said Capt. Neil Karnes, commander of the amphibious command. He said "the capacity and flexibility" of the group is phenomenal.

But a decreasing number of amphibious warships in the Mediterranean and elsewhere is leaving a security gap, officials warn. On Friday, Assistant Commandant Gen. John Paxon Jr. told the House Armed Services subcommittee that the Navy and Marine Corps reduction in the amphibious fleet requirement from 38 to the current 32 ships calls into question the ability of forces to deploy quickly and stay as long as needed at international hot spots such as Syria and Iraq.

"We struggle under the existing number of ships today," he said.

Sudden humanitarian disasters and conflicts in Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific are forcing the Navy and Marine Corps to pull ships from repair shipyards and force them into service or delay needed maintenance, he said.

To view more photos, graphics and video related to the USS Bataan, go to: Stripes.com/go/bataanbreak



The number of amphibious ships is slated to top out at 33 in the next few years, and is expected to remain there for at least a decade, according to Sean Stackley, assistant Navy secretary for research, development and acquisition.

A defense official told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday that there are no plans to put a second amphibious ready group in the Mediterranean or the Middle East in the immediate future; the Bataan group is scheduled to be relieved by another in the next few months.

Spending 135 days at sea — the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt holds the record for consecutive days at sea, spending 159 days underway after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — during a period of sometimes high tension was a challenge for the Bataan's 1,800 sailors and Marines.

“Whether it’s terrorists organizing in a land campaign or whether it’s a disaster at sea that requires a humanitarian intervention, our skill set is applicable across the range of military operations.”

Marine Brig. Gen.

Gregg Olson

commander of Task

Force 51/59

"I'm not gonna say it wasn't," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Philip Strube. But organized recreation helped the time pass.

"You look forward to a spades tournament every Tuesday night, and before you know it, 10 weeks go by and there's 70 days out of the way," Strube said.

For Seaman Apprentice Ashley Weisel, on her first deployment, connecting with family and friends helped her push through.

"Email is my best friend, definitely; Facebook is a lifesaver. I never thought I would say that, but honestly it is."

The Bataan's 10-day visit to Bahrain provided an opportunity for maintenance.

Boilers were taken offline to repair piping and replace pumps in engineering; crews cleaned out air-conditioning systems; technicians replaced an antenna for air traffic control; and the flight deck was painted.

Sailors and Marines did get some liberty while in Bahrain — many visited malls and simply enjoyed interacting with people outside the confines of the ship.

Karnes said he doesn't think 135 days at sea is the new norm for the Navy, adding that the ship was currently projected to return home on schedule in October.

"But if something happens, we will respond to it and do what we need to do."

Stars and Stripes reporters Travis J. Tritten and Jon Harper contributed to this report.
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PHOTOS BY JESSICA SAAH/SPECIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Seaman Nathaniel Post, left, hands Seaman Chris Rogakos a hot burner barrel from the boiler through a cloud of steam aboard the USS Bataan on Tuesday. The two sailors wear fire-resistant jackets, earplugs and masks to protect themselves from the intense heat.



Above: The deck of the ship was first washed thoroughly and then underwent a three-day paint job while the Bataan was in port in Bahrain. Below: Sailors and Marines take a smoke break on the pier alongside the Bataan.



MILITARY



The Washington Post

Marine pallbearers carry the coffin of Maj. Douglas Alexander Zembiec to its final burial site May 16, 2007, at Arlington National Cemetery.

'Why did I have to lie?'

Marines' 'Lion of Fallujah' died in the service of the CIA

By THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the foyer of the Central Intelligence Agency's headquarters in Langley, Va., there is a marble wall covered in stars. They are carved divots that represent those who have fallen in the service of the CIA. Below them, jutting out from the polished rock, is a black book embedded in a case of glass and steel. The book is a guide to the stars, giving the names of some of those who died and withholding the names of others.

On the pages of the CIA's Book of Honor are 107 hand-drawn stars organized by the years those officers died. For 2007, there is a single, anonymous star.

It belongs to Marine Maj. Douglas Alexander Zembiec.

Long thought to be an active-duty Marine when he was killed in Baghdad, Zembiec was actually serving with the CIA's paramilitary arm.

Michael R. Gordon and Gen. Bernard E. Trainor first reported in their book, "The Endgame: The Inside Story of the Struggle for Iraq, From George W. Bush to Barack Obama," that Zembiec was working for the CIA at the time.

While the CIA would not comment on whether Zembiec worked for the agency, former U.S. intelligence officials said in interviews that he died in an alley in Baghdad's Sadr City on May 11, 2007, as a member of the Special Activities Division's Ground Branch.

Gordon, citing a classified summary of raids, said in an email to The Washington

Post that Zembiec was killed in Adhamiyah district, not Sadr City.

It was the final chapter in the life of a Marine known to many as the Lion of Fallujah but whose story, until now, has never been fully told. He is one of the few Americans to be simultaneously honored by the military and the CIA for his actions. But because he was working covertly, his role was never acknowledged publicly.

'He should have been born with the Spartans'

Family members and former intelligence officials say Zembiec was working with a small team of Iraqis on a "snatch and grab" operation targeting insurgents for capture. Just moments after warning his men that an ambush was imminent, he was shot in the head by an enemy insurgent; he died instantly.

In the ensuing gunbattle, the Iraqis serving beside Zembiec radioed back, "Five wounded, one martyred," according to battle reports.

Top military commanders, including Gen. David Petraeus, lauded Zembiec's ac-

tions on the night he was killed, and the military dedicated a helicopter landing zone to him at Camp Victory at Baghdad International Airport in 2008. It included a white sign with Zembiec's name, his awards and the emblem of the Marine Corps.

Markedly absent: the crest of the CIA. Zembiec, who was 34, is credited with saving 25 men on the night of his death, and for his heroism, he was later awarded the Silver Star.

"He was something else," his wife, Pam Zembiec, said in an interview at her home in Maryland. "Sometimes I thought he was born in the wrong time, like he should have been born with the Spartans."

'They fought like lions'

Zembiec was a warrior, and an outspoken one at that, heralding a firefight during the battle of Fallujah in 2004 as "the greatest day of my life."

Among his Marines he was known for his humility and fearlessness. He was the company commander for Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, and during the first battle of Fallujah he led from the front, rallying his men and directing fire even after

being wounded. His Purple Heart would be one of 78 citations for the 139 Marines of Echo Company during that deployment.

Zembiec was also awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for valor for rushing into the middle of a machine-gun-raked street to get the attention of an Abrams tank supporting Echo Company. The tank's "grunt phone," wasn't working, so Zembiec scaled the tank while bullets ricocheted off its hull.

After he knocked on one of the hatches repeatedly, the crew of the tank finally opened up. Zembiec then loaded a magazine of illuminated tracer rounds and began shooting from the top of the tank to mark the building his Marines were being shot from.

The tank swung its turret and without warning fired its massive 120mm gun. The blast threw Zembiec into the air and onto the street below.

"He deserved five Bronze Stars, not one," retired Sgt. Maj. Williams Skiles said. Skiles served as Zembiec's company first sergeant and right-hand man during the battle of Fallujah. In a going-away plaque given to Skiles, Zembiec called him "the metal-weld" that kept the company together.

For all Zembiec's accolades, he was always more comfortable talking about his Marines' deeds rather than his own.

"My men fought like lions and killed many insurgents. The valor and courage of the Marines was magnificent," Zembiec wrote in a letter to his wife during the battle. "The Marines fought with such ferocity that any Marine who went before us would have been proud."

'I'm kind of irritated: Why did I have to lie about Doug, and why he was killed, when the whole world knows about Ground Branch?'

Pam Zembiec

wife of Marine Maj. Douglas Alexander Zembiec



Zembiec

SEE LION ON PAGE 6

MILITARY



WASHINGTON POST PHOTO BY MICHEL DU CILLE

Former U.S. Army Sgt. Brendan Marrocco, a double arm transplant recipient, demonstrates pull-ups during occupational therapy at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Marrocco lost both arms and legs in an IED explosion in 2009 in Iraq. In 2012 he received a double arm transplant at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

‘There’s not much you do without your arms’

Quadruple amputee who had a double arm transplant still has a long road to recovery

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
The Washington Post

Brendan Marrocco sits at a table in the occupational therapy room and with the help of his teeth straps the exercise hooks to his wrists.

His new flesh-and-blood hands are not yet strong enough to grip the pull-up bar, so the hooks must do for now.

He slides out of his wheelchair, walks a few steps on the stumps of his legs and looks up at the bar. “I have to prepare myself to do this,” he says. He reaches up, latches the wrist hooks to the bar and curses. “I’m so not ready right now.”

His occupational therapist, Joe Butkus, who is watching, says: “You got it. This is easy.” Then the retired Army sergeant, who has no legs and has transplanted arms joined with plates and screws, begins.

With a grunt and a grimace, he steps at 10, unhooked from the bar and tears off the straps with his teeth.

“Awesome job,” Butkus says. It has been 18 months since Marrocco, 27, of Staten Island, N.Y., underwent a rare double arm transplant at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore.

He had lost both legs and parts of both arms to a makeshift bomb in Iraq on Easter Sunday 2009.

At the time of his injury, he was the first servicemember from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to

survive the loss of four limbs.

He then became the first servicemember to receive a double arm transplant and still is one of only seven people in the United States who have successfully undergone the procedure.

He spent several months recovering in Baltimore and last year moved to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., for intensive rehabilitation.

Over two months, in his first extensive interviews since the announcement of the surgery, he spoke about his recovery, his past and his future and showed how much his arms have progressed.

“I feel great,” he said as he sat in Walter Reed’s occupational and physical therapy complex, the Military Advanced Training Center (MATC), in early May.

“Arms feel great,” he said. “I can’t complain about anything with the arms, really.”

He can do pull-ups, push-ups and drive a car. He produces a robust Twitter feed and has a Facebook page where he describes himself as a “wounded warrior — very wounded.”

His left arm, which had been amputated below the elbow, is progressing faster than the right arm, which he lost above the elbow.

But his wrists are still thin. And his hands are a work in progress.

He has some dexterity in his left hand and can sign his name. He used to be right-handed. “Not so much anymore,” he said.

He has limited use of his right hand. The fingers are in the position of a slightly closed fist — a phenomenon called “clawing,” his chief doctor said.

But his therapy includes wearing spring-loaded splints on his fingers that work to keep the hand open.

You can see where the transplanted limbs were attached because the donor arm’s skin tone seems slightly darker than Marrocco’s, and one of Marrocco’s old arm tattoos is now cut short.

There is also some loose skin around the connection sites, left over from extensive post-operative swelling, his doctors said.

At first, Marrocco said, the simple weight of the transplanted arms made his back sore.

“It hurt just to have the arms attached, just hanging on there,” he said. “I spent three and half, four years without arms. It was a shock to my back, I guess.”

But the new arms had a surprising benefit. They gave him better balance when he walked on his prosthetic legs. Before the transplant, he often fell while using his artificial legs. Since the transplant, he has not fallen at all, he said.

Now he must be patient. With the muscle, skin, bone and blood vessels connected, he must wait for his body’s nerves to grow into the transplanted arms.

The new arms will not return to 100 percent function, his doctors have said, but similar patients get enough dexterity to do

such things as tie their shoes and use chopsticks.

Meanwhile, he must keep the other parts of both arms strong and flexible.

This requires constant occupational therapy. Exercises, dexterity drills, wearing the finger splints and special elastic tape, and stretching his fingers.

In addition, he undergoes hours of physical therapy to help him get back on his prosthetic legs, which he said he had essentially stopped using three years ago.

On a Friday in May, Marrocco rolled his wheelchair quietly into the MATC for his occupational therapy session. (He lives on the hospital campus with his older brother, Michael, 30, who has been with him for most of the past five years.)

A thoughtful, fair-skinned young man with short blond hair, he said his body feels like it’s 40 although “mentally, I’m still like 21 or 22.”

“I’ve been lucky enough to have

things go pretty well for me since I got hurt,” he said. “I’m happy. I don’t have any demons in the sense of what happened to me.”

But his injuries were horrific. In addition to the loss of his limbs, his face and neck bear the scars of the blast, and his left eye is healing from a cornea transplant he had in February.

At times, he wishes things were different.

“I wish ... they were the way they were before,” he said, “but it’s not possible.”

“You ... try to forget about a lot and kind of stay in the present,” he said, “just continue to push through all that.”

He is mostly bothered by his limitations in walking.

“It takes so much effort,” he said. His leg amputations are so high up the limbs that he has little leverage to move the artificial legs.

SEE ARMS ON PAGE 6

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MILITARY

Arms: Former Army sergeant making progress after double arm transplant surgery

FROM PAGE 5

"You have a little bit of leg trying to support the prosthetic, and they're pretty heavy," he said. "So it takes a whole lot of effort and energy to just kind of get around [the exercise] track once. It's extremely tiring."

Marrocco now has some feeling in both hands and has felt the gradual growth of the nerves along his arms. "I feel the pain moving lower," he laughed.

On the upper portion of his arms, "everything is super sensitive," he said.

His chief transplant doctor, W.P. Andrew Lee, professor and chairman of the Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, said Marrocco is starting to have muscle contractions in his left hand.

"They're tiny little muscles, but there are lots of them," Lee said in an interview at the hospital in May. "Those fine muscles in the hand are important for dexterity."

For example, as of a few months ago, Marrocco no longer needs his brother to squeeze toothpaste onto his toothbrush or set up the shower for him.

Meanwhile, he has been accomplishing other goals.

One was being able to do pull-ups, which he focused on after seeing a picture of a man doing them while strapped in a wheelchair.

He bought the pull-up hooks for \$20 on the Internet and posted the photo of the man in the wheelchair. "I was like, 'You know, I'm going to do this soon,'" he said. "And I did."

He was able to handle a cell phone within two months. And, as a huge NASCAR fan and student

of automobile mechanics, he was overjoyed to be able to drive for the first time in more than four years, with hand controls, in December.

"Last time I drove, before this, was when I got blown up," he said.

Early on April 12, 2009, Marrocco was at the wheel of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle, returning to base after a night mission.

The former car dealership mechanic was 22, had been in the Army a little more than a year and loved it. He has posted numerous pictures via Twitter that show a boyish-looking soldier in full battle gear posing with friends.

There were other soldiers in the vehicle with him that morning, one a good friend named Michael Anaya. As they traveled through the darkness near Siniya, about 130 miles north of Baghdad, the MRAP was struck by an explosive device, which shredded it. "I remember the flash and people yelling inside the truck," Marrocco said. "I didn't feel anything. ... I was trying to find out who was yelling."

He recalls little else and said he woke up in the old Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington about 90 hours later.

He had lost his limbs and his buddy, Anaya, who had been killed in the attack. Marrocco later got two angel's wings tattooed on his chest and back as a memorial to his fallen comrade.

At Walter Reed, he began his recovery. The blast had severed his left carotid artery, broken his nose, eye socket and facial bones, and cost him eight teeth.

Slowly, his wounds began to heal. He came to terms with his

injuries and mastered the use of cumbersome artificial arms and legs.

As he got better, he also became a celebrity. He did news media interviews, attended charity events, and met sports and movie stars.

His case was a model for the four subsequent quadruple amputee servicemembers.

He eventually left the hospital and returned to Staten Island, where a charitable organization had built a special home for him.

His life, he would later say, was fine.

Then, on Dec. 16, 2012, in an excited announcement on Twitter, he wrote: "Holy mother of god I was just told I might be having my transplant tomorrow!"

He had learned about the transplant possibility about two years earlier and had seized on it.

"The second I was asked if I wanted to do it, it was: 'Yes, I'm in. I want to do it,'" he said. "It was what I needed, physically, mentally, emotionally."

"I've been saying this for years, ever since I lost them: Arms are a huge part of your personality," he said. "You talk with them. Really, there's not much you do without your arms."

The surgery was done by a group of experts headed by Lee, who noted that the group had rehearsed the procedure extensively, practicing on cadavers.

The operation took about 13 hours. Marrocco said he does not know who the donor was. The hospital declined to identify the donor, citing privacy. Marrocco said he would love to thank the family someday.

After the surgery, he woke up



WASHINGTON POST PHOTO BY MICHEL DU CILLE

Former U.S. Army Sgt. Brendan Marrocco, center, a double arm transplant recipient, gets a monthly checkup with the doctors who performed his transplant surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md.

miserable in a hospital room that was superheated to promote healing, he said. His arms were very swollen at the connection sites. It was the only time he had a twinge of regret.

Six weeks later, on Jan. 29, 2013, he rolled his wheelchair to the front of a conference room at Johns Hopkins Hospital that was jammed with reporters. His arms were in bandages and splints. He wore a tan T-shirt that read "Keep Calm and Chive On."

Again a celebrity, he fielded an array of questions. At that point, he had no feeling in his hands and couldn't move his right arm. He had hated not having arms, he said, and was grateful to have a chance to get them back.

Already, he said, they felt like they were his.

A year and a half after the

transplant, his doctors say he is still very early in the healing process.

Lee said it could take two to three more years for his progress to maximize.

As they sat in the MATC in early May, his occupational therapist, Joe Butkus, asked him if he thought he was functionally better off yet with the transplants than with artificial arms.

"I wouldn't particularly say that I'm better with these arms," Marrocco said. "But I physically feel better with them. ... Confidence from Day One of having the surgery has been through the roof. Emotionally, I feel better about myself."

"I came back a different person," he said. "It was just like the snap of finger. I realized one day that I had arms again."

Lion: CIA remains mum on Zembiec's death during operation in Iraq

FROM PAGE 4

It was his frequent references to his Marines as lions that earned him the nickname the Lion of Fallujah.

'With all of his guts and glory'

Zembiec graduated from the Naval Academy in 1995 as an All-American wrestler and Marine officer. After a short stint at the Marines' Special Operations Training Group at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in 2005, Douglas Zembiec decided to apply for a coveted slot in the Ground Branch of the CIA's Special Activities Division.

