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STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas

War budget adds funds for arming Syria rebels

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The White House on Thursday sent Congress a trimmed-down, \$65.8 billion supplemental war budget that includes funding for winding down Afghanistan operations as well as arms and training for “appropriately vetted” Syrian rebels.

The plan would decrease annual U.S. war costs by \$19.4 billion from last year as the Obama administration plans to draw down forces in Afghanistan, continuing a downward spending trend from a \$187 billion high during the height of the Iraq War in 2008.

\$65.8B

The White House's proposed budget for the Overseas Contingency Operations plan.

The Overseas Contingency Operations budget includes, for the first time, money to

arm and train moderate, “appropriately vetted” Syrian rebels who are not only fighting President Bashar Assad's government but also fighting the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, a militant group challenging the U.S.-backed leadership in Iraq.

Those funds are part of a new \$5 billion pot of money called the Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund, announced by President Barack Obama on May 28 during a West Point speech on the future of U.S. counterterrorism efforts.

The proposal finally puts a figure on overseas war and counterterrorism spending. Capitol Hill lawmakers have for months used a \$79 billion placeholder as they plan for the coming fiscal year. It also provides a U.S. plan of action as the continuing civil war in Syria has spilled over into Iraq and destabilized that country after an eight-year U.S. occupation.

The White House proposed a base defense budget of \$495.6 billion for next year, and \$561.4 billion when the OCO is added. The House passed an overall \$570 billion defense spending bill June 20 and the Senate will begin work July 17 on its version.

SEE BUDGET ON PAGE 6

IRAQ

US gears up assistance



Military flying armed drones over Baghdad, according to reports

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. military has begun flying armed drones over Baghdad to protect U.S. military advisers there, news reports said Friday, as the Iraqi army struggled to dislodge Sunni militants from Saddam Hussein's hometown that they overran during their sweep through northern Iraq.

U.S. officials had maintained that all

drone reconnaissance flights over Iraq were unarmed. But CNN and The Associated Press quoted an unnamed Pentagon official as saying the armed drones would provide additional protection for 180 U.S. military advisers rushed to Baghdad to help the Iraqi government turn back Sunni militants.

AP quoted the official as saying the flights started in the last 24 to 48 hours

to bolster manned and unmanned reconnaissance flights the military has been sending over Iraq in recent weeks. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the new flights on the record.

Any airstrikes that are not defensive still would require President Barack Obama's approval.

SEE DRONES ON PAGE 6

A member of an Iraqi volunteer forces group joins training near the Imam Ali shrine in the southern holy Shiite city of Najaf, Iraq, on Thursday after authorities urged Iraqis to help battle insurgents.

JAHER AL-HELO/AP

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"They're bad enough to ban them, but we still want to use them."

— Steve Gosse, head of delegation for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, on the possibility the U.S. could still use its land mine stockpile despite announcing that it will no longer produce or acquire the devices

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2. Entire F-35 fleet grounded after fighter jet catches fire during takeoff
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MILITARY

Military grounds F-35s in wake of fire

By W.J. HENNIGAN
Los Angeles Times

In the latest setback for the Pentagon's nearly \$400 billion F-35 Joint Strike Fighter program, the U.S. military has grounded all of the fighter jets from flight operations after one of them caught fire at Elgin Air Force Base in Florida earlier this week.

Flights had been expected to resume the day after Monday's mishap, but the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps decided to suspend all F-35 operations until it was determined that flights could resume safely.

A safety board has begun investigating the incident to determine the cause. Early on Monday, one of the Air Force's radar-avoiding, supersonic fighter jets caught fire before takeoff. The pilot left the aircraft unjured, officials said.

The aircraft was preparing to take off on a training mission but aborted when flames appeared in the rear of the aircraft. Emergency responders extinguished the fire with foam, according to an Air Force statement.

The 33rd Fighter Wing at Elgin provides training for F-35 pilots and mechanics for the Marine Corps, the Navy and the Air Force. The wing commander there stopped flights as a precautionary measure, but flights had continued elsewhere around the country.

More than 100 F-35s are in service at bases around the nation.

The decision to ground all F-35 flights was made Wednesday afternoon as more information became available, according to F-35 spokeswoman Kyrta P. Hawn in the military's Joint Program Office.

"We are grateful that Monday's incident was contained, and that procedures were followed that prevented additional damage or injury," she said.

The Joint Strike Fighter program centered on a plan to develop one basic fighter plane that could, with a few manufacturing tweaks, be used by the Air Force, the Navy and the Marines. The idea is that it can be configured to take off and land on runways and aircraft carriers as well as hover like a helicopter.

No one stealthy fighter aircraft has all these

capabilities. From an engineering standpoint, it's a challenging task for plane maker Lockheed Martin Corp. because the requirements of the different services vary so much.

"Follow-on activities are providing us with the opportunity to learn how to efficiently and effectively coordinate the flow of relevant information to a diverse group of F-35 stake holders," Hawn said.

The grounding of the F-35 fleet is a blow to the often-touted program, which has been in development for more than a decade, its billions of dollars over budget and years behind schedule. Per-plane cost estimates have risen from \$78 million in 2001 to \$135 million today, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Testing is key to the Pentagon's ultimate plan to build 2,457 of the planes.

Problems have repeatedly cropped up. On June 13, test flights were temporarily halted and mandatory inspections were ordered for all versions of the jets after a Marine F-35 suffered an in-flight emergency with its engine.

Report: DOD has produced no plan to cut spending

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon has produced no realistic plan for cutting costs at its many management headquarters, according to a report released Thursday by the Government Accountability Office.

The Department of Defense was mandated by Congress to develop and submit a plan by the end of this month for HQ budget cuts for the years 2015-2024, which was to include combatant commands. It remains unclear, however, "how the department will provide reliable information to Congress," concluded the report by the GAO, a government watchdog agency that advises lawmakers.

The report examined the Defense Department's three so-called functional combatant commands: the Special Operations Command, Strategic Command and the Transportation Command. These commands employ thousands to support the DOD's six geographic combatant commands and the four military services.

The secretary of defense last year directed that spending in management headquarters be cut by 20 percent, which included

civilian personnel, facilities and information technology.

But cutting that layer of management by a certain percentage requires a reliable baseline, which the DOD does not have. The GAO has issued several reports during the past few years cajoling the Pentagon to determine such a baseline.

A GAO report last year found that "DOD's process for sizing its combatant commands had several weaknesses, including the absence of a comprehensive, periodic review of the existing size and structure of these commands and inconsistent use of personnel-management systems to identify and track assigned personnel."

A 2012 report found that the DOD didn't have "complete and reliable headquarters information available for use in making efficiency assessments and decisions."

In general, the size and expense of management headquarters has ballooned during the past decade. The number of authorized positions across the commands increased from 5,731 to about 10,500 during the nine years leading up to fiscal year 2013, the GAO report stated. The combined

costs for headquarters operations increased from \$296 million in 2001 to just more than \$1.23 billion in 2013, as calculated in fiscal year 2013 dollars.

In the study just released, the GAO found that the DOD's tracking of "underlying data" was "inconsistent," with various commands calculating total costs in different ways.

"All the commands included costs for categories like civilian compensation, travel and transportation expenses," the report said. "However, some commands included categories such as software for command-specific systems as well as command-specific equipment. Based on discussions with DOD officials, it is unclear whether the commands were consistent in their approaches for identifying and self-reporting the information they provided."

The report points out that it's critical to determine a baseline for management costs because that will serve as the basis for cutting management by 20 percent, as the defense secretary has called for.

Based on its data collection, the GAO estimated that about 2,500 of 10,500 total authorized posi-

tions are considered to be part of "management headquarters functions." A 20-percent reduction of would amount to a "relatively small cut" of about 500 positions, "or less than 5 percent of the overall authorized positions at the commands."

"[S]ince the universe of resources that DOD has identified for headquarters reductions is relatively small compared to the overall size of the functional combatant commands, unless the department reevaluates its decision to base reductions on management headquarters, it may not ultimately realize significant savings," the report said.

In response to the report's findings, the DOD told the GAO that the military services were allowed to make cuts in elements of combatant commands that are not designated as management, cuts that will range from 3 percent to 15 percent.

"However, the department's response did not delineate how these reductions were determined, how they were applied by the military services, or how much the actions would ultimately save the department," the GAO report said.

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MIDEAST

Death toll rises in Afghan battle with militants

By Mirwais Khan
and Amir Shah
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The death toll from a week of fighting between Afghan forces and hundreds of Taliban militants in a southern province rose above 100, officials said Thursday, while the U.N. called on all parties to protect civilians who are increasingly caught in the crossfire.

The battle is shaping up as a major test of the government's ability to maintain security in volatile areas after foreign combat troops leave by the end of 2014, increasing the urgency for the government to sign a security pact with the United States that would allow nearly 10,000 American forces to stay in the country for two more years.

Outgoing President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign the deal, saying he would like it to his successor after he is announced in the recent presidential election. Both candidates vying to replace Karzai, who is constitutionally barred from a third term, have promised to sign the pact. But the process has been stalled by fraud allegations in the June 14 runoff vote pitting former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah against former Finance Minister and World Bank official Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai.

The government has deployed nearly 2,000 reinforcements since the Taliban offensive against checkpoints and government buildings in Helmand province began on Sunday.

The provincial governor, Mohammad Naem Baloch, accused the Pakistani army of orchestrating the assault that began in Helmand's Sangin province and spread. Afghan authorities frequently blame neighboring Pakistan of fomenting violence and backing Taliban attacks in the war-torn country.

Baloch said at least 135 people have been killed, including 30 policemen, 35 civilians and 70 Taliban fighters, since the start of the fighting. He also said 25 Afghan soldiers were killed or wounded, although he did not provide a breakdown.

"We are launching an operation to clear the area, and very soon this area will be cleaned again," he told reporters.

An American soldier also was killed in an attack by enemy forces Wednesday in southern Afghanistan. The U.S.-led international coalition provided no other details in its statement. A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity in exchange for releasing the information ahead

of an official announcement, confirmed the soldier's nationality. The death brought to 11 the number of NATO servicemembers killed so far this month, with eight of the fatalities being American. So far this year, 40 NATO troops have died in Afghanistan, including 29 Americans, according to an Associated Press tally.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said it was "deeply concerned" about the rising number of civilian deaths and injuries in Helmand province. It said it has documented at least 30 civilians killed and 35 others wounded in the district of Sangin alone. Citing health authorities, victims and witnesses, it said the casualties were largely due to mortar strikes on civilian homes and civilians caught in crossfire and roadside bombings.

"All parties to the conflict are obliged to take all feasible precau-

All parties to the conflict are obliged to take all feasible precautions to protect civilians during military operations.

Jan Kubiš
chief U.N. envoy in
Afghanistan

tions to protect civilians during military operations," the chief U.N. envoy in Afghanistan, Jan Kubiš said in a statement.

The Taliban have launched their annual spring offensive, promising to step up attacks against Afghan forces in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw from the country by the end of the year.

The clashes in Helmand have special significance because the province was touted as a showcase of a major U.S. military offensive to drive out the militants in 2009. The fighting also comes less than two months after U.S. Marines left their posts in Sangin district on May 5.

The U.S.-led coalition said Wednesday that it was providing support to the Afghan national security forces in the area, including helicopter escorts, medical evacuations, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets and close air support.

In political developments, Ahmadzai reiterated during a press conference Thursday in Kabul that he would sign the bilateral security agreement "so we can secure help for our security forces."



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Abdullah Abdullah supporters chant slogans during a protest in Kabul on Friday.

Supporters of Afghan candidate protest alleged fraud in runoff

The Associated Press

KABUL — Thousands of supporters of Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah on Friday protested against alleged fraud in the presidential runoff held earlier this month despite the resignation this week of the election commission's top official.

The candidate himself joined thousands of supporters who gathered in front of the presidential palace. The protesters shouted that they would not accept fraud and that Abdullah would be the next president.

Shopkeeper Ahmad Bashir said he and his entire family voted for Abdullah. "I hope the [Independent Election Commission] will stop the fraud. ... But if it doesn't listen to our demands, we will hold another protest. It's our legitimate right."

The dispute over the election — pitting Abdullah, a former foreign minister, against former Finance

Minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai — has undermined Western hopes for a smooth transfer of power ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign troops by the end of this year.

Abdullah met with the election commission earlier this week in a bid to defuse tensions after the head of the commission resigned Monday over the mounting dispute, which is threatening to derail Afghanistan's first democratic transfer of power.

Abdullah has said his campaign monitors had recorded ballot box stuffing and other irregularities in the June 14 vote.

Abdullah won the first round but failed to gain the majority needed to avoid a runoff in the race to replace President Hamid Karzai.

According to the election commission's official timetable, preliminary results are due on July 2, and final results on July 23.

Tensions up between Pakistan, Afghanistan

By Tim Craig
and Shaiq Hussain
The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has evacuated more than 450,000 civilians from a terrorist-plagued district in the northwestern part of the country, but its offensive against the militants there is complicated by fresh tension with neighboring Afghanistan.

With the North Waziristan campaign in its second week, officials said most civilians have left the remote, mountainous area that is home to thousands of militants affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban and groups such as the Haqqani network. More than 350 militants have been killed, and military

So far, there has been no action on the part of the Afghan government to dismantle (Pakistani Taliban) hideouts. We want them to take action.

Pakistani Maj. Gen. Asim Bajwa

commanders say a full-scale ground invasion is imminent. The area's porous border with Afghanistan makes it likely, however, that some militants have escaped. Pakistan says Afghanistan is not doing enough to bolster surveillance of its side of the border. Pakistani Taliban leader

Mullah Fazlullah is thought to live in Afghanistan, and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has personally appealed to Afghan President Hamid Karzai to help dislodge him.

"So far, there has been no action on the part of the Afghan government to dismantle [Pakistani Taliban] hideouts," Pakistani Maj. Gen. Asim Bajwa said. "We want them to take action."

In recent days, Afghan military commanders have been largely dismissive of such concerns, saying they are doing all they can to help their Pakistani counterparts. "From a security point of view, we have taken all necessary measures to make sure that combatants, destructive elements and intelligence infiltrators are not amongst the refugees who have come to this side" of the border, said Abdul Hasib Seddiqui, a spokesman for the Afghan National Directorate of Security. "There is no Pakistani Taliban leader or group that operates in Afghanistan. ... Pakistan makes such accusations in order to justify its rocket attacks on our soil."

U.S. officials have been stymied for years in their efforts to get Pakistan and Afghanistan to work together against terrorists on both sides of the border.

MILITARY



LAURIE DEXTER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Servicemembers and civilians watch the USS Ronald Reagan in transit to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in the Rim of the Pacific.

Rim of the Pacific drills underway



Above: Sailors aboard USS Ronald Reagan the rails as the ship arrives in Hawaii on Thursday.

Right: Petty Officer 2nd Class Benz Seaton, a newly reported bootswain's mate on the Coast Guard cutter Waesche, writes down waypoints during a group sail to Hawaii for Rim of the Pacific.

Courtesy of the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard



World's largest maritime exercises start in Hawaii

By AUDREY McAVOY
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — More than one month of naval maneuvers involving the militaries of 22 nations kicked off in Hawaii on Thursday. For the first time, China has sent vessels to participate in the Rim of the Pacific drills that the U.S. Pacific Fleet hosts every two years.

Thailand was initially among 25 nations expected to send units to Hawaii for the world's largest maritime exercises. But it's no longer doing so after its military orchestrated a coup last month. The Obama administration suspended various assistance and military exercises after a junta took power on May 22.

The exercises will include disaster-relief training as well practice countering pirates, clearing mines, landing amphibious ships and searching for submarines.

Some ships started their training en route. Nine ships from Brunei, China, Singapore and the U.S. sailed together from Guam to Pearl Harbor. Capt. Patrick Kelly, the commander of USS Chosin, said the ships practiced communications, maneuvering and weapons-firing drills. They also held personnel exchanges. Brunei is also participating in the drills for the first time.

China sent four ships, two helicopters, a commando unit and a diving team to Hawaii along with 1,100 Chinese officers and sailors.

A Chinese oiler, frigate and destroyer are expected to join a maritime interdiction operations task force drill. The hospital ship Peace Ark will participate in medical exchanges with other participants.

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



1,100 Army captains to be cut

The Army drawdown continues this week, when about 1,100 Army captains will receive word that their military careers are about to end. An additional 500 majors will get the same news in early July.

Readers respond:

Those who are unfortunate in getting the axe should not join the Army Reserve or National Guard ... don't continue to give to the branch of service who is thankless for your service and many years of sacrifice and deployments.

— 2001CPT35E

We will pay for these reductions with the lives of young men and women who are either children or haven't been born yet.

— Brigadon2

If the military can't save money from benefit programs, the only way to save money is to decrease the number of people who get benefits.

— Jenny Jackman

Just imagine if you're that young captain, commanding troops in Afghanistan ... "Thanks for your service, now get lost!" This makes me SOOOOOOOOOO angry and sad.

— bvdtees

What an absolute knife in the back.

— Shan

just like playing on a football team: if you don't make the cut goodbye, or if you don't win a championship, you got to go, what's so hard about that, fair is fair.

— Alfonso Moore

There are a lot of other government agencies that need to be reduced and done away with all together, and the Military is not one of them.

— thw001

Every one of us that wears (or wore) a uniform will some day get told, "Thanks for your service, now go away." You will miss the Army, but the Army won't miss you.

— charliemik1776

Join the fray at:
stripes.com/go/outcaptains

MILITARY

US plans to curb land mines, join global treaty

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration announced Friday that the United States will no longer produce or acquire anti-personnel land mines and plans to join an international treaty banning their use.

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the announcement was made by U.S. officials at a conference in Maputo, Mozambique, to review the 15-year-old Ottawa Convention, which prohibits the use, stocking, production and transfer of the mines.

Human rights advocates have long pushed the United States to join most of the rest of the world in signing the treaty. President Bill Clinton had a goal of joining the Ottawa Convention, but the Bush administration pulled back from that goal and instead instituted a review of its policy.

"Our delegation in Maputo made clear that we are diligently pursuing solutions that would be compliant with and ultimately allow the United States to accede to the Ottawa Convention," Hayden said.

Steve Goose, head of delegation for the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, said the U.S. announcement is some progress, since in the past the U.S. has always reserved the right to produce more land mines.

He also said it's a positive change for U.S. officials to say they intend to join the treaty, although he noted there's no guarantee or timeline for doing so. He also said the U.S. could still use its stockpile, which he estimates is probably about 9 million land mines in storage around the world.

"While they are saying they are working toward banning them in the future, they are leaving open the option of continuing to use them in the meantime, which is kind of a contradictory way to approach things,"

Goose said in a telephone interview from the Mozambique conference. "They're bad enough to ban them, but we still want to use them."

Goose said the U.S. should at least set a target date to join the treaty and immediately pledge not to use land mines and begin destruction of its stockpiles.

The White House did not immediately respond to questions about the size of its stockpile or where the land mines are located. But Goose said the U.S. hasn't produced land mines since 1997 and has none deployed anywhere in the world. He said most are stored in the United States.

2 US units in Bavaria deactivate

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — The 69th Signal Battalion and Dragon Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, both fixtures of the Bavarian military community for decades, held separate deactivation ceremonies Friday.

The 69th Signal Battalion ceased its colors at the Grafenwöhr garrison, while Dragon Company — the armored element of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment — held its closing ceremony at the training facilities at the Hofenfels training post.

The shuttering of Dragon Company means the end of a unit that has existed in Europe since 1940, as well as the loss of 185 soldiers from the Hofenfels-based opposing forces team. Among those

soldiers are 19 M-1 Abrams tank operators, whose departure will have an immediate impact on the regiment, said 1-4 commander Lt. Col. Barry Carlson.

"We as a battalion, each and every time we go into the box, we're going to miss those guys because of their understanding of combined arms maneuver and their ability to maneuver within the terrain of Hofenfels," Carlson said. "It's going to be a degradation of OpFor capabilities that will take time to overcome."

Carlson said the tank operators will be supplanted by operators from their multinational partners and from the infantry ranks.

The closure of the 69th Signal Battalion will have less of an impact on day-to-day operations, though it is more of a historic event — it has operated in

Europe on and off since 1942. The unit is being replaced by the Bavarian Signal Company, which will carry out the same mission under the command of the 102nd Signal Battalion based in Wiesbaden, Germany.

According to Angela Ramirez, the outgoing chief intelligence and security officer for the 69th Battalion, the tinge of sadness felt by members of the 69th is tempered by pride in what the unit accomplished during its long, storied history.

"I'm a veteran, and it's been a long time since I've been in a unit with so much esprit de corps as this one does," she said. "The 69th is a great group of soldiers and civilians working together to accomplish a huge mission — and we do it well."

darnell.michael@stripes.com



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with the 69th Signal Battalion march out their unit colors one final time before their casing at a ceremony held at USAG Grafenwöhr on Friday.

16K jobs may be shed at Fort Bragg

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Fort Bragg could lose 16,000 military and civilian jobs in the next six years under a new projection of the impact of the shrinking defense budget.

The figure is a worst-case scenario and is contained in a draft report by the U.S. Army Environmental Command, The Fayetteville Observer reported.

That report looks at the impact of defense cuts at 30 Army posts. It concluded that Fort Bragg is one of nine large Army installations that could lose 16,000 soldiers and civilians under the most extreme cuts.

North Carolina State University economist Michael Walden says if such cuts occurred, it would cause significant damage to the region's economy.

"Fayetteville is essentially a one-company town," Walden said. "You rise and fall with the military."

The projections say the region could lose nearly 22,000 jobs, and the financial impact would be nearly \$1 billion.

"That's like a recession. There's no way to paint this as good," he said.

Local governments would lose \$11 million in estimated sales tax revenue.

Fort Bragg is still expected to remain the biggest Army base in the nation. Currently, roughly 10 percent of the Army is based at Fort Bragg, officials said.

"Final decisions on which installations will see reductions have not been made, officials said.

Temporary VA head of hospitals named amid widening scandal

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced another shake-up among top staff Wednesday as it struggles with a growing national scandal that forced the resignation of Secretary Eric Shinseki and the early retirement of Under Secretary of Health Robert Petzel last month.

The department tapped Carolyn Clancy, the current assistant deputy health undersecretary for quality, safety and value, to take up Petzel's old post on July 2 as it searches for a permanent replacement. She will take over for Robert Jesse, who stepped in briefly but will be completing a four-year term as a VA deputy undersecretary next month.

Clancy will now oversee a system of hospitals and clinics that treat 6.5 million veterans per year and comprise the largest integrated health care system in the United States as the VA attempts to recover from deep dysfunction amid widespread misconduct.

"Dr. Clancy will be charged with the department's top priority — getting veterans off of wait lists and in to see their doctors," said acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson, who is himself a temporary re-

Dr. Carolyn Clancy will be charged with the department's top priority — getting veterans off of wait lists and in to see their doctors.

Sloan Gibson
acting VA secretary

placement for Shinseki. "She will also lead our efforts on immediate national reforms to accelerate access to care and restore trust among our veterans, and I'm grateful to her for taking on this critical role."

