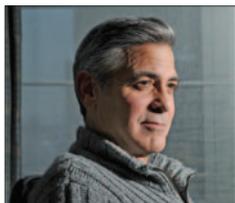


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ROSELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Tanisha Lockett searches through the remains of her aunt's child care business in Louisville, Miss., on Tuesday. Numerous businesses, residences and the community hospital were destroyed or heavily damaged after a tornado hit the community Monday.



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

An American soldier with the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team fires a Lithuanian G36 rifle Tuesday at Rukla Training Area in Lithuania.

USAREUR chief wants to bolster joint training with Baltics, Poland

BY MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

RUKLA TRAINING AREA, Lithuania — The commander of U.S. Army Europe said Tuesday that he wants to add helicopters and other combat tools to the mix to bolster training with the Baltics and Poland, where the U.S. has sent some 600

paratroops to train and reassure allies wary of a newly aggressive Russia.

A company of American soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team that arrived in Lithuania over the weekend began its first full day of training with Lithuanian ground forces Tuesday.

SEE USAREUR ON PAGE 11

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"As long as there are radical Islamists who will kill themselves to kill others, we never will have a peace treaty with the (global war on terrorism). It is the never-ending war."

— Terry Anderson, military history professor at Texas A&M University, on rules that prevent a memorial honoring veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars from being built in Washington

See story on Page 5

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MIDEAST

Ex-warlord back in Afghan political mix

Former militia leader vying for vice presidency

By **JOSH PARTLOW**
The Washington Post

KABUL — He was America's ally, a stocky, gray-haired warlord who fought on horseback alongside U.S. Special Forces to overthrow the Taliban government in 2001. But within three years, Gen. Abdurrahshid Dostum had so antagonized U.S. officials that they sent a B-1 bomber to buzz his house.

Now, after several years out of the spotlight, Dostum may again assume a central role in Afghan politics. He is a vice-presidential candidate on the ticket of former finance minister Ashraf Ghani, one of two front-runners in the election.

The return of a strongman known for brutal, reckless behavior would be a troubling development for the U.S. government, which has spent billions of dollars trying to build a stable democracy in Afghanistan. As recently as 2009, American officials tried to block Dostum from returning to Kabul from a stint abroad. Then U.S. Ambassador Karl Eikenberry warned that Dostum's presence would "endanger much of the progress made in Afghanistan."

This time around, U.S. officials are taking no public stance on the swaggering former militia leader, hoping to avoid the appearance of meddling in Afghanistan's election. People close to Ghani's campaign say U.S. officials did not try to prevent him from choosing Dostum.

Such a hands-off approach is a stark departure from past U.S. policy. Interviews with former American and Afghan officials, along with presidential palace documents and State Department cables released by WikiLeaks, have revealed the lengths to which the U.S. government has gone to influence and then sideline Afghanistan's "quintessential warlord," as the State Depart-



Gen. Abdurrahshid Dostum appears at a press conference in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan, in March 2002.

ment once described Dostum. As the senior of two vice presidents, Dostum would exert considerable power. When the Afghan president travels overseas, the vice president becomes acting president, and can make decisions and sign decrees. Ghani once called Dostum a "known killer" but now says his

ticket symbolizes reconciliation. Other Afghan officials, however, worry about Dostum again assuming a high-profile position in the capital, after years in which he was based in northern Afghanistan. They fear that he could re-establish his fearsome militia, incorporating his followers into the Afghan security

forces as U.S. troops withdraw. Dostum denies harboring such intentions.

"They want to portray me as the leader of a coup. Those who say so are my enemies," he said in a telephone interview Sunday. "They say I will bring my men, en masse, and pose a danger to the future. If I were a danger, I would have done something in the past 13 years."

Dostum, a former plumber, wrestler and oil refinery worker from Sheberghan, the capital of the northwestern province of Jowzjan, rose to prominence as a pro-Soviet commander fighting the Afghan mujahideen in the 1980s. Switching sides multiple times during the ensuing years of civil war and Taliban rule, Dostum developed a reputation for treachery and siding with the winner.

Before the Taliban pushed him into temporary exile in the late 1990s, Dostum controlled a wide swath of northern Afghanistan. He printed his own money, owned an airline and commanded tens of thousands of militiamen. When the United States went to war in Afghanistan after Sept. 11, 2001, U.S. Special Forces and CIA officers worked with Dostum and his Uzbek militiamen to direct bombs onto Taliban front lines. During that period, Dostum was accused of letting hundreds of Taliban prisoners die, baked alive in the shipping containers in which they were held. He has denied responsibility for the deaths.

For the April 5 election, Ghani, a former World Bank executive who is an ethnic Pashtun, needed the Uzbek swing vote. Ghani said he chose Dostum as a running mate because he "is accepted as a charismatic leader by a significant number of my countrymen and countrywomen. It's out of respect for their belief in him that we've joined forces."

But Afghan officials and others worry about Dostum's possible return. He no longer commands armed fighters, but he has tens of thousands of followers who could take up weapons at a moment's notice." He wants to restart his militia," a senior official in the presidential palace said.

Dostum scoffed at the allegations.

"They say I will bring my men, en masse, and pose a danger to the future. If I were a danger, I would have done something in the past 13 years."

Gen. Abdurrahshid Dostum
Afghanistan vice presidential candidate

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MIDEAST

Watchdog: Afghan corruption still a crippling problem

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

Even as the ongoing national elections generate optimism for Afghanistan's future, a new U.S. government watchdog report paints a picture of an Afghan government and economy hobbled by corruption and threatened by instability as international troops depart.

In his latest quarterly report to the U.S. Congress, Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko acknowledged that Afghanistan saw "a rare moment of optimism" when as many as 7 million Afghans voted in the April 5 presidential election.

But significant problems plague the Afghan government and international efforts to stabilize the country, Sopko wrote.

"Despite the prospect of a peaceful, democratic transition of power, grave dangers still remain for U.S.-funded reconstruction," he wrote in a preface to the report.

For example, Afghanistan's domestic revenues fell last year and may cover only a third of the 2014 budget. Nearly half of that revenue comes from customs collection at the borders, but Sopko said his investigators found that corruption and other issues threatened to undermine customs fees as a source of revenue.

In one visit to the busy Torkham Gate crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan — where as much as 80 percent of Afghanistan's customs revenue is collected — Sopko said he was told that when U.S. advisers aren't present, revenue collection falls.