The position is extremely competitive, and the CIA accepts only one Marine Special Operations officer every few years.

"He went for this with all of his guts and glory," his wife said. "I've never seen this man stressed in my life until he started interviewing for this. He was pacing, and he couldn't sleep."

He was accepted into the program and was sent to the agency for the Marines for a two-year

assignment.

Shortly afterward, he deployed to Afghanistan.

His work with the CIA was his first experience Pam Zembiec had as a military spouse after they married in April 2005.

Because of the secrecy of the Ground Branch's operations, Zembiec rarely talked about his work with Pam following the unknown form a layer of normalcy as she raised their newborn daughter, Fallyn, outside Annapolis.

"I wouldn't have been able to focus on our life if I would have known Pam. Because she didn't tell me anything, I never for a second worried about him. I never thought he was in any kind of danger. He was smart, he knew what he was doing. He was trained."

In March 2007, Doug Zembiec volunteered to deploy again, this time to Iraq, where he was able to call Pam almost every day.

"The last thing Doug said to me on the phone ... I'll never forget it," Pam said. "Wait a minute, wait a minute, I have to tell you something before I hang up. Babe,

you should see what we're doing with the Iraqi people and what we're doing to help them. Things are getting better over here."

"He was elated; he was crazy about his job."

That was the morning of May 11, 2007.

'I was very angry'

Four people came to Pam's door that night. One of them was Col. John Ripley, a mentor to Doug Zembiec, a family friend and a Marine legend.

"When the guys came to tell me that night ... I was very angry," Pam Zembiec said. "At the time I wanted to blame someone, and I blamed [the fact that he wasn't with his Marines]."

Zembiec's job with the CIA meant that he was working with Special Operations types and Iraqis, not the Marines with whom he had fought during his earlier deployment to Fallujah.

"I saw a lot of tough guys crying in that house," said Elliot Ackerman, a friend who was in Marine Special Operations training when Zembiec was killed. "They cried

for Doug, but because of where we were in the war I think they cried for themselves, too."

It took years for Pam's anger to subside; she felt she had been forced to remain silent about her husband's involvement — even as movies like "Zero Dark Thirty" trumpeted the CIA's operation to kill Osama bin Laden. The film also referenced the Ground Branch.

"I'm kind of irritated: Why did I have to lie about Doug, and why he was killed, when the whole world knows about Ground Branch?" his wife asked. "It's time to say, 'Hey, this is what he was doing when he was killed — he was in charge of an elite group.'"

Todd Ebitz, a CIA spokesman, said, "Consistent with long-standing practice, we do not comment on who may or may not have been honored anonymously with a star on the agency's Memorial Wall."

Weeks after his death and his burial in Arlington National Cemetery, Pam and the rest of Doug Zembiec's family were invited to a private ceremony in then-CIA Director Michael Hayden's office on the seventh floor of headquar-

ters in Langley. Hayden quietly thanked them for Zembiec's service. In attendance were some of the men who were serving with him when he was killed, along with Shannon Spann, the wife of Johnny Spann, a former Marine and the first American killed in Afghanistan, in November 2001. Spann, like Zembiec, was in the CIA's Special Activities Division.

Later, the CIA's next director, Leon Panetta, presented Pam Zembiec with the anonymous star that was subsequently chiseled into the Memorial Wall and inscribed into the Book of Honor.

Today, she has come to terms with her husband's death and her feelings toward the agency. She said she plans to return to CIA headquarters in three years to mark the 10th anniversary of his death at his star.

"It's nobody's fault," she said. "Doug chose this path. He died doing what he loved, and he made a difference. And that's what matters."

Washington Post staffers Adam Goldman, Julie Tate and Greg Miller contributed to this report.

NATION



JOSEPH KACZMAREK/AP

An investigator examines a heavily damaged SUV before it is towed from the scene of a fatal accident in North Philadelphia on Friday.

Police hunt for 2 carjackers who wrecked SUV, killing 3 children

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Police are searching for two men who carjacked an SUV and plowed into a group of children and adults selling fruit to raise money for their church, killing three siblings and critically injuring their mother and the carjacking victim. Another woman was hurt but is in stable condition.

The men carjacked a real estate agent at gunpoint Friday morning, forcing her into the backseat of her Toyota 4Runner. The SUV sped out of control about a mile from where the carjacking occurred, slamming into the children and adults manning the fruit stand, Philadelphia police said.

"Three innocent children had their lives taken," Philadelphia Homicide Capt. James Clark said of the victims, ages 7, 10 and 15.

The suspects fled on foot. "There are no words to describe

how I feel right now," said police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, "but we do need to find these two guys."

A reward of more than \$100,000 is being offered for the suspects' capture. Police also asked nearby businesses for surveillance video and pleaded with anyone with information to come forward.

Police said the suspects may have blown a tire as they turned a corner at high speed. The car ended up in a wooded area, its front end smashed against a stand of trees.

"Something obviously went horribly wrong," Clark said.

The 34-year-old mother of the victims was in critical condition, police said. The identities of the family weren't immediately released.

The carjack victim, a 45-year-old real estate agent, was also critically injured, while a neighbor, a 65-year-old woman who was help-

ing the family sell fruit, was in stable condition, police said.

Witness Renee Charleston saw a car streaking through the intersection, then noticed children on the ground.

"Nobody was moving," she told television station WPVI.

Employees at Education Works, an educational nonprofit across the street from the wreck, told The Philadelphia Inquirer that they ran to try to help the victims. One boy had no pulse and another's was barely there, said Karen Payne, who runs a summer camp there.

"I'm certified in first aid and CPR — my first instinct was to go to them," she said. "But I couldn't help."

Deputy Mayor Everett Gilson described the mayor as heartbroken.

"The prayers of the city go out to this family," he said.

House GOP slashes proposed funding for border crisis

By DAVID NAKAMURA AND ED O'KEEFE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama told Central American leaders Friday that his administration would return children who are here illegally to their home countries, but a substantive U.S. response to the border crisis seemed to grow more remote amid deepening political divisions in Washington.

House Republicans dramatically slashed the amount of emergency money they are willing to devote to dealing with the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors who have arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, lessening chances for an ambitious pact before lawmakers leave Washington for their summer break.

The setback undercut the administration's bid to mount an aggressive push to stem the flow of illegal immigration and raised doubts about Washington's ability to restore order in the Rio Grande Valley, where U.S. border patrol stations have been overwhelmed by the influx. More than 57,000 children and an additional 55,000 parents with children have been apprehended this year.

Senior administration officials acknowledged that there was little hope inside the West Wing that Congress would strike a quick deal over Obama's request for \$3.7 billion in emergency funding to deal with the crisis.

Obama's meeting with the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador at the White House was intended to send a stern message to those countries to stop the immigrant flow, but the president also used a brief appearance before reporters to urge action from his GOP critics.

"It is my hope that Speaker

(John) Boehner and House Republicans will not leave town for the month of August for their vacations without doing something to help solve this problem," Obama said in the Cabinet Room. "There have been a lot of press conferences about this. We need action."

But after a private meeting, House Republicans said they would reduce their own emergency funding proposal to \$1 billion, a third smaller than what GOP leaders proposed earlier this week. The move was viewed as an effort to placate conservatives who have been reluctant to support a large spending plan with just two months left in the fiscal year.

The shrinking price tag underscores the challenge facing Boehner, R-Ohio, as he rushes to reach a consensus on a package that could pass the House with near-majority Republican support before adjournment Friday.

Boehner is now gambling that he can win passage next week by lowering the overall cost and including provisions to amend a 2008 anti-trafficking law to reduce legal protections for Central American minors.

After consulting with colleagues in recent days, Rep. Kay Granger, R-Texas, who led a House working group on immigration, said Friday that Republicans are down to "bare-bones suggestions."

Other GOP members closely watching the process said Boehner may have no choice but to reach across the aisle for Democratic support to win approval for a funding package.

"John is going to lose 60 Republicans no matter what he does," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Boehner ally. "Sixty Republicans are ready to vote against anything, so he may have to find some Democrats to vote with him."

Prosecutors await results of probe into shooting death of burglar in Calif.

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Prosecutors were waiting Friday for the results of a police investigation into the killing of a burglar by a homeowner who says he shot the woman in the back as she fled his home and ran down an alley, the district attorney's office said.

Long Beach, Calif., resident Tom Greer, 80, told KNBC-TV that the burglar had said she was pregnant and asked Greer not to fire, but he shot her twice in the back anyway.

An autopsy later found that Andrea Miller, 28, was not pregnant, said Ed Winter, coroner's spokesman.

"Long Beach police are still investigating," said Sarah Ardalani, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. "It's ongoing, and so we're waiting at this point."

“The problem here is that all this happened very fast, and his legal right to use force probably ended just a few seconds before he did use deadly force.”

Lawrence Rosenthal
former federal prosecutor

Prosecutors filed murder, burglary, robbery and weapons-related charges against Gus Adams, 26, a suspected accomplice of Miller. He was being held on bail of more than \$1 million.

A court appearance initially set for Friday was rescheduled for next month.

The murder charge is possible because Adams is accused of participating in a felony that led to a death, said police Chief Jim McDonnell.

Police said Friday that Adams' mother,

Ruby Adams, also was involved, and she was arrested Thursday night on suspicion of robbery. They gave no details on her alleged role or the evidence against her.

McDonnell said the homeowner came home around 9 p.m. Tuesday and surprised Adams and Miller, who were trying to break into a safe. They assaulted him, breaking his collarbone, before he was able to get a handgun, the chief said.

Police said he fired shots inside and outside his house.

Under California law, homeowners have a right to protect themselves with deadly force inside their homes and in the immediate vicinity — such as a patio — if they feel they are in imminent danger of great bodily injury or death, said Lawrence Rosenthal, a former federal prosecutor who teaches law at Chapman University.

But this case enters a gray area because Greer, by his own account, chased the burglars and fired at them outside his home as they were fleeing, Rosenthal said.

"The problem here is that all this happens very fast and his legal right to use force probably ended just a few seconds before he did use deadly force," Rosenthal said. "So the question is should you charge somebody on the basis of what they was a series of split-second decisions when he's just been robbed and physically assaulted?"

NATION

Some in CIA 'torture report' denied review of it

By **KEN DILANIAN**
The Associated Press

ASPEN, Colo. — About a dozen former CIA officials named in a classified Senate report on decade-old agency interrogation practices were notified in recent days that they would be able to review parts of the document in a secure room in suburban Washington after signing a secrecy agreement.

Then, on Friday, many were told they would not be able to see it, after all.

Some of them were furious, while Democratic Senate aides were angry that they were given

the chance in the first place.

It's the latest chapter in the drama and recriminations that have been playing out behind the scenes in connection with what some call the Senate torture report, a summary of which is being declassified and is expected to be released in the coming weeks.

"I am outraged," said John Rizzo, one of the former officials who was offered, and then refused, a chance to see the summary report before publication. He retired in 2009 as the CIA's top lawyer after playing a key role in the interrogation program.

"They are accusing people of misleading Congress, of mislead-

ing the Justice Department, and they never even asked to talk to us," he said. "And now they won't let us read the report before it is made public."

The 6,300-page report, along with a CIA rebuttal, represents the most detailed accounting to date of a set of bitterly controversial interrogation, rendition and detention practices the CIA carried out in the years after the Sept. 11 attacks — practices many Americans now consider to have been immoral or illegal.

President Barack Obama stopped the practices when he took office, but he decided against a "truth commission" to examine

what happened. Criminal investigations conducted in secret resulted on no charges.

Advocacy groups say the Senate report's 600-page executive summary, which is to be released along with a CIA response and a minority dissent, will be the last chance for public accountability.

For months, the former officials who are implicated in the report have strategized about how to rebut it. Many of them sincerely believe that they did what the country asked of them after Sept. 11 and that they are being impugned now because the political winds have shifted.

Senate aides familiar with the

matter say Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, protested to the White House that it had no business allowing retired officials to read a Senate oversight report.

Several people who have read the full report, and who spoke on condition of anonymity say it shows that the CIA interrogation program was far more brutal than previously understood, and that CIA officials repeatedly misled Congress and the Justice Department about what was being done to al-Qaida detainees.



Michael Phillips, right, poses for photos with supporters after a court hearing in Dallas on Friday. Texas prosecutors said a project to review untested rape kits proved the innocence of Phillips, who says he pleaded guilty to a 1990 rape because his attorney advised him to avoid trial.

Judge rules DNA proves man not guilty of rape

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A Dallas man who prosecutors say did not commit a 1990 rape for which he served 12 years in prison should be exonerated based on recent DNA testing he did not request, a judge recommended Friday.

Dallas County Criminal District Court Judge Gracie Lewis found Michael Phillips, 57, to be innocent, saying his conviction should be vacated. The matter now goes to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals; it was not immediately clear when the court would rule.

The National Registry of Exonerations said it's the first U.S. case it knows of in which an innocent defendant was identified as a result of a systematic screening and DNA testing of past convictions by a prosecutor's office, rather than being initiated by a defendant or the defendant's representatives.

Dallas County District Attorney Craig Watkins sought the exoneration after DNA testing identified another man as the culprit in

the rape of a 16-year-old girl at a motel where both men lived.

Watkins has an ongoing project of reviewing untested rape kits, even without defendants initiating the request. Should the appeals court decide in Phillips' favor, it would be the 34th exoneration by Watkins' Conviction Integrity Unit.

"This is a great day for Mr. Phillips but a terrible day for our justice system," Watkins said during the hearing.

Phillips served 12 years in prison after entering a plea deal that he said his attorney advised him to take, fearing a jury would not side with a black man accused of raping a white girl who picked him out of a photo line-up. He was released in 2002, but his failure to register as a sex offender later landed him back in jail for six months.

"I never imagined I would live to see my name cleared," Phillips said in a news release Thursday. "I always told everyone I was innocent and now people will finally believe me."

86 family members disenrolled from Ore. American Indian tribe

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — An Oregon woman says 86 members of her family have been disenrolled from an American Indian tribe that operates the state's largest tribal casino, as leaders review the tribe's rolls and enforce new membership requirements.

Family spokeswoman Mia Prickett said she's shocked about being stripped of membership from the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, since one of the family's ancestors was a chief who signed an 1855 treaty that helped establish the tribe.

The council that governs the 5,000-member tribe had been considering disenrolling the family for nearly a year, saying they no longer satisfy enrollment rules.

The decision to remove the family was made after the council earlier this month changed the enrollment ordinance via "emergency amendments." The amendments gave the authority to make decisions on disenrollment to an enrollment committee, which is an administrative body, and removed the council from the

process.

Grand Ronde's Stacia Martin, executive coordinator for the Tribal Council, declined to confirm the number of people removed or the exact reasons, citing the "confidential nature" of enrollment proceedings.

Those removed lose health care and housing benefits, educational assistance and about \$3,000 annually in casino profits, among other benefits.

The contentious removal is part of what some experts have dubbed the "disenrollment epidemic" — a rising number of dramatic clashes over tribal belonging that are sweeping through the U.S.

These tribal expulsions, which started in the 1990s along with the establishment of Indian cas-

inos, have increased in numbers just as gambling revenues skyrocketed. Critics say the disenrollments are also used as a way to settle political infighting and old family and personal feuds.

Most tribes base their membership criteria on blood quantum or on descent from someone named on a tribe's census rolls or treaty records.

Grand Ronde officials previously said the tribe's membership pushed for an enrollment audit, with the goal of strengthening the tribe's "family tree." They did not say how many people were tabbed for disenrollment.

Prickett says her ancestor chief Tumult was unjustly accused of participating in a revolt and was executed by the U.S. Army and hence didn't make it onto the tribe's roll, which is now a membership requirement.

"This is morally and ethically reprehensible," Prickett said of the disenrollment.

The family can appeal the decision to the Tribal Court and the Tribal Court of Appeals.

Report faults pilot in Hawaii helo crash

The Associated Press

KAUNAKAKAI, Hawaii — The likely cause of a Molokai helicopter crash that killed all five people aboard was the pilot flying too close to the mountains during inclement weather, the National Transportation Safety Board determined in a final report published Friday.

Pilot Nathan Cline, newlyweds Michael and Nicole Abel of Pittsburgh, and Canadian couple Stuart Robertson and Eva Birgitta Wannersjo of Toronto died when the Blue Hawaiian Helicopters Eurocopter EC-130 crashed into mountains above an elementary school and burned. They were on a sightseeing tour of West Maui

and Molokai.

"The pilot's failure to maintain clearance from mountainous terrain while operating in marginal weather conditions, which resulted in the impact of the horizontal stabilizer and lower forward portion of the fenestron (tail rotor) with ground and/or vegetation and led to the separation of the fenestron and the pilot's subsequent inability to maintain control," the report concluded to be the crash's probable cause. "Contributing to the accident was the pilot's decision to operate into an area surrounded by rising terrain, low and possibly descending cloud bases, rain showers and high wind."

The helicopter was engulfed in flames after crashing near Kihoana Elementary School. The school's principal said at the time that there had just been a heavy downpour and he thought the loud boom from the crash was thunder.

Blue Hawaiian Helicopters President Patricia Chevalier said in a statement that the company was studying the report and "taking the findings to heart to further improve our processes and procedures."

A lawsuit filed by the family of a passenger against Blue Hawaiian was settled in March for an undisclosed amount, the Maui News reported.

MIDEAST

Truce is extended in Gaza

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel agreed Saturday to extend a 12-hour halt in fighting in Gaza by four hours, a Cabinet minister said. In Gaza, a health official said the Palestinian death toll in 19 days of fighting had surpassed 1,000.

Gaza health officials recovered more than 100 bodies on Saturday alone.

The Cabinet minister, Yuval Steinitz, said a further extension of the humanitarian truce would be considered when the Israeli Security Cabinet meets later Saturday, after the end of the Jewish Sabbath.

In Paris, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with European foreign ministers to find ways of building on Saturday's lull, the longest so far since Israel-Hamas fighting erupted July 8.