This week there were more VA bombshells, including a letter to President Barack Obama from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel claiming the department whitewashed potentially dangerous misconduct. In one example, the VA shrugged off an incident where two mentally ill veterans in Massachusetts who had been residents in a treatment facility for years had never been examined.

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., also issued a report this week claiming

more than 1,000 vets might have died over the past decade due to widespread dysfunction in the VA health care system.

Clancy has been with the VA for less than a year. Before being hired in August, she was director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, an organization in the Department of Health and Human Services that is aimed at improving access and safety in health care, according to the department.

The VA said a commission of health care experts and industry leaders are looking at potential candidates to permanently take over the job as head of the troubled hospital system. Once completed, the candidate recommendations will be given to the president.

Also on Wednesday, the VA announced that general counsel Will Gunn will resign July 3, though the department gave no reason for the departure. Jonathan Perlin, the incoming chair of the American Hospital Association and a former VA secretary, will become a temporary adviser to Gibson as the department tries for an overhaul.

Investigations by the VA inspector general have found the department's health care system systematically falsified patient wait lists to mask long waits for

treatment. About 57,000 veterans nationwide have waited over a month to receive health care guaranteed as part of their military service, and whistleblowers have claimed delays have led to deaths.

Furthermore, 70 percent of hospitals and clinics improperly manipulated wait lists at least once, the IG found.

Petzel stepped down May 16 after a whistleblower claimed 40 veteran deaths might have resulted from delayed care and scheduling abuses at a Phoenix VA. By the end of the month, the Obama administration had pressed Shinseki to resign as the allegations spread to other hospitals and clinics across the country.

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IRAQ

Drones: Group says photos 'strongly indicate' mass executions by the ISIL

FROM FRONT PAGE

Obama rushed advisers to Iraq after Sunni militants led by the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant stormed Mosul and other northern cities and have swept south. The extremist offensive is the most serious threat to the survival of the Shiite-led, U.S.-backed Iraqi government since U.S. forces withdrew from the country in 2011.

The U.S. military on Friday named a two-star general and Iraq War veteran to oversee the advisory teams. Army Maj. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, deputy commanding general of operations for the Kuwait-based U.S. 3rd Army, will direct the work of the advisers. Pittard served as a brigade commander during the Iraq War and later commanded the Iraq Assistance Group, which managed the transition to Iraqi security control.

As the U.S. gears up its assistance, Iraq's battered army has been struggling to blunt the ISIL offensive as the militant juggernaut moves toward Baghdad.

On Friday, the Reuters news agency, quoting residents, reported that Iraqi helicopters fired on a university campus in Tikrit to try to dislodge insurgents. On Thursday, Iraqi forces launched an airborne assault on Tikrit, flying troops into a stadium in helicopters, one of which crashed after coming under fire.

In London, Human Rights Watch said Friday that analysis of photographs and satellite imagery "strongly indicate" that the ISIL staged mass executions in Tikrit after capturing it on June 11. Human Rights Watch estimated that as many as 190 men were slaughtered over three days but the real figure may be higher because an on-site investigation is not possible.

"The photos and satellite images from Tikrit provide strong evidence of a horrible war crime that needs further investigation," Peter Bouckaert, emergencies director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

The massacre appeared to be aimed at instilling fear in Iraq's demoralized armed forces as well as among the country's Shiite majority, whom the Islamic State views as heretics.

In the west, ISIL fighters clashed with a joint force of Iraqi Army and tribal forces in



An MQ-4 Predator stands on the tarmac in June 2007 at Balad Air Base, north of Baghdad.

MAYA ALLERUZZO/AP

Barwana, eight miles south of the Haditha dam. Government forces are said to be reinforcing the dam to prevent a repeat of an incident earlier this year when the ISIL seized the Fallujah dam on the Euphrates River. The ISIL opened the floodgates, inundating surrounding areas and depriving downstream communities of water.

During its offensive, the ISIL was helped by Sunni tribes and former members of Saddam's Sunni-dominated Baath Party, who have long complained they were marginalized by the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. U.S. of-

ficials, meanwhile, have urged the Iraqis to form an inclusive government to wean Sunnis away from the ISIL.

Al-Maliki's party won the most seats in the April parliamentary election but needs support from other parties to gain a parliamentary majority and to hold onto his job. Parliament is due to meet Tuesday to begin the process of picking the next prime minister, with the ISIL threat adding new urgency to finish the process soon. Many Sunnis and some Shiite politicians believe al-Maliki must be replaced because of his image as a polarizing Shiite

hard-liner.

On Friday, Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, stepped up pressure on parliament, calling on political blocs to agree on the next prime minister even before parliament convenes.

Al-Maliki, who is fighting to keep his job, warned army commanders that militants were likely to try to undermine security in the Iraqi capital ahead of Tuesday's session. "Baghdad must be secured and not subjected to any instability at this time," he said in televised comments.

Budget: Official says spending plan aimed at aiding moderate Assad foes

FROM FRONT PAGE

Overall, Obama's proposal provides the Department of Defense with \$58.6 billion and the State Department \$7.3 billion, up slightly from last year.

The House and Senate will now craft their versions of OCO spending bills as the overall 2015 defense budget begins to take shape on Capitol Hill. Lawmakers are likely to wrangle over Obama's foreign policy and counterterrorism vision and to make various changes before passing a final spending plan.

National Security Council Spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the budget focuses specifically on counterterrorism partnerships across the Middle East and North Africa — an argument aimed at critics opposed to deeper involvement in the Syrian war.

"In particular, we are seeking \$500 million for a proposed authority to train and equip appropriately vetted elements of the moderate Syrian armed opposi-



A damaged Iraqi army Humvee is left behind Friday in Mosul, Iraq.

tion," Hayden said in a statement. "These funds would help defend the Syrian people, stabilize areas under opposition control, facilitate the provision of essential services, counterterrorist threats, and promote conditions for a negotiated settlement."

She said the money will be aimed at empowering moderate opposition to the Assad regime, which since 2011 has been both fighting the government there and trying to beat back more radical

elements of the uprising.

As the war grinds on, Syria has become an incubator for these groups, which now pose a grave threat to stability in the region. The ISIL has flourished in the Syrian mayhem and now has seized large swaths of Iraq. The U.S. sent in Special Forces advisers this week to assist the government in Baghdad and weighed the use of airstrikes.

Critics fear weapons sent to moderates may end up in the hands of the very forces that the administration wants to defeat in Iraq.

"While we continue to believe that there is no military solution to this crisis and that the United States should not put American troops into combat in Syria, this request marks another step toward helping the Syrian people defend themselves against regime attacks, push back against the growing number of extremists like ISIL, who find safe-haven in the chaos, and take their future into their own hands by enhanc-

ing security and stability at local levels," Hayden said.

The budget anticipates the winding down of combat operations in Afghanistan, now the longest war in American history.

Obama announced in May that the military will draw down to about 9,800 troops and transition to an advisory mission by the end of December 2014. However, the administration said Thursday that costs will not decline quickly despite the official end of the war.

"DOD will still incur significant costs to transport personnel, supplies, and equipment back to their home stations," the White House wrote in a statement.

The Afghan national army will also require continued funding to handle security, the administration said. Taliban forces have already staged offensives in areas where U.S. forces have left after gaining hard-fought progress over years of combat.

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IRAQ



Members of the Sahwa, a group of Sunni Arabs who joined forces with the U.S. military to fight al-Qaida at the height of Iraq's insurgency, escort the coffin of Ifan Saadoun al-Hsawi during his funeral in Fallujah, Iraq, on Jan. 16, 2013. AP

Old militia program eyed for new fight

BY SAMEER N. YACOB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — They were known as the Sahwa, or the Awakening Councils — Sunni militiamen who took extraordinary risks to side with U.S. troops in the fight against al-Qaida during the Iraq War. Once heralded as a pivotal step in the defeat of the bloody insurgency, the Sahwa later were pushed aside by Iraq's Shiite-led government, starved of political support and money needed to remain a viable security force.

Now, the Obama administration is looking at the Sahwa, which still exist in smaller form, as a model for how to unite Sunni fighters against the rampant Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant that has swept across most of the nation's north. Also known as the Sons of Iraq — "sahwa" is Arabic for "awakening" — U.S. officials say they hope Sunnis will be similarly stirred to fight back against the new insurgency.

As many as 3,000 core ISIL fighters, many of them foreign, are believed to be in Iraq. But U.S. intelligence officials fear twice that many Iraqi Sunnis are vulnerable to being lured into the violence — pushing the country into an outright civil war. That has prompted the White House, State Department and CIA to look for incentives to keep as many disgruntled Sunnis as possible from joining the fight.

"Hundreds of Sahwa fighters have given up during the past months. Either they have stayed home or joined insurgent groups," said Ramadi militiaman Abu Humam, who would only identify himself by his nickname out of fear for his family's safety. He said he will not join the insurgency because "because they do nothing but kill people."

But Abu Ahmed, a Sahwa fighter from Muqadadiya, said he joined an extremist group to

protect himself and his family after receiving threatening text messages. He said he reported the threats to government security forces, "but nobody cared."

"It seems that both the government and the insurgents hate Sahwa," he said.

The Obama administration knows it cannot recreate the original Sahwa security movement, which was supported and bolstered by American troops in Sunni-dominated areas of western and northern Iraq. Over a three-year period after the Sahwa campaign began in late 2006, the U.S. military paid them at least \$370 million.

By contrast, there now are no immediate U.S. plans to arm or fund the Sunni security militias, and there are too few American personnel in Iraq now to try to duplicate the original joint force.

It's thought likely that Iraq's Sunni neighbors — notably Jordan and Saudi Arabia — will use their cross-border tribal networks to bolster the security militias with financing or weapons, but it's not clear whether Washington would even support that privately. The U.S. probably would want to vet the tribes before they received any money or arms, even from other nations, to ensure that the aid does not get passed along to ISIL or other extremist groups.

A similar process in Syria has delayed assistance to the frustrated moderate Sunni rebels in their three-year civil war to eject President Bashar Assad, whose Alawite sect is an off-

shoot of Shiism.

Secretary of State John Kerry met Thursday with diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

"We're hearing from Sunni leaders across the board that they really want to do something about ISIL. They're figuring out how to do it," said one senior State Department official who, like more than a half-dozen other U.S. officials interviewed, spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue by name.

He said many of the Sunni tribes first want to unseat al-Maliki.

Offering more autonomy to Sunni regions of Iraq, diluting Baghdad's power and giving more authority to tribes, could be one avenue for appeasing the fighters, according to a second senior administration official. That would give tribes more say in security decisions, although it's not clear how they would be funded.

Unlike the Shiite-dominated south and the far northern Kurdish region, there are few oil reserves in the Iraq lands mostly populated by Sunnis.

It is also possible that new Shiite leaders in Baghdad will be willing to fulfill al-Maliki's promises and integrate the Sahwa into government security forces with full salaries and benefits. But that would take months, if not years, to complete, the White House official said. Moreover, there is no obvious successor for al-Maliki, who has shown no signs of stepping down.

ISIL victories may attract recruits from Syrian rebels

By MITCHELL PROTHRO
McClatchy Foreign Staff

IRBIL, Iraq — When the fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant swept aside Iraqi security forces in just two days of fighting to seize control of much of northern and central Iraq, it appears they also took control of the initiative in their fight in neighboring Syria, where they've seen recent successes against rivals who once considered them allies.

The gains in Iraq, analysts and experts say, not only included huge amounts of weaponry and ammunition that also could be used in Syria but also provided a powerful message to members of other Syrian militant groups that ISIL was a group on the ascent. That, experts say, is likely to bring it new recruits from Syrian rebel groups whose ideology is really not much different from ISIL's.

Aaron Zelin, who edits the Jihadology blog and studies Syrian rebel groups, said that was particularly true of the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida affiliate that's been at the forefront of rebel successes against forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar Assad, and Ahrar al-Sham, one of the primary groups that form the Islamic Front rebel coalition.

"There's not a lot, if any, ideological difference between ISIL and the Nusra Front or Ahrar al-Sham," he said. "So defections are occurring."

How that will affect the war to topple Assad is still to be seen. ISIL's goal of establishing an Islamic state takes precedence over toppling Assad, though the Syrian leader, in ISIL's view, must go, too. But defections to ISIL's side will make the dividing line starker between rebel groups that are acceptable to the United States and those that are not. In the end, the least militarily capable rebels may be the ones who aren't affiliated with ISIL.

"The Islamic Front in general is under considerable pressure right now from a number of directions inside and outside of Syria," said Charles Lister, who studies Syrian rebel groups as a researcher at the Brookings Institute in Doha, Qatar, one of its key commentators is Ahrar al-Sham, whose ideology makes its members susceptible to joining ISIL.

Zelin said Nusra and Ahrar al-Sham have been quiet recently on social media compared with ISIL, leading to suspicions that they were suffering from internal problems, including a lack of fighters and diminished resources as ISIL appeared to grow.

Lister said ISIL was well positioned to capitalize on the notoriety and publicity surrounding its success in Iraq and that might lead to more power in Syria.

"The spectacular nature of ISIL's offensive and successes in Iraq has caught the attention of huge numbers of potential recruits around the world," he said. "But after all, there are thousands in Syria for whom joining ISIL represents only a small task."

4 **Hundreds of Sahwa fighters have given up during the past months. Either they have stayed home or joined insurgent groups.**

Abu Humam
Ramadi militiaman

NATION

Calif. child predator sting nets 275 arrests

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A month-long national effort to capture sex predators led to 275 arrests in Southern California that included a teaching assistant for special-needs children, a retired sheriff's deputy and a U.S. Army soldier, authorities said Thursday.

The effort dubbed "Operation Broken Heart" involved dozens of local, state and federal authorities throughout May who targeted sex offenders, child sex traffickers, pimps, child porn traders and sex tourists traveling abroad.

In a technique reminiscent of the infamous show "To Catch a Predator," the Los Angeles Regional Internet Crimes Against Children task force had its investigators pretend to be 12- to 14-year-old children online and arrested many individuals when they showed up to engage in sex acts with the children.

"The dirty-old-man stereotype no longer applies," said Claude Arnold, special agent in charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations, which worked on the task force. "The perpetrators in these cases come from all walks of life and virtually every strata of the socioeconomic spectrum they're community leaders, white-collar professionals and even law enforcement personnel. The common denominator in most of these cases is the Internet. It has become the preferred playground for child sex predators."

At a news conference Thursday in a park where children played, authorities emphasized the importance of educating youth about the dangers of the Internet and insisted that parents strictly supervise and are aware of their children's online activities.

"If your child is in the next room on the Internet, you may have a predator basically sitting virtually in the next room and you're giving that predator access," said Long Beach Police Chief Jim McDonnell.



SUE ODOROCK/AP

Austen Holland, research seismologist at the Oklahoma Geological Survey, hangs up a chart Thursday depicting earthquake activity at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla.

Okla. looks for answers on earthquakes, drilling

By TIM TALLEY
The Associated Press

EDMOND, Okla. — Central Oklahoma residents are demanding to know whether earthquake swarms that have shaken their homes and their nerves in recent months are caused by oil and gas drilling operations in the area.

About 500 people attended a meeting with regulators and research geologists Thursday night in Edmond. Many urged the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, which regulates the oil and gas industry, to ban or severely restrict the wells that are used to dispose of wastewater from drilling and that some scientists say could be linked to the quakes.

"We're going to have people

hurt and damaged," said Angela Spotts of Stillwater, who has collected names for a petition calling for a ban on deep-well injections of wastewater.

Edmond resident Mary Fleming said she has experienced dozens, "maybe 100," earthquakes and said they shake her house several times a week, causing cracks inside the home.

"The house rocks. The bed lurches," Fleming said.

Earthquakes used to be almost unheard of on the vast stretches of prairie that unfold across Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma, but they've become common in recent years. Oklahoma has recorded 230 so far this year, including a magnitude 3.6 earthquake southwest of Guthrie recorded by

the U.S. Geological Survey early Thursday.

Though most have been too weak to cause serious damage or to endanger lives, they have raised suspicions that the shaking might be connected to the oil and gas drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing, especially the wells in which the industry disposes of its wastewater.

Now after years of being harangued by anxious residents, governments in all three states are confronting the issue, reviewing scientific data, holding public discussions and considering new regulations. The states are trying to reconcile the scientific data with the interests of their citizens and the oil and gas industry.

Boy found in basement back with mother

DETROIT — Police say a 12-year-old Detroit boy who went missing for a dozen days before turning up in his own basement has been turned over to his mother.

Police said Charlie Bothuell V was out of the hospital Thursday after being evaluated. He was found Wednesday in the multiple-unit condo where his father and stepmother live near downtown Detroit.

Investigators weren't allowing him to have contact with his father, Charlie Bothuell IV, and stepmother, Monique Dillard-Bothuell, as they focus on circumstances surrounding his disappearance and recovery.

Police also said Thursday that Dillard-Bothuell was arrested on a probation violation related to a misdemeanor gun charge.

Feds nix eagle penalties for California wind farm

FRESNO, Calif. — A California wind farm will become the first in the nation to avoid prosecution if eagles are injured or die when they run into the giant, turning blades, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Thursday.

The Shiloh IV Wind Project LLC, 60 miles east of San Francisco, will receive a special permit allowing up to five golden eagles to be accidentally killed over five years.

Heavy drinking causes 1 in 10 adult early deaths

It's no secret that America's favorite legal drug has vast impacts on public health. But just how closely drinking and overconsumption of alcohol are linked to deaths may come as a surprise.

One in 10 deaths of working-age adults every year is attributable to "excessive alcohol consumption," according to a report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — a finding that keeps booze as "a leading cause of premature mortality nationwide."

For their report, the researchers defined excessive consumption as a binge of five or more drinks per occasion for men or four or more for women; 15 or more drinks per week for men or eight for women; and any drinking by pregnant women or people younger than 21.

US to push talks with China on cybersecurity

WASHINGTON — The United States next month will urge China to resume discussions on cybersecurity that were suspended after the Americans charged five Chinese military officers with hacking into U.S. companies to steal trade secrets, officials said Thursday.

Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel told The Associated Press on Thursday that the U.S. would push for a resumption of the cybersecurity working group when Cabinet-level officials of both sides meet at the annual U.S.-China Security and Economic Dialogue in Beijing in the second week of July.

From The Associated Press

NYC signs off on legal settlement for Central Park Five

By TINA SUSMAN
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — The city's comptroller signed off Thursday on a settlement with the so-called Central Park Five, who were wrongly jailed for a sensational 1989 crime that led to what critics called a racially charged rush to judgment.

All five of the men, who were teenagers when they were arrested, were exonerated in the rape and assault of the woman in 2002, then as the Central Park jogger. But they fought for years to clear their names, and all served lengthy prison terms after being convicted in jury trials of charges

ranging from sexual abuse to attempted murder.

In a brief statement, Comptroller Scott Stringer said he had approved the settlement, which local media last week reported would give the men \$40 million. That would amount to roughly \$1 million for each year of imprisonment for the five black and Latino men convicted of attacking the woman, who is white.

"In my judgment, this settlement is a prudent and equitable solution for all parties to the lawsuit and closes a very difficult chapter in our city's history," said Stringer, whose approval was needed for the deal to go

through.

The five — Kharey Wise, Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Raymond Santana and Yusef Salaam — ranged in age from 14 to 16 when they were rounded up the night of April 19, 1989, the same night the 28-year-old victim was raped and beaten nearly to death in Central Park.

The teenagers had been in the park that evening but denied taking part in a rape or assault. They eventually confessed to the crime after hours of interrogation. Afterward, all said they had been coerced into confessing and were told they would be able to go home if they gave statements to police.

Defense attorneys said the five were scapegoats targeted by police and prosecutors under pressure to solve the crime, which shocked the city and was seen as symbolic of its festering crime problem.

The case against the five unraveled in 2002 when a convicted sex offender, Matias Reyes, who was serving a life sentence for the rape and murder of a New York City woman, confessed to attacking the jogger and said he had acted alone.

Reyes' DNA was found on the jogger, and the Central Park Five convictions were vacated later that year.

NATION

Recent rulings unite the high court

By ILYA SOMIN

Special to *The Washington Post*

It's hard to remember now. But one of the themes of Obama's 2008 presidential campaign was "unity." The soon-to-be president and his supporters hoped to transcend the deep partisan and ideological divisions in our society.

ANALYSIS For the most part, that hope has gone the way of George W. Bush's promise that he was going to be "a uniter, not a divider." Perhaps no president could truly deliver on such a promise in this day and age. But President Barack Obama has created a measure of unity in one often-divided institution: the Supreme Court.

In both Thursday's Noel Canning decision on recess appointments and Wednesday's cellphone search decision, the justices unanimously rejected the administration's extreme positions, even though they disagreed on other issues involved in the two cases.

The administration was involved in Riley v. California, the cellphone search decision, because that ruling addressed two consolidated cases, one of which was a federal prosecution.

In Noel Canning, the administration's position that the president had nearly unlimited power to circumvent Senate confirmation of his appointees by manipulating recess appointments failed to win the support of either originalists or living constitutionalists.

In the cellphone case, the administration line that the Fourth Amendment allows police to search the entire contents of a suspect's cellphone any time



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Chris Evans, left, and his son Connor, 16, right, pause for a souvenir cellphone photo Thursday in front of the court in Washington. The justices have had a full week in advance of the end of this term.

they are arrested for virtually any reason was rejected by both conservative justices generally sympathetic to law enforcement and Obama's own two appointees to the Court (one of them a former prosecutor).

These defeats follow a series of other unanimous setbacks for the administration in important constitutional cases over the last few years. National Review columnist John Fund notes that today's case marked the 13th unanimous Supreme Court defeat for the administration since 2012.

The unanimous defeats in significant constitutional cases cover a wide range of issues, including freedom of religion, property rights, executive power and the Fourth Amendment. What these otherwise disparate cases have in common is a strong reluctance to accept even modest limits on federal authority.

Unanimous defeats do not in and of themselves prove that the administration's position was wrong in all these cases. Sometimes, even a unanimous court can be wrong. Still, when the president's position in multiple major constitutional cases cannot secure even one vote on an ideologically and methodologically diverse court that includes two of his own appointees, it is likely there is something wrong with the administration's constitutional worldview.

The mistakes cannot be attributed to low-level underlings. While initial litigation positions in a federal case may often be decided by relatively low-ranking officials, arguments advanced in the Supreme Court are usually approved by high-level lawyers in the Justice Department, the White House, or both.

The latter can and often do

forego arguments previously advanced in the lower courts.

The Obama administration is far from the first to push the limits of federal power. The Bush administration were no slouches in that respect, either. The administration's flaws in this respect exemplify broader weaknesses in our political and constitutional culture.

It is a good thing that the court—including its liberal Democratic justices—has rejected the administration's more extreme claims. It shows that the system of constitutional checks and balances still has some vitality. But the enforcement of constitutional limits on government power cannot rely on the judiciary alone. Many important constitutional issues never get to court at all. Others only do so after prolonged delays during which constitutional rights may continue to be violated.