"This was not encouraging, especially as the crossing with soen behind the rear of U.S. personnel because the U.S. military will no longer be able to provide escort to the area," he wrote.

The nearly 300-page SIGAR report pointed to a study released in February and commissioned by U.S. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford — who commands both U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force. In it, U.S. Department of Defense officials candidly admit that corruption could bring down the fledgling Afghan government.

‘Establishing and sustaining a long-term ... attack on corruption is a vital task ... for the future of the country and its people.’

John Sopko
SIGAR

"Corruption directly threatens the viability and legitimacy of the Afghan state," the DOD study said. "Corruption alienates key elements of the population, discredits its government and security forces, undermines international support, subverts state functions and rule of law, robs the state of revenue, and creates barriers to economic growth."

That study went on to conclude that U.S. policies, including initial support of warlords, reliance on logistics contracting and the flood

of military and aid spending, "created an environment that fostered corruption" and impeded later anti-corruption efforts.

SIGAR is currently conducting 338 investigations of reconstruction efforts, according to the report. Sopko said his office's efforts in the first three months of 2014 led to approximately \$6.7 million in criminal fines, restitutions, forfeitures and cost savings to the U.S. government.

He also reported that SIGAR referred 16 individuals and 15 companies for suspension or debarment from receiving government

contracts based on allegations of fraud and nonperformance. Still, Sopko said, the U.S. Army has refused to prevent supporters of the Taliban insurgency from receiving contracts because the evidence is considered classified — a stance he called not only "legally wrong, but contrary to sound policy and national-security goals."

In the first quarter of 2014, SIGAR said it had issued 20 audits, inspections and other reports, including two financial audits that identified nearly \$14.5 million in questionable costs at reconstruction projects.

PHOTOS BY JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes



Above: Sgt. Antoni Jedra, with the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, watches as people pass through the Torkham Gate crossing on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan in May 2013.



Left: Afghan Border Police officers check passports and collect fingerprints and other personal information from travelers crossing the border at Torkham Gate. The electronic equipment often sits idle for hours in the mornings and evenings because of a lack of electricity.

Former Navy linguist guilty of taking classified reports

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — A linguist who worked for the U.S. Navy in Bahrain has pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Washington to a misdemeanor charge of taking classified reports without permission in April 2012, including one that reportedly revealed gaps in U.S. intelligence on the political situation in Bahrain.

James Hitselberger, 57, was employed by Global Linguist Solutions at the time and working for Naval Special Warfare Unit Three, which conducts unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance and counterterrorism missions.

"Multiple forces" relied on Hitselberger's expertise in the Arabic language, according to the criminal complaint filed in 2012. He

had a secret-level security clearance and was routinely sent raw data, which contained sensitive information about operations and sources.

A courts blog on the Politico website reported earlier this week that the charge Hitselberger pleaded guilty to related to two documents, but said initial charges accused him of taking others. Politico reported he was accused of sending classified documents to a public archive at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University. Politico reported that Hitselberger was originally charged with six felony counts, three under the Espionage Act.

According to the complaint — obtained via the Federation of American Scientists' project on government secrecy — on April 11, 2012, Hitselberger was ob-

served printing multiple pages of classified situation reports and leaving the building with the documents hidden in a dictionary in his backpack. One of Hitselberger's supervisors and his commanding officer followed and stopped him outside the building, according to the complaint.

Politico reported, citing prosecutors in court filings, that one of the documents marked "secret" discussed "gaps in U.S. intelligence" with respect to the political situation in Bahrain. According to the complaint, it was part of a Navy Central Command Regional Analysis report dated April 9, 2012.

Bahrain, which is home to the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet and some 7,000 U.S. personnel and families, has been the site of sporadic — sometimes violent — demonstrations,

especially since February 2011, when citizens gathered in massive protests to demand political and economic reforms.

While no violence has been directed at Americans to date, Navy officials keep a close watch on developments and routinely notify U.S. personnel via text message and email alerts about potential violent activity, which sometimes includes the use of Molotov cocktails and improvised explosive devices.

Hitselberger is scheduled to be sentenced July 17, Politico, citing the judge in the Washington district court, reported that he could face a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000.

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2 NATO troops die in east Afghanistan attack

KABUL — The international military coalition in Afghanistan said two of its servicemembers died in an attack in the country's east on Monday but gave no other details. Coalition policy is for home countries to identify their military dead.

The deaths come two days after five British servicemembers died in a helicopter crash in the southern province of Kandahar. They bring to nine the number of international troops killed in Afghanistan this month and 25 this year.

Casualties have been falling in the U.S.-led military coalition as its forces pull back to allow the Afghan army and police to fight the Taliban insurgency.

All combat troops are scheduled to be withdrawn from the country by the end of this year.

From The Associated Press

EUROPE

Court: Some Americans entitled to child-care funds

By MARCUS KLOECKNER
AND JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A recent court ruling could have implications for some foreign parents-to-be living in Germany under the NATO status of forces agreement.

A German court ruled in March that an American woman, a SOFA cardholder married to a U.S. servicemember assigned to Germany at the time, should have received a federal income subsidy that is paid to working parents who choose to stay home or reduce their hours after the birth of a child.

Whether the decision means that all new parents covered by the SOFA now qualify for the allowance — which ranges from about \$414 to \$2,490 per month — remains unclear.

The American at the center of the more than four-year legal battle for the allowance was employed for nearly 10 years by an international company in Germany and had paid for years into the German social insurance system, said her lawyer, Sandra Flämig.

The court emphasized those two circumstances in ruling that the woman should and has been paid the parental benefit and is

After a four-year legal battle, a court found that an American woman married to a U.S. servicemember in Germany should have been receiving parental benefit pay under the NATO status of forces agreement.

entitled to about \$27,600 retroactively for a period after her daughter was born in 2009, according to court documents.

Flämig believes the court's interpretation will narrow the pool of SOFA cardholders eligible for the allowance to only those working on the local economy and paying for social insurance, which covers health and retirement benefits.

Rupert Hassel, the presiding judge at the Baden-Württemberg state social court in Stuttgart, said he could not say how far-reaching the decision would be for other NATO SOFA members, since his court ruled on a specific case.

"But simply the fact that the federal social court accepted this case gives you an idea that there is some relevance," Hassel said Tuesday.