The top United Nations envoy to the Middle East, Robert Serry, urged the sides to halt their fire for an additional 24 hours.

In Friday, Israel had rejected a proposal by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to halt fire for a week and to begin talks during this period on easing the border blockade of Hamas-ruled Gaza.

Hamas has said it would not halt fire until it was guaranteed that the border blockade, enforced by Israel and Egypt, would be lifted.

Under a gradual extension of a humanitarian truce, Israel would not be required to discuss new border arrangements in Gaza. It would also have a fresh hand in continuing to demolish Hamas military tunnels under the Gaza-Israel border, as it has done in recent days.

A Hamas spokesman, Mushir al-Masri, speaking before the Israeli decision, said the group would consider an extension of the



LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/AP

A member of the foreign media, left, cries as she embraces her Palestinian news assistant, who burst into tears on Saturday after discovering his family house was destroyed by Israeli strikes in Beit Hanoun, northern Gaza Strip.

truce as long as "it does not mean that we retreat from our known demands."

More than 6,000 Palestinians have been wounded in the past 19 days, hundreds of homes have been destroyed and tens of thousands of Palestinians displaced.

Israel says it is doing its utmost to prevent civilian casualties, including sending evacuation warnings to residents in targeted areas, and blames Hamas for putting civilians in harm's way.

Israel has lost 40 soldiers and two civilians. A Thai worker in Israel also has been killed.

Thousands of Gaza residents who had fled the fighting streamed back to devastated border areas on Saturday to find large-scale destruction: Scores of homes were pulverized, wreckage blocked roads and power cables dangled in the streets.

In the northern town of Beit Hanoun, residents encountered widespread destruction. Most had fled days earlier, following Israeli warnings that the town would be shelled.

Ambulances with wailing sirens and donkey carts loaded with mat-

1,000

The number of Palestinians who have perished in 19 days of fighting in Gaza. More than 6,000 Palestinians have been wounded, hundreds of homes have been destroyed and tens of thousands of have been displaced.

resses and pots soon clogged the streets. Two masked fighters, one with an assault rifle slung over his shoulder, walked by — a rare sighting since they typically don't appear in the open.

Silham Kafarneh, 37, sat on the steps of a small grocery, weeping. The mother of eight said the home she had spent 10 years saving up for and moved into two months earlier had been destroyed.

"Nothing is left. Everything I have is gone," she said.

More than 160,000 displaced Palestinians have sought shelter at dozens of U.N. schools, an eight-

fold increase since the start of Israel's ground operation more than a week ago, the U.N. said.

Ambulances of the Red Crescent reached the hardest-hit areas Saturday, including Beit Hanoun and the eastern Shijaiyah district of Gaza City, to recover bodies.

In two border areas, ambulances were unable to approach because tanks fired warning shots at the vehicles, the Red Crescent said.

In the southern town of Khan Younis, 20 members of the same extended family, including at least 10 children, were killed by tank fire that hit a building on the edge of town, said al-Kidra.

The house partially collapsed, and people were buried under the rubble. The family had recently moved into the building after fleeing fighting in a nearby village, he said.

Hundreds of men marched in a funeral procession in Khan Younis Saturday afternoon, chanting "there is only God" while carrying the bodies, all wrapped in white cloth and some with blood stains.

Tripoli: Department of State requests the evacuation

FROM FRONT PAGE

Kirby said the operation was conducted at the request of the State Department. "The mission was conducted without incident, and the entire operation lasted approximately five hours," Kirby said.

In recent weeks, fighting between rival militias has intensified across Tripoli and Libya, where order has never been fully restored since the ouster of former strongman Moammar Gadhafi by a NATO bombing campaign three years ago.

In recent days, heavy fighting around Tripoli's international airport has destroyed nearly two dozen parked aircraft. The capital has been carved up

into militia-controlled zones; the U.N. and Red Cross have withdrawn staff.

On Friday, Africa Command chief Gen. David Rodriguez spoke with concern about the deteriorating situation. "Arms, ammunition and explosives are all over the place and provide opportunities for these violent groups to generate revenues to assert their will through violence," Rodriguez said at his Stuttgart, Germany, headquarters.

"It will take a huge international effort, diplomatic effort, to help build a government that will serve the people," Rodriguez said.

Following the Sept. 11, 2012, attack on a U.S. facility in Benghazi, which resulted in the death of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans, the Obama administration has faced unrelenting criticism over its handling of security at State Department facilities in Libya.

The Spain-based Marine crisis force, formed in the wake of those attacks, was part of an effort to ensure military forces are better positioned to respond to assaults on diplomatic compounds.

State Department spokeswoman Maria Harf said the relocation of embassy staff to Tunisia was a temporary move. "Regrettably, we had to take this step because the location of our embassy is in very close proximity to intense fighting and ongoing violence between armed Libyan factions," Harf said in a statement. "This relocation was done over land, with our personnel arriving in Tunisia this morning, and traveling outway from there. We are grateful to the government of Tunisia for its cooperation and support."

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Sunni official taken by gunmen in Baghdad

By SAMEER N. YACOB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen traveling in 10 black SUVs seized a senior Sunni politician who had previously been jailed on terrorism charges from his home in Baghdad, police officers said Saturday.

It was not immediately clear if Faris al-Adhdah, the head of the Baghdad Provincial Council, was arrested by security forces or abducted late Friday, the two police officers said. Four of his bodyguards were also taken, according to a statement from the provincial council. The officers spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to brief the media.

The incident comes at a time of growing sectarian tensions, with Sunni militants having seized vast swaths of northern and western Iraq and Shiite militias mobilized to help the beleaguered armed forces fight back. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shiite, is looking to secure a third four-year term despite widespread calls to step aside over the crisis.

Al-Maliki discussed al-Adhdah's disappearance with Salim al-Jabouri, the Sunni speaker of parliament, at a meeting Saturday. The speaker called the disappearance a "problem" without saying whether al-Adhdah had been ar-

rested or kidnapped. Sunnis have long complained of being unfairly targeted by security forces, and their discontent with al-Maliki's rule is seen as a central cause of the country's unrest.

Al-Maliki's security forces have targeted prominent Sunni politicians in the past, alleging links to terrorism. Shortly after the last U.S. troops withdrew in 2011 the security forces tried to arrest Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi on terrorism charges, forcing him to eventually flee to exile in Turkey. Al-Hashemi, who was later convicted in absentia and sentenced to death, has denied the allegations.

Sunni government officials have

also been targeted by Islamic extremists and other Sunni militants, who view them as traitors.

At a press conference Saturday, provincial council member Falah al-Qaisi called upon the government to "shoulder its security responsibility" and open an investigation "in order to reveal the circumstances of the incident and ensure [al-Adhdah's] personal safety." Al-Qaisi did not provide details on who might have seized al-Adhdah.

In 2012 al-Adhdah, a medical doctor and member of the Iraqi Islamic Party, was imprisoned for eight months on terrorism charges. He has maintained his innocence.

UKRAINE UNREST

Ukraine launches offensive to retake Donetsk

By **AYSE WIETING**
and **DAVID MCHUGH**
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Ukrainian officials said their forces advanced to the outskirts of a key town north of Donetsk on Saturday in hopes of retaking the stronghold held for months by pro-Russia rebels.

The move comes as Ukrainian forces appear to have gained some momentum recently by retaking control of territory from the rebels. But Russia also appears to be becoming more involved in the fighting, with the U.S. and Ukraine accusing Moscow of moving heavily artillery across the border to the rebels.

Ukrainian national security spokesman Andriy Lysenko said Ukrainian forces were outside Horlivka, just north of the regional center of Donetsk. Once they can take Horlivka, “the direct route is open for the forces of the anti-terrorist operation to the capital of the Donbas

region — the city of Donetsk,” Lysenko said. “The approaches to Donetsk are being blocked so that the terrorists do not get the chance to receive ammunition, reinforcements or equipment.”

Donetsk, a city of about 1 million people, is a major center of the separatist uprising that has battled Ukrainian government forces for five months.

An Associated Press reporter found the highway north of Donetsk blocked by rebels and heard the sound of artillery to the north. Explosions were heard in the direction of the town’s airport, on the northwest edge of the city, an area frequently contested by Ukrainian forces and rebels. Black smoke rose from the direction of Yakovlivka, a northern suburb of Donetsk.

Russia launched artillery attacks from its soil in Ukraine on Friday, while the United States said it has seen powerful rocket systems moving closer to the Ukraine border.



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Dutch and Australian investigators along with members of the OSCE mission in Ukraine examine pieces of the crashed Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in the village of Petropavlivka in eastern Ukraine on Friday.



NICHOLAS GARRIGA/AP

Jerzy Dyczynski and Angela Rudhart-Dyczynski whose daughter, 25-year-old Fatima, was a passenger on Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, sit on part of the wreckage of the crashed aircraft in Hrabove, Ukraine, on Saturday.

Parents of Australian victim visit crash site

The Associated Press

HRABOVE, Ukraine — The parents of a woman who died on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 travelled from Perth, Australia, to honor their daughter at the crash site in eastern Ukraine.

Rudhart-Dyczynski and Angela Jerzy Dyczynski, parents of 25-year-old Fatima, crossed territory held by pro-Russian rebels to reach the wreckage-strewn farm fields outside the village of Hrabove.

They last spoke to Fatima shortly before she boarded the flight for Kuala Lumpur in Amsterdam on July 17.

Rudhart-Dyczynski said, “We have promised our daughter we will come here.”

Her husband added that his daughter “was for peace. She will be forever for peace.”

U.S. and Ukrainian officials say the plane was shot down by a missile from rebel territory, likely by mistake. Two-hundred ninety eight people died.

Also Saturday, two cargo planes have flown 38 more coffins carrying victims of the Malaysia

Airlines disaster out of eastern Ukraine to a forensic center in the Netherlands for identification and investigation.

The planes took off from Kharkiv, a government-controlled city where the bodies have been brought from the crash site in territory held by pro-Russian separatists fighting the Ukrainian government. U.S. and Ukrainian officials say the plane was shot down by a missile from rebel territory, likely by mistake.

Officials said the flights took the last of the victims that have been brought to Kharkiv. International observers have said there are still remains at the crash site. Access has been limited due to rebel interference and security concerns.

‘(Fatima) was for peace. She will be forever for peace.’

Jerzy Dyczynski
father of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 crash victim

Russia decries EU sanctions, says they weaken anti-terrorism efforts

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia lashed out Saturday at the latest round of Ukraine-related sanctions imposed by the European Union, saying they endanger the fight against international terrorism, and accused the United States of spreading flagrant lies about Russia’s alleged involvement in the downing of a Malaysian airliner over Ukraine.

The EU sanctions, announced on Friday, impose travel bans and asset freezes on 15 people, including the head of Russia’s Federal Security Service and the head of the agency’s department overseeing international operations and intelligence. Four members of Russia’s national security council are also on the list.

A Foreign Ministry statement denounced the sanctions, say-

ing they show the EU is taking “a complete turn away from joint work with Russia on international and regional security, including the fight against the spread of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism (and) organized crime.”

“We are sure the decisions will be greeted enthusiastically by international terrorists,” the ministry said.

In a separate statement, the ministry said the United States is

conducting “an unrelenting campaign of slander against Russia, ever more relying on open lies.”

The ministry took particular issue with comments Friday by White House spokesman Josh Earnest, in which he said Washington regards Moscow as involved in the shooting down of the airline that killed 298 people because it allegedly has supplied missile systems to the rebels and trained them on how to use them.

The ministry complained that these contentions have not been backed up with public evidence and it sneered at Earnest for saying the allegations are backed up by claims on social media. “In other words, the Washington regime is basing its contentions on anti-Russian speculation gathered from the Internet that does not correspond to reality,” it said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Couple marry in city's largest cemetery

NE OMAHA — A Nebraska couple chose an unusual venue for their wedding, the largest cemetery in Omaha. Janyl Jumadinova and Oliver Bonham-Carter exchanged vows Saturday in Forest Lawn Cemetery. They were surrounded by family, friends and more than 100,000 souls buried in the 349-acre cemetery.

The bride, who is from Kyrgyzstan, said her culture holds a firm belief in spirits. Some of the groom's ancestors are buried in the cemetery, reported the Omaha World-Herald.

"It's not at all creepy," Bonham-Carter said. "We have thousands of witnesses — both alive and dead!"

The couple married earlier this year in a small ceremony in Pennsylvania, but they wanted to hold another so friends and family could bear witness. Relatives of the couple traveled over 6,000 miles from three different continents to attend.

Amazon worker piloted drone around landmark

WA SEATTLE — Police say an out-of-town Amazon employee was the operator behind a drone that buzzed the Seattle Space Needle this week.

Witnesses told police they saw the craft fly back into a fifth-floor room in a nearby hotel. Police contacted the man who admitted operating the drone equipped with a camera Tuesday. He told authorities he wanted to try out the recently purchased craft.

Police had received reports the drone had crashed into the landmark of Seattle's 1962 World's Fair but they saw no evidence of that.

The man agreed not to fly his drone in public while in town.

Police: Woman calls to report tainted meth

OK ENID — A 54-year-old Oklahoma woman is facing felony drug charges after police said she called them because she thought her methamphetamine was laced with something.

Lynette Rae Sampson, of Enid, was arraigned Thursday on a felony count of possession of methamphetamine and a misdemeanor count of unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia. Sampson is being held in lieu of \$5,000 bail and was ordered to return to court Aug. 25 for a bail appearance.

The affidavit says Sampson called police earlier this week. When an officer arrived, police say Sampson told the officer "I'm glad you came." Police say she told the officer she thought her meth was laced with something and proceeded to show the officer the container where she kept it.

Kansas City Zoo's oldest lion euthanized

MO KANSAS CITY — The Kansas City Zoo's oldest lion has been euthanized after veterinary staffers were unable to treat him successfully for numerous health issues.

THE CENSUS

\$1.5M

The sale price of the village of Aladdin, Wyo. The buyer will get 30 acres and 15 buildings in northeastern Wyoming, including a 118-year-old general store that's still operating. Aladdin is between Devils Tower National Monument, Wyo., and Belle Fourche, S.D. It draws crowds every August during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. About 15 people live there.



Bringing character to life

A woman dressed as the character Katniss Everdeen from the movie "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" stands in front of Comic-Con Thursday in San Diego. Thousands of fans flocked to the sold-out pop-culture spectacular Thursday, many clad in costumes.

Zoo's oldest lion has been euthanized after veterinary staffers were unable to treat him successfully for numerous health issues.

The lion, named Dumisani, was 18 years old and had lived at the zoo nearly his entire life after arriving in 1997 from Indianapolis. Dumisani's parents were from the wild, making his genes desirable for breeding. The zoo brought in two females from Africa in 1998 to diversify the gene pool, but the lions had feline immunodeficiency virus and were not suitable for breeding.

Officials allowed one litter to be produced before the females underwent a contraceptive procedure, but one of them became pregnant anyway.

Dumisani sired seven cubs in the two litters, creating one of the largest prides among African zoos.

Man accused of bar hopping on mower

CO GREELEY — A Weld County man accused of bar hopping in Garden City on a lawnmower is facing a DUI charge.

Kenneth Welton, 53, was arrested about 10 p.m. Tuesday after visiting two bars. A deputy said the man had bloodshot and watery eyes, an odor of alcohol on

his breath, difficulty with motor skills, slurred speech and was unable to stand without support. Welton refused both roadside sobriety testing and blood or breath tests.

An arrest affidavit says he is a habitual traffic offender and has a revoked driver's license.

Man convicted of biting roommate's thumb

MA PITTSFIELD — A Pittsfield man has been convicted of nearly completely biting off his roommate's thumb during a fight over bathroom use.

Michael Mensah, 57, was convicted Thursday of assault and battery causing serious bodily injury. He faced sentencing Friday. He was acquitted of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Police said that when they responded to their apartment on Feb. 11, Stephen Quam came to the door with the top of his thumb hanging by a tendon.

Quam, 61, testified that it could not be reattached and doctors removed it. He showed his disfigured thumb to the jury.

The fight started when both men wanted to use the bathroom at the same time.

Mensah's attorney said Quam was the aggressor and his client acted in self-defense.

Woman bites would-be purse-snatcher

FL CAPE CORAL — Police say a southwest Florida purse-snatcher got more than she bargained for when she was bitten by her intended victim.

A woman told police she was putting groceries into her car on Thursday when a woman asked her for a dollar. The victim said she went back into the grocery store with the woman and offered to buy her a bottle of water from the vending machine.

The News-Press of Fort Myers reported the younger woman tried to grab the victim's purse, but a struggle ensued and the pair fell to the floor. That's when the victim bit her attacker.

Police said the would-be thief ran to a waiting truck and fled.

Report: Man stole booze from store twice

AZ TUCSON — An Arizona man is facing charges after authorities say he stole booze twice in one afternoon from the same convenience store.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department said Nathaniel Francisco, 39, was arrested Wednesday in connection with the two suspected July 16 shoplifting heists.

In the first case, deputies said Francisco walked behind the counter of a Tucson Circle K and took a bottle of alcohol. Officials said he then returned four hours later to the same store and left with beer.

He faces one count each of shoplifting, criminal damage, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

2 teens sentenced in eggng of officer

MA LYNN — Two Swampscott teenagers charged with throwing eggs at an undercover Lynn police officer posing as a prostitute have admitted to sufficient facts for a guilty finding on an assault and battery charge.

Jacob Finlay and Spencer Webber, both 19, were sentenced Thursday to a year of probation. The charges will be dismissed if they successfully complete probation.

A third teen involved is scheduled in court on Aug. 26.

Prosecutors say in June 2013 the teens were in a car that made several passes, yelling and throwing things at the officer. On the fourth pass, the officer was hit in the leg with an egg. The car was pulled over on a fifth pass.