US seeks to streamline health care plan renewal

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration said Thursday it wants most of the 8 million Americans already signed up for coverage under the health care law to be able to renew their coverage easily.

New Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell outlined a two-step approach:

■ People who want to keep their current insurance will be automatically re-enrolled, if the plan is available.

■ For most, the government will re-estimate the amount of subsidies that work to reduce their premiums. That's if people checked a box on their original application allowing HealthCare.gov to access their latest tax data.

Consumers will start getting notices about their options before the Nov. 15 start of the next open enrollment season.

"We are committed to simplifying the experience for consumers by allowing auto-enrollment," Burwell said in a statement. That means smoothing out the process for people who haven't had big changes in income, family circumstances or residence.

Millions more Americans are expected to try HealthCare.gov for the first time next year. Making things easier for those already signed up cuts the workload for federal and state insurance websites, reducing the odds of another round of headline-grabbing computer crashes.

But premiums will be changing for 2015, and an independent market analysis firm is advising consumers to shop around to make sure they are getting the best deals.

Open enrollment season will run through Feb. 15, 2015.

Voluntary IRS program certifies tax preparers

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced a voluntary program Thursday to certify paid tax preparers who complete annual training and pass a test.

Most preparers are unregulated. The goal of the program is to help consumers know which tax preparers have at least a minimum level of competency, said IRS Commissioner John Koskinen.

Attorneys, certified public accountants and others who represent clients before the IRS are exempt.

Starting in 2015, tax preparers would have to complete 18 hours of training each year and pass a test showing that they understood the material to be certified for the upcoming filing season.

From The Associated Press

Abortion ruling seen as victory for both sides

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court gave both sides in the abortion wars a partial victory Thursday in setting rules for protests at health clinics, deciding that laws may forbid people from obstructing the entrance as long as demonstrators are free to speak on the sidewalk.

The justices unanimously struck down a Massachusetts law that set a 35-foot buffer zone on the sidewalks near abortion facilities. The court said this no-standing, no-talking zone violated the First Amendment.

But Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., joined by the court's four liberal justices, said states and cities retain ample power to protect medical clinics and their patients. He cited with approval laws that forbid "obstructing access" to a medical clinic or harassing people within 15 feet of an abortion clinic.

Roberts said states and cities have "undeniably significant interests in maintaining public safety," as well as in preserving access to adjacent health care facilities. He said Massachusetts had gone too far by taking "the extreme step of closing a substantial portion of a traditional public forum to all speakers. It has done so without seriously addressing

the problem through alternatives" that would have allowed continued protests on the sidewalks, he said.

Four more conservative justices, led by Antonin Scalia, said they would have gone further and declared all buffer zones unconstitutional if they prohibit "abortion-opposing speech on public streets and sidewalks."

Though the court's ruling in *McCullen vs. Coakley* is a defeat for abortion-rights advocates, it preserves laws and court rulings across the country that put limits on those who would try to block patients from entering abortion facilities.

Even the court's liberal justices

agreed that the 35-foot buffer zone in Boston was broader than needed to keep the entrances of such facilities free of obstruction. Leaders of NARAL Pro-Choice America said they were "deeply disappointed" with the court's decision.

"The buffer zone did exactly what it was intended to do: It prevented violence at clinics while allowing anti-choice protesters to express their views," said Megan Amundson, executive director of the group's Massachusetts affiliate. "Without it, the only tool we have left to combat violence is to prosecute people after they have committed violent acts."

WORLD



AP photos

People gather at the site of a pipeline explosion Friday in Nagaram village, India.

Gas pipeline explosion kills 15 in India

The Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India — A state-owned gas pipeline exploded and burst into flames Friday, killing at least 15 people, destroying homes and forcing the evacuation of neighboring villages in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, authorities said.

Flames rose more than 80 feet into the air, scorching the tops of coconut and palm trees and sending dense black clouds of smoke into the sky, witnesses said. Villagers ran out of their homes and crowded the streets. Scores of houses and shops were gutted, officials said.

State Finance Minister Yanamala Ramakrishnu said the death toll rose to 15 when one of the injured succumbed to burn injuries.

Vandana Channana, a top official of state-run Gas Authority of India Ltd., said 14 other people were injured in the fire in the state's East Godavari district. Doctors said at least five of the injured were in critical condition, company officials said.

Andhra Pradesh Home Min-



In this image taken from video, flames rise in the background of houses after a state-owned gas pipeline exploded in India on Friday.

ister N. Chinna Rajappa said the explosion occurred at about 5:30 a.m. in Nagaram village, the site of a connecting station for the gas company.

The fire burned for more than three hours before it was brought under control, Rajappa said.

Company officials said it was too early to say what caused the explosion. In New Delhi, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the federal government has set up a panel to investigate the cause. Nagaram residents said they

had complained that the gas pipelines had not been properly maintained, but were ignored. "People are angry that GAIL authorities didn't pay heed when they complained that the pipes had become rusty," Ramakrishnu told reporters.

Two weeks ago, six people were killed and 29 others injured in an explosion and a subsequent gas pipeline leak at India's biggest government-run steel plant in the central Indian state of Chattisgarh.

eastern port city Thursday flew about 120 miles before harmlessly landing into the waters off its east coast. The exact type of those projectiles and the North's intentions weren't immediately known.

The North's state media said Friday that the country tested what it calls "cutting-edge ultra-precision tactical guided missiles" and Kim watched the tests with top deputies and was satisfied with the results.

There is virtually no way to independently confirm whether North Korea has developed such high-tech missiles.

North Korea has frequently bluffed and exaggerated about its military capability, and its army, though one of the world's largest, is seen as running on outdated equipment and short supplies amid the nation's chronic economic problems, according to foreign analysts.

From The Associated Press

Ukraine signs pact with EU

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Ukraine's new president signed an economic and political pact with the European Union on Friday, pushing his troubled country closer into a European orbit over the protests of Russia, which warned of possible trade sanctions.

"What a great day!" a beaming President Petro Poroshenko said in Brussels. "Maybe the most important day for my country after independence" from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Russia has long been opposed to closer ties between Ukraine and the EU. Moscow is loath to see its historic influence wane in its strategic neighbor, which it considers the birthplace of Russian statehood and of Russian Orthodox Christianity.

"There will undoubtedly be serious consequences for Ukraine and Moldova's signing," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Grigory Karasin said.

European Union leaders decided not to immediately impose new sanctions on Russia for destabilizing eastern Ukraine. But in a statement, they warned that new sanctions have been prepared so they could be levied "without delay" and listed several demands for Vladimir Putin's government and the pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Poroshenko's pro-Moscow predecessor, Viktor Yanukovich, had backed out of signing the agreement in November, igniting the bloody protests that toppled his government in February. Tensions between Ukrainians in the west who want closer ties to Europe and those who favor traditional ties with Russia sparked an insurgency in the east and Russia's annexation of the mainly Russian-speaking Crimean Peninsula in March.

Agreements signed Friday let businesses in the former Soviet

UN: 110,000 fled Ukraine for Russia

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Some 110,000 Ukrainians have fled this year for Russia and another 54,000 have fled their homes but stayed in the country as Ukraine fights separatist rebels, the U.N. refugee agency said Friday.

Only 9,500 of those fleeing for Russia have sought refugee status but many others are also afraid of future reprisals if they do return to Ukraine to make a formal request, said agency spokeswoman Melissa Fleming, citing official Russian figures and other U.N. information.

Another 750 Ukrainians have requested refugee status in Poland, Belarus, Czech Republic and Romania, according to U.N. figures.

republics of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia trade freely in any of the EU's nations without tariffs or restrictions as long as their goods and practices meet EU standards. Likewise, goods and services from the EU will be sold more easily and cheaply in the three countries.

On the diplomatic front, a second round of talks was being held Friday in eastern Ukraine between separatists and the Kiev government, also involving envoys from Russia and the EU. Russian news agencies quoted rebel leader Andrei Purgin as saying,



DMITRY LOVTSKY/AP

A pro-Russian fighter walks past seized weapons Friday in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine.

North Korea tests new missiles

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Friday that leader Kim Jong Un has guided the test launches of its newly developed precision-guided missiles, in a possible reference to three short-range projectiles South Korean officials say the North fired toward its waters a day earlier.

South Korean defense officials said the projectiles fired from an

WORLD

Shootings rise after China arms its police

By DIDI TANG

The Associated Press

BEIJING — A string of shooting incidents involving Chinese police — leaving at least four people dead — has the public wondering if rank-and-file officers are really ready to carry guns, as mandated by new regulations.

Last month, two policemen brought a loaded gun to a kindergarten show-and-tell. The handgun mistakenly went off, injuring four parents and one child.

The next day, an officer responded to a village quarrel and fatally shot a man in murky circumstances.

Police also fired repeatedly at a knife-wielding man driving a truck, killing him, even though witnesses said he posed no real threat.

The incidents — which have generated widespread media coverage and social media buzz — come after authorities decided in April to issue guns to patrolling officers to better protect the public and to improve police response to crime and attacks.

The trigger seems to have been a brazen attack by a group of assailants who stabbed 29 people to death and wounded 140 others in a train station in the southern province of Yunnan. Officials blamed the attack on ex-

tremists from the western Xinjiang region.

For decades, Chinese police were unarmed because the country has very little gun violence and firearms are hard to obtain. The change leaves Britain, Norway and New Zealand among developed countries where patrolling police officers generally aren't armed.

"Broadening the right [to carry guns] to more police officers could bring more harm than good if they do not follow the laws," said Liu Zhirong, an independent scholar who was once a researcher at an elite Chinese military police academy. "Police must learn to minimize use of force."

The Public Security Ministry has the daunting task of training hundreds of thousands of local police on how to handle a deadly weapon in the line of duty. The Chinese police force is 1.7 million strong, and it isn't clear how many will be armed. In Shanghai, about 1,000 of its 40,000 police began carrying standard-issue revolvers during routine patrols in April.

Experts worry that the training will focus too much on technical aspects, such as firing accuracy, and not enough on psychological and legal aspects, such as when to draw the gun and how to quickly size up chaotic situations.



People walk in a shopping mall June 20 in western London.

Ramadan rush sees mega-rich shoppers descend on London

By SYLVIA HUI

The Associated Press

LONDON — Before the fast, let there be a shopping feast.

From Harrods in Knightsbridge to the glittering diamond stores in Mayfair, London has long attracted big spenders. But every year about the holy month of Ramadan, which starts this weekend, a wave of spectacularly rich Middle Eastern shoppers arrives and takes retail therapy to a whole new level — complete with an entourage of bodyguards, chauffeurs, and Gulf-registered Rolls-Royces and Ferraris flown in just for the occasion.

Retailers call the boost in business the Ramadan Rush: A hugely lucrative and fast-growing market driven by wealthy Arabs who travel to Britain to escape the desert heat and to indulge in buying luxury gifts before flying home for a month of fasting and increased religious observance.

Another surge takes place during the Eid holiday, which marks the end of Ramadan.

The spike in shoppers during the summer months has been so regular and noticeable on London's streets that some have jokingly dubbed the phenomenon the "Harrods Hajj," after the traditional Islamic pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

"London is the place in Europe where the Middle Eastern visitor shops the most. It is almost their second home," said Gordon Clark, U.K. manager at Global Blue, the Switzerland-based retail research firm. The company estimates that pre-Ramadan sales last July jumped 60 percent compared with the previous year.

Although tourists from the oil-rich United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar make up only a small percentage of total visits to Britain compared with those from the U.S. and Europe, they tend to be much more

lavish spenders on average. Official figures show that Middle Eastern tourists ranked just 19th in terms of numbers of people last year, but came second in total spend — \$1.5 billion.

The Kuwaitis are the biggest spenders, shelling out some \$2,275 per transaction last July, Clark said.

That corresponds with data from the London Luxury Quarter, a group that represents some of the highest-end businesses in central London. It said the average spending from Middle Eastern shoppers last year came just behind the Chinese, its top customers.

Unsurprisingly, the best sellers are exclusive designer handbags and shoes, watches and jewelry, though a Harrods spokeswoman said food gifts like luxury fruit baskets and extravagantly packaged dates and cocoa-dusted almonds also sell briskly.

Tiger snatches man from boat in east India

By PRASANTA PAUL

The Associated Press

KOLKATA, India — A Bengal tiger snatched a man off a fishing boat in eastern India, dragging him away into a mangrove swamp as his children looked on in horror, the man's son said Friday.

The attack happened Thursday as Sushil Manjhi and his son and daughter were crab fishing in a stream in the Sunderbans National Park. The tiger leaped aboard the boat and clamped its jaws on Manjhi's neck, said Sushil's son, Jyotish.

The tiger "quickly flung my father on his back and gave a giant leap before disappearing into the forest," Jyotish said by telephone from his village of Lahripur in West Bengal state. He said he and his sister tried to beat the animal with sticks and a knife, but the thrashing had no effect. His fa-

ther was dragged away and was presumed dead.

The attack underlines the difficult existence of millions of poor Indians who make a living by scavenging in forests and rivers, often at risk from wild predators. Many villagers fish for crabs in the Sunderbans — even though it's illegal in the protected reserve — because they fetch a good price at markets in nearby towns.

The national park is one of the largest reserves for the royal Bengal tiger. Thursday's attack was the fourth deadly assault by a tiger this year in the Sunderbans, wildlife officials said.

India has more than half of the 3,200 tigers believed to be left in the wild in the world. But as the country undergoes break-neck development to accommodate the growth of its 1.2 billion people, tiger habitats have been shrinking.

Vatican: Many Catholics ignore teachings on sex

By NICOLE WINFIELD

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican conceded Thursday that most Catholics reject its teachings on sex and contraception as futuristic and irrelevant and officials pledged not to "close our eyes to anything" when it opens a two-year debate on some of the thorniest issues facing the church.

Core church doctrine on the nature of marriage, sexuality, abortion and divorce isn't expected to change as a result of the debate that opens in October. But Pope Francis is well aware that the church has lost much of its relevance and credibility in today's secular world and he is seeking to redirect his ministers to offer families, and even gays in civil unions, a "new language" that is welcoming and responds to their needs.

The Vatican on Thursday issued the working document for the synod discussions, which in it-

self marked a sharp change from past practice: The Vatican sent out a 39-point questionnaire seeking input from ordinary Catholics around the world about their understanding of, and adherence to, the church's teaching on sexuality, homosexuality, contraception, marriage and divorce. Thousands of ordinary Catholics, clergy and academics responded, providing the Vatican with an unprecedented compilation of grass-roots data to guide the discussion. Usually, such working papers are compiled by bishops alone.

The responses, which were summarized in the working document, were brutally honest.

"A vast majority" of responses stressed that "the moral evaluation of the different methods of birth control is commonly perceived today as an intrusion in the intimate life of the couple and an encroachment on the autonomy of conscience," the document said.

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OPINION

Obamacare's '15 outlook downgraded

By LANSHEE CHEN
Bloomberg News

A nightmare for Affordable Care Act supporters has become the possibility that only the sick would be left to purchase insurance through its exchanges, driving premiums up and insurers out. While the law's boosters have been quick to dismiss the possibility that such a so-called death spiral could occur, data published in The Wall Street Journal suggest that this chain of events may not be so far-fetched after all.

The findings are significant not just for what they say about how Obamacare is working now, but also for their impact on the political debate over its future.

At its base, the data show that people insured through the law's exchanges have higher rates of serious medical conditions. Of the enrollees who have seen a doctor or other health care provider in the first quarter of this year, 27 percent have significant medical problems, including diabetes, cancer, heart trouble and chronic conditions. That rate is substantially higher than that for patients in nonexchange market plans over the same period. And it's more than double the rate of those who were able to hold onto their existing individual market insurance plans after President Barack Obama was forced to allow them to keep them.

This outcome should not surprise anyone. The law's risk-adjusted regulatory regime, which requires insurers to offer coverage to all comers and prohibits pricing of coverage based on an applicant's health status, was bound to increase the number of relatively sicker people purchasing insurance through the exchanges.

Moreover, Obama's executive action, which effectively allowed many people who had individual market plans to remain in them through at least 2016, bifurcated the insurance markets such that healthier people remained in the plans they already had, while relatively sicker people were left to acquire coverage through the Affordable Care Act's exchanges.

Some of the bad risk in the exchanges has been offset by the enrollment of relatively healthy people who acquired coverage because of the law's generous subsidies. Yet the numbers make clear that the exchanges remain a haven for those who may consume more medical services than others.

The data portend a vigorous debate over the "risk corridors" program, which is one of three mechanisms in the law designed to give insurers incentives to continue to participate in its exchanges even if they are at risk of significant financial losses. Some Republicans, particularly Sens. Marco Rubio, of Florida, and Jeff Sessions, of Alabama, and Rep. Fred Upton, of Michigan, have decried this program as an insurer bailout.

The premise behind the risk corridors is that the financial winners in the Obamacare exchanges would compensate the financial losers such that the flow of money would make the system self-sustaining. What may not have been anticipated was what would occur if the financial losers (the sick) were not the financial winners (the healthier ones).

The Obama administration recently issued regulatory guidance suggesting that if the program wasn't solvent, billions of dollars in funds appropriated for other purposes could be used to make the program

whole. But the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service has made clear that this diversion of funds is impermissible under existing law. Meanwhile, Rubio, Sessions, Upton and others have called for legislation to ensure the risk-corridor program will remain budget-neutral and not place taxpayers at financial risk.

This debate will become more vociferous in the period before the midterm elections in November. The chance that the risk-corridor arrangement won't be entirely self-financed puts vulnerable Democrats, who are already facing strong headwinds created by Obamacare, in an even more precarious position.

Finally, and notwithstanding the risk-corridor issue, the data suggest that insurers will respond to having to cover more people who are relatively sicker by raising premiums in 2015 and beyond. As Chet Burrell, the chief executive officer of CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, concluded, "Over a period of time, the rates have to go up to catch up with the reality of who enrolled." If that reality didn't look good for Obamacare in 2014, it isn't likely to improve in 2015, either.

While Obamacare's exchanges are still some distance from a death spiral, it's pretty clear that the path ahead for the law — and for the politicians whose fortunes may turn on its success or failure — is fraught with peril in the months and years ahead.

Bloomberg View columnist Lanthee Chen, a former White House press secretary who also teaches public policy at Stanford University, was the policy director of Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign.

Be suspicious of pots accusing others of lying

By REG HENZY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In recent news from the hog wallow of politics, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., basically accused IRS Commissioner John Koskinen of lying about the notorious missing emails.

"Sitting here listening to this testimony, I don't believe it," he said. "That's your word. No one believes you."

"As IRS officials are not sympathetic figures, rating somewhere near naked mole rats in the public affection, this was not a brave statement. But it channeled the dyspepsia of the moment, not for the purpose of advancing the truth but as a means of expressing frustration."

And perhaps frustration was warranted, although the House Ways and Means Committee hearing shouldn't have been turned into a bear-baiting pit for the occasion. The revelation that the IRS lost thousands of emails that may have been pertinent to a congressional investigation would turn the most serious question into a cynic's joke.

But here's my problem: While my suspicions are aroused that the IRS had something to hide, this doesn't mean that I immediately assume the worst and think that the IRS decision to investigate tea party groups and others (including progressive groups, contrary to the favored narrative) was a diabolical plot directed by the White House.

Ah, all, sometimes people just mess up. Inconceivable is more common than conspiracy in this life and requires less intelligence.

Basically, I have allegation fatigue. I have been told too much nonsense to believe what Ryan and his friends want me to

believe. I think millions of Americans feel the same.

When I read about Ryan and his pals torturing the IRS commissioner or whoever else from the administration may be called to be the scapegoat du jour, I don't see an honest quest for the truth. What I see is political theater — an opportunity to impugn character, interrupt testimony and make speeches instead of ask questions.

Ryan, at all here's your problem: No one believes you. OK, that's a bit too broad — no one who is reasonably believes you.

Why would anybody believe you? From the moment President Barack Obama entered office, your fellow conservatives began their search for a scandal. The founding premise of this desperate search was that the president was not a true American. He was born in Kenya, he was a Marxist, a socialist, a community organizer — and, for goodness' sakes, nothing is less American than an organized community.

So these critics immediately went merrily down the road to Crazyland even while the president was still trying to find the executive bathroom. This led to the tea party being founded quicker than you could bring a kettle to the boil. Just in case birth certificates would not feed the hunger for outrage, manufactured scandals were offered until something better came along.

Remember czars? Obama had czars! Every recent president has had czars, but only Obama's had point-to-toe slippers because he was from Kenya. Remember teleprompters? Every modern president has had teleprompters, but there's never been the desperate need for some to claim the current president is dumber than his predecessor.

Now that the administration is in its

second term, the Law of Messing Up has worked its magic. (This law holds that the longer something continues, the greater the chance that mess-ups will occur.) So we now have more substantive scandals, substantive in this context meaning that they are not entirely fictitious although fiction plays a part.

The IRS scandal is in this category and so is Benghazi, which can be best described by paraphrasing Winston Churchill: "Never in the field of human conflict has so much been made by so many about so few." (No disrespect intended, because four good men died, but 3,000 died on 9/11 with fewer political recriminations.)

Readers schooled in talk radio-speak may ask: "So you think Obama is a great truth-sayer, do you?" Actually, no. I think Obama, although he means well, is not scrupulous about the truth, and you can keep your insurance if you don't believe me. In his casual approach to the truth, I think he resembles George W. Bush, more the pity.

On the subject of perpetrating falsehoods, vice President Dick Cheney has been trying to blame Obama for the disintegration of Prince to himself wouldn't dare to try, lest his nose knock over the TV camera.

No party has the monopoly on virtue. But Paul Ryan brought it up and he happens to be of the party that currently is the worst offender. No lie. It's hard to sell a scandal when your own behavior is scandalously indifferent to anything but the pursuit of political advantage. In this wallow, everyone's a hog. Now that's a problem.

Reg Henzy is deputy editorial-page editor for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

OPINION

2 views on the question 'Has US influence in the Middle East been hurt?'

Yes: Obama's bad moves have helped bad guys

No: Ending wars sends best message to region

By JAMES JAY CARAFANO

WASHINGTON

Secretary of State John Kerry recently floated a mind-numbing idea: To help turn back the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the Islamic terrorist group that has seized control of more than a third of Iraq, the U.S. could enter a cooperative arrangement with the mullahs of Iran.

Yes, the administration still clings to the notion that it can advance American interests by cutting a deal with Tehran. No wonder we are losing everywhere on the foreign policy front.

True, America and Iran have a mutual interest in Iraq, much in the way a robber and a customer have a common interest in a bank. Missing the difference in desired outcomes explains the core problem of the president's foreign policy.

The Obama Doctrine places a premium on negotiating with competitors to ameliorate conflict. There is nothing wrong with negotiating. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met at Tehran in 1943 — irony there — and forged a plan for winning World War II. Despite their many differences, they shared a common goal.

But not all negotiations produce success. In 1973, the U.S. negotiated the Paris Peace Accords. The accords failed miserably. The only goal the American and North Vietnamese shared was to get the United States out of the war. The American negotiators thought they were bargaining for "peace with honor." The Hanoi delegation knew it was bargaining as a prelude to its 1975 invasion of the South.