The court's decision is expected to be appealed before the highest court that can rule in the case, the federal social court in the city of Kassel. That process could take up to two years, Flämig said, during which

time her client must wait to be paid.

The law creating *Elterngeld* — "parent's money" — went into effect in January 2007. It's designed to help support families with newborn children and to encourage parents to stay home longer after a child's birth. It's one of several social benefits provided to families in Germany, the government of which is trying to promote larger families and boost the country's low birth rate.

The parental allowance law, as it's currently written, stipulates that to be eligible, one must look after and raise one's child in the same household; work no more than 30 hours per week; and be a resident of Germany. Only one parent can receive the benefit at a time, though the money can be split by two parents over 12 to 14 months. The allowance is based on the parent's income.

The woman who sued first applied for the allowance at a German state bank in October 2009, two months after her sec-

ond child was born. The bank refused to pay, arguing that the woman did not have German citizenship or European Union membership, nor did she have a residence permit giving her legal authority to work in Germany, according to court documents.

The woman, now 43, claimed discrimination and argued that as a SOFA cardholder she did not need a special working permit, according to court documents.

The woman, whose name was not disclosed, left Germany in November 2011.

A lower court in Mannheim had ruled against her in March 2010. The Stuttgart court, which reversed the decision last month, said there was a gap in the allowance law and found that the woman, with her SOFA status, did not need a residence permit to work and therefore would be eligible for the allowance.

The fact that the woman worked for years in the German economy and paid into the German social insurance system particularly qualified her to receive the allowance, the court found.

Flämig told Stars and Stripes the court's ruling was more than fair and her client is entitled to receive some of the money back that she paid into the German social insurance program.

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Overseas service costing some veterans their LQA

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Like hundreds of Defense Department employees overseas, Stephen Fitzgerald is about to lose his housing allowance.

Unlike most, though, he says he's in this mess because he was on active duty overseas — where the Navy put him — when he applied for his overseas job.

"I'm being discriminated against for being a reservist," said Fitzgerald, a captain in the Navy Reserve and a civilian clinical psychologist for the Army.

The Army's revocation of Fitzgerald's living quarters allowance stems from an audit of LQA recipients that found 659 erroneously were getting the allowance

where Fitzgerald to apply for the same job he's in today in the same circumstances he was in when the Army offered him the psychologist job in 2012, he'd qualify for LQA, according to an Army decision that ultimately denied him the benefit.

The same goes for Patrick Djongo, an Army civilian in Korea who applied for his current position while stationed in that country as an active-duty soldier.

"I wasn't in Korea on my own" when applying for the job in 2009, Djongo said. "I was sent here by the government."

As far as the Army's concerned, that doesn't matter.

In paperwork denying both men's claims for reinstatement of their LQA benefits, the Army has cited its definition of "United States hire" prior to Sept. 19, 2013, when the Defense Department issued a memo clarifying the term in response to another LQA claim.

That memo states: "Temporary absences from the U.S. for reasons such as vacations, temporary duty assignments (including the private industry equivalent) or deployments by Reservists and National Guard members do not alter a person's U.S. hire"

status, as contained in DoDI 1400.25-Vol-ue 1250," which governs eligibility for overseas allowances and differentials.

Prior to the memo, any absence from the U.S. or its territories during any phase of the hiring process — when applying, in-

terviewing or being offered the job — disqualified candidates from receiving LQA.

The memo denying Fitzgerald's

request for reconsideration states that the circumstances of his 2012 hiring

"may be reconciled with the newly developed provisions. However, because the clarifying guidance is to be applied prospectively, we are unable to consider you eligible for the allowance."

In other words, the Army contends that the DOD's clarification of the definition of "U.S. hire" applies only to those who were hired after the Sept. 19 memo.

A separate memo to Djongo refusing to reconsider the revocation of his LQA — which he received for more than three years before the audit — contains similar language.

He's been told to pay \$77,000. He's applied to have that waived and is still waiting for an answer.

Civilians who applied for jobs overseas while temporarily abroad also have been affected. Others who have been denied LQA or had it revoked after receiving it were disqualified for a different reason, stemming from a reassessment of the circumstances under which locally hired employees are eligible for LQA.

Fitzgerald and Djongo both said they un-



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Army clinical psychologist Stephen Fitzgerald, a Navy reservist, is about to lose his living quarters allowance because he was in Germany when he applied for his Army job. He was only in Germany because the Navy deployed him there to work at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, he said.

derstand that LQA is a recruitment incentive, not an entitlement.

"But that's why I signed the paperwork" accepting the job, Fitzgerald said. "You gave me that, and so I thought we had a contract here. And now you're breaking the contract."

Had Fitzgerald not deployed to Germany in 2011 and instead remained at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Florida — his previous job — he'd have qualified for the allowance. But he didn't duck the deployment, he said. "I honored my obligation to my country. Why can't they honor theirs?"

Djongo, who retired from the Army in 2009 while stationed in Korea, said unlike many caught up in the LQA audit, he didn't try to homestead overseas. The Army sent him and his belongings back to the U.S. as

soon as he separated.

"I didn't have any intention of coming back to Korea," he said.

But while going through the Army Career Alumni Program — a requirement for separating soldiers — he put together a resume and applied for Army jobs in Korea as part of the program, with no expectation of an offer.

When he was offered a job with LQA, he took it. Nobody ever said that by applying from overseas he would be forfeiting benefits he'd qualify for had he applied from the U.S., he said.

"Now I'm getting penalized for following, verbatim, what the Army has set out for me to do as part of the ... separation process."

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MILITARY



NICCI FREEMAN, COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE/AP

7-nation assemblage

Multinational crews and aircraft involved in the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 assemble for a photo at RAAF Base Pearce in Perth, Western Australia. Seven nations — Australia, New Zealand, the United States, South Korea, Malaysia, China and Japan — have flown daily search missions over the southern Indian Ocean in the massive multinational hunt.

General Dynamics to build attack subs

The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — General Dynamics said Monday it has secured a \$1.765 billion contract to build attack submarines for the U.S. Navy.

The company said its subsidiary Electric Boat will be responsible for building 10 additional Virginia-class submarines as part of the agreement.

It plans to build two ships per year for the next five years with the help of its partner Newport News Shipbuilding, a unit of Huntington Ingalls Industries.