From wire reports

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

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OPINION

Sen. Walsh plagiarized my work

By SEAN M. LYNN-JONES

On Wednesday afternoon, a flurry of phone calls and emails informed me that Sen. John Walsh, D-Mont., had apparently included — verbatim and without attribution — several pages of a 1998 paper of mine in a work he submitted to the U.S. Army War College. Walsh's paper, which also failed to properly reference the work of others, was one of the requirements for the master's degree he received from the War College in 2007.

I was peppered with questions: How did I feel about what Sen. Walsh had done? Was I furious? Had he reached out to me? Was I going to demand an apology?

Honestly, I'm not outraged. Although I don't condone plagiarism, I was surprised and mildly flattered that Sen. Walsh had decided to incorporate so much of my paper into his, albeit without citing me. Even in 2007, my paper, "Why the United States Should Spread Democracy," was out of date. I wrote it in 1998, when the Clinton administration was embracing the strategy of spreading democracy.

By 2007, U.S. interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan had, to put it mildly, given democracy promotion a bad name.

The paper needed significant revisions to address what had happened in those two countries, respond to criticisms and cite the most recent literature. Nevertheless, it remained online and was often the most viewed publication on the website of Harvard's Belfer Center. Ironically, Walsh's appropriation, without citation, of sections of



U.S. Sen. John Walsh's master's thesis for the U.S. Army War College is the subject of scrutiny.

my paper ensures that it will enjoy a much wider readership than if he had properly footnoted it in his student work.

I also confess to some political ambivalence. As a loyal Democrat, I still harbor hopes that there will be a Democratic majority in the Senate after the November 2014 elections. The revelations about Walsh's paper make that outcome a little less likely. A Harvard colleague emailed to say that he could see the post-election headline already: "Democrats lose the

Senate, Fail to Attribute Research Sources Properly." Perhaps Sen. Walsh will ride out the storm, just as Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., and Vice President Joe Biden did. He probably shouldn't count on any campaign contributions from me.

Still, plagiarism is fundamentally wrong. Scholars' careers largely depend on receiving credit for their research and publications. Tenure and promotion decisions may hinge on how often a professor's books or articles are cited. So academics are understandably sensitive to the possibility that someone else will claim credit for their research. Students who plagiarize in their research papers may not damage the careers of the scholars they plagiarize, but they are cheating and should be held accountable.

As the editor of an academic quarterly, I have had to deal with several cases of potential plagiarism in papers that have been submitted for publication. Sometimes charges of plagiarism have turned out to be unwarranted; a careful investigation should follow any accusation. When the evidence of plagiarism is clear, the usual response has been rejection of the manuscript and a clear warning to the author. In some cases, I have informed the author's institution. The U.S. Army War College apparently has rules and procedures regarding plagiarism. I trust that the War College will review Senator Walsh's submitted work and apply its policies accordingly.

Lynn-Jones is editor of the quarterly journal International Security and a research associate at the Belfer Center at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. This piece first appeared in The Washington Post.

Texas border deployment is waste of money

By JOSE MIGUEL LEYVA

Texas Gov. Rick Perry's decision to put 1,000 National Guard troops on the border with Mexico is a ridiculous and costly stunt.

Perry said the troops are meant to help with the general lack of manpower available to deal with the influx of refugee children from Central America.

Perry also hopes the presence of troops will somehow act as a deterrent for more hardened criminals whom he fears are taking advantage of the overstretched border personnel.

But Perry says the troops won't be there to arrest or detain anyone. They will just be weapon-wielding scarecrows.

This stunt may cost Texas residents \$12 million. Perry hopes the federal government will pay the state back. As Texas State Attorney General Greg Abbott proclaimed, "Texans are willing to put boots on the ground, but we expect Washington to foot the bill."

Considering that President Barack Obama refused to activate troops on his recent visit to Texas, preferring to seek a comprehensive plan to deal with the immigrant influx, this seems like a particularly out-of-touch fantasy.

Perry's current plan is to pull these funds from the "non-critical" areas of the budget, like health care and transportation. But these issues are critical. The American Society for Civil Engineering



JASON FOCHTMAN, CONROE COURIER/AP

Protesters line an overpass in Conroe, Texas, to speak out against people who immigrate illegally. Texas Gov. Rick Perry ordered 1,000 National Guard troops to the border with Mexico to help deal with an influx of refugee children from Central America.

estimated last year that nearly 40 percent of Texas roads are in "poor or mediocre condition." And Texas has the most uninsured people in the country.

Perry is trying to distract attention from his failures as governor and to jump-start an improbable presidential run.

But if he really wanted to showcase his

leadership, he'd pay attention to the health and well-being of everyone in his state — citizen and noncitizen alike.

Jose Miguel Leyva is a freelance writer and journalist based in Houston, Texas. He wrote the book Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.

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OPINION

Paid speeches could be costly for Clinton

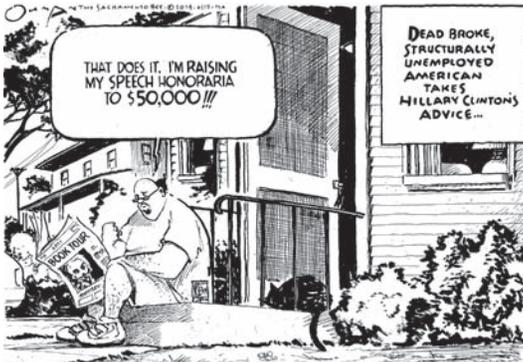
By DAN K. THOMASSON
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON These days a whole lot of money is being spent in anticipation that not only will Hillary Rodham Clinton be the 2016 Democratic presidential nominee she ultimately will win the nation's highest office.

In the process of going from "dead broke" (her words) to quite wealthy, the former first lady, senator and secretary of state has talked and written her way into an amazing number of pocket books, charging at times more than a quarter million dollars per speech. It does appear a bit extravagant if not downright unseemly for a college or university these days to pay such amazing fees to hear a speech that is unlikely to give us much new political insight.

At least it does to a growing number of students hard-pressed to pay for the constantly skyrocketing cost of higher education and facing years of debt because of the loans they needed to finance it. A number of them have launched protests and even her campus fans seem to think that this may not be a good, defensible use of difficult-to-come-by college resources, especially by state institutions that always are looking for ways to stay up with competitive demands and steadily increasing faculty costs.

Clinton's average fee is a cool \$200,000 per appearance and can run as high as \$300,000. Justifying this amount can be tricky even when the money is not coming directly from the institution's treasury but is being raised through direct donations or charges at the gate to hear her.



The Washington Post recently estimated that she has collected at least a tidy \$1.8 million from college appearances in the last 9 months. Not bad for a politician who is just contemplating another run for the presidency. Will Rogers in 1932 cut short an introduction of Franklin D. Roosevelt because he said he wasn't going to waste much time or money on a mere candidate for the White House.

This fall as the deadline approaches for a decision on her presidential plans, Clinton is scheduled to headline a fundraising gala sponsored by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Foundation. Clinton's fee for

the UNLV extravaganza is expected to be fully covered by seats at the Bellagio hotel and casino that cost \$200 each and tables of 10 that run from \$3,000 each to \$20,000. Seems kind of pricey until you remember this is Las Vegas and that the school paid her former president husband \$250,000 for a speech two years ago.

The amounts paid to her from the University of California, Los Angeles (\$300,000) and from the University of Connecticut (\$250,000) come as yearly tuition increases have driven college costs at elite schools unceasingly skyward. Many have now reached the \$60,000 annual level that

Democrats deplore: they have made affordable higher education a plank in their national policy.

Ironically, if Clinton decides to run, which at this point seems likely, the schools probably with a little effort could get her to appear on their campuses for free. Colleges always are popular sites for political rallies, especially at a time when politicians work overtime to connect with young voters.

What is the value of spending so much money for a speech that isn't expected to cut much new ground? It isn't as though Clinton is tough to see or that her positions aren't well known — just turn on your television set or your iPad or open your newspaper, if you still take one.

Bill and Hillary Clinton are now estimated to be worth more than \$100 million, a neat sum for the down-and-outers of 2000 who left the White House in somewhat of a shambles and claimed to have faced massive debt. Barnum.

P.T. Barnum's New York exhibition hall got so crowded he couldn't get any new customers in so he put a sign over the door that said "Egress." Customers eagerly went to see this new animal and found themselves outside. Perhaps colleges should consider that Clinton's fees are not only outlandish but a bit like Barnum's egress, ultimately leading to empty air.

It's going to be an issue for her, especially among those who are struggling to earn enough money to finance college and pay off the massive debt afterward. It's not a good image for Clinton or the schools.

Dan Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Workers of the world, consider curbing your ambitions

By CHRISTOPHER FLAVELLE
Bloomberg News

A group of Democrats introduced legislation last week to protect low-paid shift workers from last-minute changes in their schedules. The idea fits into an intriguing category of economic activism: not trying to lift low-paid workers out of poverty, necessarily, but just trying to make their lives a little less miserable. The dim prospects of that campaign say a lot about the current moment in U.S. politics.

The shift-worker proposal is being pushed by CLASP, an organization in Washington that focuses on policies to help those with low incomes. Its other recent campaigns include a push to provide paid sick days to more workers and to create paid family leave. (Disclosure: I have a friend who works for the group, and I think she's pretty smart.)

Three things bind those ideas together. The first is their modesty: Compared with a higher minimum wage, for example, or rules making it easier for U.S. workers to unionize, giving a new mother a few weeks of paid leave (partly funded through her own wages) isn't exactly the equivalent of storming the Bastille.

The second common thread is an appeal to employers' interests. These campaigns stress that nobody wants to be served by a waitress with bronchitis, that parents who get paid leave are less likely to quit, and that shift workers are more likely to show up if they have time to find a baby sitter.

Despite that, here's the third unifying thread: None of these ideas are likely to go anywhere anytime soon, at least feder-



SUSAN WALSH/AP

A family leave bill introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., recently was referred to the Committee on Finance, where nothing happened.

ally. (The measures have made headway in a handful of the nation's bluest cities and states.) This recent legislation for shift workers garnered zero Republican sponsors; a family leave bill introduced by Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, of New York, was referred to the Committee on Finance, where nothing happened.

The quick answer for that is, hey, this is Washington — nothing goes anywhere. But political gridlock doesn't explain the reluctance of businesses to get behind these ideas or to nudge Republicans along. As James Surowiecki noted in the New Yorker, that wasn't always the case:

"Industrial magnates played a central role in the Progressive movement, working with unions, supporting workmen's compensation laws and laws against child labor, and often pushing for more government regulation. This wasn't altruism, as a classic analysis by the historian James Weinstein showed, the reforms were intended to co-opt public pressure and avert more radical measures. Still, they materially improved the lives of ordinary workers. And they sprang from a pragmatic belief that the robustness of capitalism as a whole depended on wide distribution of the fruits of the system."

Does that dynamic — the incentive for business groups to channel the pressure of social change into acceptable directions — still hold? Surowiecki says no, arguing that growing foreign sales mean the state of America's middle class matters less to corporate profits, while the decline of socialism as an appealing ideology has drained the radicalism from populist reform movements.

The emphatically nonradical measures paid by groups such as CLASP — "treat us moderately better" — coupled with the uncertain prospects of those campaigns, suggest Surowiecki is right: Business groups, and their allies in Congress, can afford to ignore even the most modest requests to improve the plight of the least well-off.

What's unclear is how long that can remain true. Median household income in 2012 was 9 percent lower than in 1999. There are 7 million U.S. part-time workers who would like to be working full time. Companies' stingy retirement benefits are a pending disaster. And, yes, just 1 in 10 workers get paid family leave from their employers. Yet corporate profits are at their highest level in at least 85 years.

If those trends continue, the right may look back at the push for slightly more decent working conditions as a useful compromise they should have embraced, rather than fighting every request and fueling populist demands for less conciliatory remedies — higher corporate taxes, for example, or an hourly minimum wage of \$15 rather than \$10.10, effect on the economy be damned. As Jerry Muller, a professor of history at Catholic University who studies the history of capitalism, wrote last year:

"If nothing else, the enlightened self-interest of those who profit most from living in a society of capitalist dynamism should lead them to recognize that it is imprudent to resist parting with some of their market gains in order to achieve continued social and economic stability."

Businesses and other conservative groups may feel comfortable ignoring these pleas now. And as my colleague Megan McArdle points out, the best solution to these problems is a stronger job market, which can't be legislated or imposed. But that's a poor reason not to take advantage of more modest fixes in the meantime. Social and economic stability takes compromise.

Christopher Flavelle writes editorials on health care, economics and taxation for Bloomberg View.

NATION



Igor Corbe, of Los Angeles, checks out the Burritobox, a machine that cooks and sells burritos ready to order, at WeHo Super Mart in West Hollywood, Calif.

FRANCINE ORR, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

GOURMET on the go

Vending machines seek to lure upscale consumers in a hurry with sophisticated fare

By SHAN LI

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — At Hollywood and Highland Center, mere steps from Hollywood Boulevard's souvenir-hawking dives, tourists can drop up to \$1,000 on fine caviar.

But they aren't pampered with white-glove service. Tins of the delicacy are dispensed at the tap of a button — from a vending machine.

After decades of dispensing junk food, vending machines are putting on airs.

High-tech versions are popping up at gas stations and shopping malls, peddling edibles more commonly found at restaurants or specialty stores. Some offer Wi-Fi and touch screens that entertain shoppers while they wait. Many accept credit or debit cards, and a few even sell very expensive items such as jewelry.

"There is a lot of innovation happening in vending machines," said Omar Khedr, industry research analyst at IBISWorld. "It's occurring in niche markets like organic foods, propelled forward by access to new technology and convenience."

Sprinkles Cupcakes is installing its "Cupcake ATM" at all 16 bakeries around the country. L'Oreal tested a vending machine in New York during the holidays that scanned a shopper's outfit and recommended complemen-

tary makeup. San Francisco start-up Momentum Machines is making a device that cooks up customized burgers with no help from human hands.

Such vending extravagance is driven by consumers with increasingly picky tastes who still want convenience on the go. The boom in mobile and Web-based shopping also has trained customers to browse and buy with no help from salespeople or waiters.

"It's a case of technological innovation at an affordable price," said Christopher Salyers, author of "Vending Machines: Coined Consumerism." "The Internet has only proliferated this worldview of pay-and-click consumers."

Long before McDonald's, coin-operated vending machines served pies and sandwiches to armies of harried workers. But the U.S. has since fallen behind Europe and Asia, where futuristic machines offer a vast array of goods including gold bars, eggs and live beetles. In Japan, automated kiosks sell heads of lettuce after growing them under artificial lighting.

Innovations are now driving a renaissance in U.S. self-serve kiosks.

After five straight years of decline, revenue for the U.S. vending machine industry is projected to rise and hit \$7.7 billion in 2019, up nearly 7 percent from this year, according to an IBISWorld

report. Experts say 2014 marks the comeback of the sector after years squeezed by budget-conscious shoppers who opted for value over vending convenience.

Denis Koci said he spent five years developing the technology for the Burritobox, which offers warm burritos on demand. His Los Angeles company, the Box Brands, rolled out six machines this year in the South and in August will start franchising nationally in places such as colleges, Koci said.

Diners can pick between options such as hand-rolled vegan fajita burritos for \$3.65 and add sides such as guacamole and sour cream. Soon the boxes will toast the burritos and also offer warmed chips with salsa. The products are heated inside to 195 degrees before popping out.

Koci said he was inspired by the "Star Trek" television series, on which a machine called the replicator made meals on demand.

Within six months, the company plans to roll out Pizzaboxes that bake pies to 800 degrees.

"The goal is to do what they do in fast food restaurants inside a machine," Koci said.

But to succeed, companies will have to overcome doubts about the quality of vending machine fare, analysts said.

At Westfield Culver City on a recent Sunday, Mary Ye and Roland Jen took a break from shop-

ping to puzzle over the bright orange Burritobox tucked near a garage exit.

"Is it a prank or a fake?" asked Jen, 27. "I've just never seen anything that gives a meal out of a box."

The pair said they couldn't fathom how a vending machine could serve hot food that was also safe, a belief echoed by many others who checked out the kiosk that afternoon.

"Why eat here when there's a food court upstairs?" Ye wondered.

But Candice White, 36, is a fan.

The Los Angeles sales clerk said she gets only a few minutes of break and doesn't like wasting it standing in line for a hot snack. She's eaten burritos twice out of the vending machine and appreciates the speed and price.

"It was warm, it was fast and it was really good," she said.

Some see machines as a way to turn their stores into 24-hour operations.

Sprinkles Cupcakes in Beverly Hills plans to install its Cupcake ATM at all of its bakeries within a year up from the six currently in operation, said Nicole Schwartz, vice president of marketing.

Each ATM holds up to 760 cupcakes; some machines can sell four at a time from a range of flavors, including one for dogs.

One kiosk sells an average of 1,000 cupcakes a day — up to 50 percent of total daily sales at each bakery.

Kelly Stern, founder of Beverly Hills Caviar, sees the self-serve machines as a way to avoid the headache and expense of human labor. She found managing a retail store a nightmare. Workers were unreliable without constant oversight, she said.

After closing her Beverly Hills store in 2010, Stern began looking into vending machines. Her company typically sells to grocery stores and restaurants but wanted direct access to customers, too.

Stern installed her first "automated boutique" during the holidays in 2012. Now the machines are in three shopping centers, including Westfield Century City and Westfield Topanga.

The machines now pull in 10 percent of the company's total sales. The boutiques send emails when supplies are low and can also be remotely operated via smartphone to help shoppers who run into problems.

"If we can minimize the humans in our company, then we prefer that," Stern said. "When you have physical employees, you don't have a life. Ask any restaurant or supermarket business."

‘It was warm, it was fast, it was really good.’

Candice White
Burritobox fan

LIFESTYLE



A tree at the corner of Folsom and Indiana streets in Los Angeles, known as “El Pino Famoso,” was featured in a 1993 movie about gangs in the city called “Blood In Blood Out.” Fernando Trejo lives across from the tree and his fence was painted with a gang sign for the movie.