President Barack Obama's negotiating efforts in both Afghanistan and Iraq look a lot like Paris '73. He is looking for a way out of foreign entanglements; a lot of bad guys are happy to see him succeed.

For Obama, the deal — rather than quality of the deal — seems to matter most. And there's the rub. The deals he has delivered in both Iraq and Afghanistan leave a security vacuum or the potential for future instability that can be readily exploited. When it comes to exit strategy, he has placed a premium on the "exit" rather than the "strategy."

Of course, in addition to enlisting the aid of Iran, Kerry also wants to bomb the insurgents in Iraq.

Despite his Nobel Peace Prize, our president is not reluctant to use force. U.S. troops in Afghanistan have taken more casualties in six years under Obama than they did under President George W. Bush. Obama also has conducted much more covert warfare in more theaters with many more drone strikes. He bombed his way into Libya — and wanted to bomb Syria.

But Obama uses force with a difference. In every case, he takes a minimalist approach — ordering up the least amount of military power he felt he could get away with — then following each use with extraordinary claims of success — destroying al-



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AP

Amr al-Hakim, right, head of the Shiite Supreme Islamic Iraq Council, meets with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Baghdad on Monday. Kerry flew to Baghdad to personally urge the Shiite-led government to give more power to political opponents before a Sunni insurgency seizes more control across the country.

Qaida, winning freedom for Libya, and "forcing" Syria to the negotiating table.

Other presidents have shown restraint in employing military power. Both Dwight D. Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan had high regard for the armed forces, yet they employed them less in battle than most modern presidents. Obama has not been nearly as successful. None of his military adventures has turned out well — let alone been decisive.

There are times for restraint in the use of armed force. There are times when it makes sense to go to the table and negotiate — even with your enemies.

The problem with the Obama administration is that it lacks the strategic judgment for knowing when these are the best options. Further, the White House has become maddeningly predictable in choosing the way out of every mess.

The military and political strategies that comprise the Obama Doctrine have created space and opportunity for others to exploit the instability in Iraq and Afghanistan. The administration's insistence on pursuing those same, failed strategies yet again makes it difficult to be optimistic about the future of either country.

James Jay Carafano is vice president of Defense and Foreign Policy Studies for The Heritage Foundation.

By GEORGE BISSHARAT

SAN FRANCISCO

President Barack Obama withdrew U.S. combat troops from Iraq in 2011, honoring an agreement signed by President George W. Bush in 2008, and has committed to bringing our soldiers home from Afghanistan by the end of this year.

Together these decisions promise to close a painful chapter in our foreign policy, in which we needlessly squandered both blood — of our own cherished sons and daughters, and of literally countless Iraqis and Afghans — and treasure, to the conservatively estimated tune of \$4 trillion.

In Afghanistan, where the Taliban are resurgent, it is not clear what, if anything, we accomplished through these great sacrifices, whereas in Iraq it is evident that we have successfully transformed it into the jihadist camp we falsely claimed it to be in trying to justify our initial invasion.

While Obama has generally demonstrated greater reticence than his predecessor in committing U.S. troops to foreign wars, he has sent a force of 300 U.S. soldiers to Iraq in response to the military successes of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives passed a 2015 Defense Ap-

ropriations bill last week totaling \$571 billion, that included \$79.4 billion for "Overseas Contingency Operations." It is conceivable that such funds could be directed toward renewed military engagement in Iraq and extended military actions in Afghanistan beyond our scheduled withdrawal date of December 2014.

Obama must resist the temptation — not to mention the stream of advice from neoconservatives, "liberal interventionists" and other policy hawks now parading through media studios throughout the country — to double down on disaster.

While it is a bitter pill to swallow to witness Iraq splintering and falling, in substantial part, into ISIL hands, we will only compound our costs and mistakes by attempting to fix an unfixable mess.

There is simply no way to spin recent ISIL successes as positives. It is particularly worrisome to ponder what firepower or other military ISIL might purchase with the \$400 million plus that it plundered from Mosul banks.

Yet we need not panic, either. While ISIL rule will be hell for those unfortunate Iraqis who fall under it, even with a fattened purse, ISIL remains a relatively small guerrilla force.

Holding territory and governing are not tasks to which it is well-adapted, and doing so will require it to institutionalize and localize in ways that may render it more accountable, and vulnerable. It will, in short, gain an address, something that it has avoided to date to great advantage.

More to the point, however, we must realize that the shifts that have been consulting the Arab world and wider Middle East since 2011, once hopefully termed "the Arab Spring," reflect forces that are beyond our control, and that rightfully should be resolved within the region by its own peoples.

ISIL will ultimately fail not because we bomb it into oblivion, but because Arabs will reject its particularly inhumane and harsh perversion of Islam — a religion that was founded on principles of mercy, justice and equality.

Frankly, we have only begun to tally the real costs of the so-called "war on terror," of which these two wars were ostensibly centerpieces.

Thanks to Edward Snowden, we are now beginning to appreciate the extent to which we have disfigured ourselves as a society in order to "fight terror."

Our political class as an entirety — executive, legislature and judiciary — has joined in the banishment of privacy, as if a value venerated by our founders as a fundamental of a free society were no more than a fleeting luxury.

While Obama may have extricated us from two failed wars, he has much to atone for in his promotion of secrecy and the unchecked rise of our current security state.

George Bisharat is a professor at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

The military and political strategies that comprise the Obama Doctrine have created space and opportunity for others to exploit the instability in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While it is a bitter pill to swallow to witness Iraq splintering and falling into ISIL hands, we will only compound our costs and mistakes by attempting to fix an unfixable mess.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Carjackers fail in the clutch, can't drive stick

WA SEATTLE — An attempted carjacking in Seattle failed when three carjackers found they were in a vehicle with a manual transmission and none of them knew how to drive a stick shift.

Nancy Fredrickson, 70, said she was getting something out of her trunk Saturday when she turned around to see a gun in her face. Three teens demanded her keys and jumped into her Kia.

They tried but failed to get it to move and then ran away.

Fredrickson was in tears when she called 911, but later laughed at the inept carjackers. She never imagined a stick shift would prevent a carjacking, but she's happy she and her car were unharmed.

Dentist charged with stealing gold

NE OMAHA — Federal prosecutors have charged a Lincoln dentist with stealing nearly \$17,000 worth of precious metals from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Omaha.

Prosecutors say Randall Toothaker, 57, had been working in the hospital's dental prosthetics office before the alleged theft last summer.

A lab technician reported seeing the dentist open a locked cabinet where precious metals used in dental procedures, including gold, were kept.

While VA officials investigated the missing metals, prosecutors say Toothaker tried to leave the property. Officers pulled him over and found the missing metal in a bag in his vehicle.

Toothaker told officers he didn't know how the metals got into his bag.

Zoo seeks yard waste to feed animals

CA SACRAMENTO — California's Sacramento Zoo is urging homeowners to think of their tree trimmings and other yard waste as a potential meal for its animals.

Zoo officials have been placing door hangers in some neighborhoods asking for donations of clippings from trees and shrubs that various animals including giraffes and zebras find tasty.

The Sacramento Bee reported that officials want to supplement the trimmings from trees on zoo property.

The list of desired plants includes many that are common in Sacramento, such as ash, bamboo and cottonwood.

The plants must not be treated with pesticide, and must be free of disease.

Man's prized Corvette is found 33 years later

MI DETROIT — A man's prized Corvette was stolen three decades ago in Detroit but has been found in Mississippi.

George Talley said he was watching TV last week when AAA called to say his 1979 Corvette had been found.

THE CENSUS

\$1M

The value of a Powerball ticket thrown out by two New York men who are suing the New Jersey Lottery, Salvatore Cambria and Erick Onyango, of Suffern, argue in their federal lawsuit that the lottery didn't quickly update its website with the winning numbers from the March 23 drawing. Cambria tossed the ticket when the numbers didn't match. The men now think the site was showing the previous drawing's numbers.



BOB MACK, THE (JACKSONVILLE) FLORIDA TIMES-UNION/AP

Getting over the hump

Student Sarah Tolbert can't help but laugh as she sits seven feet up on the back of Oscar as Caitlin Ramsey prepares to climb on Wednesday at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla. The school brought two camels to campus to celebrate "Hump Day" of the first week of the Summer B session.

Talley said he was told the car still runs, has 47,000 miles on it and is sitting at a police station in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The last time Talley saw the car was in 1981, before thieves took it from a parking spot along a Detroit street.

Diplomas issued with misspelled word

IL EVANSTON — An Illinois university's typo is getting national attention.

Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communication recently gave 30 diplomas to graduates on which the word "integrated" was spelled without the "n."

Kit Fox, one of the 250 students who graduated from the school Saturday, tweeted a photo of a friend's diploma that showed the error.

The diploma would have been tagged with a "Medill F" — a stamp earned by students who commit factual or spelling errors. Fox said graduates greeted the error with humor.

Desiree Hanford, Medill's journalism residency coordinator, said that diplomas are issued by the university and that new diplomas will be provided.

Ex-Chick-fil-A employee accused of robbing KFC

SC ROCK HILL — A man who worked at a Chick-fil-A restaurant in northern South Carolina has been accused of robbing a KFC.

Jeffrey Coley, 50, is accused of taking \$516 from the KFC in Rock Hill, S.C., on Monday.

Police said Coley pulled a gun at the drive-thru at KFC and demanded cash. Coley was arrested Tuesday after a chase and police said the cash drawer was still in the vehicle.

He's charged with armed robbery, possession of a gun during a violent crime, failure to stop for police and possession of methamphetamine.

Chick-fil-A spokesman Mark Baldwin said Coley was fired from a restaurant in Indian Land on June 18 when he failed to show up to work two days in a row.

Ex-cheerleader in sex trafficking case on lam

OR PORTLAND — The FBI is hunting a 19-year-old former competitive cheerleader from upscale Lake Oswego who was accused of sex trafficking in a case involving a 17-year-old high school acquaintance.

The agency said Julia Lynn Haner was allowed to live at home while wearing a monitoring device, but she removed it over the weekend and vanished.

Haner was once a competitive cheerleader. She and a 30-year-old man were arrested in April on charges handed up by a federal grand jury. She pleaded not guilty.

Court documents say Haner was accused of recruiting a girl she used to ride with on the school bus to Lake Oswego High School.

Officers saw the 17-year-old in an Internet prostitution ad. She's been returned to her family and no longer attends the high school.

Bronx mystery creature is in weasel family

NY NEW YORK — A mysterious, long-haired critter that's been sighted on the streets of a Bronx neighborhood for several months has a name.

It's a member of the weasel family called a fisher or fisher cat.

Zoologist Roland Kays of the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences said that the short-legged, furry-tailed creature may have come down the river.

New Yorkers should be thrilled. It turns out the fisher preys on rats and squirrels, but is not a threat to humans.

Fishers were found in Manhattan when the island was first settled. The fur trade pushed them north into the Adirondacks.

Fisher trapping was banned in the 1930s. Kays said today, the fisher population is booming in the Northeast and a trapping season has been reinstated.

Cousteau nears end of underwater living test

FL AQUARIUS REEF BASE — Fabien Cousteau has a week left in his 31-day underwater living experiment in the Florida Keys, but he's not eager to return to the surface.

He said he's panicking about the short amount of time his team of filmmakers and scientists have left during their "Mission 31" expedition. They return to land July 2.

Cousteau spoke Tuesday inside Aquarius Reef Base, a laboratory 63 feet below the surface in the waters off Key Largo. He said he's comfortable and happy living underwater, although almost all the food has started to taste bland.

Cousteau is the grandson of ocean exploration pioneer Jacques Cousteau.

From wire reports

ENTERTAINMENT

‘Pawn Stars’ expert is the

DEAL

BY JOHN M. GLIONNA
Los Angeles Times

The gray-bearded man in the red shirt and wide-brimmed Amish hat wades into the crowd outside the Gold & Silver Pawn Shop in Las Vegas, squinting in the noon-hour light.

Suddenly, the fans are upon him. They knock their quarry on a first-name basis. “Hi, Mark,” a woman calls out. “Can we get a shot with you? My boyfriend’s daughter, she just loves you.”

Another stranger touches his shoulder.

“Mark, we’re huge fans,” says a goateed man, adding breezily, “We just got married last night.”

“Well, after 35 years, I heartily recommend it,” says Mark Hall-Patton, who had run an errand at the shop.

For 10 minutes, cameras whir in the parking lot on Las Vegas Boulevard; people whisper in English, Spanish and Italian, their gaze shining as brightly upon the 59-year-old museum administrator as opening-night klieg lights. They all want a moment with one of America’s unlikeliest celebrities. Since 2009, Hall-Patton has played a cameo role on “Pawn Stars,” the History Channel’s reality show whose quirky off-the-cuff bargaining scenes between opportunistic sellers and jaded buyers quickly made it one of cable TV’s most popular programs. Now dubbed into 32 languages, the series has brought Hall-Patton international fame.

On camera, Hall-Patton is the learned authenticator in oversize square glasses who can tell the guy from Tuscaloosa, Ala., whether that Civil War musket his grandmother kept in the attic since the Great Depression is the real deal or a knockoff.

“Mark is the only rock-star museum curator I know,” says “Pawn Stars” creator Rick Harrison. “The guy knows so much stuff, he must have a Xerox machine inside his eyeballs. I’ve got a nickname for him: the Beard of Knowledge.”

Hall-Patton is a voracious reader with 20,000 history books spread around this house. Through his work at various U.S. museums, he’s explored Native American collections and items that span the nation’s 238-year history. He also has studied U.S. utopias and fraternal societies, guns, printing, postcards and bridges.

“When it comes to history, I’m an omnivore,” he says. “I’m all over the place.”

Those things he doesn’t know, he researches.

Richard Kunst, a Roman Catholic priest from Minnesota with arguably the nation’s largest collection of papal artifacts, speaks often with Hall-Patton. “The fact he seeks me out shows he does his homework,” Kunst said. “He wants to get to the source of things.”

Over five years, Hall-Patton has appeared in one-third of the series’ 300 or so shows. He’s praised by fans as an aesthetic purist who refuses to discuss an item’s rank value, choosing to concentrate on its specific provenance and place in history.

Although he realizes “Pawn Stars” is entertainment, he says his reputation is at stake with every on-air proclamation. “I do my darnedest to be as accurate as possible, because I’m representing myself,” he says. “Whether I’m trying to determine whether something is real or not, or whether it was used this way or that, it’s important to be right.”

Among his fans, the museologist is best known for the agrarian hats he began wearing two decades ago. Amish originals purchased from the Pennsylvania hill country. Then there’s the flowing beard that ripples and jiggles as he talks, and that baritone that plumbs deep below his diaphragm to deliver his words. Hall-Patton sightings are a daily occurrence. Fans stop him on the street and wave from passing cars. Women want to touch his beard. Children tug at his coat. He’s been told he’s the most popular TV character among the inmates at the Walla Walla, Wash., prison.

The show’s main characters — Richard “The Old Man” Harrison, son Rick, grandson Corey and gooty pal Austin “Chumlee” Russell — guard their privacy against their crush of followers: They rarely appear in the pawnshop’s public area, conducting business and taping the show in the back.

As an educator, Hall-Patton sees the spotlight as helping bring his heightened appreciation of historical artifacts into millions of American homes each week.

He’s director of the little-known Clark County Museum, where despite no advertising budget, annual attendance has soared nearly 70 percent since 2012 — last year it reached 42,000. It is mostly because of Hall-Patton. He also runs the city history museum in Searchlight and the Howard W. Cannon Aviation Museum at McCarran International Airport.



JOHN M. GLIONNA, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Mark Hall-Patton, center, poses for photos with fans outside the pawn shop featured on the TV show “Pawn Stars” in Las Vegas. Hall-Patton appears regularly on the show authenticating items brought into the shop.

ANDY HALL
DENALI'S HOWL
THE HARBORING DENIED
HARBOR DENIED
HARBOR DENIED

In 1967, twelve young men set out to climb Alaska's Mount McKinley—known as Denali—one of the world's most popular and deadly mountaineering destinations. At nearly 20,000 feet, they endured winds of up to 300 miles an hour, freezing flesh solid in minutes. Only five survived.

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Penguin Group (USA)

TRAVEL

An iconic Big Island Hotel stands tall again

By GARY A. WARNER

The Orange County Register

Hawaii isn't known for its skyscrapers, though there are more than a few in Honolulu and a smattering elsewhere throughout the islands.

So it's odd that one of the most sublime architectural creations in Hawaii is the work of master skyscraper designers who began work in Chicago and were best known for churning out "international style" towers in Manhattan.

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill had no reason to go to Hawaii except that a well-heeled client with the last name of Rockefeller asked them to come. The result was the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, the iconic, tropical skyscraper on its side on the Kohala Coast of the Big Island. It's not hard to imagine what an impact it must have had when it opened in 1965 because it has been copied so many times ever since. The many knockoffs have left Hawaii with more than a few concrete blunders beside its beaches.

But none of that is the fault of the original. The genesis of the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel was in economic failure. The backbone of the west side Big Island economy, the sugar plantations, was fading by the time Hawaii became a state in 1959. But the introduction of jet travel had opened the possibility of tourism as a replacement. Gov. William Quinn invited Laurance S. Rockefeller, a scion of America's most famous wealthy family, to essentially pick his spot along the west coast for a hotel. Rockefeller saw Kaunaoa Beach and asked if he could go in for "a swim." From the water he picked it as the site of his new resort.

Rockefeller hired Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, previously known for urban busi-



Opened in 1965, the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel on the island of Hawaii was one of the first luxury hotels that lured tourists to the islands.

ness skyscrapers, to create a modern hotel that blended with the site. The firm created a concrete and glass hotel that has been copied many times but never matched. The steel and concrete allowed for open space where walls would normally block views. Interior designer Davis

Allen came up with the bright orange, cream and off-green color scheme. Robert Trent Jones Sr. was brought in to design the golf course that would ensure that Rockefeller's friends and friends of friends would come to the previously bald spot on the flank of a volcano. Rockefeller installed

large objects from his Asian art collection around the property, most famously a Buddha that is reached by ascending a long, modernist staircase.

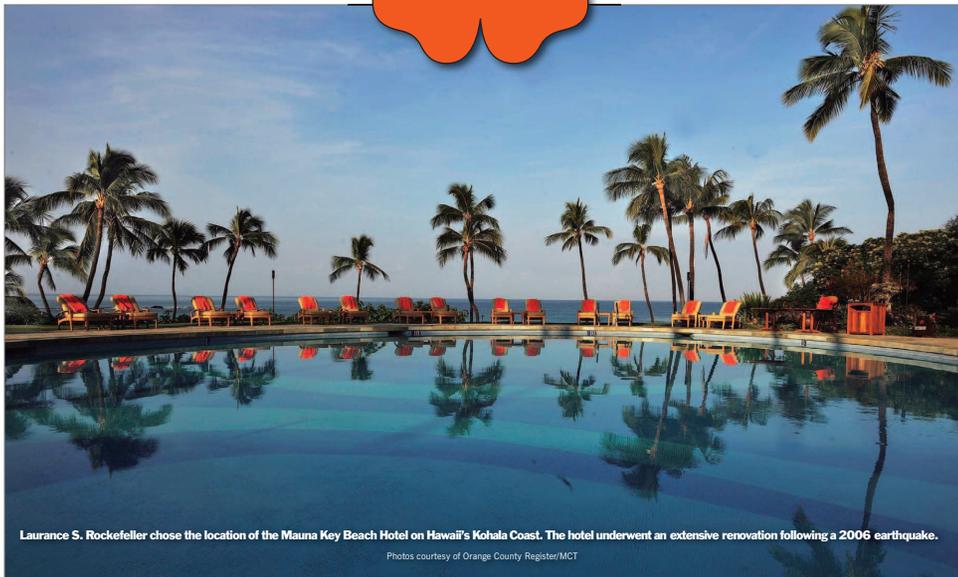
The hotel was a hit when it opened in 1965, touted as one of the three best hotels in the world by Esquire magazine.

The Mauna Kea was the premier hotel on the island for many years until tourism began to catch up. The Mauna Lani, just to the north, opened with a design heavily borrowing from the Mauna Kea. The Four Seasons Hualalai became the top place. It seemed as if the Mauna Kea might fade away.

Then disaster struck. A major earthquake in 2006 was a turning point for the hotel. The supports for the building showed damage and there was talk of tearing it down. But its architectural standing and a solid core of longtime devotees encouraged the Japanese owners to spend \$150 million to repair the damage and restore the hotel. The green light came before the world economy blew a gasket.

In the process, changes to the hotel and golf course that had happened over the years were stripped away. The result was that when the hotel reopened two years later, it was closer in feel to the original Mauna Kea than any time since Rockefeller's days. There were a few nods to modernity: Rockefeller had hated TV and banned them from the rooms—he wanted his guests to get away from all their worries and responsibilities. Today, there is a flat-screen in every room.

It was a small gesture to keep the great skyscraper on its side above the sand to lure a new generation of guests who hopefully will fall in love with the hotel and help it to maintain its premier place on the Kohala side of the Big Island.



Laurance S. Rockefeller chose the location of the Mauna Key Beach Hotel on Hawaii's Kohala Coast. The hotel underwent an extensive renovation following a 2006 earthquake.

Photos courtesy of Orange County Register/MCT

HEALTH & FITNESS

By MARNI JAMESON
Orlando Sentinel

Kim Ricci is lying on her back on a table with hair-thin needles stuck in the hollows of her ears, five on each side. Several more puncture her wrists.

Ricci, 50, says she was surprised when her doctor suggested she get acupuncture to relieve the pain and discomfort she was experiencing after her breast-cancer surgery.

She was even more surprised when the therapy worked.

"While I can't say I thought of it as voodoo, I never thought it was a solution for me," the Orlando, Fla., woman said.

Though acupuncture, meditation, massage and yoga are not typically what the doctor orders, that's changing as more mainstream medical practitioners incorporate therapies once considered alternative into their conventional practices.

UF Health Cancer Center at Orlando Health started an integrative-medicine program last year, and at the University of Florida's medical school, a course in alternative medicine is about to become part of the curriculum. At the University of Central Florida's College of Medicine, students are learning how to make unconventional therapies part of conventional treatment plans.

'It heartens me to see more doctors starting to treat the whole person rather than just cutting them and giving them medicine.'

Diane Robinson, neuro-psychologist and program director, UF Health Cancer Center at Orlando Health
"It heartens me to see more doctors starting to treat the whole person rather than just cutting them and giving them medicine," said Diane Robinson, a neuropsychologist and the program director of integrative medicine at the cancer center.

Applications for alternative medicine reach far beyond cancer treatment.

Physicians from many fields who just a few years ago would have balked at the idea of incorporating therapies once considered "mystic" into their treatment plans are now recommending them to treat a range of ailments, including headaches, pain, arthritis, stress and depression, said Dr. Irene Estores, an integrative-medicine physician who started UF Health's Integrative Medicine Program a year ago.