Construction of the first submarine will begin Thursday.

Electric Boat and Newport News Shipbuilding already have delivered 10 of those submarines to the Navy, and eight additional submarines are under construction.

In 2012, President Barack Obama's proposed budget called for only nine submarines, not 10, in the next block of Virginia-class ships.

U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, a Democrat who represents eastern Connecticut, said the contract for the full 10 reflects the strength of

arguments in favor of the strategic need for attack submarines, particularly after the loss of the USS Miami in a 2012 shipyard fire in Maine.

Electric Boat President Jeffrey S. Geiger said the award has great significance for the submarine industrial base.

"By continuing to produce two ships per year, the Navy and industry team retains the stability required to achieve increased efficiencies, providing the fleet with the submarines it needs to sustain the nation's undersea dominance," he said.

Mass. firm to gain from military rule change

By DOUGLAS MOSER

The (North Andover, Mass.) Eagle-Tribune

The Pentagon will begin requiring the athletic shoes that new recruits purchase with military allowances be American-made, a change supporters hope will ensure about \$180 million in sneaker allowances are spent on domestic products.

The change announced on Friday could be a boon to Boston-based New Balance, which operates its largest plant in Lawrence and another Michigan-based footwear company that already produces a line of sneakers that meets military specifications.

Matt LeBretton, director of public affairs for New Balance, has said the change could create up to 200 jobs, many of which would be in Lawrence.

"Innovative companies, such as New Balance right here in Massachusetts are able to provide

"This policy change will ... give the brave men and women of our armed forces better gear."

Rep. Niki Tsongas
D-Mass.

our service members with quality products and keep business here on American soil," Rep. Niki Tsongas, D-Mass., said in a statement. "This policy change will boost job growth, spur economic development and innovation and give the brave men and women of our armed forces better gear."

Tsongas filed legislation last year with Rep. Mike Michaud, D-Maine, to require the allowances be used on American-made shoes, but the Pentagon decided to change the policy without an act of Congress.

"DoD has an interest in having our recruits purchase domestically manufactured athletic shoes to the maximum extent practicable in order to abide by the spirit of the Berry Amendment," Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox said in a statement.

The Berry Amendment refers

to the 1941 policy that military equipment made of textiles be completely American-made.

Massachusetts manufacturer New Balance now produces a 100 percent Berry Amendment-compliant shoe that costs less than the current Army allowance, according to Tsongas' office.

Law complicates construction of new war memorial

By JACQUELINE KLIMAS

The Washington Times

WASHINGTON — Veterans of the war on terrorism say they deserve a monument in downtown Washington to recognize their sacrifices, but they are hindered by a rule that says a conflict must be long finished in order to build a memorial, leading some to wonder how to commemorate a "never-ending war."

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America wants a location by the end of 2015 for a monument to those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, the major battlefields of the war on terrorism.

The fighting has wound down as the war stretches into its 12th year, but veterans are struggling to define an end date.

"One of the things that's very difficult is, because these aren't technically declared wars, they're operations of the global war on terror, it's difficult to fit the statutes," said Lauren Augustine, a member of the veterans organization's legislative team. "We've been in the wars for over a decade, but it's particularly difficult to have that closing date."

Under the Commemorative Works Act of 1997, a war memorial can't be authorized until at least 10 years after a war officially ends, said Lucy Kempf, an urban planner with the National Capital Planning Commission.

"Usually, a time lapse between an event or an individual's death is needed, just to give some historic perspective," she said.

The end dates of other wars were easy to determine. They were when the United States signed documents to end the country's involvement.

All U.S. combat troops are out of Iraq and likely will be out of Afghanistan by the end of this year, so there is an easy way to mark a concrete end date to those operations, said Terry Anderson, a military history professor at Texas A&M University.

But the global war on terrorism was declared by a 2001 authorization for the use of military force that goes far broader than a single country. Indeed, it deems the shadowy, transnational al-Qaida

the enemy. That makes it almost impossible to determine whether and when the conflict will end.

"This shift happened because we've never fought an enemy like Osama bin Laden types. We've never fought an enemy like that before," Anderson said.

Anderson said the war will not end as long as terrorists disagree with the Western way of life because no one can negotiate with or change the minds of extremists.

"As long as there are radical Islamists who will kill themselves to

"We've been in the wars for over a decade, but it's particularly difficult to have that closing date."

Lauren Augustine
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America

kill others, we never will have a peace treaty with the (global war on terrorism)," he said. "It is the never-ending war."

Such a lack of conclusion likely will become a factor in future U.S. conflicts as well, he said.

"I don't think any country would ever want to start an atomic war," Anderson said. "Therefore, I think this unfortunate type of warfare, this terrorism warfare, is probably the type of thing we will be seeing in the future."

To build a memorial in Washington, Congress has to enact federal authorization, then a panel has to find an appropriate place and design, Kempf said. How long the construction process takes can vary because of the time and money required to raise public funds, she said.

IAVA is eager to start the process by finding a congressional sponsor.

Finding a place for the memorial may be tricky. IAVA has said it wants to secure a spot on the National Mall, but the Commemorative Works Act prohibits new memorials or monuments there, Kempf said.

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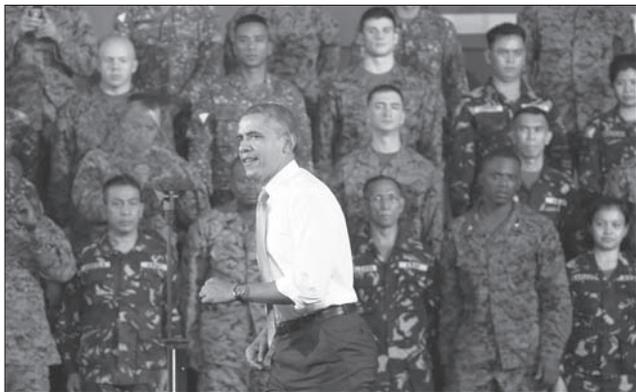
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MILITARY



CHARLES DHARAPAN/AP

President Barack Obama takes the stage before addressing U.S. and Philippine troops at Fort Bonifacio in Manila, Philippines, on Tuesday

As global conflicts rage, Obama defends approach

By CHRISTI PARSONS, KATHLEEN HENNESSEY AND PAUL RICHTER
Tribune Washington Bureau

MANILA, Philippines — On the final stop of his weeklong Asian tour, President Barack Obama on Monday answered the question that has dogged him all along the way: Has he gone too far in reducing America's historical role in global security?