PHOTOS BY JAMN BERTSFORD, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

A tree grows in East L.A.

Conifer featured in 1993 gang film has cult following

By HECTOR BECERRA
Los Angeles Times

After traveling to Los Angeles from a small town in Hungary, Richard Hellenbort could have shadowed the Brentwood Country Mart, the Chateau Marmont or the Ivy hoping to catch a glimpse of stars such as Kobe, Brad or Angelina.

But the celebrity he was looking for was a tall, dark and scruffy one named *Araucaria bidwillii*, whose last (and only) role was more than 20 years ago in “Blood In Blood Out,” a cult movie about gangs and family and betrayal on the Eastside. Luckily, this star never gets around town. Hellenbort found the Australian conifer where it always is: up the hill from a carnitas shop in East Los Angeles.

Taking a video selfie in front of the tree, Hellenbort spread the fingers of his left hand into the sign of a gang that ex-

ists only in the film and, doing his best East L.A. accent, intoned: “Vatos Locos forever.”

Hellenbort, 34, said that on his list of places to see, the tree was up there with N.W.A. rapper Eazy-E’s grave in Rose Hills.

“I know some people dream about visiting the Eiffel Tower or the big wall in China. But that was my dream,” he said of visiting the towering tree — which, perhaps fittingly, has needles like little switchblades.

Plenty of places in Los Angeles have gotten their close-ups with the camera over the years, including the Griffith Observatory in “Rebel Without a Cause,” City Hall in “Dragnet,” the Silver Lake stairs where Laurel and Hardy tried to deliver a piano in “Music Box” and the solitary Bunker Hill bench in “(500) Days of Summer.”

But the strangest slice of celebrity might belong to “El Pino Famoso.” In a

case of Hollywood fiction becoming reality, an anonymous tree in an unremarkable neighborhood of stucco homes is cast as a landmark — and becomes one.

The tree doesn’t appear on any tour bus routes or maps of Hollywood stars’ homes. But neighbors say people of all races have made pilgrimages from as far away as China and as close as Boyle Heights.

“They come over here and chill, looking at the tree,” said Daniel Gomez, 18, a gang member who grew up in the neighborhood. “It’s nothing new to me. It’s just a tree. The pino. The famous pino.”

The vaguely peacock feather-shaped tree was portrayed in director Taylor Hackford’s “Blood In Blood Out” as a touchstone to the characters, a place that cousins Miklo, Paco and Cruz — who became a prison gang



Amalia Vargas, 65, current resident of the home where the Australian conifer sits, shows off seeds from the tree that she gives to fans who visit.

boss, an artist and a cop, respectively — kept returning to. In perhaps the best-known scene starring the tree, Miklo stares at it longingly and says, “That tree is East Los to me. It’s good to be home.”

TRAVEL



PHOTOS BY CHARLES FLEMING, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Left: Chris Day churns up dust on Alaska's Denali Highway. He and seven friends recently took an 865-mile ride around the state.

Above: Rod Perth rides past the thundering Bridal Veil Falls, on the Richardson Highway, north of Valdez, Alaska.

Moose, McKinley, motorcycles: A scenic tour of the 49th state

BY CHARLES FLEMING
Los Angeles Times

Our quest was emblazoned on the T-shirts we were given before we left for Alaska: "8 men, 4 highways, 5 days, 865 miles." On motorcycles.

We were a mixed group of Sunday motorcycle-riding friends. Roger and Rod, both 71, had been pals since high school, and Roger had brought his son, Josh, 31. Chris and Jonnie, both 48, and Steve and John, 53 and 51, respectively, had ridden together for years. All were veteran riders.

We set out from Anchorage under a leaden early June sky, an uneven line of seven rented BMWs and one rented Triumph.

The weather report had told us to expect 45 degrees and cloudy skies, with some rain. We were dressed for it in helmets, boots, gloves and waterproof riding suits, our saddlebags and tank bags filled with cold- and wet-weather clothing.

But the sun was out before we left the city limits, headed northeast on Alaska 1 along the Knik River. We planned to spend the night in Talkeetna before moving on to towns to the north and east, following a route developed by team leader Steve, based on intel from motorcycle friends and Alaska locals.

Our lunch destination was Palmer, 45 miles away. By the

time we got there, we had seen a bald eagle, our first moose, our first glimpses of Mount McKinley — aka Denali — and a high-speed chase that left a pickup truck in a ditch, its occupants fleeing on foot and state troopers in hot pursuit.

We recovered from the roadside drama at the Valley Inn's Open Cafe in Palmer before heading west through Wasilla, home of Sarah Palin, on the South Parks Highway.

Because of Alaska's vast size, I had expected Texas, with snow and immense stretches of empty highway, interrupted periodically by scenic vistas. I soon saw I was wrong. It's all scenic vistas — sudden peaks appearing through the clouds, broad green valleys split by milky, glacial rivers — sort of Yosemite on steroids.

Our first-day destination was Talkeetna, reputedly the town that served as the model for the 1990s cult TV favorite "Northern Exposure."

The ride took us across the Matanuska Valley, through broad pastures stitched with glacier-fed creeks and streams. In the distance, ever closer, were the mountains of the Alaska Range, a jagged, snow-tipped line of towering peaks, among them the 20,237-foot Mount McKinley. (Locals in need of a weather report, rather than ask if the day is cloudy or sunny, simply ask, "Is the mountain out?")

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

TRAVEL



Fishing boats, reflected in the water, glow in the soft evening light at Valdez Harbor.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES FLEMING, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT



Because of Alaska's vast size, I had expected Texas, with snow and immense stretches of empty highway, interrupted periodically by scenic vistas. I soon saw I was wrong. It's all scenic vistas — sudden peaks appearing through the clouds, broad green valleys split by milky, glacial rivers — sort of Yosemite on steroids.

Charles Fleming



The Seaview Cafe in Hope, Alaska, greets visitors on the Cook Inlet.

FROM PAGE 16

We spent the night at the tiny Swiss-Alaska Inn, struggling to sleep after a fresh salmon dinner at the Wildflower Cafe on Talkeetna's quaint main street. Even in early June, days are endless. Sunset was pegged at 11:30 p.m.

The next day, we began the journey's serious riding north from Talkeetna to the Denali Highway. This was the adventure we'd come for — 110 miles of unpaved road, open only a few months of the year, empty but for the occasional logging truck or camper van. Behind and ahead of us were icy peaks, their snowmelt feeding the Susitna River, which we paralleled for an hour before crossing it on a long, wood-plank bridge.

At day's end, we rolled into the Tangle River Inn, a homey set of low buildings on a barren landscape, one of the Denali Highway's few way stations, where we'd booked cabins for the night. It was hard to shake the sensation that we were at the end of the road, on the top of the world. There had been 25 feet of snow on the ground only weeks before, and the Tangle River was still dotted with chunks of ice.



Motorcyclists stop at the Tangle River Inn on Alaska's Denali Highway.

The Denali Highway dawn came early; the sun had been up hours before we met for a 7:30 a.m. breakfast. Fed and fueled, and after a short hike along a local lake, we returned to the scenic roadway.

It was slow going. Every photo op became a video shoot. Every gas station stop turned into a sightseeing event. Two men would start fueling, two would go into the gas station store, one would hit the restroom and one would visit the gift shop. Then he would emerge, saying, "They're selling a petrified walrus penis for \$63.50," and half an hour would be lost as everyone rushed to take a look.

Our destination was Valdez, the port town after which the doomed Exxon oil tanker was named. For much of the afternoon, we

skirted shiny white lengths of the Alaska oil pipeline as it threaded its way out of the mountains to the coast.

We had more wildlife sightings — not the grizzlies and brown bears we had worried about, but moose and caribou. Our feelings about them were mixed: lovely to look at but deadly for a motorcyclist to encounter at 60 mph. In the Matanuska Valley, we saw a sign saying, "Moose Crash Area," and telling us that 257 of the big animals had been killed by cars in the last year.

The road to Valdez took us through Thompson Pass, a high promontory between deep, icy canyons still being carved by active glaciers. We rode through the clouds, stopping to take photographs of our motorcycles against the snowy peaks.

It was 40 degrees but felt colder at high speeds. I was glad I'd prepared for this, dressed in a long-sleeve shirt outfitted with battery-powered heat coils, made by the cleverly named Mobile Warming, and a waterproof jacket and pants.

We left Valdez in a light rain, stopping to take photographs and videos at Bridal Veil Falls and Horsetail Falls. We topped Thompson Pass again and turned west at Glennallen onto the Glenn Highway.

We had saved some of the most scenic riding for last. The road back toward Wasilla cuts through mountains that stand like jagged sentries, overlooking glaciers 10 miles wide and 50 miles long.

We lunched on Glacier burgers and berry crisps at the Long Rifle Lodge, among stuffed bear, moose and bison, and stayed the night at the cozy Sheep Mountain Lodge, in clean, well-appointed cabins set on a grassy hillside with views of the Chugach Mountains.

It was our last night in Alaska, a time for reflection. We agreed that Alaska was the best motorcycle trip ever, and that we had to come back soon. But we also had to ride New Zealand, Thailand and Patagonia. And Baja.

For some, the highlight of our Alaskan adventure had been the flightseeing trip to the glacier at McKinley. For others, it was the river raft trip near Sheep Mountain. For me, it was the riding. After five days, I wanted more.

The next day, after more moose and eagle sightings, we parted in Anchorage. The other men had afternoon flights. I'd booked the red-eye. I spent the remaining hours riding south through a rainstorm along Cook Inlet. That evening, I ate seafood chowder at the Seaview Cafe, in the tiny town of Hope, missing the guys, but happy to be riding, warm and dry despite the weather, the amazing Alaskan road.

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CROSSWORD AND COMICS

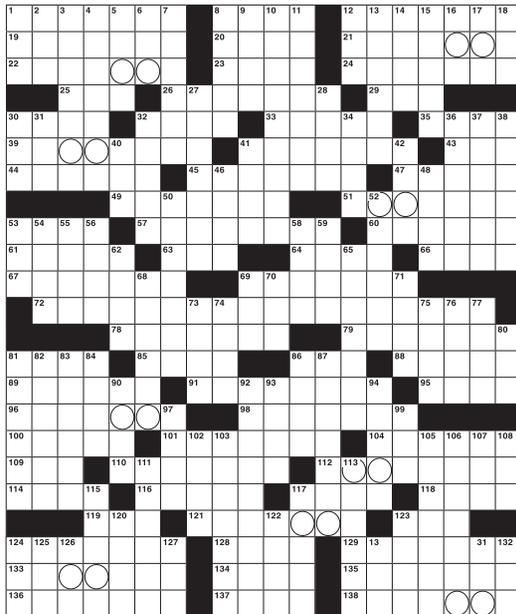
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

MOVING PARTS

BY ERIC BERLIN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

The answer to each starred clue must have two consecutive letters removed before it is written into the grid. These letters will move to a pair of circles elsewhere in the puzzle. In all cases, new words will be formed.) The nine letter pairs, when properly arranged, will spell an appropriate answer at 72-Across.

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Swaddles, e.g. | 67 Not just slow | DOWN | 56 701, once |
| 8 *Turn, as a wheel | 69 Theater supporters | 1 One of eight Eng. kings | 58 Bone: Prefix x |
| 12 Edible plant extract | 72 See instructions | 2 Informal turn-down | 59 Fictitious estate |
| 19 Be too fearful to | 78 Wise men | 3 Email, say | 62 Charleuse Eartha |
| 20 Former Nebraska senator James | 79 Is on the brink of | 4 Used tire | 65 State with the motto "Oro y plata" |
| 21 Burger go-with | 81 Get rid of | 5 Pay to play | 68 Half sister of Ares |
| 22 Yolk surrounder | 85 _____ menu | 6 Glad-handing sort | 69 Greedy sort |
| 23 Bit of sweat | 86 Eagle's org. | 7 Two-channel | 70 Bird: Prefix x |
| 24 Most hip | 89 *Piddlin' g | 8 *Upbraids | 71 "Undo" mark |
| 25 Low numero | 91 Locks up agai n | 9 Field team | 73 Overseas prince |
| 26 Cowboys' activity | 95 Painterish | 10 Mushroom | 74 Box office |
| 29 Cologne conjunction | 96 Plain to see | 11 Reach, eventually | 75 _____ Plus |
| 30 Slushy drink | 98 Stir up | 12 Cpl's inferior | 76 Actor Dulle a |
| 32 Kitten sounds | 100 Trickster of American Indian mythology | 14 *Great in number | 77 Latin "was to be" |
| 33 Detailed plans | 101 Close overlap of fugue voices | 15 Card combinations | 80 Underhanded |
| 35 Use a straw | 104 Attack | 16 Low number | 81 Three-ingredient treats |
| 39 Idea | 109 K.C.-to-Detroit dir. | 17 Checks at the door, say | 82 World capital where Monopoly is banned |
| 41 Hides away | 110 She rules | 18 W.W. II craft | 83 Football team |
| 43 *Words of praise | 112 Indigenous | 19 Soccer blooper | 84 Terribl e |
| 44 Thingamaj j | 114 Caroled | 20 Bother | 86 *Old West robber |
| 45 Strangl e | 116 "_____ deal?" | 28 Neither blue nor red?; Abbr. | 87 *Shaddup! |
| 47 Cartoon dog | 118 Sci-Fi's Hubbard | 31 Say sweet words | 90 "Not rough |
| 49 Italian dish that needs much stirring | 119 Appeared in print | 32 Some dresses | 92 Like the cry "Veni, vidi, vici" |
| 51 Openly defy | 121 Beast of burden | 34 Saucier's boss | 93 Abbr.: In some city names |
| 53 *Royal messenger | 123 Young seal | 36 In the mood | 94 Old West transport |
| 57 Tony-winning musical with the song "Find Your Graft" | 124 Many ski lodges | 38 Don of "The Andy Griffith Show" | 97 Shortening in recipes? |
| 60 Long March participant | 129 Formed from a mold | 40 Sticky stuff | 99 Spanish "that" |
| 61 Not _____ (none) | 133 Babble on | 41 Mex. miss | 102 Windy City paper, with "the" |
| 63 Raised transports | 134 Cathedral area | 42 41-Down's room | 103 Election-night data |
| 64 Unchanged | 135 Stay-at-home workers? | 46 Convenience-store sights | 105 One of the Windward Islands |
| 66 Classic muscle cars | 136 Tot-watched | 48 Slow, hard progress | 106 Facility for small planes |
| | 137 Fevish state | 50 Stepped in for | 107 Nobel-winning writer Andri c |
| | 138 Asparagus unit | 52 French fine | |
| | 53 Witch | 54 Witch | |
| | 55 Mideast currency | 54 "_____ Enchanted" | |



- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 108 N.F.L. Hall-of-Famer Dawson | 113 Large-scale evacuation | 122 Sitarist Shankar | 127 Collection |
| 111 Former transportation secretary Norman | 115 *Newton subject | 123 Nickname for José | 130 Prankster |
| | 117 Choice cut | 124 P.D. alert | 131 Bishop's domain game co. |
| | 120 Latin "you love" | 125 Brother's title | 132 Classic fantasy |

GUNSTON STREET



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

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

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GADGETS & CHARTS

Comic-Con-only toys a dream for designers

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

When it comes to designing the highly coveted collectible toys for sale at Comic-Con, the annual celebration of pop culture that kicked off Thursday in San Diego, the sky's the limit for the designers at Mattel.

Inside the colorful design center in Los Angeles, the designers have spent the past year working on 10 limited-edition toys created especially for the Comic-Con crowd, including a replica of the Batmobile from the game "Batman: Arkham Knight" and a 9-inch-tall action figure of Superman killer Doomsday.

"It's one of the coolest things we do," said Doug Wadleigh, Mattel's senior vice president of global brand marketing for boys and entertainment. "We don't have to worry about retail. We don't have to worry about margins. We don't have to worry about operational efficiencies. We only have to worry about creating the coolest toys for our fans. Period."

Because the toys aren't intended to be sold in stores, only in small quantities on the Comic-Con show floor and on Mattel's collectors' site, Mattel designers are encouraged to employ premium materials and create over-the-top packaging. Mattel's exclusives this year run between \$20 and \$85, but the elite toys can fetch much more when they're put up for auction.

The crown jewel for Wadleigh and his team this year is a Darth Vader die-cast car, the first official collaboration from Hot Wheels and the "Star Wars" franchise. The car — imagine if a Chevrolet Corvette C5 and the villainous Sith lord's helmet had a baby — comes

in a sleek black box and encased in a replica of Vader's light saber, complete with a swooshing sound effect.

"We've been trying to partner with Lucasfilm and Disney on this property for a long time," said Wadleigh. "It took us time to get them to understand how Hot Wheels and 'Star Wars' could be married together to create a unique opportunity within the vehicle space. It blows me away to finally see it come to life in such a beautiful form. It's gorgeous."

Wadleigh isn't exaggerating about the toy car coming to life. A full-size working replica of the Vadermobile will be on display at Mattel's booth at the massive San Diego Convention Center. The vehicle is capable of going up to 80 miles per hour, and the dashboard inside will resemble the interior of Darth Vader's helmet. Yes, it will emit his breathing sounds, too.

Comic-Con will be the first place that fans can see the initial lineup of "Star Wars" Hot Wheels. The first set is modeled after such classic characters as Han Solo, Yoda, R2-D2 and Chewbacca. If sketches on display inside the Mattel design center are any indication, rides based on Princess Leia, Jabba the Hutt and the new "Star Wars Rebels" characters are being tinkered on.

Several other toy makers and publishers are also pushing collectible toys and books at the convention. Hasbro's lineup this year includes a set of Marvel superhero figures that comes with a wearable foam Infinity Gauntlet, a box of Transformers figures depicting the "bots as rock stars and a giant foam replica ax from "Magic: The Gathering."



MATTEL, Inc./AP

The Hot Wheels life-sized Darth Vader car, only at Comic-Con.