When Paula Duffy of Groveland, Fla., developed low thyroid, and her doctor put her on prescription thyroid medication, "the side effects were violent," she said.

Though her doctor was low, the 75-year-old woman had the shakes and her heart raced. About a month ago, she went to Estores, who prescribed botanical supplements, including selenium and seaweed containing iodine. Duffy tolerates the combination well.

"I was so lucky to find a doctor like her. I want to try everything first that's not invasive, but regular doctors do not understand about supplements and how beliefs in meditation and yoga," said Duffy, a Brazilian native who has practiced yoga, meditation and tai chi for decades.

That acceptance will likely increase as, across Florida, more medical students are being trained in the emerging field of integrative medicine. This fall, Estores will teach a course on the subject for fourth-year UF medical students.

At UCF's College of Medicine, Dr. Lisa Barkley, assistant dean for diversity and inclusion, said, "We teach our medical students to incorporate complementary methods into their care plans along with more traditional approaches. It's important they



Alternative medicine is going mainstream

Doctors incorporating acupuncture, yoga into conventional practices

Finding a safe alternative

- **Pick a good practitioner.** Ask what medical facilities they are affiliated with. Those providers linked to well-established medical institutions or practices likely have the proper training and credentials.

- **Get a doctor's recommendation.** Don't just go for a therapy because "it worked well for your neighbor," said Diane Robinson, program director of integrative medicine at UF Health Cancer Center at Orlando Health.

- **Don't seek treatments online.** "Almost every week on the Internet some mushroom is being touted as a cure for everything," said Dr. Lisa Barkley, assistant dean for diversity and inclusion at the UCF College of Medicine. "But who knows what you're putting in your body?"

- **Beware of interactions.** The area where most harm can happen is when patients combine herbal supplements, which haven't been studied, and prescription drugs. The interactions are unknown and can be dangerous.

- **Don't use them to replace traditional medicine.** "My concern with alternative therapies is when patients turn to them to relieve symptoms for problems that need mainstream medical treatment," said Dr. Frank Stone, an internist at Florida Hospital. Pain, for instance, can be a sign of a problem that needs traditional medical attention.

understand other perspectives, alternatives and cultures."

Ricci is grateful for the philosophical shift. After her double mastectomy in December 2011, the business analyst and mother of three grown daughters experienced painful muscle spasms and skin tightening around her chest and back.

"She took pain medication and muscle relaxants but didn't want to become dependent on pills.

"I was pretty miserable," she said. "The



PHOTOS BY JACOB LANGSTON, ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Kim Ricci consults with nurse practitioner Kim Morrison, right, before an acupuncture treatment at the Gynecologic Cancer Center in Orlando, Fla. Ricci, a breast cancer survivor, started acupuncture to relieve post-operative pain from a double mastectomy.

muscles were so tight through my breast and back it was a struggle to breathe or move or just get through the day."

She began getting treatments in March at the Gynecologic Cancer Center, part of the UF Health Cancer Center in Orlando. "I feel completely different. ... My muscle pain is 95 percent better," she said. "This is exactly how Robinson wants doctors and patients to use alternative therapies," she said, adding that good scientific evidence is emerging to support many alternative methods.

Acupuncture, for instance, has been shown to bring pain relief in animal studies, which would rule out a placebo effect.

Massage, yoga and mindfulness are also "very well supported by science for relieving pain, tension and stress," she said. However, other areas, including light, energy or magnet therapies, are "very questionable."

"Some treatments are not studied and not tested," said UCF's Barkley, who cautions medical students to note the line between evidence-based treatments and quackery.

Though proponents of the integrative trend argue that adding alternative treatments to traditional medicine could reduce health-care costs overall by lessening pain and increasing compliance, insurance companies approve few lessening. Most patients, including Ricci, pay out of pocket.

Ricci pays \$50 for each one-hour acupuncture session.

Dr. Frank Stone, an internist and pediatrician at Florida Hospital, understands the resistance among some of his colleagues. "We like to think we're scientists and can prove what works, but not everything in life lends itself to that approach."

Whether it makes sense scientifically isn't really relevant if it helps, said Stone, who doesn't prescribe alternative therapies himself.

"Modern medicine often ignores the connection between mind and body," Stone said. "If the brain thinks it's helping, then the body has a related response. If people believe it will make a difference, it makes a difference."

*Looking for a new field
where you can stand out?*

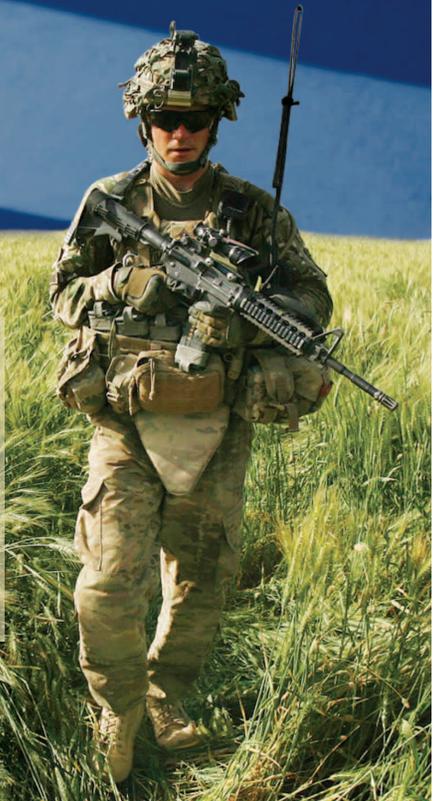
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GADGETS & CHARTS



Members of South Korea's SK Telecom T1 team celebrate with their trophy after defeating China's Royal Club at the League of Legends Season 3 World Championship Final Oct. 4 in Los Angeles. Robert Morris University Illinois, a small private university in Chicago, is offering hefty scholarships for players of "League of Legends."

Gamers' payoffs now extend to scholarships

By JASON KEYSER
The Associated Press

Note to parents: All those hours your kids spend blazing a trail of destruction in video games might not be a complete waste of time, after all.

A small private university in Chicago is offering hefty scholarship for players of one game in particular, "League of Legends," which has become one of the most popular games for organized team competitions.

Robert Morris University Illinois announced its new program this month and said it recognizes the growing legitimacy of what are known as "eSports." The school says it also wants to give credit to those with a competitive spirit who don't necessarily want to play traditional sports such as basketball or football.

Associate Athletic Director Kurt Melcher, who will be in charge of the school's new varsity eSports program, said June 20 that he expected a certain amount of surprise and attention, but was surprised by just how much feedback he's getting.

"It's interesting. There's two sides: There's the gamers' side, who feel like they've been vindicated or liberated," he said. "Then there's the hard-core athletes' side, who say, 'What do you mean? That's not a sport!'"

Melcher said "League of Legends" is a competitive game that demands team strategy and mental prowess, and spending money to recruit the best players will deliver the types of committed students who are drawn by scholarships for traditional sports. The school is even hiring a coach.

Starting this fall, the scholarships will cover up to 50 percent of tuition and 50 percent of room and board. That's worth up to \$19,000 per student. Robert Morris says it is among the first in the nation to offer such substantial scholarships of this type.

"League of Legends" players control warriors battling it out in a science-fiction-like setting.

Dispelling any doubt about its popularity, a "League of Legends" championship sold out the Staples Center in Los Angeles last October.

GADGET WATCH

Snappgrip turns iPhone into point-and-shoot

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

My photography background makes me doubt that a smartphone's camera could ever replace the functionality of a pocket-sized camera, but it does have the advantage of instant availability.

The Snappgrip from BiteMyApple is an accessory that makes an iPhone 5/5s feel like a point-and-shoot camera. Obviously, it must be used in conjunction with the iPhone's camera in order for it to function as one as well.

The accessory consists of two parts: a standard case for the usual protection, along with full access to all the controls, and the snap-on camera.

The Snappgrip snaps on to the back of the included case with a quick-release button and connects to the Snappgrip photography companion app (free at iTunes) via Bluetooth. Images are stored in the app and can be moved over to your photo library and shared directly to social media.

Before I even took a picture, the Snappgrip made the phone feel more like a camera while transforming my phone into a comfortable one-handed device.

Once I started taking photos, I really liked the Snappgrip and was most impressed with the shutter button. As with a "real" camera, pressing the shutter button halfway brings the image into focus before pressing the button fully to take the picture.

Next to the shutter is a toggle for zooming with the internal lens. A mode dial allows access to the flash, scene and video modes.

There's a USB port for charging the accessory, and it even has a very useful standard tripod thread on the bottom.

The case also can attach lenses, available separately for purchase, which include a macro, fish-eye and telephoto.

Online: bitemyapple.co; \$69/99, available in black or white

While the Satechi LightMate Emergency LED Flash Light is a flashlight first, it's also a multi-functional device.

In addition to the light, you get an emergency glass breaker. The Satechi website suggests that this feature might be handy in case of an emergency in which your car gets submerged in water, enabling you to break the glass and get out.

The LightMate is waterproof and strong, and has an aluminum and steel alloy body.

Internally, it has a rechargeable lithium-ion battery (2,200 mAh), which can be removed if you purchase an additional one.

Other portable electronic gadgets.

The daylight-friendly LED light includes five lighting modes. The main one is a SOS feature.



MCT

The Snappgrip is an accessory that makes an iPhone 5/5s feel like a point-and-shoot camera.

In a continuous cycle, it produces three short flashes, pauses, three long flashes and keeps repeating this until help arrives.

The other modes include another emergency setting of a flashing strobe, 3 brightness settings and directional lighting.

Online: satechi.net; \$29/99

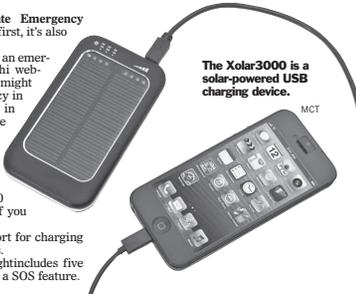
Bracketron's Xolar3000 battery encourages portability with its built-in solar charging panel to power up the 3000mAh battery.

The battery itself charges up in about nine hours of sunlight and can charge an average smartphone about 2.5 times.

If an AC outlet or USB charging port is around, the battery can be plugged into that for a shorter three-hour charge.

The battery has USB ports to plug in your own cables to connect power-hungry devices.

Online: bracketron.com; \$49/95



The Xolar3000 is a solar-powered USB charging device.

ITUNES MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from June 16-22:

- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
- "Problem," Ariana Grande feat. Iggy Azalea
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Summer," Calvin Harris
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Wiggle," Jason Derulo feat. Snoop Dogg
- "Latch," Disclosure
- "Classic," MKTO
- "Rude," Tiesto feat. Matthew Koma
- "Sing," Ed Sheeran

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for June 25:

- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Problem," Ariana Grande feat. Iggy Azalea
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea feat. Charli XCX
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Wiggle," Jason Derulo feat. Snoop Dogg
- "Boon Clap," Charli XCX
- "Latch," Disclosure feat. Sam Smith
- "Summer," Calvin Harris

— Compiled by MCT

ITUNES MOVIES VIDEO GAMES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for June 25:

- "300: Rise of an Empire"
- "The LEGO Movie"
- "The Grand Budapest Hotel"
- "Non-Stop"
- "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit"
- "Lone Survivor"
- "The Monuments Men"
- "Winter's Tale"
- "21 Jump Street"
- "Bad Words"



— Compiled by MCT

Game Informer ranks the top 10 PC games for June:

- "WildStar," NCsoft
- "Dark Souls II," Bandai Namco
- "Transistor," Supergiant Games
- "Wolfenstein: The New Order," Bethesda Softworks
- "Tropico 5," Kalypso
- "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
- "BattleBlock Theater," The Behemoth
- "Child of Light," Ubisoft
- "Among The Sleep," Killbite
- "A Story About My Uncle," Coffee Stain Studios

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for June 25:

- ANDROID
- Monster Legends
 - Spotify Music
 - Bubble Witch 2 Saga
 - Angry Birds Epic
 - Rising Star ABC

Top 5 free apps for iPhone for June 25:

- APPLE
- Guess the Emoji: Emoji Pops
 - Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
 - Fish Out of Water
 - FIFA Official App
 - TwoDots

— Compiled by MCT

MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

Zeppelin reissues don't offer much new

Perhaps we should admit the truth about Led Zeppelin: It's time to move on.

Yes, even you superfans. If the unreleased material included on reissues of landmark albums "Led Zeppelin," "Led Zeppelin II" and "Led Zeppelin III" is any indication of what's to come, there's little hope of hearing anything truly new — let alone interesting — over the rest of the band's

Led Zeppelin ambitious plan to rerelease all nine of its studio albums.

Truth be told, Zepp-

lin probably should have let the 2012 "Celebration Day" box set stand as its final message. The 2012 release capturing the band's brief 2007 reunion for a live stadium show in London had a fresh feel despite its age upon release. It was meant to save the feelings of fans hoping Zeppelin's living members — Jimmy Page, John Paul Jones and Robert Plant — would reunite for one last run.

It was something, at least. The reissue project seems intent on soothing fans who'd forgo the tour if they could just get another song, something fresh and new.

There's nothing like that on the bonus discs that accompany Page's remastered versions of the original albums, which rework rock 'n' roll. Even completists will probably be disappointed at the collection of castoff mixes, alternate takes and work tapes. The few pieces we've truly never heard before are ephemeral bits, rightly abandoned as Zeppelin blazed ahead with better material.

The best thing here is the live concert included with "Led Zeppelin." The set, recorded in Paris in 1969, is energetic and on the verge of falling to pieces. It's a pretty fascinating glimpse of the band pre-frame, but the group hadn't quite pulled it all together and there are other live sets that are more fulfilling.

Like "Celebration Day."

— Chris Talbot
The Associated Press



Johanna, left, and Klara Söderberg
Courtesy of Shore Fire Media

Swedish duo's big sound rings hollow

Sweden is less known for its folk scene than for its place in the pure pop market, where for decades the country has produced glistening, chrome-toned singles. For obvious reasons — climate, lack of cowboys and troubadours country and western and earnest folk-rock have seldom been ingredients. This makes young sibling duo First Aid Kit unique, and the proof is spread throughout their new album, "Stay Gold."

Produced in Omaha, Neb., by longtime Saddle Creek Records affiliate Michael Mogis, "Stay Gold" confirms artists eager to



First Aid Kit
Stay Gold (Columbia)

explore a big sound. "Shattered and Hollow" offers echoed drama with a minimal beat and Klara Söderberg's huge voice, a vivid recollection of lost love ferried into the present. "Heaven Knows" should be a hit: a sing-along gem with an uptempo shuffle-beat and a gigantic hook.

But the group often sounds more derivative than it does inspired, and clumsy lyrics don't help. The first lines of the record, from "My Silver Lining," offer a hint of what's to come.

"I don't know if I'm scared of dying but I'm scared of living too fast too slow," Klara explains

with a forced twang, lost amid linguistic boulders and a cleverness that muddles meaning. "The Waitress Song" is a patronizing ballad about moving to a small town to become a waitress.

"It's a long, twisted road we are on," Klara sings as a moaning violin takes flight. Surrounded by such thrills, the clichés sound less so.

The closer, "A Long Time Ago," strives for a grand conclusion, but misses amid musical melodrama that sounds forced, a problem that permeates "Stay Gold."

— Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times

Sam Smith an emotional powerhouse on debut

"Why am I so emotional?" newcomer Sam Smith sings on his Top 10 hit, "Stay With Me." "No, it's not a good look, need some self-control." It might not be a good look, but as far as the sound? Amazing.

The 22-year-old English singer's soulful pop debut, "In the Lonely Hour," is a passionate, heart-trenching album that explores the emotions behind falling in love with someone who doesn't feel the same. It's a brave and honest album that captures the mood perfectly, especially on the bold "Leave Your Lover" and the guitar-ringed "Not In That Way," where he closes with the heart-breaking line: "You'd say, 'I'm sorry, believe me, I love you, but not in that way.'"

The 10-track set is full of more lyrics like that — words that reel you into Smith's story of loneliness and love lapses, making for beautiful music. "I'm Not the Only One" is addictive, the sounds of strings stun on "Good Thing" and the falsetto heavy "Life Support" feels like falsetto heaven. "Lonely Hour" is not all depressing: Album opener "Money On My Mind" is full of upbeat swag, while the dance-soul bonus

track, "Restart," feels classic. There are also the hits Smith co-stars on that are helping him shine brighter: Disclosure's "Latch" and Naughty Boy's "La La La," which showcase the break-through singer's versatility.

Smith's powerhouse voice — also full of impressive high notes — also helps lift the album's sad tone, bringing on a fiery, spirited vibe much like Adele on her masterful "21" album. And Smith even borrows from some of her top collaborators: Eg White, who cowrote and produced Adele's "Chasing Pavements," is behind "Good Thing," while "Set Fire to the Rain" co-writer and producer Fraser T. Smith helps on "Not In That Way."

With this release, Smith won't feel alone for much longer.

— Mesfin Pekadu
The Associated Press



Sam Smith
In the Lonely Hour (Capitol)

English singer Sam Smith, 22, could be headed for an Adele-like breakthrough.

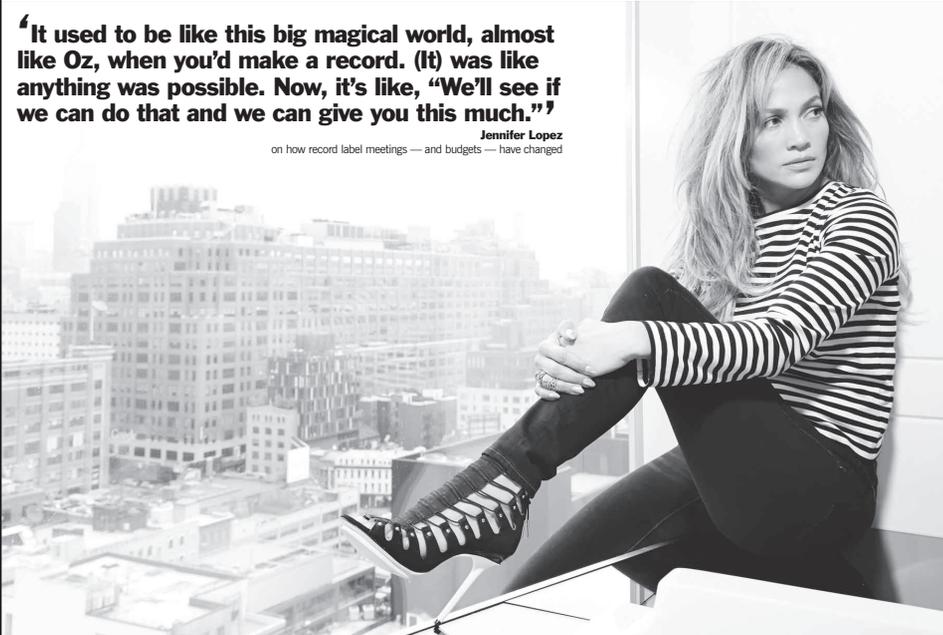
Courtesy of Universal Music Group

MUSIC

“It used to be like this big magical world, almost like Oz, when you’d make a record. (It) was like anything was possible. Now, it’s like, “We’ll see if we can do that and we can give you this much.””

Jennifer Lopez

on how record label meetings — and budgets — have changed



Surveying the shifting landscape

Lopez says making music in changed business has been ‘challenging’

By MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Jennifer Lopez remembers the days when her record label budgeted \$1 million for one of her music videos. Today, she’s attempting to create the same magic with one-tenth of the money.

The entrepreneur says being a singer has been “challenging” since she debuted on the pop scene in the late 1990s, dominating the charts with back-to-back hits while becoming a driving force on other entertainment platforms.

“It used to be like this big magical world, almost like Oz, when you’d make a record,” the 44-year-old says. “(It) was like anything was possible.”

Lopez, who released her eighth album, “A.K.A.,” on June 17, says the music industry no longer feels like Oz.

“Now, it’s like, ‘We’ll see if we can do that and we can give you this much,’” she says of record label meetings. “And you’re like, ‘Wow, OK. So how am I gonna do that?’ It’s a whole different mind-set.”

She enjoys the challenge, Lopez says. When coming up with creative concepts, she has thought to herself: “What great idea can I come up with that costs

nothing?”

Her last platinum effort was 2002’s “This Is Me ... Then.” Its follow-up, 2005’s “Rebirth,” sold 745,000 units. Since then, she’s had some successful singles, but she’s no longer one of pop’s “it” girls, racking up multiple hits, earning Grammy nominations and winning other accolades.

The performer hopes fans can hear the work she’s done in the past four years on “A.K.A.,” an album filled with pop, R&B and dance sounds.

2002

The year of Lopez’s last platinum album, “This Is Me ... Then.”

says.

Lopez says that’s why she recruited white-hot rapper Iggy Azalea for the record: “I was thinking of working with a female rapper because, again, of the strength and subject matter of the album, I wanted some girl to be taking smack with me.”

Billboard reported that “A.K.A.” — Lopez’s first album for Capitol Music

Group — would sell about 30,000 units in its first week, her lowest sales for a debut week.

“The numbers today as compared to the numbers 10 years ago to me, it’s a very different conversation because it’s more diversified how people consume music,” says Greg Thompson, executive vice president of Capitol. “We try to make sure that not only do we have a good first week, but that we can continue to sell records because I think that Jennifer’s fan base will come out week two, three and four, too. It’s about constantly driving that album in people’s consciousness.”

Thompson says he believes the current single, the Max Martin-produced “First Love,” is “going to go all the way.” He said they plan to work the pop song throughout the summer.

High-profile guests on the album include Pitbull, Nas, Rick Ross and T.I.; some of the songs were co-written by Chris Brown. However, other tracks featuring Robin Thicke, Wiz Khalifa and Maxwell didn’t make the project.

“Economics come into play; all types of stuff come into play,” Lopez says.

Jennifer Lopez

A.K.A. (Capitol)

If you go by its singles, Jennifer Lopez’s “A.K.A.” is a great return to form, with the bouncy “First Love” capturing some of the light-hearted dance-pop charm of songs from “On the 6,” and “I Luh Ya Papi” breaking

some new from-the-block styles. “Booty” — yeah, she went there — is just as edgy and, um, in your face, as

is the soon-to-be-singles “T.E.N.S.” But “A.K.A.” also has some terrible songs, like the ill-fitting ballad “Let It Be Me,” where J.Lo’s vocals sound thin and strained, a problem that hurts the midtempo “So Good” and the ballad “Emotions.” The quality swings of “A.K.A.” make you wonder if J.Lo knows who she’s trying to be.



A.K.A.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday

Above: Jennifer Lopez poses for a portrait in promotion of her new album, “A.K.A.,” at the Standard High Line Hotel on June 10 in New York.

DAN HALLMAN, INVISION/AP

BUSINESS/WEATHER

After Aereo, what next for Internet TV?

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Supreme Court shot down Aereo's business model this week, but that doesn't mean customers' desire for a better TV experience is gone.

Americans are still fed up with huge channel bundles, high prices, poor service and the lack of ability to watch all their shows on all their devices. That's part of why Aereo was attractive: It offered a few dozen local broadcast channels and the Bloomberg TV financial channel on multiple devices for just \$8 per month.