The president, who rode into office on a wave of anti-war sentiment, responded with a challenge of his own: Haven't people heard of Iraq and Afghanistan?

"Why is it that everybody is so eager to use military force after we've just gone through a decade of war at enormous costs?" Obama said at a news conference. "And what is it exactly that these critics think would have been accomplished?"

Policy problems in many parts of the globe made headlines throughout the trip. In Syria, much of the country is a shambles after three years of war and President Bashar Assad, who Obama has said "must go," is tightening his grip. Russia has annexed Crimea from Ukraine and massed tens of thousands of troops along Ukraine's eastern border. And as Obama has attended state dinners, given speeches and held meetings in Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines in the last week, North Korea has threatened another nuclear test.

The president's aides have scrambled to put things in simpler terms. "Don't do stupid stuff" is the polite-company version of a phrase they use to describe the president's foreign policy. The mantra, meant to contrast with the policies of George W. Bush, helps explain Obama's measured

approach, one that critics say is passive and ineffective.

Obama has been willing to launch clandestine operations against suspected terrorists in Yemen, Pakistan, Somalia and elsewhere. He took a chance on the raid in Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden. His opening to Iran may eventually end decades of hostility, but still faces daunting odds and could lead nowhere.

However, he has resisted embarking on grand projects or laying out a single, sweeping doctrine. His aides tend to evaluate

one by one, in most cases settling for small steps.

Increasingly, Obama argues that his foreign policy record will have to be judged historically. At a news conference Friday in Seoul, South Korea, he repeatedly appealed for people to take the long view.

ANALYSIS

That caution has unnerved some of America's closest allies, as well as domestic critics.

Japanese officials openly worried, before Obama arrived in Tokyo last week, whether the White House would intervene on their behalf if China seized disputed islands in the East China Sea, just as Russian forces had seized Crimea. Obama said the U.S. would "absolutely" honor its defense treaty with Japan.

Similarly, Obama's decision in September not to follow through on his threat to bomb Syria for using chemical weapons made allies in Europe and Asia wonder whether war weariness was devaluing U.S. security promises.

The White House responds that the threat worked. Assad's government has surrendered more than 90 percent of its chemical

weapons arsenal and infrastructure to international monitors.

But the Syrian civil war continues, Islamic extremists are a strengthening part of the rebel movement, and instead of leaving the scene, Assad announced Monday that he would run for re-election.

Polls indicate Obama's approach is broadly shared by the American public, which believes that the United States has gained little from its long military commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Those who want him to act more forcefully include not only Republicans but also liberal internationalists and some members of his staff.

Republican Sens. John McCain, of Arizona, and Bob Corker, of Tennessee, have warned about what they say is a growing perception of U.S. weakness. McCain has called Obama's foreign policy "feckless." Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., calls the president "weak and indecisive" and says his approach invites aggression.

On Monday in Manila, Obama argued his case, mimicking and answering his Republican critics.

"I would note that those who criticize our foreign policy with respect to Syria, they themselves say, 'No, no, no, we don't mean sending in troops,'" Obama said. "Well, what do you mean? 'Well, you should be assisting the opposition.' Well, we're assisting the opposition. What else do you mean? 'Well, perhaps you should have taken a strike in Syria to get chemical weapons out of Syria.' Well, it turns out we're getting chemical weapons out of Syria without having initiated a strike. So what else are you talking about? And at that point it kind of trails off?"

President heads back to US after Asia visit

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Barack Obama ended a four-country swing through Asia and headed for home Tuesday, still confronting the challenge of how to deal with Russia's threatening moves toward Ukraine.

The issue overshadowed an Obama tour that was meant to reassure anxious allies in the orbit of a rising China that the U.S. will always be there to defend them.

Before getting on Air Force One for the flight to Washington, Obama rallied U.S. and Philippine troops at Fort Bonifacio, just outside Manila. In brief remarks inside a sweltering gymnasium, Obama hailed the cooperation both sides showed during some of the storied battles of World War II.

He also paid his respects at the Manila American Cemetery, where row upon row of white crosses mark the final resting places of more than 17,000 military personnel from that war, mostly U.S. but including nearly 600 Filipinos.

Obama won't be returning to the U.S. with a coveted free-trade deal with countries in the region,

but he won't be stepping off the airplane empty-handed.

Just before Obama arrived in the Philippine capital, the two countries signed a 10-year agreement to give the U.S. military greater access to Philippine bases. Obama said the arrangement will help promote peace and stability in a region unsettled by China's claims on disputed territories. Many of the details remain to be worked out.

U.S. negotiators also claimed a breakthrough in negotiations over a 12-nation trade agreement known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is a cornerstone of Obama's rebalancing of U.S. foreign policy toward the booming economies in Asia.

Japanese officials were more restrained, saying there was progress but not a basic agreement.

At each stop in the capitals of Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines, Obama publicly reassured key allies that the U.S. will uphold its commitments to defend them, including in their land and sea disputes with China.

At the same time, he stressed that his goal was not to counter or contain China.

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NATION

Storm cuts a deadly swath across the US

Death toll mounts after tornadoes hit several states

BY JEFF AMY AND ADRIAN SAINZ
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Miss. — A dangerous storm system that spawned a chain of deadly tornadoes over three days flattened homes and businesses, forced frightened residents in more than half a dozen states to take cover and left tens of thousands in the dark Tuesday.

As the storm hopped across a large swath of the U.S., the overall death toll was at least 30 killed Sunday and Monday in a band stretching from Oklahoma to Alabama. Forecasts showed the storm continuing to move east Tuesday, with Georgia and Alabama residents waking to sirens, howling wind and pounding rain.

Others found their loved ones missing and their homes pulverized. Along Mississippi Highway 397 on the eastern edge of Louisville, firefighters picked through the remains of mobile homes, searching for three people unaccounted for after a tornado tore through. Twenty firefighters linked hands and waded through an area where wood frame homes had also been heavily damaged. Rescue workers stepped gingerly over downed power lines and trees that were snapped in half and stripped of branches.

The Louisville tornado caused water damage and waded holes in the roof of the Winston Medical Center. The emergency room was evacuated Monday.