GADGET WATCH



The Kingston MobileLite Wireless G2 operates as a bridge to transfer digital files from a smartphone tablet.

MCT photos

Wireless device transfers, charges, uploads

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

My favorite electronic gadgets are multifunctional. A perfect example: the updated Kingston MobileLite Wireless G2.

The cargo pocket-sized device (5 x 3.1 x 0.8 inches, 6 ounces) has a built-in USB port and a SD memory card slot that can be used to stream video, images and documents from your devices. It can also act as a bridge to transfer any of the digital files from a smartphone or tablet onto SD/SDHC/SDXC, and microSD (with included adapter) memory cards or USB flash drives (all sold separately). The USB port also allows 3G dongle support for Wi-Fi bridging, enabling direct uploads to social media without needing a computer.

A built-in Ethernet connection lets it work as a wireless Internet router or a shared network (NAS) drive. The built-in battery (4640 mAh) is good to give your portable device a few charges. Tablet and smartphone users get access to extend the onboard device storage and even stream and share content with other users.

While this might seem like a complicated device, the setup is incredibly simple. Download the free MobileLite app, make your wireless connection and you're ready to roll. A great example of how it can work: If you're on a summer vacation, take the memory card out of your camera and browse your digital photos on your smartphone or tablet. If your iTunes library exceeds the storage on your device, no problem. Just store it on a flash drive that has the necessary memory, and then play your content using the MobileLite G2 as a bridge.

Online: kingston.com; \$55.25

The Transporter Sync is another innovative portable device, great for undertaking multiple tasks. Along with an external hard drive (not included), you can turn the hard drive into a personal, cloud-based storage. This allows you to access any stored digital files on the cloud from

a smartphone or tablet, including documents, music files and movies. Like many other clouds, this one is not used for storage; instead it's a network to connect a smartphone or tablet to your hard drive, since there is no hardware to directly connect the two. There's a little setup along with downloading a free app for iPhone or Android systems.

Online: FileTransporter.com; \$99

The Bem wireless Bluetooth speaker is built into a wristband that you wear like a watch with one feature: the speaker.

The Bluetooth functions for pairing are simple. The only other controls you need are from the multi-function button built into the side of the speaker. This can be used to choose your tunes, play, pause and answer calls. The band also has spoken caller ID and a blue LED light to confirm a Bluetooth connection. It's charged with a microUSB connection, and you'll get about six hours of talk time.

Online: bemwireless.com; \$49.99 available in black, blue, gray, green, red or white

The Nio Tag from Bluenio is heaven-sent for the forgetful or distracted among us. It measures just 1.77 x 0.87 x 0.39 inches, and after you charge it, it won't need another charge for four months. Just pair it with your smartphone and download the free Nio app for iOS or Android devices. Attach the hardware to whatever you want to keep track of, and your phone will alert you when it gets more than 165 feet away. A really neat hot/cold indicator tells if you are closer or farther away from your last item. In my case, attaching it to my keys will save me endless trips running back in to a restaurant to retrieve them. It can even be attached to a toddler when you're in a crowded environment. There are many settings or alarms you can customize depending on how you use the Nio Tag.

Online: bluenio.com, \$49.95

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for July 23:

1. "Burnin' It Down," Jason Aldean
2. "Rude," MAGIC!
3. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
4. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
5. "Maps," Maroon 5
6. "Dirt," Florida Georgia Line
7. "Dirt" (featuring Iggy Azalea), Ariana Grande
8. "Boom Clap," Charli XCX
9. "Shower," Becky G
10. "American Kids," Kenny Chesney

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from July 14-20:

1. "Rude," MAGIC!
2. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
3. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
4. "Problem" (featuring Iggy Azalea), Ariana Grande
5. "Latah," Disclosure
6. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
7. "Summer," Calvin Harris
8. "Maps," Maroon 5
9. "Chandelier," Sia
10. "Break Free," Ariana Grande

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 23:

1. "Divergent"
2. "Heaven Is for Real"
3. "Snowpiercer"
4. "Transcendence"
5. "The Other Woman"
6. "Rio 2"
7. "Sabotage"
8. "The LEGO Movie"
9. "Tyler Perry's the Single Moms Club"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 handheld games for July:

1. "Shovel Knight," 3DS
2. "Child of Light," Vita
3. "Kirby: Triple Deluxe," 3DS
4. "Mario Golf: World Tour," 3DS
5. "1001 Spikes," Vita
6. "Ratchet & Clank Collection," Vita
7. "The Sly Collection," Vita
8. "Borderlands 2," Vita
9. "Tomodachi Life," 3DS
10. "God of War Collection," Vita

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for July 23:

- ANDROID
1. Dino Hunter: Deadly Shores
 2. Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
 3. Chuck E.'s Skate Universe
 4. Bango: World Games
 5. White Tiles 4

Top 5 free apps for July 23:

- APPLE
1. Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
 2. Jenga
 3. Facebook Messenger
 4. Timberman
 5. Free Music Download and Player for SoundCloud

— Compiled by MCT

LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY MEL MELCON/Los Angeles Times

The first selfie was a ‘Lester’

Cameraman claims he started the trend of photographing oneself with celebrities

By DANIEL MILLER
Los Angeles Times

In the photographs, Lester Wisbrod is a constant: He always appears on the right, with a big smile and a satisfied look. On the left, a cavalcade of famous faces flashes by: Clint Eastwood, Jennifer Aniston, Charlton Heston, Renee Zellweger.

For more than two decades, the longtime Hollywood cameraman snapped photographs of himself and celebrities he'd meet on television sets. Wisbrod has about 150 shots, most taken in the days before digital cameras, never mind mobile phones with front-facing lenses.

Ellen DeGeneres' famous photo of herself with several actors at the Oscars — which was actually snapped by Bradley Cooper — became the quintessential selfie in an Instagram world of cellphone auteurs, self-obsessed teens and celebrity culture. But Wisbrod insists he invented the celebrity selfie. And now he wants his due.

"Generally I am not that ostentatious," said Wisbrod, 67 and semi-retired. "It just seems like it is bad form to be bragging. But what the hell!"

Wisbrod began taking the photos in 1981, shortly after the in-

roduction of Canon's Sure Shot 35-millimeter camera, one of the first autofocus models to hit the market. It would allow him to take a self-portrait that he could count on being in focus.

Still, his first Sure Shot selfie — with humorist Art Buchwald — came out blurry. But Wisbrod quickly got the hang of it, and termed the images "silly shots," though his friends would eventually call them "Lesters."

The photographs capture Hollywood in all of its mystifying allure. For every enduring star there's a has-been, and plenty of former cultural touchstones who long ago faded to obscurity. Viewing the images now makes Wisbrod wistful, and even a little bashful over having aged.

"I guess I was better-looking then than I thought I was," he deadpanned.

Wisbrod said he never harbored dreams of working in Hollywood, or cultivated a childhood interest in movie stars. He was raised in Oakland, Calif., in a working-class family and joined the Air Force after high school. He served in Vietnam, working in radar operations.

In 1968, Wisbrod enrolled at Nevada Southern University (now UNLV) and, needing work, found a job listing posted by a local tele-

vision station that was looking for a cameraman. The gig paid \$2 an hour.

He was soon hired and began work on the local broadcast of the children's show "Romper Room."

"I fell in love with it," Wisbrod said. "I could not believe my good fortune — it was glamorous, and it was fun."

He would later work at other Las Vegas television stations over the course of a decade. In 1979, Wisbrod moved to Los Angeles. A few years later, once he'd gotten a toehold in Hollywood, Wisbrod — who worked on sets including "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" and "A Current Affair" — began taking selfies.

With time, Wisbrod developed a routine. First he'd chat with his subjects — many of whom he'd already been working with on assignment as a cameraman — before asking for a photo.

"That warms them up," he said, adding that celebrities nearly always obliged — and happily. Wisbrod was turned down only once.

He said "M'A'S'H" actress Loretta Swit told him he could have a photo only if someone else shot it. "I awkwardly withdrew," he said.

Many of the women in the images have their cheeks pressed up closely to Wisbrod. Several of



Top: Lester Wisbrod holds up photographs of himself taken with celebrities, including President Ronald Reagan and Clint Eastwood. Left: Wisbrod appears in a photo with actor Antonio Banderas at his Hollywood home.

the men have their arms draped around him. Wisbrod believes that the physical act of holding his trusty Sure Shot with an outstretched arm — which required he and his subject to gather closely — disarmed the seemingly untouchable actors.

"It just puts people in a whole different mood," he said.

Steve Domier, who worked with Wisbrod on television shoots in the 1980s and 1990s, said his colleague's approach was "novel."

"When you want a picture, you ask someone. Not Lester, because he is a cameraman," said Domier, vice president of distribution marketing for the CW Television Network. "He wanted control."

There were technical aspects to the Lesters. Wisbrod, who'd almost always take a photo with just one other person, knew he'd need to hold the camera at least 18 inches from his face — the minimum for an auto-focusing camera. Wisbrod would also hold the camera at an angle slightly above him, "simply because it would tighten up my neck," he

said, laughing.

Wisbrod recently sat in the dining room of his woody Hollywood Hills home, shuffling through a file of old photos. He marveled at each, holding up the glossy 4-by-6 images and reciting the names of the celebrities. Sometimes, he couldn't remember them. Others triggered warm memories.

He flashed a picture with Steven Spielberg. "Spielberg said: 'Are you sure you want to take it that way? You may not get another chance,'" Wisbrod recalled. The photo came out perfectly.

Admiring a picture with Anthony Hopkins, Wisbrod recounted having asked the "Silence of the Lambs" actor to autograph a bottle of Chianti — a playful nod to his turn in that film. (Hopkins obliged.)

A photo with President Ronald Reagan, taken after he'd left office, made Wisbrod chuckle.

"That was a tough one to get, because I had to slip in between the Secret Service and the dignity of the presidency," he said.

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 Storm 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 I 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

SCOREBOARD

Sports main AFN

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

Cycling

Tour de France

A 33.5-mile individual time trial over a hilly course from France to Perigueux. 1. Tony Martin, Germany, Omega Pharma-Quick-Step, 1 hour, 6 minutes, 21 seconds.

12. Thibaut Pinot, France, FDJR, 3:12. 13. Martin Elmiger, Switzerland, IAM Cycling, same time.

16. Matej Mohoric, Slovenia, BMC Racing, 3:39. 17. Nelson Oliveira, Portugal, Lampre-Merano, 3:40.

19. Luke Rowe, Australia, Orica GreenEdge, 3:38. 20. Peter Velits, Slovakia, BMC Racing, 3:44.

26. Roman Bardet, France, AG2R La Mondiale, 4:17. 27. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 86 hours, 37 minutes, 52 seconds.

31. Vincenzo Nibali, Italy, Astana, 86 hours, 37 minutes, 52 seconds. 32. Alejandro Valverde, Spain, Movistar, 4:28.

103. Peter Stetler, United States, BMC Racing, 7:16. 147. Matthew Busch, United States, Trek Factory Racing, 9:41.

AP spotlight

1969 - Betsy Rawls wins the LPGA championship by four strokes over Sue Linn. 1973 - The Miami Dolphins beat the College All-Stars 14-3 in Chicago.

Pro soccer

MLS Eastern Conference

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Sporting KC, Toronto FC, New York Red Bulls, etc.

Western Conference

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Seattle, Real Salt Lake, Colorado, etc.

Friday Rapids 3, Chivas USA 0

First half - 1, Colorado, LaBrocka 1 (Alvarado, 11th minute). 2, Colorado, Moor 2 (Powers), 26th.

Friday NWSL

Table with columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA. Includes Seattle, FC Kansas City, etc.

Saturday's game

Chivas USA FC at FC Kansas City Portland at Seattle FC

Sunday's game

Washington 1, Portland 1; Houston 4, Western 1

Saturday's game

Chivas USA FC at FC Kansas City Portland at Seattle FC

Sunday's game

Washington 1, Portland 1; Houston 4, Western 1

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Chivas USA FC at FC Kansas City Portland at Seattle FC

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Washington 1, Portland 1; Houston 4, Western 1

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Washington 1, Portland 1; Houston 4, Western 1

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Sunday's game

Washington 1, Portland 1; Houston 4, Western 1

World Team Tennis

Eastern Conference

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes xy-Washington, Philadelphia, Boston.

Western Conference

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes xy-San Diego, xy-Springfield, Houston, Texas.

Wednesday's matches

11:30 a.m. Washington 20, STB Springfield, 25, Boston 7.

Friday

San Jose 5, Chicago 1

Friday's transactions

American League

HOUSTON ASTROS Selected the contract of INF Gregorio Petit from Oklahoma City (PCL). Opted RHP Anthony Bass to Oklahoma City. Traded RHP Matt Barbato to the 60-day DL.

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ST. LOUIS BRUINS Signed LHP Chris Capuano to a major league contract. Signed RHP Ryan Spangola to a minor league contract.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Giants acquire Peavy from Red Sox

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Giants acquired right-hander Jake Peavy from the Boston Red Sox on Saturday for a pair of minor league pitchers.

He will start Sunday night's series finale against the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Giants held a half-game division lead in the NL West against their rival going into Saturday night's middle game at AT&T Park.

San Francisco is sending right-hander Heath Hembree and lefty Edwin Escobar to the World Series champion Red Sox in the swap.

Peavy (1-9, 4.72 ERA) has been hurt by poor run support this season, receiving two runs or fewer of support in each of his past eight starts.

Yusmeiro Petit had been scheduled to pitch Sunday for the Giants with right-hander Matt Cain on the disabled list.

In other baseball news:

■ Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire will have less time to remain eligible for the Baseball Hall of Fame ballot under changes made on Saturday.

The Hall of Fame's board cut a player's eligibility from 15 years to 10, which gives McGwire a maximum of two more appearances on the writers' ballot. Bonds, Clemens and Sosa, shunned so far along with other Steroids Era stars, can be considered up to eight more times each by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Nibali set to win Tour; Martin wins time trial

PERIGUEUX, France — Vincenzo Nibali confirmed he will win the Tour de France and two Frenchmen will join him on the podium after a dramatic penultimate stage on Saturday.

After his remarkable deeds in the mountains, Nibali finished



JULIAN H. GONZALEZ, DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

The San Francisco Giants acquired pitcher Jake Peavy from Boston on Saturday for relievers Heath Hembree and Edwin Escobar.

the individual time trial in an impressive fourth place behind winner and German speedster Tony Martin, and padded his overall lead by more than 40 seconds to nearly eight minutes.

It's mainly a ceremonial ride on Sunday to the Champs-Élysées, where Nibali is set to become the first Italian winner of the Tour since Marco Pantani in 1998.

Nibali reduced the drama on Stage 20 to who would join him on the podium on Sunday.

Jean-Christophe Peraud and Thibaut Pinot will, the first Frenchmen on the podium since Richard Virenque in 1997.

They did enough to leave behind an unlucky Alejandro Valverde of Spain in their three-man race for the final podium. Only

15 seconds separated them when the stage began in Bergerac, but it became more than two minutes when the time trial finished in Perigueux.

Toronto goalie Reimer agrees to 2-year deal

TORONTO — Goalie James Reimer and the Toronto Maple Leafs avoided salary arbitration, agreeing to a two-year contract Thursday.

Reimer, a restricted free agent, was scheduled to go to arbitration Monday. He will get \$2.6 million this season and \$2 million in 2015-16.

Reimer lost the starting job to Jonathan Bernier last season, but was forced into service with Toronto's playoff hopes on the line when Bernier sustained a knee injury that ended his season.

The 26-year-old goalie is 12-16-1 with a 3.29 goals-against-average last season. In four seasons with Toronto, he's 65-48-15 with a 2.85 GAA.

Love withdraws from US basketball team

Because he has no idea where he will be playing in the NBA next season, Kevin Love has withdrawn from the United States basketball squad.

Love is in limbo while the Minnesota Timberwolves field offers for their three-time All-Star, a process that was complicated and likely lengthened when Cleveland Cavaliers rookie Andrew Wiggins signed his contract this week.

Love is the latest All-Star to pull out of the team, which begins its training camp in Las Vegas next week to prepare for the World Cup in Spain. In recent weeks, the Americans have lost Blake Griffin, LaMarcus Aldridge and NBA Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard. They have 18 players remaining and will choose 12 for the World Cup.

Furyk, Petrovic tied atop Canadian Open

MONTREAL — Two-time winner Jim Furyk birdied two of his last four holes Friday in the Canadian Open to match the Royal Montreal record at 7-under 63 and tie Tim Petrovic atop the leaderboard.

The 44-year-old Furyk, the 2006 winner at Hamilton and 2007 champion at Angus Glen, matched Petrovic at 10-under 130 on the tree-line Blue Course. The 47-year-old Petrovic followed his opening 64 with a 66.

Canada's Graham DeLaet, playing in a threesome with Furyk and Matt Kuchar, was two strokes back along with Kyle Stanley. DeLaet, trying to become the first Canadian winner in the event in 60 years, also had a 63.

In other golf news:

■ The United States shuffled its lineup in the second round of the International Crown and got the desired result, beating Spain twice at Owings Mills, Md., to earn its first points in the eight-country event.

Lexi Thompson and Cristie Kerr took control on the back nine against Belen Mozo and Beatriz Recari in a 3-and-2 win, and Paula Creamer and Stacy Lewis led on to beat Azahara Munoz and Carlota Ciganda 2 up.

■ Bernhard Langer opened a seven-stroke lead in the Senior British Open at Bridgend, Wales, following his opening 65 with a 66 to reach 11 under at sunny Royal Portcathew.

The German lost a playoff to Mark Wiebe last year at Royal Birkdale after blowing a two-stroke lead on the final hole of regulation when he failed to get out of a greenside bunker.

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, seeking his third straight senior major title, was tied for second with Englishman Chris Williams. Montgomerie had a 66, and Williams shot 70.