Industry watchers say the pay TV business must continue to evolve to win over unhappy customers, even if the nation's top court said grabbing signals from the airwaves and distributing them online without content-owner permission isn't the way.

"Even without Aereo, the reason people were cutting the cord, for cost reasons and so on, those don't go away," said Robin Flynn,

an analyst with market research firm SNL Kagan.

Last year, the number of pay TV subscribers in the U.S. fell for the first time, dipping 0.1 percent to 94.6 million, according to Leichtman Research Group.

SNL estimates that 5 percent of homes will substitute pay TV with one or more Internet video services by the end of the year, rising to 10 percent in 2017.

Many companies are offering quality TV content online for low cost to meet that rising demand. They include Netflix and Amazon, Hulu, which is owned by major broadcast networks ABC, NBC and Fox, offers full episodes of popular shows like "The Colbert Report" the next day for free.

While that's not live TV, which Aereo offered, for many it's a good-enough substitute.

The decision against Aereo is a setback, but not a fatal one for people who want to break away from traditional TV, said Bill Niemeier, senior analyst at TDG Research.

"While the content on the major broadcast networks is very important for some people, it's not important for everyone," Niemeier said. "So it's a dent, but I don't think it's going to significantly change the trends."

If anything, the rise and fall of Aereo have highlighted an important fact: That high-quality TV signals are available on the airwaves for free — something that might have been forgotten if Aereo hadn't insisted that its technology simply replicates the antenna and wire that an average person could set up on their own.

"What Aereo has really done, in our perspective, is to address the lack of understanding that over-the-air is free," said Mark Buff, CEO of Mohu, a company that makes flat lid antenna that attach to walls.

Mohu has sold 1.5 million antennas since it began in 2011 and is growing in the kind of dense, urban areas like New York, where Aereo is believed to have had a small subscriber base. It is

about to launch Mohu Channels, a device that blends Internet video services like Netflix with free-to-air TV in a single channel guide.

"We certainly do see and believe that the cord-cutting movement is on the rise," he said.

Alki David, the CEO of online streaming company FilmOn, said the Supreme Court's ruling actually creates an opportunity for startups because the court said that Aereo bears an "overwhelming likeness" to cable companies.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 30)	\$1.3978
Dollar buys (June 30)	€0.7154
British pound (June 30)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (June 30)	¥99.00
South Korean won (June 30)	₩989.00
Commercial rates	
Bahraj/Dinar	0.3771
British pound	\$1,701.03/£879
Canada (Dollar)	1.0686
China (Yuan)	6.2185
Denmark (Krone)	5.4624
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3632/0.7316
France (Euro)	1.305
Hungary (Forint)	226.91
Israeli Sheqel	101.42
Japan (Yen)	0.0092
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2622
Norway (Krone)	6.1517
Philippines (Peso)	43.77
Poland (Zloty)	32.45
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2693
South Korea (Won)	1,014.35
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8917
Thailand (Baht)	32.45
Turkey (Lira)	1.2175

MARKET WATCH

June 26, 2014	
Dow Jones	-21.38
Industrials	16,846.13
Nasdaq composite	-0.71
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.31
Russell 2000	-1.97
2000	1,180.71

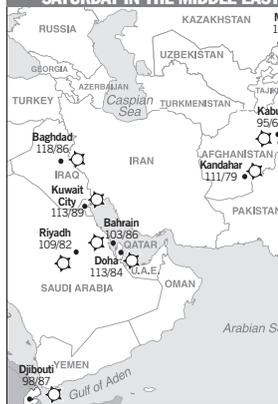
For non-annual currency exchange rates (i.e., for purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility). Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are for foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound.

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	1.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	1.10
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.36

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlene, Tex	92	71	Cir	Chattanooga	87	67	Rain	Fort Wayne	86	66	Cir	Louisville	87	73	Cir
Akron, Ohio	88	63	Pcldy	Cheyenne	79	79	Cir	Fresno	95	75	Cir	Lubbock	97	89	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	86	58	Cir	Cincinnati	85	69	Cir	Goodland	87	58	Pcldy	Macon	92	68	Cir
Albuquerque	93	64	Cir	Cleveland	89	64	Pcldy	Grand Junction	88	55	Cir	Madison	83	67	Cir
Alton, Pa.	84	59	Cir	Colorado Springs	86	62	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	85	65	Cir	Medford	73	56	Cir
Amarillo	94	66	Cir	Colorado, S.C.	93	73	Cir	Grand Falls	70	48	Cir	Memphis	80	70	Rain
Anchorage	65	46	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	91	70	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	81	69	Rain	Miami Beach	90	77	Cir
Ashville	79	64	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	87	67	Cir	Harrisburg	82	62	Cir	Midland-Odessa	100	74	Pcldy
Atlanta	88	69	Cir	Concord, N.H.	86	53	Cir	Hartford Spfld	83	69	Cir	Midwest	78	63	Cir
Atlantic City	81	61	Pcldy	Courton Christi	91	80	Cir	Helena	72	50	Cir	Missoula	67	48	Cir
Austin	92	76	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	91	75	Cir	Honolulu	89	75	Cir	Mobile	90	73	Cir
Baltimore	84	64	Cir	Dayton	85	67	Cir	Houston	89	75	Cir	Montgomery	91	72	Cir
Baton Rouge	87	73	Rain	Daytona Beach	94	74	Cir	Huntsville	88	68	Rain	Nashville	89	70	Rain
Billings	76	53	Cir	Denver	87	56	Pcldy	Indianapolis	86	70	Rain	New Orleans	90	77	Cir
Birmingham	87	67	Cir	Des Moines	83	71	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	90	71	Rain	New York City	84	64	Cir
Bismarck	78	63	Rain	Detroit	86	65	Pcldy	Jacksonville	95	73	Cir	Newark	85	63	Cir
Boise	78	55	Pcldy	Duluth	74	57	Rain	Juneau	67	48	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	84	69	Cir
Boston	82	59	Cir	El Paso	83	60	Cir	Kansas City	85	72	Rain	North Platte	87	73	Cir
Bridgeport	82	59	Cir	Elkins	83	60	Cir	Key West	88	80	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	88	71	Cir
Brownsville	89	60	Pcldy	Erie	80	73	Cir	Las Vegas	88	76	Rain	Oroville	87	73	Cir
Buffalo	84	63	Pcldy	Fairbanks	71	54	Rain	Lake Charles	88	76	Rain	Orlando	95	75	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	87	57	Cir	Flagstaff	87	70	Cir	Las Vegas	85	82	Pcldy	Pasadena	87	71	Cir
Caribou, Maine	85	51	Pcldy	Fargo	81	70	Cir	Las Vegas	103	80	Cir	Pendleton	76	55	Pcldy
Casper	79	50	Pcldy	Fargo	81	70	Cir	Lexington	84	69	Rain	Peoria	86	70	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	89	74	Cir	Flagstaff	86	62	Pcldy	Little Rock	88	69	Cir	Philadelphia	84	65	Pcldy
Charleston, W.Va.	85	65	Cir	Fort Smith	90	73	Cir	Los Angeles	78	63	Pcldy	Phoenix	102	82	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	86	71	Rain									Pittsburgh	86	65	Pcldy

National temperature extremes
Pcldy, H, H, H, El Centro Naval Air Station, Calif.
Lo: Thu., 32, Leadville, Colo.



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13				14		
15					16				17		
18					19				20		
		21	22			23	24				
25	26	27				28		29	30	31	
32								33			
34					35	36					
						38					
39	40	41			42	43		44	45	46	47
48					49				50		
51					52				53		
54					55				56		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Off-key
 - 5 Show guts
 - 9 Sheepish remark?
 - 12 Tramp's love
 - 13 Novelist Hunter
 - 14 Shade source
 - 15 Squashed circle
 - 16 Swindles
 - 17 Greet the villain
 - 18 Set component
 - 19 Moverover
 - 20 Quick look
 - 21 Aries
 - 23 Bullring bravo
 - 25 Blunder
 - 28 Safer of '60
Minutes"
 - 32 Like forks
 - 33 Valuable
discovery
 - 34 "The Dick Van
Dyke Show"
surname
 - 36 Fashions
 - 37 Scepter
 - 38 Off-tattooed word
 - 39 Summer time
 - 42 401(k) alternative
 - 44 Dogfight battlers
 - 48 Pub order
 - 49 Celebrity
 - 50 Long story
 - 51 "Give — break!"
 - 52 Choir site
 - 53 Milky gem
- DOWN**
- 1 Whip
 - 2 Volcanic outflow
 - 3 Leading man?
 - 4 Madae's creator/
portrayer
 - 5 Abscond
 - 6 Reylon rival
 - 7 Haphazard
 - 8 Type measures
 - 9 Actress Newirth
 - 10 Lotion add-in
 - 11 Out of control
 - 12 Long-popular TV
lawyer
 - 22 Sound
 - 24 Gambling game
—found Goldlocks
 - 25 "The racer's edge"
 - 26 Gaffer's concern
 - 27 Passbook abbr.
 - 29 Online chuckle
 - 30 Prior night
 - 31 "Of course"
 - 35 Magazine
worker
 - 36 Intelligence
 - 39 Doorframe part
 - 40 Fonda's beekeeper
role
 - 41 Show the way
 - 43 Huck's transport
 - 45 Mob boss
 - 46 2000s NYC
archbishop
 - 47 Bargain basement
goings-on
 - 49 1970s radical org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	A	M	M	A	L	E	L	E	F	T	
E	L	I	E	R	I	E	A	G	A	R	
M	I	N	I	S	T	E	R	D	A	L	E
D	R	A	Y	A	D	D	L	E			
P	E	A	K	S	S	A	V	E			
O	W	N	S	R	E	F	O	R	M	E	D
M	E	A	D	I	V	A	N	I	D	O	
P	R	O	M	O	T	E	R	S	N	I	T
S	P	A	D	E	S	H	O	R			
H	O	L	D	M	I	N	O	T	A	U	R
O	P	A	L	A	V	I	S	L	A	Y	
W	E	R	E	P	E	P	E	S	E	E	

6-28 CRYPTOQUIP

KLEXACL ZVL EWKPLD QC
 UWDELUAPPR JLMYQMF CVWL
 KWZZWJC, RWA JQFVZ CXR
 VLX ACQMF CWPLD LMLDFR.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: SITCOM ABOUT A
 BUNCH OF RELATIVES AND THEIR WOES WITH
 INTERNET CONNECTIVITY: "MODERN FAMILY."
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: C equals S

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL American League BALTIMORE ORIOLES - Agreed to terms with LHP John Means and RHPs Lucas Logg and Logan McGrathman on minor league contracts.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX - Designated LHP Scott Downs for assignment; recalled LHP Eric Surkamp from Charlotte (CL).

CLEVELAND INDIANS - Assigned LHP Josh Outman outright to Columbus (IL); HOUSTON ASTROS - Assigned RHP Kyle Hendricks outright to Omaha City (PCL); drafted OF Robbie Grossman and RHP Asher Wojciechowski to Oklahoma City; selected the contract of RHP Jesse Vargas from Oklahoma City. Recalled OF L. Hayes from Oklahoma City.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS - Traded RHP Cory Eason to Atlanta (NL).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Sent LHP/OF Eduardo Nunez to New Britain (EL) for a rehab assignment; optioned RHP Jorge Polanco from Fort Myers (FL) to AAA.

MINNESOTA TWINS - Sent INF/OF Eduardo Nunez to New Britain (EL) for a rehab assignment; recalled INF Jorge Polanco from Fort Myers (FL) to AAA.

NEW YORK YANKEES - Agreed to terms with OF Adam Kilch on a minor league contract.

SEATTLE MARINERS - Optioned RHP Erasmo Ramirez to Tacoma (PCL); recalled RHP Brandon Maurer from Tacoma (PCL).

TEXAS RANGERS - Assigned OF Benito Rodriguez (PCL) for rehab assignment; agreed to terms with RHPs Scott Williams and Storm Holt on minor league contracts.

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS - Placed C Jordan Pecheco on the 15-day DL; recalled RHP Zoa Spruill from Reno (PCL); CHICAGO CUBS - Signed OF Willie Calhoun to a 1-year contract.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS - Activated 3B Juan Urube on the 15-day DL; Optioned INF Carlos Trueta to Albuquerque (PCL).

NEW YORK METS - Optioned SS Wilmer Flores to Las Vegas (PCL); Agreed to terms with RHP Alan Palanza on a minor league contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Signed OF RHP Salter to a minor league contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS - Sent 3B Brandon Belt to San Jose (PCL) for a rehab assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS - Optioned C Sandy Leon to Syracuse (IL); Reinstated C Wilson Ramos on the 15-day DL.

FOOTBALL National Football League CLEVELAND BROWNS - Announced the resignation of director of communications Zick Gilbert.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS - Signed WR Jerry Rice Jr. Released CB Blake Slaughter.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE WASHINGTON CAPITALS - Announced an affiliation agreement with South Carolina (ECHL).

SOCCER NFL - Signed RB Luis Sanchez for four months and five international games for a tryout opponent during the World Cup.

Major League Soccer CHIVAS USA - Signed Matthew Fondy.

MONTREAL IMPACT - Signed D.Krzysztof Kolw. Released D. Meckach Jerchow.

BIG EAST CONFERENCE - Added Florida and Vanderbilt as affiliate members for women's lacrosse.

LOUYALA MARLIANS - Named Kristen Baker women's assistant volleyball coach.

MARTIN METHODIST - Named Kelly Borch women's basketball coach.

NEW MEXICO - Announced men's basketball FTM was 70.7 percent.

THURSDAY'S GAMES NEW ORLEANS - Extended the contract of Mark Slessinger men's basketball coach.

Auto racing

UNCL 225

NASCAR Camping World Trucks At Kentucky Speedway, Paris, Ky. Lap lengths: 1.8 miles (Start position in parentheses) 1. (1) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 150 laps, 150 rating, 0 points; 554,815.

Auto racing

UNCL 225

NASCAR Camping World Trucks At Kentucky Speedway, Paris, Ky. Lap lengths: 1.8 miles (Start position in parentheses) 1. (1) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 150 laps, 150 rating, 0 points; 554,815.

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Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L T Pts GF GA D.C. United 1 0 2 3 2 13 New York Red Bulls 7 5 2 23 21 18 Toronto FC 6 4 1 19 13 13 Colorado Rapids 4 5 6 18 18 18 Vancouver Whitecaps 3 7 6 15 21 23 Philadelphia Union 2 4 8 11 13 26 Montreal Impact 1 5 11 13 26

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L T Pts GF GA Seattle Sounders 1 0 2 3 2 13 Real Salt Lake 6 2 7 25 21 21 Colorado Rapids 4 5 6 18 18 18 FC Dallas 6 4 1 19 13 13 Vancouver Whitecaps 3 7 6 15 21 23 Portland Timbers 4 4 8 20 28 27 Los Angeles Galaxy 4 3 3 16 14 14 Chivas USA 2 4 8 11 14 26

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L T Pts GF GA Seattle Sounders 1 0 2 3 2 13 Real Salt Lake 6 2 7 25 21 21 Colorado Rapids 4 5 6 18 18 18 FC Dallas 6 4 1 19 13 13 Vancouver Whitecaps 3 7 6 15 21 23 Portland Timbers 4 4 8 20 28 27 Los Angeles Galaxy 4 3 3 16 14 14 Chivas USA 2 4 8 11 14 26

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MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L T Pts GF GA Seattle Sounders 1 0 2 3 2 13 Real Salt Lake 6 2 7 25 21 21 Colorado Rapids 4 5 6 18 18 18 FC Dallas 6 4 1 19 13 13 Vancouver Whitecaps 3 7 6 15 21 23 Portland Timbers 4 4 8 20 28 27 Los Angeles Galaxy 4 3 3 16 14 14 Chivas USA 2 4 8 11 14 26

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MLS

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Golf

PGA TOUR

PGA TOUR AT Congressional Country Club, Bethesda, Md. First Round Purse: \$6.6 million Yardsage: 7,569; Par: 71 (36-35) Greg Chalmers 67 34-38 =6 Rickie Fowler 68 33-40 =6 Fredrick Jacobson 69 34-37 =6 Bill Haas 70 33-48 =6 Eric Compton 70 33-48 =6

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Pro football

NFL calendar

June 22-28 - Rookie symposium. Thursday, June 26 - Hall of fame game, Canton, Ohio. Sept. 4 - Regular season begins, Green Bay at Seattle. Sept. 7 - First full week of regular season. Sept. 7 - Fall opens weekend, Detroit.

Boxing

Fight schedule

June 28 At Punta Cana, Dominican Republic: Carlos Alvarez vs. Darleys Perez, 12, for the interim WBA World lightweight title; Argenis Zamora vs. Daniel Ramirez, 10, for the WBA Fedelatin featherweight title. At CenturyLink Center, Omaha, Neb.: Terence Crawford vs. Yuriorkis Gamboa, 12, for Crawford's WBO lightweight title; Matt Korobov vs. Jose Uzcátegui, 10, middleweights. At Hidalgo, Mexico: Odoardo Novoa vs. Alexis Martinez, 12, for Novoa's WBC minimum-weight title.

July 2 At Foxwoods Resort, Mashantucket, Conn.: Michael Paken vs. Mark Davis, 12, super featherweights; Billy Doo vs. Al-Bekhat, 12, junior lightweights. At Grizzly Mountain Casino, Chagres vs. Fries, 12, for the vacant WBA World heavyweight title.

July 9 At Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas: Julio Rodriguez vs. Menendez's IBF junior lightweight title.

July 11 At Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, Wash.: Turgay Akhmedov vs. Mike Gavrani, 10, for the Continental Americas USBC minimum-weight title; Art Hovhannyan vs. Jonathan Malcic, 10, for the WBA International Super lightweight title.

July 11 At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Erlyslady Lara vs. Canelo Alvarez, 12, junior middleweights; Turgay Akhmedov vs. Jonathan Oquendo, 10, featherweights; John Peralta vs. interim WBA World junior welterweight title; Francisco Vargas, 10, for the WBO 12-division super featherweight title; Moki Mearns vs. Punglungr Sor Sinyu, 12, for Kamradt's WBO bantamweight title.

July 18 At Hovgo, Japan: Zolani Tse vs. Teju Kinshasha, 12, for the vacant IBF super flyweight title. At Paramount Theatre, Huntington, N.Y.: Norm MacLeod vs. Ermanur Yildor, 10, junior welterweights.

July 19 At Macao, Guillermo Rigondeaux vs. Carlos Zambrano, 12, for Gormon's interim WBA World super bantamweight title. At TBA, Peru: Nehomar Cermeño vs. Carlos Zambrano, 12, for Cermeño's interim WBA World super bantamweight title.

July 25 At Chicago, Roberts Garcia vs. Breidis Prescott, 10, welterweights. At Madison Square Garden, New York: Gennady Golovkin vs. Daniel Geale, 12, for Golovkin's WBO super middleweight title; Bryant Jennings vs. Mike James, 12, WBO superwelterweight title; Gennady Golovkin vs. Pawel Koldziecki, 12, for Golovkin's WBO superwelterweight title.

Aug. 1 At Little Creek Casino Resort, Shelton, Wash.: Thomas Williams Jr. vs. Gabriel Solis, 12, for Williams' WBO superwelterweight title. At Revel Resort, Atlantic City, N.J.: Sergey Kovalev vs. Blake Capronio, 12, for Kovalev's WBO super middleweight title; Sergio Martinez vs. Antonio Novikov, 12, for Martinez's WBO super middleweight title; WBA Super WBA World junior welterweight title.

Aug. 9 At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.: Shawn Porter vs. Keith Broock, 12, for Porter's WBO superwelterweight title; Javon Porters vs. Jarrod Fitchell, 12, for the vacant WBA World superwelterweight title; Lamont Peterson vs. Edgar Santana, 12, for Peterson's WBA World superwelterweight title; Danny Garcia vs. Rod Sakka, 12, for Garcia's WBO Super World junior welterweight title.

Aug. 16 At Monterrey, Mexico: Katsunori Takayama vs. Wladimir Klitschko, 12, for Takayama's IBF-WBO minimum-weight title. At Erfurt, Germany: Pablo Hernandez vs. Firat Arslan, 12, for Hernandez's WBO superwelterweight title.

Sept. 5 At Tokyo, Japan: Yuta Yagetsu vs. Roman Gonzalez, 12, for Yagetsu's WBC junior middleweight title. At Tokyo, Japan: Kokietying, 12, for Inoue's WBO junior middleweight title.

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L Pct GB Atlanta 1 0 0.000 0 Connecticut 2 0 0.571 2 Chicago Bulls 3 0 0.750 4 New York Knicks 4 0 1.000 8

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L Pct GB Atlanta 1 0 0.000 0 Connecticut 2 0 0.571 2 Chicago Bulls 3 0 0.750 4 New York Knicks 4 0 1.000 8

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE W L Pct GB Atlanta 1 0 0.000 0 Connecticut 2 0 0.571 2 Chicago Bulls 3 0 0.750 4 New York Knicks 4 0 1.000 8

AP spotlight

1939 - Joe Stutz Tony Galento in the fourth round at Yankee Stadium to retain the world heavyweight title.

1966 - Ernie Terrell scores a unanimous crowd decision over Doug Jones in Houston to win the WBA title, which had been stripped from Muhammad Ali.

1971 - Muhammad Ali wins a four-year legal battle to overturn his 1967 conviction for draft evasion in an 8-0 victory in the Supreme court.

1982 - Connie Price-Smith, who earlier won the world women's golf title, wins the 1972 U.S. Open trials since Earline Brown in 1960.

1995 - Chanda Rubin beats Patricia Hearst in a crowd decision over Doug Jones in Houston to win the WBA title, which had been stripped from Muhammad Ali.

2007 - The Portland Trail Blazers end their season debate when they choose Greg Oden over fellow college freshman Ben Hamant with the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.

2007 - Frank Thomas hit his 500th home run to become the 21st major league player to reach the milestone.

2007 - Craig Biggio becomes the 77th player to major league with 3,000 hits in the Astros' 8-5 inning victory over Colorado.

BMW International

PAG European Tour

AT GUT Larchenholz Golf Club, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. Purse: \$2.7 million (36-35) Rafa Cabrera Bello 63 33-64 Danny Willett, England 64 33-64 Michael Hoey, Northern Ireland 65 33-66 Emiliano Grieco, Argentina 66 33-66 Anders Hansen, Denmark 67 33-66 Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain 68 33-66 Shane Lowry, Ireland 69 33-66 Shane Lowry, Ireland 69 33-66 Nacho Eguigure, Spain 70 33-66

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WIMBLEDON/SPORTS BRIEFS



PAVEL GOLIKOV/AP

Barbora Zachlawa Strycova plays a return to Li Na during their match at Wimbledon on Friday.

Second-seeded Li upset by unheralded Strycova

By DENNIS PASSA
The Associated Press

LONDON — Australian Open champion and second-seeded Li Na was eliminated 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) on Friday by Barbora Zachlawa Strycova in the first major upset at Wimbledon.