"We thought we were going to be OK, then a guy came in and said, 'It's here right now,'" said Dr. Michael Henry, head of the emergency room. "Then boom ... it blew through."

Republican state Sen. Giles Ward huddled in a bathroom with his wife, four other family members and their dog as the tornado destroyed his two-story brick house in Louisville and flipped his son-in-law's SUV onto the patio.

"For about 30 seconds, it was unbelievable," Ward said. "It's about as awful as anything we've gone through."

Officials said seven people died in Winston County, where Louisville is the county seat, with about 6,600 people. Another person died in Mississippi when her car either hydroplaned or was blown off a road during the storm in Verona, south of Tupelo, Lee County Coroner Carolyn Gilentine Green said.

One of the seven victims in Winston County was a woman who died in the day care center she owned in Louisville, county Coroner Scott Gregory told The Associated Press late Monday. Authorities were returning to the center Tuesday.

One seriously injured child was evacuated, said state Rep.



Above: Kevin Barnes searches the remains of his home on Clayton Avenue in Tupelo, Miss., on Tuesday after a dangerous storm system that spawned a chain of deadly tornadoes over three days passed through. Below: Carnesia Bennett, right, cries on the shoulder of a friend after touring the remains of her mother's child care center in Louisville, Miss., on Tuesday.



Michael Evans, D-Louisville, who is acting as a liaison for the county. The child's condition was not known Tuesday. Evans said authorities don't think any other children were in the center during the storm.

"No other parents have shown up to say, 'My child was at the daycare.' That's why we think the day care is fine," Evans said.

In Tupelo, a community of about 35,000 in northeastern Mississippi, every building in a two-block area was damaged, officials on the scene said.

On Tuesday morning, a blanket of fog hung over the city as authorities switched from a search-and-rescue mission to cleanup duties.

way signs and removed debris from streets.

In Kimberly, Ala., about 20 miles north of Birmingham, a suspected tornado hit at a crossroads before midnight Monday, tearing the A-shaped roof off the town's Church of God. On Tuesday morning, the roof sat in a solid piece beside the red brick church.

Across the street, the cinder-block walls from an old fishing supply store were scattered around the gravel parking lot. The building's metal frame remained. Down the road, the fire department was flattened.

Tim Armstrong picked up pieces of splintered trees in his backyard. Armstrong, his wife and their two young daughters were home when the storm struck. He said they were listening to weather reports on television and heard an all-clear for their area.

"Three minutes later my mother-in-law calls, says there's a tornado in Morris," a nearby town, Armstrong said. "The power went out, and we went running to the middle of the house."

"They heard the wind roaring and glass shattering as a tree flew through their front door."

"Once I heard that, I knew something was pretty wrong," Armstrong said. "It was fast. It was so fast."

The whole thing was over a minute later, he said.

In northern Alabama, the coroner's office confirmed two deaths in a twister that caused extensive damage west of the city of Athens, Limestone County Emergency Director Rita White said. White said Monday night that rescuers could not reach some areas because of downed power lines.

"The threat of dangerous weather jangled nerves a day after the third anniversary of a historic outbreak of more than 60 tornadoes that killed more than 250

people across Alabama on April 27, 2011.

Separately, Limestone Commissioner Bill Latimer said he received reports of four deaths in the county from one of his workers. Neither the governor's office nor state emergency officials could immediately confirm those deaths.

In southern Tennessee, two people were killed in a home when a suspected tornado hit Monday night, Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Mike Hall said. The winds destroyed several other homes as well as a middle school in the county that borders Alabama, Hall said.

The storm system is the latest onslaught of severe weather a day after a half-mile-wide tornado carved an 80-mile path of destruction through the suburbs of Little Rock, Ark., killing at least 15. Tornadoes or severe storms also killed one person each in Oklahoma and Iowa on Sunday.

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NATION



Talia Eisenberg, co-founder of the Henley Vaporium, uses her vaping device in New York. Under a New York City law taking effect Tuesday, vaping devices will be treated the same as tobacco-based cigarettes.

Obama scolds colleges on rape

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration admonished colleges and universities — “No more turning a blind eye” — as it released guidelines designed to stem sexual assaults on campuses and help the victims.

A White House task force on sexual assault recommends in a report that was to be released Tuesday that schools identify trained, confidential victim’s advocates and conduct surveys to better gauge the frequency of sexual assault on their campuses, since these types of crimes are underreported.

It says the Justice Department will help develop training programs in trauma care for school officers and assess different models for schools to use to adjudicate such cases, since some sexual assault survivors are wary of a legal process that can open them up to potentially painful or embarrassing questions by students or staff.

It also promises greater transparency. A new website, notalame.gov, will post enforcement actions and offer information to victims about how to seek local help and information about filing a complaint, the White House said late Monday.

The task force is providing a checklist for schools to use in drafting or re-evaluating sexual misconduct policies, including ideas a school could consider when defining what is or isn’t sexual consent.

“Prevention and education programs vary widely, with many doing neither well,” the task force said. “And in all too many instances survivors of sexual violence are not at the heart of an institution’s response. They often do not have a safe, confidential place to turn to after an assault, they haven’t been told the system works and they often believe it is working against them. We heard from many who reached out for help or action, but were told they should just put the matter behind them.”

Users bemoan e-cigarette bans in NY, Chicago

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Laws in New York and Chicago making electronic cigarettes subject to the same regulations as tobacco are taking effect, and their sellers and users are steadfast in their opposition.

The New York ban — along with the measure in Chicago, one that previously went into effect in Los Angeles and federal regulations proposed last week — are keeping debate smoldering among public health officials, the e-cigarette industry and users.

Proponents of the bans, which began Tuesday, say they are aimed at preventing the re-acceptance of smoking as a societal norm,

particularly among teenagers who could see the tobacco-free electronic cigarettes, with their candy-like flavorings and celebrity endorsers, as a gateway to cancer-causing tobacco products.

Dr. Thomas Farley, the New York City health commissioner under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg, said allowing electronic cigarettes in bars and restaurants would undermine existing bans on tobacco-based products.

“Imagine for a moment you’re at a bar and there are 20 people who are puffing on something that looks like a cigarette and then somebody smells something that smells like tobacco smoke,” Farley said. “How’s the bartender going to know who to tap on the shoulder and say, ‘Put that out?’”