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MLB

BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Player capsules

Frank Edward Thomas

"The Big Hurt." Born May 27, 1968, in Columbus, Georgia ... Hit .301 with 521 runs and 1,704 RBIs in 19-year career ... Mostly with the Chicago White Sox ... Only player in major league history to log seven straight seasons with a .300 average, 20 homers, 100 RBIs and 100 walks ... Was unanimous AL MVP in 1994; won award next season, too ... Holds White Sox franchise record for homers (648), doubles (447), RBIs (1,465), runs (1,327), extra-base hits (996), walks (1,466), total bases (3,949), slugging percentage (.568) and on-base percentage (.427) ... Five-time All-Star ... First Hall of Famer who spent the majority of his career as a designated hitter ... At age 35 was the oldest player to be named catching 3 passes for 45 yards ... Batted .559 with a school-record 21 homers in his first season at Auburn, major SEC in his second season and chosen SEC MVP the following year ... Selected to White Sox with the seventh pick in 1989 draft ... Debuted with 13 homers and a grand slam in 1990 ... Led White Sox to first postseason since 1904 ... In 1991 split time at first base and DH and hit .318 with 32 homers and 109 RBIs ... Also led the AL with 136 homers and hit .323 and tied for the league lead with 46 doubles ... Batted .311 with 41 homers and 128 RBIs in 1993. Had a .729 slugging average, 109 walks and a .300 on-base percentage ... Became free agent in 1994 ... Signed with Toronto for 2005 ... In 2006 as White Sox won the World Series with him on bench ... Signed with Oakland as free agent prior to 2006 season and had 39 home runs, 114 RBIs, .545 slugging average and .321 on-base percentage ... Became free agent and signed two-year deal with Toronto in November 2006 ... Led Blue Jays with 26 homers, 95 RBIs, 81 walks, and a .377 on-base average in 2007.

Gregory Alan Maddux

"Mad Dog." Born April 14, 1966, in San Angelo, Texas ... Went 355-277 in 22 seasons ... With the Braves, Padres and Dodgers ... and ranks 8th in career wins ... Won 4 straight Cy Young Awards (1992-95), leading the NL in wins each season ... Won 15 or more games for 17 straight seasons and had a career record of 37 straight seasons ... Posted 1.56 ERA in 1994, followed up with 1.00 in the next year ... Led NL in strikeouts, walked 999 in 5,008 1/3 innings ... 106 in 1994 ... Won 15 or more games ... Also a sharp fielder, won 18 Gold Gloves ... 8-time All-Star ... Joined Tom Glavine and John Smoltz as mainstays of Braves staff, helping Atlanta win 14 division titles in a row ... Received votes on 97.2 percent of writers ballots.

Thomas Michael Glavine

Born March 25, 1966, in Concord, Massachusetts ... Drafted by Atlanta Braves in 1984 and also taken by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NHL Draft that year ... Went 205-203 in 22 seasons, 17 with Atlanta and 5 with New York Mets ... Ranks 21st on career wins list, 4th-most for a left-hander ... Led NL in 1991 and 1995 NL Cy Young Award winner and also finished 2nd twice in the voting ... 10-time All-Star ... 520-win seasons ... Led NL in starts 6 times ... A control pitcher with a nasty changeup, fired 20 strikeout ... Will forever be remembered in Atlanta for pitching one of the greatest eight innings to beat Cleveland in decisive Game 6 of 1995 World Series, the Braves' only championship during their run of 13 straight division titles ... Went 20-11 in 1991 to help Atlanta to from within ... first, the first of 3 straight 20-win seasons ... 4-time Silver Slugger as top hitting pitcher in NL ... Finished with 246 RBIs and 101 walks in his career.

Three players, three managers join ranks

The Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Frank Thomas was always driven to excel, and that surer served him well. "I was never that blue-chip prospect," he said. "I had to outwork my opponents."

Hard to imagine now that Thomas was ever anything except a huge star. For Thomas, the 6-foot-5, 240-pound former Chicago White Sox slugger known as the Big Hurt, life has come full circle — from awe-struck rookie in 1990 to baseball royalty.

Thomas was elected in January to the Hall of Fame, along with pitchers Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine. Also to be inducted Sunday are managers Joe Torre, Tony La Russa and Bobby Cox, who were selected in December.

"This is the top 1 percent in all of baseball that gets in the Hall of Fame," said Thomas, the first player elected to the Hall of Fame who spent more than half of his time as a designated hitter. "As a kid, the big dream is being a professional. But to make it to the Hall of Fame? Come on, you've got to pinch yourself. I'm very fortunate it happened for me, especially first ballot."

Thomas won AL MVP awards in 1993 and 1994 and finished his 19-year career with a .301 batting average, 521 homers and 1,704 RBIs.

He also won the 1997 AL batting title and helped show that in more recent times a power hitter could also be selective at the plate.

Thomas played 16 years for the White Sox and established himself as the best hitter in franchise history. He's the only player in major league history to log seven straight seasons with a .300 average, 20 homers, 100 RBIs and 100 walks.

Headly territory for a guy who didn't take baseball seriously until he was 12 and many thought would end up as a star tight end in the NFL because of the devastating blocks he delivered.

"Hitting was something I took very serious. The

way I swung the bat at times, you'd think I was 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds," said Thomas, who decided to focus solely on baseball as a sophomore at Auburn. "But I cared about getting hits and scoring runs. A lot of people didn't know that about my game. Yes, I hit a lot of home runs, drove in a lot of runs, but there were many days that I was just content getting singles and getting on base and letting the other guys drive me in."

Induction day probably will seem like a reunion of sorts for Maddux, Glavine, and Cox, who were mainstays together on the Atlanta Braves for a decade.

"To have the opportunity to go in with two guys that were a teammate and a manager for a long time, guys that were such a big part of my career but also helped make me a better player, that's a great opportunity," Glavine said. "Every once in a while, I'll have some moments where it's hard to get my brain around what's going on."

Maddux was elected by an overwhelming margin, receiving 97.2 percent of the votes from the BBWAA. He won 355 games, four straight Cy Young Awards and a record 18 Gold Gloves. Glavine, who was selected by nearly 92 percent of the voters, had 305 wins and two Cy Young Awards.

Both Maddux and Glavine relied on pinpoint control to get the job done, changing speed and location on their pitches to keep hitters guessing.

Maddux won Cy Youngs from 1992-95 (Randy Johnson is the only other pitcher to win four straight), completing his impressive run with two remarkable years. During the strike-shortened 1994 season, Maddux went 16-6 with a career-best 1.56 ERA — the cumulative NL ERA was 4.21 — and the next year finished 19-2 with a 1.63 ERA.

Considering the size of this induction class and the imposing credentials of the inductees, officials are expecting a very large crowd as the Hall of Fame continues the celebration of its 75th anniversary.

Manager capsules

Joseph Paul Torre

Born July 18, 1940, in Brooklyn, New York ... Ranks No. 5 on managerial wins list with 2,336 victories in 29 years ... Finished career as only player to amass more than 2,000 hits (2,342) and win more than 2,000 games as a manager, according to STATS. Well-respected as a catcher, third baseman and first baseman, hitting .277 with 252 homers and 1,185 RBIs as a player ... Won 1971 NL MVP, batting .363 with 230 hits, 24 HRs and 137 RBIs ... Three teams he played for hired him as manager, with the Mets giving him the first chance as a player-manager in 1977 ... Won a division title with the Atlanta Braves in 1982, but Braves were beaten by Cardinals in 5 games ... First manager to win a World Series (1984) with the Angels broadcaster until St. Louis hired him as manager late in the 1990 season ... Led California Angels to 1995 despite winning records in his three full seasons ... Despite a reputation for managerial record of 894-1,063, took over Yankees in 1996 ... Led Yankees to World Series dominance, winning 1,173 games against only 767 losses ... Led Yankees to 14 division titles, 10 World Series titles, six AL pennants, and four World Series, including the 1998 Yankees ... Led Yankees to 1998 World Series ... Led Yankees to 2000 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2009 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2010 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2011 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2012 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2013 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2014 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2015 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2016 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2017 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2018 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2019 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2020 and won two division titles ... Led Yankees to 2021 and won two division titles ... 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MLB



AP Photo

Los Angeles outfielder Yasiel Puig tied a franchise record Friday with three triples in an 8-1 victory over the Giants in San Francisco. Puig also tied a double, pictured above, and drove in two runs as the Dodgers moved within a half-game of the NL West-leading Giants. Los Angeles finished the game with a franchise-record five triples, including three during a five-run fifth inning that chased San Francisco starter Tim Lincecum (9-7).

Statistics

American League									
TEAM BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	IP
Detroit	3406	474	950	101	461	.271	.341	.512	202.0
Los Angeles	3545	500	942	105	475	.266	.341	.512	202.0
Kansas City	3491	400	916	57	372	.262	.332	.500	202.0
Baltimore	3510	433	917	123	419	.261	.332	.500	202.0
Toronto	3569	467	916	123	419	.261	.332	.500	202.0
Texas	3441	411	889	72	383	.258	.328	.496	202.0
Oakland	3520	509	896	105	480	.255	.328	.496	202.0
Cleveland	3526	451	897	97	434	.254	.328	.496	202.0
Tampa Bay	3470	399	872	85	374	.251	.328	.496	202.0
New York	3470	399	872	85	374	.251	.328	.496	202.0
Chicago	3531	435	887	100	406	.251	.328	.496	202.0
Boston	3484	400	880	79	380	.244	.328	.496	202.0
Minnesota	3451	419	846	79	392	.245	.328	.496	202.0
Seattle	3470	396	847	81	377	.244	.328	.496	202.0
Houston	3915	520	1086	374	539	.269	.341	.512	202.0
INDIVIDUAL BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	IP
Altuve Hou	417	53	141	31	.313	.388	.606	1.000	202.0
Caro Sea	380	49	127	21	.277	.349	.489	.838	202.0
Marquez Det	346	52	109	21	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Beltre Tex	338	52	109	14	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Wendrick LAA	340	50	114	14	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Brantley Cle	383	67	121	15	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
McCarver Det	290	42	118	8	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
McCarver Det	418	61	130	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Faton Cos	376	72	116	24	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Suzuki Min	295	46	91	4	.277	.349	.489	.838	202.0
Rios Tex	374	41	112	4	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Kinsler Det	413	66	121	11	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Gardner NY	394	50	115	1	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Baustista Tor	343	63	100	18	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Jabreu CWS	342	50	102	7	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Markakis Bal	421	50	122	7	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Ellsbury NY	381	47	110	8	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Harvey Bal	321	41	101	8	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Loney TB	380	41	108	5	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Urbaniak CWS	351	39	98	11	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Sperez Cle	365	35	101	10	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Reyes Tor	363	45	101	10	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Gardner NY	352	61	107	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Crisp Oak	277	51	77	7	.278	.349	.489	.838	202.0
Harvey Bal	353	33	98	4	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Encarnacion Tor	328	57	91	26	.278	.349	.489	.838	202.0
Seager Sea	372	40	103	16	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Aybar LAA	376	48	104	6	.277	.349	.489	.838	202.0
A Gordon KC	399	47	108	6	.277	.349	.489	.838	202.0
Alonso Bal	354	58	106	28	.276	.348	.489	.838	202.0
Napoli Bos	290	35	80	12	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Yorcu TB	324	45	89	14	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Tor Hunter Det	357	48	98	7	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Pujols LAA	409	51	110	20	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Y Gomes Sea	311	52	95	13	.271	.331	.489	.838	202.0
Alfonso Det	357	48	98	7	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Infinite KC	313	33	85	5	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Seager Sea	399	47	108	6	.277	.349	.489	.838	202.0
Mauer Min	303	38	82	2	.281	.351	.489	.838	202.0
Alfonso Det	357	48	98	7	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
LMartin Tex	322	43	87	5	.280	.350	.489	.838	202.0
Howar Hou	285	34	74	4	.276	.348	.489	.838	202.0
Maclin Tor	402	50	108	27	.269	.329	.489	.838	202.0
Castellanos Det	317	30	85	6	.267	.327	.489	.838	202.0
Seager Sea	399	47	108	6	.277	.349	.489	.838	202.0
D Navarro Tor	305	25	81	7	.266	.326	.489	.838	202.0
Butler KC	364	35	96	2	.264	.324	.489	.838	202.0
Aoki KC	294	38	77	0	.262	.322	.489	.838	202.0
Andrus Tor	394	54	102	12	.259	.325	.489	.838	202.0
Seager Sea	394	54	102	12	.259	.325	.489	.838	202.0
Zobrist TB	338	46	77	2	.257	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Alfonso Det	342	34	74	0	.254	.320	.489	.838	202.0
Céspedes Oak	374	59	95	16	.254	.320	.489	.838	202.0
Alfonso Det	342	34	74	0	.254	.320	.489	.838	202.0
Kippis Cle	296	38	74	5	.250	.316	.489	.838	202.0
DeJong TB	359	52	80	9	.249	.315	.489	.838	202.0
DeJong TB	359	52	80	9	.249	.315	.489	.838	202.0
Donaldson Oak	387	68	95	21	.245	.311	.489	.838	202.0
Alfonso Det	342	34	74	0	.254	.320	.489	.838	202.0
Plouffe Min	325	43	79	7	.243	.313	.489	.838	202.0
Lowrie Cle	358	49	87	5	.243	.313	.489	.838	202.0

Puig, Puig, Puig

Dodgers OF smacks three triples as Los Angeles batters San Francisco

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Yasiel Puig was excited for his first start of the season in center field because it gave him more room to run and show off his unbelievable athleticism.

Instead, Puig's performance will be remembered for what he did with his bat and on the bases.

In a Puig-led San Francisco record with three triples and added a double and two RBIs as the Los Angeles Dodgers moved within a half-game of NL West-leading San Francisco by beating the Giants 8-1 on Friday night.

"I'm tired," Puig said, shaking his head after sitting in the training room for more than 30 min-

utes wrapped in ice packs. "I was just trying to hit the ball where nobody was."

It was the most triples in a game for the franchise since 1921 and most by a Dodgers player since Brooklyn's Jimmy Sheppard had three in 1901.

"That's crazy. I've never seen anything like that," said Matt Kemp, who had three hits — including a triple — after shifting from center to right field.

The last player with three triples in a game was Denard Span for Minnesota in 2010. Zack Greinke (12-6) tossed seven innings of four-hit ball, striking out 10 and walking one. Tyler Colvin hit an RBI single in the ninth for San Francisco's only run.

National League

TEAM BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	IP
Colorado	3485	483	983	117	432	.268	.341	.512	202.0
Philadelphia	3465	423	893	90	407	.258	.332	.500	202.0
Milwaukee	3524	490	909	76	382	.258	.332	.500	202.0
Los Angeles	3474	425	893	78	405	.257	.332	.500	202.0
Arizona	3514	406	900	81	383	.256	.332	.500	202.0
St. Louis	3491	411	885	81	386	.254	.332	.500	202.0
Washington	3406	420	854	86	388	.251	.332	.500	202.0
San Francisco	3462	409	849	91	393	.245	.332	.500	202.0
Atlanta	3428	417	871	91	389	.245	.332	.500	202.0
Cincinnati	3561	388	829	87	368	.245	.332	.500	202.0
Philadelphia	3386	388	850	81	369	.239	.332	.500	202.0
San Diego	3408	387	807	92	374	.237	.332	.500	202.0
San Diego	212	10	70	293	.216	.332	.500	202.0	
INDIVIDUAL BATTING									
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	IP
Tulowitzki Col	317	10	107	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Ma Adams SFL	321	10	104	13	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
McCutchen Pitt	377	59	120	17	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Lucroy Min	366	49	115	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Morneau Col	310	38	103	37	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Gomez Mia	388	58	121	2	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Goldschmidt Ari	378	72	117	18	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Puig LAD	347	53	107	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Gennett Mil	376	63	115	14	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Brazner Min	295	42	90	8	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Blackmon Col	369	53	112	14	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Braum Mil	321	51	97	14	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Upton NY	312	47	105	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Revere Phi	346	44	102	1	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Parsons LAD	384	54	113	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Stanton Mia	378	66	111	23	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Smith SD	380	52	111	8	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Jupton Ari	355	102	118	87	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Yelinskie SFL	307	20	97	30	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Werth Was	368	59	105	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Waller SFL	325	48	103	12	.263	.323	.489	.838	202.0
Danby NYM	415	67	118</						

MLB

NL roundup

Nationals stay hot, continue Reds' skid

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Tanner Roark won the final spot in Washington's rotation during spring training. Halfway through the season, he's the Nationals' top winner.

Roark allowed only three singles over seven innings on Friday night, and Denard Span matched Cincinnati's hit total with his four singles, leading the Nationals to a 4-1 victory that extended their surge and the Reds' slump.

The Nationals won for the seventh time in nine games. They are 56-44, the second-best mark after 100 games in franchise history. The 2012 club went 60-40 on its way to the NL East title.

Roark (10-6) became Washington's first 10-game winner and improved to 3-0 in his last three starts. The right-hander has allowed three runs over 21 innings during those three wins, lowering his ERA to 2.82 — the best in the rotation.

Nobody would have predicted that during spring training.

"It's pretty cool just to think about," Roark said. "You dream ever since you're a kid of getting to the big leagues. I took the opportunity and tried to run away with it."

"It is a little surprising. It's been a good ride so far. Keep it going."

Rafael Soriano gave up a walk and a double in the ninth while getting his 24th save in 27 chances.

The Reds remain stalled since the All-Star break, dropping all seven games for their longest losing streak in five years. It's the first time they have lost their first seven games after the All-Star break since 1991, when they dropped eight in a row.

Cubs 7, Cardinals 6: Luis Valbuena hit a decisive two-run homer in the seventh inning as host Chicago rallied to hand St. Louis its fourth straight loss.

The Cardinals tied at 5-all on solo homers by Matt Carpenter and Matt Holliday in the fifth.