Li looked out of sorts for most of the third-round match on Court 1 and blew a set point in the second set.

In men's play, top-seeded Novak Djokovic overcame a hard fall in the third set to advance to the fourth round with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 Centre Court win over Gilles Simon.

Leading 3-2 in the third set and with Simon serving, Djokovic lunged for a forehand shot and fell hard to the grass, rolling over and grabbing his upper left arm and grimacing in pain.

But after taking a medical timeout and receiving treatment by a trainer, he recovered to play out the final four games of the match, breaking Simon's serve in the final game, his seventh break in the match.

"It was a sharp pain," Djokovic said. "It was an awkward fall. I was just hoping there is nothing really bad with the joint. Luckily there is nothing damaged. I could play. Just the muscle was quite sore because of the impact. All in all I'm just glad to get through."

Djokovic will play Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who beat Jimmy Wang of Taiwan 6-2, 6-2, 7-5,

Scoreboard

Wimbledon
Thursday
At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club
London
Prize: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Grass-Outdoor

Men
Milos Raonic (3), Canada, def. Jack Sock, United States, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.
Kei Nishikori (10), Japan, def. Denis Kudla, United States, 6-3, 6-2, 4-6 (3).
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-2, 4-6 (3).
Simone Bolelli (4), Italy, def. Philipp Kohlschreiber (22), Germany, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 2-6.
Michail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Frank Dancevic, Canada, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2.
Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Gael Monfils (24), France, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-7 (1), 6-7 (3).
Second Round
Nick Kyrgios, Australia, def. Richard Gasquet (13), France, 5-8, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-5, 10-8.
Rafael Nadal (2), Spain, def. Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 4-6, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 6-4.
Tommy Roddick (23), Spain, def. Adrian Panariello, France, 6-4, 6-1, 7-6 (5).
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (14), France, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (3), 14-12.
Stan Wawrinka (5), Switzerland, def. Yen-Hsun Lu, Taiwan, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Julian Reister, Germany, 7-6 (7), 6-4, 6-4.
John Isner (9), United States, def. John Gimenez, Ireland, 7-6 (1), 7-6

in the fourth round on Monday. Due to rain delays, Tsonga has played on all five days of the tournament.

"There is two days off, I'm going to try to recover and get ready," Djokovic said.

Zachlawa Strycova called her win over Li the biggest of her career. Li won the first of her two Grand Slam titles at the French Open in 2011 and had reached the quarterfinals at Wimbledon

(3), 7-5.
Marcel Granollers (30), Spain, leads Santiago Gilero, Colombia, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 1-6, 2-1, susp., rain.
Jarzy Janowicz (15), Poland, leads Leyton Hewitt, Australia, 7-5, 4-4, susp., rain.

Women
Second Round
Alize Cornet (25), France, def. Petra Cetkovic, Czech Republic, 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.
Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-1, 6-1.
Ana Ivanovic (11), Serbia, def. Zheng Jie, China, 6-4, 6-0, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-2.
Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-2.
Kirsten Flipkens (24), Belgium, def. Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, 6-2, 6-1.
Sabine Lisicki (19), Germany, def. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 7-5.
Zarina Diyas, Kazakhstan, def. Carla Suarez Navarro (15), Spain, 7-6 (2), 5-7, 6-2.

Andreea Petricov (20), Germany, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Eugenie Bouchard (13), Canada, def. Silvia Soler-Espinoza, Spain, 7-5, 6-1.
Alicia Risike, United States, def. Camilla Giorgi, Italy, 7-5, 6-2.
Angelique Kerber (9), Germany, def. Heather Watson, Britain, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.
Maria Sharapova (5), Russia, def. Timea Bacinszky, Switzerland, 6-2, 6-1.
Vera Zvonareva, Russia, def. Daria Kasatkina, 6-4, 6-4.
Madison Keys, United States, def. Klara Koulikova (31), Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 6-2.

three times.
"When you go on court you have to believe in yourself," the 43rd-ranked Zachlawa Strycova said. "I thought I could do it and I was pushing myself a lot."

In other matches, French Open finalist Simona Halep and former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki won their matches after rain delayed the start of play for about 30 minutes.

Briefly

NFL to remove cap on concussion damages

The Associated Press

A revised concussions settlement between the NFL and former players could shrink the league's coffers. Only marginally, though, and not for a long time.

The NFL agreed Wednesday to remove a \$675 million cap on damages from thousands of concussion-related claims. A federal judge who originally questioned whether they would be enough money to cover as many as 20,000 retired players still must approve the new terms.

The settlement is designed to last at least 65 years and cover retired players who develop Lou Gehrig's disease, dementia or other neurological problems believed to be caused by concussions sustained during their careers. Removing the cap might lead to the NFL paying out more money to ailing former players, even though the league and lawyers for the plaintiffs believe the \$675 million won't be surpassed.

"If exceeding that number happens, it is well down the road," said Marc Gans, president of Chicago-based consulting firm SportsCorp and a close observer of league business. "I don't foresee any NFL in the next four or five years."

"This has the benefit of getting money to the families and people who need it now. If the actuals are wrong, the additional money would not be paid for a while down the road. By then, there will be new TV contracts, the league will have grown more (financially)."

Although the original settlement was trumpeted by both sides, U.S. District Judge Anita Brody denied preliminary approval last January. Her concerns centered, simply, on whether there was enough money in the pot to satisfy all the legitimate claims; some 4,500 retired players were part of the lawsuit. Projections indicate many more will need help.

Dozens of ex-players also have said they would not take part in the original settlement, against the advice of the plaintiffs' attorneys.

"Some of the players were concerned and asking questions about whether they could be in a deal if they weren't sure there'd be money there for them 40 years from now if they get sick, those changes are important," says Christopher Seeger said.

In other NFL news:
■ The Washington Redskins have signed Jerry Rice Jr., son of the Hall of Fame receiver.

Rice is an undrafted free agent out of UNLV. He caught 11 passes for 86 yards and one touchdown last year in his only season with the Rebels.

Rice is 5-foot-10 and 185 pounds. He previously played at UCLA before transferring to UNLV.

Rice had tryouts with the Baltimore Ravens and the San Francisco 49ers this offseason.

A rude welcome back for Woods on tour

BETHESDA, Maryland — Congressional game Tiger Woods a rude welcome back to the U.S. PGA Tour on Thursday.

In his first competition since back surgery a week before the Masters, Woods made seven bogeys in his opening 12 holes. He made three birdies from short range the rest of the way for a 3-over 74 at the Quicken Loans National.

At least he still has his health. Woods said his back felt fine.

The real pain was Congressional, which played tougher than it did for the U.S. Open three years ago. The rough was punishing, making it difficult for even the powerful players to get onto the green.

Woods was part of a marquee group that didn't give a big gallery much reason to cheer. Jason Day had a 73 while Jordan Spieth had a 74.

NHL salary cap to rise after record revenues

NEW YORK — After a year of record revenues, the NHL salary cap is going up again.

The exact figure for the 2014-15 season hasn't been set yet. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said on Thursday following a meeting of the league's board of governors, but he hoped it would be worked out with the players' association before the draft on Friday.

The final number is expected to be in the high \$60 millions or low \$70 millions. That gives general managers a guideline as they head into the draft and the free-agent shopping season that begins on Tuesday.

Teams that have large amounts of cap space can already make their offseason plans, whether it be trades or free-agent signings, without knowing the final cap number.

"I expect to see a lot more trades than we normally see," Minnesota Wild general manager Chuck Fletcher said. "There's so much parity in the league, everyone is trying to get ahead."

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops gets raise

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma football coach Bob Stoops' salary will jump to \$5.25 million for the upcoming season.

The new figure was approved by the school's Board of Regents. The total is up from about \$5 million last season.

Oklahoma went 11-2 last season to take Stoops' career record to 166-39. The Sooners defeated Alabama 45-31 in the Sugar Bowl after last season to position themselves as one of the favorites to contend for the national title in 2014. Stoops would receive a \$275,000 bonus for winning the title.

MLB



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

The Los Angeles Angels' Albert Pujols watches his RBI double against the Minnesota Twins during Thursday's game in Anaheim, Calif. The Angels won 6-4.

Angels sweep Twins

LA has won 15 of last 17 games in Anaheim

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Albert Pujols is thrilled to have a reason to forget about his first two disappointing seasons with the Los Angeles Angels. His club is on a roll this summer, and he's hoping the ride extends all the way to October.

Pujols and Mike Trout drove in two runs apiece, Jered Weaver pitched seven strong innings, and the Angels completed a perfect homestand with a 6-4 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday.

Pujols had three hits and Josh Hamilton drove in a run to help the Angels win their season-best sixth straight and move a season-high 11 games over .500 (44-33).

"We've been playing really good the past couple of weeks," Pujols said. "You just need to take advantage of a stretch. It doesn't matter where you win as long as you get those wins. We're playing great at home, but we'll take them in any stadium."

Trout had two doubles, including a two-run drive down the left-field line in the seventh, during the Angels' 15th win in their last 17 games in Anaheim, where they have the majors' best home record. Los Angeles swept Texas and Minnesota to complete its first unbeaten homestand with at least six games since May 2004.

"We're starting to do some of the things we can do on the offensive side, and we've got to keep it rolling," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "Albert, when he's swinging it well, he's going to square balls up like that. He got some big hits and got

Did you know

With sweeps of Texas and Minnesota, the Angels completed their first unbeaten homestand of at least six games since May 2004.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

us going."

Weaver (8-6) yielded eight hits — all singles — and struck out six in another dominant start against the Twins. The right-hander, who threw a no-hitter against Minnesota in 2012, has given up one run in 24 innings while striking out 24 in his last three home meetings with the Twins.

Weaver improved to 7-0 in eight career starts against Minnesota, striking out the side on 12 pitches in the first inning and rarely struggling until the sixth. He snapped a three-start winless streak with plenty of offense from his teammates, who scored 35 runs on the homestand.

"Offensively, we didn't do too much," Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire said. "Weaver was like we've seen him before. In this ballpark, we all know it's tough to see the ball in day games, and he made it tough on us."

Ricky Nolasco (4-6) yielded 11 hits and six runs while pitching into the seventh inning of his fourth straight winless start.

Roundup

Porcello gets first career shutout in Tigers' win

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Rick Porcello pitched a three-hitter for his first career shutout and 10th victory this season as Detroit beat skidding Texas 6-0 to win its seventh consecutive game.

Miguel Cabrera had four hits and Austin Jackson hit a two-run single for the AL Central leaders, who completed a three-game sweep.

While the Tigers have the longest winning streak in the majors, Texas has the longest losing streak at eight in a row.

Porcello (10-4) limited the Rangers to three singles and benefited from three double plays. He struck out six and walked three, throwing a season-high 115 pitches.

It was only the second complete game for Porcello in 164 major league starts — all for the Tigers since 2009. The right-hander has won at least 10 games in each of his six seasons.

Rangers rookie Nick Martinez (1-5) allowed six hits and walked five of the 18 batters he faced in 2½ innings. Texas has its longest losing streak since dropping eight in a row in August 2005.

Blue Jays 7, White Sox 0: Adam Lind had three hits and

three RBIs, and J.A. Happ pitched a season-high 7½ innings in host Toronto's shutout of Chicago.

Jose Reyes had four hits and scored twice as the AL East leaders handed the struggling White Sox their seventh loss in eight games. Chicago lost for the 10th time in 11 road games.

Dodgers 1, Cardinals 0: Pinch-hitter Justin Turner delivered an RBI single in the eighth inning off Adam Wainwright, and Los Angeles edged visiting St. Louis in their first meeting since last year's NL championship series.

Josh Beckett pitched seven sharp innings in a tight duel with Wainwright, who held the Dodgers hitless through five. Left fielder Matt Kemp threw out a Cardinals runner at the plate in the seventh.

Reds 3, Giants 1: Brandon Phillips homered among his three hits and scored twice in his return to the lineup, leading Mike Leake and Cincinnati over host San Francisco.

Leake (6-4) allowed four hits in eight innings. He had a career-high 12 strikeouts and walked one, which was intentional. Ardis Chapman worked the ninth



TONY GUTERREZ/AP

Detroit's Miguel Cabrera had four hits in the Tigers' 6-0 win over the Rangers on Thursday in Arlington, Texas.

for his 15th save in 16 chances.

Brewers 7, Rockies 4: Rickie Weeks had three hits, including a leadoff home run, and Wily Peralta won his fifth consecutive start as host Milwaukee defeated Colorado.

Peralta went six innings for his second win over the Rockies in less than a week. Francisco Rodriguez earned his major league-leading 26th save.

Phillies 5, Marlins 3 (14): Chase Utley hit a two-run homer in the 14th inning to lift host Philadelphia over Miami.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia, Giancarlo Stanton and Marcel Ozuna homered for the Marlins, who managed only two hits from the ninth inning on.

Pirates 5, Mets 2: Hot-hitting rookie Gregory Polanco homered and drove in four runs, and resur-

gent right-hander Vance Worley pitched Pittsburgh past visiting New York.

Polanco drove in the first run with a groundout in the first inning, then hit a three-run homer off Daisuke Matsuzaka (3-2) in the fifth to put the Pirates ahead 5-1.

Cubs 5, Nationals 3: Justin Ruggiano's two-out, two-run double broke a tie in the seventh inning and sent host Chicago to a victory over Washington.

Starlin Castro had two RBIs and Anthony Rizzo went 3-for-4 with two doubles and a run. The Cubs had dropped four of five.

Astros 6, Braves 1: Matt Dominguez broke out of a slump with a three-run homer and rookie George Springer also went deep to back seven strong innings by Jarrod Cosart in Houston's victory over visiting Atlanta.

Dominguez helped the Astros avoid a series sweep, snapping an 0-for-23 skid with his two-out shot to left-center off Mike Minor (2-5) that made it 5-1 in the fifth.

Springer hit a solo drive off Jun Jun Lee in the seventh. He has 15 homers this season, the most by a rookie in franchise history before the All-Star break. Lance Berkman had the previous mark with 12 in 2000.

AUTO RACING



GARRY JONES/AP

NASCAR driver Kyle Busch celebrates with a tire burnout near the start/finish line Thursday after winning the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series race at Kentucky Speedway in Sparta, Ky.

Busch stays perfect this season in trucks

The Associated Press

SPARTA, Ky. — Kyle Busch won his fifth race in as many attempts this season in the Camping World Truck Series, holding off Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate Darrell Wallace Jr. on Thursday night at Kentucky Speedway in the UNOH 225.

Busch has six straight series victories dating to last season and 40 overall in 120 starts. The Sprint Cup driver led the final 55 laps in the 150-lap race. He also won at the 1.5-mile track in 2011.

"Really proud of Kyle Busch Motorsports finishing 1-2," Busch said. "It's a great testament for everything we've gone for and strived for. ... Qualifying 1-2 and finishing 1-2, I think I was more pumped for having a 1-2 finish, than winning, honestly."

Wallace, the winner two weeks ago at Gateway in Madison, Illinois, finished 1.844 seconds behind Busch.

Wallace shook his head sideways when asked if he thought he had a chance to beat Busch on a late restart.

"He knew what he was doing," Wallace said. "He's so cool to work with. He's so good."

Kyle Busch Motorsports drivers have won nine of the series' last 12 races, with Wallace winning twice and Erik Jones once. Toyota has won 10 straight races,



GARRY JONES/AP

Kyle Busch stands in Victory Circle after winning the UNOH 225.

starting with Jones' Phoenix victory last year.

"I'm really proud that my name is on the door," Busch said. "I'm most proud of Eric Phillips (crew chief) and all the guys, everyone at Kyle Busch Motorsports for all their hard work and dedication and everything they've done to build really good trucks. They've done a great job for me."

"Seeing Darrell come home second tonight was pretty great, especially him getting back in

traffic, like we both were and being able to methodically work his way back up to second."

Ryan Blaney was third, followed by Timothy Peters, Brad Keselowski, Matt Crafton, Austin Dillon, Ron Hornaday Jr., points leader Johnny Sauter and Ben Kennedy.

Sauter has an eight-point lead over ThorSport Racing teammate Crafton, the defending series champion and a two-time winner this season.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Quaker State 400 at Sparta, Ky.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Track: Kentucky Raceway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 400.5 miles, 267 laps.

Last year: Matt Kenseth won the rain-delayed race for the fourth of seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Carl Edwards won at Sonoma for his first road-course victory, snapping Hendrick Motorsports' winning streak at five races.

Next race: Coke Zero 400, July 5, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona, Fla.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	580
2. Jimmie Johnson	560
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	555
4. Matt Kenseth	515
5. Brad Keselowski	512
6. Carl Edwards	509
7. Joey Logano	483
8. Ryan Newman	473
9. Kevin Harvick	472
10. Kyle Larson	470
11. Kyle Busch	465
12. Paul Menard	459
13. Denny Hamlin	453
14. Clint Bowyer	452
15. Greg Biffle	444
16. Casey Mears	429
17. Tony Stewart	427
18. Austin Dillon	427
19. Jamie McMurray	425
20. Brian Vickers	424



Driver to watch

Matt Kenseth's race ended early last week at Sonoma after contact from Dale Earnhardt Jr., causing him to head off the track at into a tire barrier. The DNF was Kenseth's first in 15 races at Sonoma.

But things should be looking up for the Joe Gibbs Racing driver this week. He is the defending champion at Kentucky Raceway, and has finished in the top seven in all three races that have been held at the track at this level.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: John R. Elliott Hero Campaign 300.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Saturday, Central European Time.

Track: Kentucky Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Brad Keselowski won the rain-shortened race for the second of his seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Brendan Gaughan won at Road America in Wisconsin for his first series victory.

Next race: Subway Firecracker 250, July 4, Daytona International Speedway, Daytona, Fla.

Online: www.nascar.com

Last week: Ron Capps raced to his first victory of the season and 41st overall, beating Alexis DeJoria in the Funny Car final in the New England Nationals.

Next event: Summit Racing Equipment NHRA Nationals, July 3-6, Summit Motorsports Park, Norwalk, Ohio.

Online: www.nhra.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: British Grand Prix, July 6, Silverstone Circuit, Silverstone, England.

Last race: Nico Rosberg won the Austrian Grand Prix, edging teammate Lewis Hamilton.

Online: www.formula1.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Grand Prix of Houston, Saturday and Sunday.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, Race 1, 5 p.m. Sunday Central European Time; Race 2, 4 p.m. Monday, Central European Time.

Track: MD Anderson Cancer Center Speedway (street course, 1.683 miles).

Race distance: 153 miles, 90 laps.

Last year: Scott Dixon won the first race of the October doubleheader and finished second behind Will Power in the second. Dario Franchitti fractured two vertebrae and broke his right ankle in a last-lap crash in the finale.

Next race: Pocono IndyCar 500, July 6, Pocono Raceway, Long Pond, Pa.

Online: www.indycar.com

OTHER SERIES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Sprint Car: Sprint Car: Friday, 34 Raceway, Burlington, Iowa; Saturday, Beaver Dam Raceway, Beaver Dam, Wis.; Cedar Lake Speedway, New Richmond, Wis.; Late Model: Thursday-Saturday, Lencvieve Speedway, Sarver, Pa. Super DIRTCar: Sunday, Cornwall Motor Speedway, Cornwall, Ontario.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

NBA DRAFT

Scoreboard

Thursday

At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.

- First Round**
1. Cleveland, Andrew Wiggins, g, Kansas.
 2. Milwaukee, Jabari Parker, f, Duke.
 3. Philadelphia, Joel Embiid, c, Kansas.
 4. Orlando, Aaron Gordon, f, Arizona.
 5. Utah, Dante Exum, g, Australia.
 6. Boston, Marcus Smart, g, Oklahoma State.
 7. L.A. Lakers, Julius Randle, f, Kentucky.
 8. Sacramento, Nik Stauskas, g, Michigan.
 9. Charlotte (from Detroit), Noah Vonleh, c-f, Indiana.
 10. a-Philadelphia (from New Orleans), Elfrid Payton, g, Louisiana-Lafayette.
 11. b-Denver, Doug McDermott, f, Creighton.
 12. c-Orlando (from New York via Denver), Dario Saric, f, Cibona (Croatia).
 13. Minnesota, Zach LaVine, g, UCLA.
 14. Phoenix T.J. Warren, f, NC State.
 15. Atlanta, Adrean Payne, f, Michigan State.
 16. b-Chicago (from Charlotte), Jusuf Nurkic, c, Cedevita (Croatia).
 17. Boston (from Brooklyn), James Young, g, Kentucky.
 18. Phoenix (from Washington), Tyler Ennis, g, Syracuse.
 19. b-Chicago, Gary Harris, g, Michigan State.
 20. Toronto, Bruno Caboclo, f, Pinheiros (Brazil).
 21. Oklahoma City (from Dallas via Houston and L.A. Lakers), Mitch McGary, f, Michigan.
 22. Memphis, Jordan Adams, g, UCLA.
 23. Utah (from Golden State), Rodney Hood, f, Duke.
 24. b-Charlotte (from Portland), Shabazz Napier, g, UConn.
 25. Houston, Clint Capela, f, Chaion (France).
 26. c-Miami, P.J. Hairston, g, North Carolina/Texas-NCABD. (No. 25).
 27. Phoenix (from Indiana), Bopoda Boshong, g, Partizan (Serbia).
 28. L.A. Clippers, C.J. Wilcox, g, Washington.
 29. Oklahoma City, Josh Heuertz, f, Stanford.
 30. San Antonio, Kyle Anderson, g, UCLA.
- Second Round**
31. Milwaukee, Darnell Ingram, f, Oleon (France).
 32. Philadelphia, K.J. McDaniels, f, Creighton.
 33. Cleveland (from Boston), Joe Harris, g, Virginia.
 34. New York (from Orlando through Dallas), Cleanthony Early, f, Wichita State.
 35. b-Utah, Jarrell Miller, f, Michigan State.
 36. Milwaukee (from L.A. Lakers via Minnesota and Phoenix), Johnny O'Bryant III, f, LSU.
 37. Toronto (from Sacramento), DeAndre Daniels, f, UConn.
 38. Detroit, Spencer Dinwiddie, g, Colorado.
 39. Philadelphia (from Cleveland), Jerami Grant, f, Syracuse.
 40. Minnesota (from New Orleans), Glenn Robinson III, f, Michigan.
 41. Denver, Nikola Jokic, f, Mega Vizura (Serbia).
 42. Houston (from New York), Nick Johnson, g, Arizona.
 43. Atlanta, Walter Tavares, c, Gran Canaria (Spain).
 44. b-Minnesota, Markel Brown, g, Oklahoma State.
 45. Charlotte, Dwight Powell, f, Stanford.
 46. Washington, Jordan Clarkson, g, Missouri.
 47. f-Philadelphia (from Brooklyn via Dallas and Boston), Russ Smith, g, Louisville.
 48. b-Milwaukee (from Toronto via Phoenix), Lamar Patterson, g, Pittsburgh.
 49. Chicago, Cameron Batistola, c, New Mexico.
 50. Phoenix, Alec Brown, c, Green Bay.
 51. New York (from Dallas), Thanasis Antetokounmpo, f, Delaware (NBAU).
 52. Philadelphia (from Memphis via Cleveland), Vasilije Micić, g, Mega Vizura (Serbia).
 53. Minnesota (from Golden State), Alessandro Gentile, f, EA7 Armani (Italy).
 54. Philadelphia (from Houston via Milwaukee), Nemanja Dangubic, f, Mega Vizura (Serbia).
 55. b-Miami, Semaj Christon, g, Xavier.
 56. b-Denver (from Portland), Roy Devyn Marble, f, Iowa.
 57. Indiana, Lou Labeyrie, f, Paris-Levallois (France).
 58. San Antonio (from L.A. Clippers via New Orleans), Jordan McRae, g, Tennessee.
 59. Toronto (from Oklahoma City via New York), Xavier Thames, f, New York State.
 60. San Antonio, Cory Jefferson, f, Baylor.
- Proposed Trades**
- a-Philadelphia and Orlando traded the rights to selected players.
 - b-Denver and Chicago traded the rights to selected players.
 - c-Charlotte and Miami traded the rights to selected players.
 - d-Minnesota traded rights to Brooklyn for a 2015 second-round draft pick.
 - e-Utah traded rights to Memphis for a 2015 second-round draft pick.
 - f-Washington traded rights to L.A. Lakers for cash considerations.
 - g-Chicago traded rights to New Orleans for cash considerations.
 - h-Milwaukee traded rights to Atlanta for a future second-round draft pick.
 - i-Minnesota traded rights to Houston for cash considerations.
 - j-Denver traded rights to New York for cash considerations.
 - k-Indiana traded rights to New Orleans for cash considerations.