Makers of the devices say marketing them as e-cigarettes has confused lawmakers into thinking they are the same as tobacco-based cigarettes. They say the bans ostracize people who want an alternative to tobacco products and will be especially hard on ex-smokers who are being lumped into the same smoking areas as tobacco users.

Their defenders also say they’re a good way to quit tobacco, even though science is murky on the claim.

Robin Koval, chief executive of the anti-smoking Legacy Foundation, said that while ingredients in electronic cigarettes are not as harmful as those in tobacco products, they are still a concern because they contain highly addictive nicotine.

Time is running short to save Rosie the Riveter plant

The Associated Press

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Loraine Osborne is a Rosie.

She isn’t THE Rosie, but she worked as a riveter at the Willow Run bomber plant in Michigan alongside Rose Will Monroe, the inspiration for a character that came to symbolize female empowerment and the we’re-all-in-this-together spirit of the American

homefront during World War II. Thousands of Rosie the Riveters were there when their country needed them. Now, Rosie is the one who needs help.

All that stands between her old plant and the wrecking ball is two days and \$1 million.

A group trying to save a slice of the factory raised \$7 million, but it needs \$8 million and has until Thursday to make that happen. If the Save the Bomber Plant cam-

paign fails, a piece of history will be lost forever.

Osborne said that would be a shame.

“It should be taken care of so that everybody — our children, our grandchildren, our great-grandchildren — can enjoy it as the years go by,” said the Kentucky transplant whose brother and sister and their spouses worked at the facility in Ypsilanti Township, Mich.

The Save the Bomber campaign wants to separate and preserve more than 150,000 square feet of the plant and convert it into a new, expanded home for the Yankee Air Museum, which would move from its current location less than 2 miles away.

The site’s manager, a trust set up to oversee properties owned by a pre-bankruptcy GM, has given the group a number of extensions, but there won’t be any more.

STARS AND STRIPES

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NATION

Study: 1 in 25 on death row innocent

By PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Science and law have led to the exoneration of hundreds of criminal defendants in the U.S. in recent decades, but big questions remain. How many other innocent defendants are locked up? How many are wrongly executed?

About one in 25 people imprisoned under a death sentence is likely innocent, according to a new statistical study appearing in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. That means it is all but certain that at least several of the 1,320 defendants executed since 1977 were innocent, the study says.

From 1973 to 2004, 1.6 percent of those sentenced to death in the U.S. — 138 prisoners — were exonerated and released because of innocence.

But the great majority of innocent people who are sentenced to death are never identified and freed, said professor Samuel Gross, of the University of Michigan Law School, the study's lead author.

The difficulty in identifying innocent inmates stems from the fact that more than 60 percent of prisoners in death penalty cases ultimately are removed from death row and resented to life imprisonment. Once that happens, their cases no longer receive the exhaustive reviews that the legal system provides for those on death row.

Gross and three other researchers, including a biostatistics expert, looked at the issue using a technique often used in medical studies called survival analysis. Yale University biostatistics expert Theodore Holford, who was part of the study, said the work done by Gross "seems to be a reasonable way to look at these data."

Because of various assumptions, it might be best to use the margin of error in the study and say the innocence rate is probably between 0.8 percent and 5.2 percent, said University of South Carolina statistics professor John Grego, who wasn't part of the study.

The study is the first to use solid and appropriate statistical methods to address questions of exoneration or false convictions, an important subject, said Columbia Law School professor Jeffrey Fagan, who also is a professor of epidemiology at the Mailman School of Public Health. The research combines data from three independent sources, a rigorous approach used by few studies on capital punishment, he said.



BRANT SANDERLIN, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

FedEx employees gather following a shooting at a FedEx facility in Kennesaw, Ga., on Tuesday.

Shooting at FedEx center wounds 6

By KATE BRUMBACH
The Associated Press

KENNESAW, Ga. — A shooter described as being armed with an assault rifle and having bullets strapped across his chest "like Rambo" opened fire Tuesday morning at a FedEx station outside Atlanta, wounding at least six people before police found the suspect dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot.

Police rushed to the center after someone called to report an active shooter at 5:54 a.m. After surrounding the perimeter and working to clear the building, officers found the suspect dead, police spokesman Michael Bowman said. He said there were no im-

mediate reports anyone else had been killed.

FedEx clerk Liza Aiken said she was working inside when she heard something, dropped, looked to her left and saw the gunman. "He had bullets strapped across his chest like Rambo, a huge assault rifle and he had a knife," Aiken said in a parking lot where employees were gathering not far from their workplace.

Six people wounded at the FedEx station were taken to nearby Wellstar Kennestone hospital, where spokesman Tyler Pearson said one victim was rushed to surgery with potentially critical injuries. Others were less serious.

"A lot of them were able to walk off the ambulance," Pearson said.

David Titus, a FedEx truck driver, said he was just coming to work when he saw someone walk up and shoot a security guard in the abdomen outside the building. He said he could hear more gunshots after the gunman went inside.

"It was chaos," Titus said. "Everyone was running ducking and hiding, trying to get out of there."

FedEx said the facility about 25 miles north of Atlanta is a hub where packages are sorted and loaded onto vehicles for delivery. It's located next to the general aviation airport for suburban Cobb County.

The identity of the suspected shooter was not immediately released.

Calif. man will plead guilty in '11 salon deaths

The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A former tugboat captain's decision to plead guilty to killing his ex-wife and seven others hasn't won him any offer of leniency from prosecutors, who still want to see Scott Dekraai put to death for a shooting that terrorized a sleepy Southern California beach community three years ago.

But Dekraai's decision, announced Monday by his attorney, could win him sympathy from the people he really needs — the jurors who will decide whether he should be executed or sentenced to life in prison.

Before defense lawyer Scott Sanders told an Orange County court Monday that his client is willing to plead guilty, Dekraai had offered to admit to the crimes in exchange for multiple life sentences.

Prosecutors wouldn't budge from their decision to seek his execution.

Dekraai, who was scheduled to go to trial June 9, is scheduled to enter his plea on Friday.

Dekraai, 44, had been locked in a custody dispute with his ex-wife over their 8-year-old son before he strapped on a bulletproof vest, took three guns and stormed into Salon Meritage in 2011, police said.

He is accused of shooting his ex-wife, a hairdresser, before killing the Seal Beach salon's owner and six others.

Eight people were shot inside the salon, and all but one died. A man sitting in his car in the parking lot was also gunned down.