Padres 3, Braves 2: Rookie Jesse Hahn allowed three hits in six innings to remain unbeaten on the road for visiting San Diego.

Hahn (6-2) allowed one run as he improved to 4-0 in four road starts.

Mets 3, Brewers 2: Lucas Duda hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning as visiting New York rallied to end Milwaukee's four-game winning streak.

The Mets trailed 3-1 entering the ninth inning, but Daniel Murphy led off with a double off center Francisco Rodriguez (4-4), who blew his fourth save of the season.

Phillies 9, Diamondbacks 5: Domicen Brown homered, doubled and drove in three runs to lead host Philadelphia.

Grady Sizemore had three hits, including the 100th of his career, with a double and an RBI for the Phillies.

Rockies 8, Pirates 1: Brett Anderson pitched effectively into the seventh inning for his first win in more than a year as host Colorado beat Pittsburgh.

Carlos Gonzalez homered and Josh Rutledge had two hits and drove in four runs for Colorado, which has won consecutive games for just the second time in the last six weeks.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay's Desmond Jennings, right, high-fives teammate James Loney after hitting a two-run home run off Boston pitcher Jon Lester during the fifth inning of Friday's game in St. Petersburg, Fla. Tampa Bay won 6-4 for its eighth straight victory.

AL roundup

Rays win eighth straight

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — David Price and the Tampa Bay Rays are on quite a roll.

Price won his sixth start in a row, Evan Longoria hit a three-run double, and the Rays earned their eighth straight victory by beating the Boston Red Sox 6-4 on Friday night.

"A little bit of the swagger is back," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said.

The Red Sox lost their fourth consecutive game.

Price (11-7) struck out 10 over eight innings. He tied the team record shared by Matt Moore and Scott Kazmir for victories in consecutive starts.

"Wonderful once again," Maddon said. This was Price's first game against Boston since he hit David Ortiz with a fastball on May 30, setting off a verbal skirmish between the stars.

There was no trouble between them this time as Ortiz returned to the lineup one day after leaving a game because of back spasms.

"It's feeling better," Ortiz said. "After what we did last night and today when I got up and took some medication, it felt much better."

Ortiz had words with plate umpire Bill Miller during an early strikeout, then hit an RBI single in a two-run sixth for a 3-2

Red Sox lead.

"It definitely felt good," Price said of striking out Ortiz. "He's a tough out of always."

Price has pitched at least eight innings in eight of his last nine starts.

Ben Zobrist got his fourth hit, an RBI single that made it 3-all in the seventh. Later in the inning, Longoria delivered his go-ahead hit off Junichi Tazawa (1-2).

Orioles 2, Mariners 1 (10): Chris Davis hit a leadoff homer in the 10th inning and Nelson Cruz also went deep as visiting Baltimore overcame a record-tying start by Seattle ace Felix Hernandez.

Hernandez struck out 10 in seven innings and left with the score tied 1-all. It was his 13th consecutive start with at least seven innings and no more than two runs allowed, matching Tom Seaver's MLB mark set for the New York Mets in 1971.

Angels 2, Tigers 1: Eren Navarro and Kole Calhoun drove in runs in the sixth inning as host Los Angeles overcame Drew Smyly's early dominance for a victory over Detroit.

Tyler Skaggs yielded five hits in 5½ resourceful innings for the Angels, who have won 14 of 19. Los Angeles improved the second-best record in MLB to 61-41 and pulled within two games of AL West-leading Oakland.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 4: Ichiro Suzuki homered for the first time since last Au-

gust as host New York beat Toronto for the 17th straight time at home.

Jose Bautista hit two homers, doubled and drove in four runs for Toronto.

White Sox 9, Twins 5: Jose Abreu hit his MLB-leading 30th homer and drove in three runs, leading visiting Chicago past Minnesota.

Abreu had two hits and scored twice. The Cuban rookie now has 77 RBIs on the season.

Rangers 4, Athletics 1: Jerome Williams pitched six solid innings while becoming the team-record 31st pitcher used this season by host Texas.

Neftali Feliz worked a scoreless ninth while giving up a hit and a walk for his first regular-season save since 2011.

Royals 6, Indians 4: Pinch-hitter Billy Butler's two-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning sent host Kansas City past Cleveland for its fourth straight win.

Carlos Santana homered twice for the Indians, who have lost five of six.

Interleague

Marlins 2, Astros 0: Brad Hand pitched three-hit ball into the eighth inning and Jeff Mathis hit a two-run double for visiting Miami.

Hand (2-2) struck out four and walked two in a career-high 7½ innings to earn his second straight win.

NFL

Trainers brace for injuries as camps begin

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

Now that training camps are under way, team owners and fantasy football fans alike are holding their collective breath, praying to reach the regular season with their rosters intact.

Chances are they won't. Three playmaking linebackers didn't even make it through the off-season healthy: Dallas' Sean Lee, Buffalo's Kiko Alonso and Atlanta's Sean Weatherspoon, all hurt in seemingly tame circumstances.

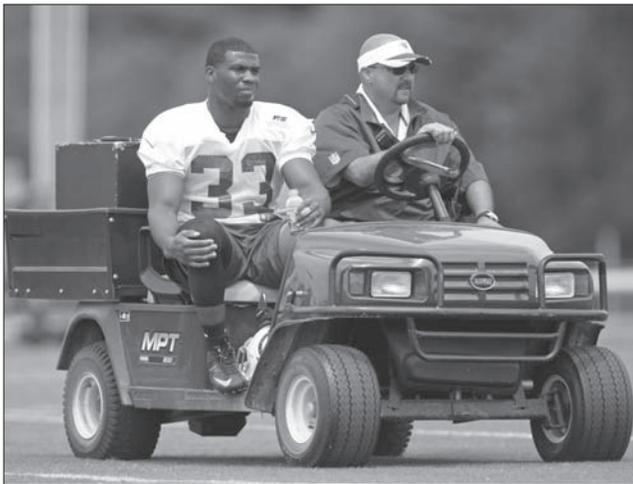
Three other players barely made it to training camp before sustaining season-ending injuries — all without getting touched.

Ravens cornerback Aaron Ross tore an Achilles tendon during his conditioning test. The Colts lost running back Vick Ballard to a similar injury on a pass play. And the 49ers lost backup running back Kendall Hunter to a torn anterior cruciate ligament when his right knee buckled awkwardly as he made a move during a non-contact drill.

August inevitably will be filled with more cringes and crutches, even though the NFL has tried to make the game safer in recent years. The league has placed limits on padded practices and implemented more rules changes to protect players on both sides of the ball.

"Despite all the advances in sports medicine, nutrition and training, we just can't prevent all injuries," said Dr. Ed Laskowski, co-director of the Mayo Clinic Sports Medicine Center in Rochester, Minnesota. "What we can do is protect them as much as possible through training and technique."

That involves adaptive, special-



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Indianapolis running back Vick Ballard rides off the field on a cart after he was injured during the Colts' training camp in Anderson, Ind., on Friday. With training camps starting up, team owners and fantasy football fans alike are holding their collective breath and praying to reach the regular season with their rosters intact.

ized, neuromuscular programs for players at different positions. A cornerback, for instance, has to be able to backpedal, run sideways and twist and turn on the fly in ways linemen don't. So, there are different exercises they must do to maintain flexibility and stability in their joints, especially if they're coming off an injury.

"You don't train all football

players the same," Laskowski said. "A tailback's going to be widely different than a lineman. A lineman is different than a wide receiver and very different than a corner and a safety. So, we want to train them to do their jobs as much as possible."

Teams have changed the way they have players train and rehab from injuries in recent years.

Weight rooms are no longer a bunch of bench presses and barbells where brute force is celebrated. They have become state-of-the-art complexes with cutting-edge technology where dynamic movement and plyometric programs help keep players out of the training room.

Some strength and conditioning coaches such as Denver's

Luke Richesson apply modern workout techniques like those used in mixed martial arts in their specialized programs.

Still, guys are going to get hurt.

"Really, regardless of what time of the year, as a head coach and an organization, you hold your breath," said Broncos coach John Fox, who stood on the sideline at the Super Bowl alongside five defensive starters, including Von Miller, in street clothes. "Football is combative and injuries are part of the game, whether it's the off-season, training camp, regular season or even in the playoffs."

Or working out back home, as Alonzo was in Oregon last month when he tore an ACL.

Held out of organized team activities to continue his recovery from a foot injury, Weatherspoon was running under the supervision of the team's medical staff when he tore an Achilles tendon last month.

That sent the Falcons scrambling like the Bills and Cowboys to redo their defensive blueprint.

Lee tore his left ACL in May when his leg slid out from under him during a non-contact drill and rookie guard Zack Martin rolled over him.

Now that training camps have started, practices are a lot more physical, and as the intensity ratchets up, careers are on the line and injuries are bound to happen.

"You try to do everything you can," Fox said. "We talked about when you're practicing against each other, being smart, trying not to finish. You get four practice games to work on your finishing against opponents. So it's something you try to avoid, but no matter how hard you try, sometimes it just happens."



AP photo

Cleveland quarterback Johnny Manziel signs autographs for fans after his first practice at the Browns' training camp in Berea, Ohio, on Saturday.

Briefly

'Manzielmania' hits camp

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — With No. 2 jerseys ringing the field, Browns rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel has begun his quest to win Cleveland's starting job.

Manziel is taking part in his first NFL training camp practice on Saturday and thousands of fans have come out for an up-close look at the sensation nicknamed Johnny Football. Fans began lining up outside the Browns' training complex at 5 a.m. to secure the closest possible spots near the practice fields.

Manziel, the former Heisman Trophy winner who was drafted in the first round by the Browns, walked onto the field at 9:22 a.m. as House of Pain's "Jump Around" blared through loudspeakers.

On Friday, Manziel, who will battle Brian Hoyer to be the starter, acknowledged he made "some rookie mistakes" with an off-season filled with partying.

Packers sign Nelson to 4-year extension

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Packers have signed receiver Jordy Nelson to a contract extension, securing their top player at a position that has had several high-profile departures in recent years.

Green Bay announced the deal Saturday after the first practice of training camp. NFL.com reported it was a four-year, \$39 million deal with an \$11.5 million signing bonus.

49ers RB Hunter out for year with torn ACL

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers running back Kendall Hunter's season is over before it began.

The 49ers confirmed Saturday that Hunter tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during Friday's practice. Hunter

began training camp as the No. 2 running back behind Frank Gore.

Hunter was entering the final season of his rookie contract.

Also:

■ Colts coach Chuck Pagano says running back Vick Ballard will miss the entire season due to a torn Achilles tendon.

■ The injury leaves Ahmad Bradshaw and Trent Richardson competing for the starting job.

Last season, Ballard tore the ACL in his right knee during a September practice and missed the final 15 games. Ballard ran for 814 yards and two touchdowns as a rookie in 2012, then had 13 carries for 63 yards in last year's opener.

■ Jacksonville Jaguars receiver Cecil Shorts III will miss at least two weeks with a strained hamstring.

Shorts got the diagnosis Saturday, one day after feeling tightness in his hamstring during the team's first training camp practice.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



C MICHAEL BERGEN, THE STATE/MCT

Senior Dylan Thompson will step into the starting quarterback job for the Gamecocks this season, replacing Conner Shaw, a player head coach Steve Spurrier has described as “the best quarterback in South Carolina history.”

Title: Wins came slowly at first for Spurrier

FROM BACK PAGE

“Maybe they haven’t played enough to be all-conference, I don’t know,” Spurrier said. “Obviously, we think they can play very well and are ready to show it this coming year.”

Spurrier surprised many in college football when he returned to the game in 2004 after two poor NFL seasons at Washington.

But Spurrier, who’ll turn 70 next April, said when he took the job he came with the goal of setting the Gamecocks’ record for coaching victories and figured he’d need about eight or nine years to reach the necessary 65 victories.

The wins came slowly at first — 35 in his first five seasons — until his program started landing players like receiver Alshon Jeffery, cornerback Stephon Gilmore, running back Marcus Lattimore and Clowney, all of whom are on NFL rosters.

“We started winning around here because of the players first, not because of me,” Spurrier said. “I coached my butt off the first five years around here but about seven wins was about the best we could average. But we started to get better players. Facilities got a lot better. We’ve got better coaches in and all together we’ve been able to put it together pretty well.”

The Gamecocks have gone 42-11 the last four seasons, a run that included the 2010 SEC East title and a victory over then No. 1 Alabama that same year.

And they expect the success to continue.

Sooners hyped for season

Sugar Bowl win distant memory for Oklahoma

The Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma got a lot of attention with its upset victory over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

As good as it was for the program, the Sooners are looking forward. The Big 12 favorites begin practice Aug. 5 in preparation for the Aug. 30 opener against Louisiana Tech.

“They’ve been getting stroked for a long time about Alabama,” co-offensive coordinator Jay Norvell said Thursday. “That’s ancient history as far as the football world is concerned. It’s time to turn the page and move on and see what this 2014 team can do.”

The challenge for Oklahoma will be keeping a team that has been praised all offseason hungry.

“I told my guys what we did last year is last year,” defensive line coach Jerry Montgomery said. “We haven’t done anything this year. We still have to prove ourselves. We’re going to have guys that didn’t play much last year that are going to play. We’ve got guys that played a bunch of ball last year. We’ve still got to go out and play the man in front of us. We’ve got to work well as a team. I don’t believe in the hype. It’s not where you start, it’s where you finish.”

This team appears to be in position to contend for a national title, with significant experience returning and a strong freshman class. The Sooners should be especially strong on defense, where 11 players with at least five career starts return from a unit that led the Big 12 in total defense and pass defense and ranked second in scoring defense and rushing defense.

Defensive coordinator Mike Stoops says the unit can be even better this year. Last year, the Sooners switched from a 4-3 to a 3-4 and adjusted on the fly. This year, there is a greater sense of comfort for coaches and players that should allow the team’s improved athletic ability to shine.

“I think we’re a bigger, longer, faster football team than we were at any time last year,” Stoops said. “Our size and our strength has grown.”

Second-team All-Big 12 defensive end Charles Tapper is back. He was second on the team in tackles for loss (9) and sacks (5½) last season.

Defensive tackle Jordan Phillips is back after missing nine games last season with a back injury. Stoops said the 6-foot-6, 341-pounder is a difference maker.



RUSTY COSTANZA/AP

Oklahoma holds up the Sugar Bowl trophy after defeating Alabama 45-31 in New Orleans. It seems like forever since Oklahoma defeated Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, and the hype around the program has been building ever since. The Sooners have put that win in the past, however, and have turned their focus toward the 2014 season and recapturing the Big 12 title.

“They’ve been getting stroked for a long time about Alabama. That’s ancient history as far as the football world is concerned. It’s time to turn the page and move on and see what this 2014 team can do.”

Jay Norvell

Oklahoma co-offensive coordinator

“We just want Jordan to play where he was a year ago, and hopefully, he’ll make a huge difference in our defense if we can keep him on the field and keep him healthy,” Stoops said. “He feels great, so that’s a good sign. We instantly get better with him on the field.”

Linebackers Frank Shannon, Dominique Alexander and Eric Striker combined for 222 tack-

les last year. Jordan Evans, who missed five games last season with an ankle injury, is back. Geno Grissom, who will move from defensive end to outside linebacker, had two sacks, two fumble recoveries and a touchdown in the Sugar Bowl.

Zack Sanchez earned numerous honors as a freshman cornerback last season. Senior Julian Wilson,

the team’s starting nickel back last year, also will be considered at cornerback.

Stoops said the Sooners are two-deep across the board.

“Players get complacent and content when they’re not pushed,” he said. “So we’ve got a bunch of guys pushing for playing time, and to me, that’s the best thing we have going for us right now.”

SPORTS



Superstar class

No questioning credentials of this year's Hall of Fame inductees | Page 26

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Spurrier's sights on title

Expectations higher than ever for Gamecocks

The Associated Press

SOUTH CAROLINA'S Steve Spurrier always considered the Gamecocks a long-term project, even if some on the outside of the program saw it was just a quick layover for the national championship coach.

"I didn't plan on being here two or three years and try and get one of those glamour jobs," he said Thursday. "I wanted to see if we could build this up to something special."

Spurrier's getting closer each year and he enters his 10th season — only two shy of his national championship tenure at Florida — with expectations higher than ever after a third consecutive 11-2 season.

Last week, the Gamecocks were picked to win the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division and give Spurrier a shot at the title he covets most — an SEC championship.

"We're close. We're very close," Spurrier said. "Somebody told me there's only three teams in America to finish in the top 10 the last three years and we're one of them."

The Gamecocks finished a program-best fourth in the country in last year's final AP Top 25. That has some fans dreaming of a spot in this year's new, four-team College Football Playoffs.

Not that there aren't hurdles. The Gamecocks lost NFL No. 1 draft pick Jadeveon Clowney and the quarterback Spurrier keeps calling the best in South Carolina history in Connor

Shaw. Also gone from last year are defensive

tackle Kelcy Quarles, the sacks leader; receiver Bruce Ellington, the team's receptions leader; and both starting cornerbacks in Jimmy Legree and Victor Hampton.

Spurrier said the players his staff's brought in behind the headlines in the past few years are good players, just without experience. That showed at SEC Media Days last week when, despite being preseason divisional favorites, the Gamecocks didn't have an all-SEC first-team player.

Spurrier pointed to linebacker Skai Moore, the team's top tackler last year as a freshman.

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"I didn't plan on being here two or three years and try and get one of those glamour jobs. I wanted to see if we could build this up to something special."

Steve Spurrier

South Carolina head coach

When Steve Spurrier took over in 2004 as head coach at South Carolina after two unsuccessful years as coach of the NFL's Washington Redskins, it raised some eyebrows. After all, the Gamecocks were seen at the time as, at best, a long-term project. Surely the national championship-winning coach would soon move on to greener pastures.

Spurrier was in it for the long haul, however, and now, entering his 10th season there, has South Carolina poised to compete for an SEC championship.

BUTCH DILL/AP