As always, trades on big night

By Jim O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One of the expected sights of NBA Draft night is newly selected players changing the team hats they had just been handed.

Doug McDermott of Creighton, the national college player of the year last season, was the first to do it Thursday night. He had just been taken by Denver at No. 11 and was on his way to do television interviews. While he was waiting, McDermott asked one of his escorts about changing hats because he had just been told of a trade.

He kept the Nuggets hat on for a few minutes. Then came the official word: McDermott's rights had been traded: The Chicago Bulls for the rights to Jusuf Nurkic of Croatia, the No. 16 pick, and Gary Harris of Michigan State, the No. 19 pick, and a 2015 second-round draft pick.

Philadelphia traded the rights to Elfrid Payton of Louisiana-Lafayette, the No. 10 pick, to Orlando for the rights to Dario Saric of Croatia, the No. 12 pick.

And Charlotte sent the rights to Shabazz Napier, the No. 24 pick who led Connecticut to the national championship last season, to Miami for the rights to former North Carolina guard P.J. Hairston, the No. 26 pick.

"I'm just really excited to land

Draft day deals

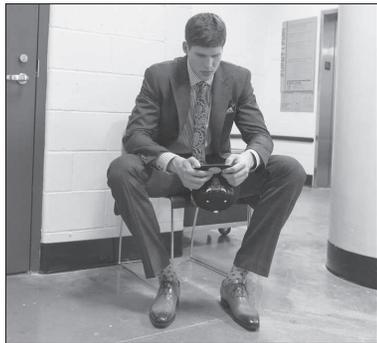
1. Denver Nuggets acquired P. J. Hairston from Orlando for G. Evan Fournier and Roy Devyn Marble, f, Iowa (No. 56).
2. Houston Rockets traded C. Omer Ask and cash to New Orleans for a conditional 2015 first-round draft pick.
3. Denver traded Doug McDermott, f, Creighton (No. 11) and f Anthony Randolph for Jusuf Nurkic, c, Cedevita/Croatia (No. 16); Gary Harris, g, Michigan State (No. 19) and a 2015 second-round draft pick.
4. Philadelphia traded Elfrid Payton, g, Louisiana-Lafayette (No. 12) to Orlando for Dario Saric, f, Cibona (Croatia) (No. 12); a 2015 second-round draft pick and a 2017 first-round draft pick.
5. Charlotte traded Shabazz Napier, g, UConn (No. 24) to Miami for P.J. Hairston, g, North Carolina/Texas-NCABD. (No. 26); Semaj Christon, g, Xavier (No. 55) and a future second-round draft pick.
6. Utah traded Jarrell Stokes, f, Tennessee (No. 35) to Memphis for a 2015 second-round draft pick.
7. Philadelphia traded Russ Smith, g, Louisville (No. 47) to New Orleans for Pierre Jackson.
8. Milwaukee traded Lamar Patterson, g, Pittsburgh (No. 48) to Atlanta for a future second-round draft pick.
9. Minnesota traded Alessandro Gentile, f, EA7 Armani-Italy (No. 53) to Houston for cash considerations.
10. Indiana traded Lou Labeyrie, f, Paris-Levallois-France (No. 57) to New York for cash considerations.
11. Washington traded Jordan Clarkson, g, Missouri (No. 46) to L.A. Lakers for cash considerations.

— The Associated Press

in Chicago," McDermott said. "This whole draft process has been pretty crazy, a lot of work's out, a lot of traveling, and it's awesome to see all that finally pay off."

McDermott said being a Bull hasn't sunk in yet.

"D Rose is one of my favorite players," he said, referring to



JASON DECROW/AP

Creighton forward Doug McDermott sits outside the interview room Thursday after the Denver Nuggets selected him as 11th overall. Minutes later McDermott was traded to the Chicago Bulls.

Derrick Rose. "I was a huge Gator fan, so I love Joakim (Noah). I can't even believe I'm about to join their team."

Napier arrives in Miami with the blessing of free agent LeBron James, who tweeted: "My favorite player in the draft! (hashtag) Napier."

"My agent just told me that (James) tested something out about me as well," Napier said as he met the media. "It's just something special to know that one of the best players in the world thinks about you and appreciates your talent. That's something that I'm so humble for."

Take: Wiggins' Kansas teammate Embiid goes third

FROM BACK PAGE

him come back, it just betters our chances of being a complete team."

Cleveland's progress depends on Wiggins, the Kansas freshman who he hopes turns out better than fellow Canadian Anthony Bennett.

Thrilled to go first and even happier with Jayhawk teammate Joel Embiid went two picks later, Wiggins beamed in his black tuxedo jacket with a white floral pattern.

"A thousand thoughts are going through my head right now," Wiggins said. "It's a dream come true."

Bennett was injured last summer, came into the season out of shape and made no impact, one of the reasons the Cavs were back in this spot again.

But Wiggins seems a much more ready product after averaging a Kansas freshman-record 17.1 points. He might have ended up as the top pick anyway, but became the best option for the Cavs when Embiid had a stress fracture in his right foot shortly before the draft.

After making Canada the only country besides the U.S. to have consecutive No. 1 picks, Wiggins slipped on a maroon Cleveland hat, hugged his supporters and went on stage to shake hands with Commissioner Adam Silver, who



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Duke's Jabari Parker was the No. 2 pick of the NBA Draft on Thursday, taken by the Milwaukee Bucks.

was calling the first round for the first time since replacing David Stern.

Milwaukee followed with Parker, who some consider the more NBA-ready player after an All-American freshman season for Duke. Playing in Milwaukee puts him near his family in Chicago.

"I'm just very optimistic," Parker said. "If it was 1, 2, put me at 60, just getting that opportunity, getting that chance of being in the NBA."

The 76ers had two top-10 picks and could afford to take a chance on Embiid, the big man who may have ended up the top prize despite his lone season at Kansas ending early because of a bad back. But once the foot injury popped up during workouts, leav-

ing his NBA debut uncertain after surgery, the two teams at the top passed.

"He worked so hard," Wiggins said. "He didn't let nothing get to him. He always stayed motivated. So I'm just proud. It's a proud moment for Kansas."

Top-level talent stretched toward the bottom of the lottery and perhaps beyond. Arizona forward Aaron Gordon went fourth to Orlando, which also had two picks, followed by Australian guard Dante Exum to Utah.

Then came two teams not used to picking so high: The Boston Celtics took Oklahoma State guard Marcus Smart, with the rival Los Angeles Lakers following at No. 7 with Kentucky forward Julius Randle.

The highlight of the night came just after the lottery, when Silver welcomed Baylor's Isaiah Austin to the stage for an emotional tribute. Austin had to end his playing career after being diagnosed with Marfan syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that affects the heart.

Wearing a blue hat with the NBA logo, Austin rose for a standing ovation after Silver announced that: "The NBA selects Isaiah Austin."

There were 10 international players in the first round, tied for the second-most in draft history. It ended with NBA champion San Antonio taking UCLA's Kyle Anderson.

WORLD CUP



FELIPE DANAR/AP

Chile supporters cheer the national team before the Group B match against the Netherlands on Monday in Sao Paulo.

Host Brazil wary of confident Chile

BY TALEA AZZONI
The Associated Press

TERESOPOLIS, Brazil — The knockout stage of the World Cup begins Saturday with host Brazil playing Chile, the South American rival it has dominated over the years.

Brazil hasn't lost to Chile in more than a decade, and has never lost to it on home soil. But for the first time Chile arrives to face its neighbor with plenty of confidence, thanks in part to a convincing campaign in Group B that included a victory over defending champion Spain.

The Chileans say there is no reason they can't also surprise the hosts, and Brazilians admit they are wary of the threat.

Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari warned about Chile more than six months ago, following the World Cup draw. Despite the possibility of the hosts facing Spain or the Netherlands, the team's nemesis in the quarterfinals of the 2010 tournament, Scolari said at the time that his biggest concern was the Chilean squad, which he hoped "wouldn't qualify" for the second round.

"When I talked about Chile then, people made fun of me, they said Chile wasn't good enough," Scolari said. "But I already knew the work of coach (Jorge) Sampaoli and their players. We already knew how they played."

Brazil hasn't lost to Chile since a World Cup qualifier in 2000. Since then, it has won 10 of their 12 matches. They met three times in World Cups, with Brazil winning 4-2 in the semifinals of the 1962 tournament in Chile, then 4-1 in the last 16 in 1998 and 3-0 at the same stage in 2010.

"We can't take that into consideration," Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo said. "A lot of people say that we don't have anything to lose, but on the contrary, we have a historic opportunity to eliminate the hosts. It's our longtime rival, one with a lot of titles. It's up to us to do it."

Brazil and Chile played twice in friendlies last year. Scolari's



Round of 16
Chile vs. Brazil
AFN-Sports
5:30 p.m. Saturday CET

team won 2-1 in November in Canada, and the teams drew 2-2 in April at the same Mineiro Stadium where Saturday's match will be played.

The Chilean squad has four players who know Brazilian football well — Eduardo Vargas played for Brazilian club Gremio until last year, while Jorge Valdivia is with Palmeiras, Charles Aranguiz with Internacional and Eugenio Mena with Santos.

"They have players with a lot of quality. It's always difficult to play a team like that," Brazil midfielder Luiz Gustavo said. "We don't think about what happened in the past. We have to think about what's in front of us now. Now it's a different story, with new players. Anything is possible."

Brazil has made it to the quarterfinals of the World Cup every time since 1994. Its last elimination in the second round was against Argentina in 1990. Chile has only once advanced past the second round, at home in 1962.

"Now we can't make any more mistakes," Scolari said. "In the group stage we could still slip here and there and still advance. Now we can't. We have to have a very balanced team, we can't make any mistakes, that's what has to change beginning with this next game."

Brazil has four players going into Saturday's match with a yellow card, including striker Neymar, captain Thiago Silva and defensive midfielder Luiz Gustavo. Another yellow against Chile will sideline them from the quarterfinals if Brazil advances.

Group H roundup

Belgium tops S. Korea

Algerians qualify for knockout stage

The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — Reduced to 10 men for over half the match, Belgium still beat South Korea 1-0 on Thursday to finish atop Group H and eliminate the last Asian team from the World Cup.

With a late goal yet again, Belgium made the difference during the 78th minute when defender Jan Vertonghen followed up a shot from teenage striker Divock Origi and tapped in the rebound past goalkeeper Kim Seung-gyu.

"We knew all games were going to be tough," said Belgium coach Marc Wilmots. "But even with 10 men, we still pushed forward. These guys are really hungry."

After three narrow victories and precious little beautiful play, Belgium will now play the United States in Salvador on Tuesday.

And along with Iran, Japan and Australia, South Korea advanced as the last team from the Asian federation, all in the first round.

"All of our players did their utmost. They gave it their all but I think that it was shortcoming, my failing as a coach that caused this result," said coach Hong Myung-bo.

Algeria 1, Russia 1: For the Algerians, this has been a tournament of breaking new ground.

First, Algeria won its first World Cup match since 1982 — a 4-2 victory over South Korea, and then on Thursday it qualified for the knockout stages for the first time.

Islam Slimani's 60th-minute headed equalizer was enough to gain his team a draw against Russia and the one competition point it needed to place second in Group H behind Belgium.

Slimani's equalizer came after Russia goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev failed to catch a swinging left-foot free kick from Yacine Brahimi. That was the second costly error that Akinfeev has made in the tournament for Russia, though there were indications on the TV broadcast that a green laser was being shone toward the goalkeeper just before the free kick was taken.

Russia coach Fabio Capello said his goalkeeper was "blinded by the laser beams."

On Monday, the Algerians will meet Germany in the Round of 16 in Porto Alegre.

Qualification prompted mass celebrations in the packed Algerian section in Arena da Baixada in Curitiba, and on the pitch among the players. Even the combative coach, Vahid Halilhodzic, was hugging staff and players and holding his head in apparent disbelief.

"I'm very proud of what we achieved tonight," Halilhodzic said. "I think Algeria played a heroic match and our qualification is perfectly deserved."



ANDREW MEDCHMA/AP

South Korea's Yun Suk-young, left, and Belgium's Anthony Vandenbergger fight for the ball during Thursday's match in Sao Paulo.

Scoreboard

First round	Group F	Group G	Group H	Group I		
Advanced to second round	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
x-Argentina	3	0	0	3	4	9
x-Nigeria	1	1	3	3	4	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2	1	0	4	1	6
Iran	0	2	1	1	4	1
Argentina 2, Bosnia-Herzegovina 1						
Iran 0, Nigeria 0						
Saturday, June 26						
Argentina 1, Iran 0						
Nigeria 1, Bosnia-Herzegovina 0						
Wednesday, June 25						
Argentina 3, Nigeria 2						
Bosnia-Herzegovina 3, Iran 1						
GROUP G						
x-Germany	2	0	1	7	2	7
x-United States	1	1	4	4	4	4
Portugal	1	1	4	7	4	4
Ghana	0	2	1	3	4	1
Monday, June 16						
Germany 4, Portugal 0						
United States 2, Ghana 1						
Saturday, June 21						
Portugal 2, United States 2						
Sunday, June 22						
Portugal 2, United States 2						
At Recife, Brazil						
Germany 1, United States 0						
At Brasilia, Brazil						
Portugal 2, Ghana 2						
GROUP H						
x-Belgium	3	0	0	4	1	9
x-Algeria	1	1	1	2	3	4
Russia	0	1	2	3	2	2
South Korea	0	2	1	1	6	1
Tuesday, June 17						
Belgium 2, Algeria 1						
Russia 1, South Korea 1						
Sunday, June 22						
Belgium 1, Russia 0						
Algeria 4, South Korea 2						
Thursday, June 26						
Belgium 1, South Korea 0						
At Curitiba, Brazil						
Algeria 1, Russia 1						
Second round						
Saturday, June 28						
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil						
Brazil vs. Chile						
At Rio de Janeiro						
Colombia vs. Uruguay						
Thursday, June 26						
At Fortaleza, Brazil						
Netherlands vs. Mexico						
At Recife, Brazil						
Costa Rica vs. Greece						
At Brasilia, Brazil						
France vs. Honduras						
At Porto Alegre, Brazil						
Germany vs. Algeria						
Tuesday, July 1						
At Sao Paulo						
Argentina vs. Switzerland						
At Salvador, Brazil						
Belgium vs. United States						

WORLD CUP



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

The United States' Fabian Johnson sits on the pitch after his team advanced to the round of 16 despite a 1-0 loss in their Group G match with Germany at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, on Thursday.

Bring on Belgium

Americans ready for anything after advancing through 'Group of Death'

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

RECIFE, Brazil — Now that the U.S. has survived the so-called "Group of Death," it's time for sudden death: the knockout phase of the World Cup.

The Americans play Belgium on Tuesday night in the round of 16, hoping to show they're better than the U.S. team that lost in overtime to Ghana in the second round four years ago.

"By no means are we satisfied with just getting out of the group," midfielder Graham Zusi said Sunday after the Americans advanced despite a 1-0 loss to Germany. "We want to keep going and make some history."

Belgium eased past the Americans 4-2 in a May 2013 exhibition at Cleveland on two goals by Christian Benteke (currently sidelined with a torn Achilles tendon), and one each from Marouane Fellaini and Kevin Mirallas. Two years earlier, Belgium won 1-0 in Brussels on Nicolas Lombaerts' half-volley in the 55th minute in Jurgen Klinsmann's first road game with the U.S.

"They're a top team. Everyone around Europe will tell you

By no means are we satisfied with just getting out of the group. We want to keep going and make some history.

Graham Zusi
United States midfielder

how good they are," American goalkeeper Tim Howard said. "They've got so many good players, young players, strong, fast, good on the ball. I actually think because of that we match up well with them, but we'll see."

Howard was a teammate at Everton last season with Belgium's Romelu Lukaku and Mirallas, and played on the Toffees with Fellaini before the bushy-haired forward transferred to Manchester United last summer. The Red Devils, seeded in December's draw and ranked 11th, are at their first major tournament since the 2002 World Cup, where they lost in the second round to eventual champion Brazil.

While the U.S. defeated Ghana 2-1 and drew Portugal 2-2 to advance on a goal-difference tiebreaker against the Portuguese,

Belgium beat Algeria 2-1, Russia 1-0 and South Korea 1-0.

"It gives us so much confidence to get those nine points with only 10 men and prepare for the Americans in that mood," defender Jan Vertonghen said Sunday after scoring the only goal as Belgium finished a man short.

The U.S., which reached the knockout stage of consecutive World Cups for the first time, returned to its Sao Paulo base Thursday night and looked forward to four days off before playing the Belgians in Salvador. The winner advances to a quarterfinal against Argentina or Switzerland.

"We're excited about trying to go further than we did last World Cup and getting past this first game (of the knockout rounds)," captain Clint Dempsey said.

Colombia, Uruguay both doing without

By MATTIAS KAREN
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Colombia was already without Radamel Falcao. Now Uruguay is without Luis Suarez.

Instead of a matchup between two of the world's top strikers, the Round-of-16 game between Colombia and Uruguay at the World Cup will be a test of which team copes best without its talisman.

Suarez was banned by FIFA on Thursday from all football for four months for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini in Uruguay's 1-0 win over Italy in their last group game, a result that sent his team through to the knockout rounds.

That means the World Cup lost one of its best and most colorful players, and Uruguay lost its main scoring threat.

Uruguay struggled badly without him in its opening loss to Costa Rica, when the Liverpool striker remained on the bench as he recovered from knee surgery. Suarez returned to score both goals against England in a 2-1 win, showing just how important he is to the team.

As part of his ban, which covers Uruguay's next nine games, Suarez isn't even allowed to enter the Maracana for Saturday's match.

Colombia has already proven it can cope without Falcao, the country's biggest star who missed the tournament after failing to recover from a knee injury. Colombia was one of the most impressive teams in the group stages, winning all three of its games and scoring nine goals in the process.

"We know we have done some great work, but we need to keep going," Colombia forward Jackson Martinez said.

In Falcao's absence, Monaco playmaker James Rodriguez has stepped up to become the team's focal point, scoring three goals and setting up two more in the group stage.

"Something really important has taken place," Colombia coach Jose Pekerman said this week. "I think everyone who knows football knows Falcao. ... He is one of the reasons we are playing in this World Cup."

"But the players have reacted in a positive way. For me, as a coach, this proves that my players have a strong character because they have played very well and shown wonderful performances."

What Uruguay's reaction to the Suarez ban will be is anyone's guess. The Uruguayan federation has already lodged an appeal.

The team didn't immediately comment on the ban, but it does have players who can step up — notably Edinson Cavani and Diego Forlan. Cavani scored Uruguay's goal in the 3-1 loss to Costa Rica, but has been quiet in the subsequent two games. Forlan was named the best player of the 2010 World Cup, but hasn't shown any of that form so far. Defender Diego Godin has maintained his good form, however, heading in the winner against Italy just minutes after the Suarez biting incident. Godin also scored a vital goal against Barcelona that gave Atletico Madrid the Spanish league title last month, and netted his team's goal in the Champions League final loss to Real Madrid.

Many of Uruguay's players have been here before, too. The team reached the semifinals at the 2010 World Cup, while Colombia hadn't even qualified for the tournament since 1998.

Colombia defender Mario Yepes said before Thursday's FIFA announcement on the Suarez ban that his team wasn't worried about whether the striker would be playing or not.

"We are thinking only of our work," Yepes said. "It is going to be a difficult match, very difficult, because we have had the opportunity of watching Uruguay's matches during the World Cup, and we have seen it is a difficult team (to play)."



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

A Colombian supporter shows his spirit before a Group C match earlier this week.

SPORTS



First major upset
Australian Open champ Li
ousted at Wimbledon | **Page 25**

NBA DRAFT



JASON DE CROW/AP

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, left, congratulates Kansas' Andrew Wiggins after he was selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers as the number one pick Thursday at the NBA Draft in New York.

Cavs take Wiggins

Canadian goes No. 1 for second straight year

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The celebrations stretched from north of the border to South Florida.

Andrew Wiggins was the No. 1 pick by Cleveland, the second straight year a Canadian led off the NBA draft. Later Thursday, the Miami Heat acquired the rights to Shabazz Napier, who comes to the league with LeBron James' endorsement.

In one of the deepest drafts in years, plenty of teams got what they wanted.

"I mean, we're all good," said Jabari Parker,

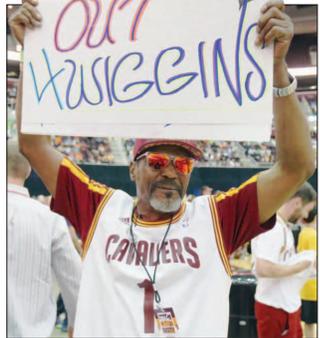
who went second to Milwaukee. "We're all great players."

And some of the rookies are even recruiters.

Wiggins was asked what he would say to James about playing in Cleveland. Napier, from national champion Connecticut, was aware that James had posted on Twitter that he is a fan of the Huskies' guard, so perhaps that could be the key to keeping him in Miami.

"I would hope so," Napier said. "He's one of the best players in the world. So if me going there helps

SEE TAKE ON PAGE 29



JOHN KUNTZ, THE PLAIN DEALER/AP

Cleveland fan Lee Jones holds a sign in support of the team's No. 1 pick, Andrew Wiggins of Kansas.

Win or go home: US faces Belgium in next round

World Cup, Page 31

Kyle Busch improves to 5-for-5 in truck races

Auto racing, Page 28