Police stopped Dekraai just minutes after the shooting and they said he told them, "I know what I did."

By agreeing to plead guilty, former federal prosecutor Lawrence Rosenthal said, Dekraai is taking a calculated risk that jurors may go easy on him for owning up to his crimes.

"This is the kind of tactical judgment that defense lawyers make all the time," said Rosenthal, a law professor at Chapman University.

Often, he said, attorneys worry that jurors will lose faith in the defense team after they've issued a guilty verdict. They also worry that jurors may become irritated after sitting through a trial, returning a guilty verdict and then learning they have to sit through the attorneys' penalty phase and render another verdict.

Sanders said Dekraai decided to plead guilty to give the victims' families certainty that he will never be released from prison and to spare them a lengthy case.

"He felt he needs to give the victims at least the sense he's not seeking to have this go on forever," Sanders told reporters.



Dekraai

Clergy group sues over gay marriage ban

By MITCH WEISS
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A coalition of clergy members is challenging North Carolina's constitutional ban on gay marriage with an unusual approach in a federal lawsuit: They say it violates their religious freedom.

The clergy members said in the lawsuit filed Monday that they'd like to perform same-sex marriage ceremonies in their congregations, but they can't because of the "unjust law."

Their attorney, Jake Sussman, said it's the only case to make First Amendment religious free-born claims among the more than 60 marriage equality cases pending in the nation's state and federal courts.

"North Carolina's marriage laws are a direct affront to freedom of religion," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, executive minister with the Cleveland-based United Church of Christ, which is a plaintiff in the lawsuit. "We feel that it is important that any person that comes into community life of a United Church of Christ congregation be afforded equal pastoral care and equal oppor-

ty to religious services that provide to religion."

But in North Carolina, clergy are often faced with a troubling decision — "whether to provide those services or break the law," Guess said. "That's something no clergy member should be faced with."

Along with the United Church of Christ, which has more than 1 million parishioners, a dozen clergy members and same-sex couples who want to marry were listed as plaintiffs. The defendants included North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper and several county district attorneys as well as five registers of deeds.

Noelle Talley, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office, said officials there hadn't seen the lawsuit yet.

Wake County Register of Deeds Laura Riddick said she was shocked to be named as a de-

fendant. Her office handles marriage licenses.

"It's ridiculous for any registry to be sued over same-gender marriage, which is a matter of state law, not county policy," she said. "Only the legislature or the courts can change the law. Our job as county administrators is to apply the law as it is, just as we will apply the law if it changes. Suing us misleads the public, wastes county taxpayer dollars and creates unnecessary conflict."

This isn't the first legal challenge to North Carolina's ban on same-sex marriage, which was approved by voters in 2012.

The American Civil Liberties Union earlier this month launched a new legal assault on the state's ban on recognizing same-sex marriage, urging a federal judge to quickly negate it to help children and gay couples suffering from urgent health problems.

Wake County Register of Deeds Laura Riddick said she was shocked to be named as a de-

'North Carolina's marriage laws are a direct affront to freedom of religion.'

The Rev. J. Bennett Guess
United Church of Christ executive minister

UKRAINE UNREST

Protesters storm another Ukraine office

The Associated Press

LUHANSK, Ukraine — Demonstrators seeking more power for Ukraine's regions stormed the government building in Luhansk with wooden clubs Tuesday, seizing control of a key site in one of the largest cities in Ukraine's troubled east.

The action further raises tensions in the east, where insurgents have seized control of police stations and other government buildings in at least 10 cities and towns.

The demonstrators who seized the building are seeking — at the very least — a referendum on granting greater authority to Ukraine's regions. Eastern Ukraine, which has a large Russian-speaking population, was the heartland of support for Viktor Yanukovich, the president who fled to Russia in February.

The government that replaced him in Kiev has resisted those demands so far, fearing they could lead to a breakup of the country or more regions — like Crimea — being annexed by Russia.

The storming came as 1,000 demonstrators gathered in front of the building. About 150 people, some masked and wielding baseball bats, broke out of the crowd and charged into the building without resistance.

Later protesters formed a corridor for police who had been inside the building to leave.



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO/AP

A Pro-Russia activist waves a Donbas Republic flag over a crowd celebrating the capture of an administration building in the center of Luhansk, Ukraine.

Luhansk, a city of about 450,000, is just 15 miles west of the border with Russia.

Regional autonomy is a core issue in the unrest in eastern Ukraine, where insurgents fear

the government that took power after Yanukovich will suppress the region's Russian-speakers.

Ukraine's parliament in Kiev on Tuesday discussed the possibility of holding a national referendum on whether the country should remain a united state or a loose federation that allows the regions more powers. However, no consensus was reached on how a referendum would be phrased

or when it could be held. Russia has massed tens of thousands of troops in areas near the Ukrainian border, feeding concerns that Moscow aims to use unrest as a pretext for invasion.

NATO set for naval drill in Spain

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A NATO exercise beginning this week in Spain will imagine a naval response to the invasion of an allied country.

Dubbed Trident Jaguar, the command post exercise involves staff officers and commanders at the headquarters level and will certify the maritime component of the NATO Response Force, the

alliance's fast-reaction force.

A pair of NATO task forces — Naval Striking Force NATO out of Naples and NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Spain — will come together for the exercise, which runs May 2-16 near Menorca in Spain's Balearic islands.

The Navy command ship USS Mount Whitney, based in Naples, will participate in the exercise.

A NATO official, speaking

on background because he was unauthorized to talk about the exercise, said the event is part of regular certifications for the NATO Response Force and had been planned long before events in Ukraine, where Russia's annexing of the Crimea peninsula and agitation in the east has caused particular worries to NATO members in eastern Europe and the Baltics.



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

The USS Mount Whitney is towed up the Tagus river to be docked at Lisbon's Jardim Tabaco dock Monday ahead of its participation in a NATO training exercise in Spain's Balearic islands.

USAREUR: Lithuania looks forward to gaining strength through training with US

FROM FRONT PAGE

conducting live-fire exercises on various light weapons systems at a former Soviet military base.

U.S. and Lithuanian forces have deployed together over the last two decades to conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan.

But the deployment of U.S. forces to Lithuania "shows that we can rely on our ally" to help in the Baltics as well, Maj. Gen. Almantas Leika, Lithuania's land forces commander, said. "This is a very clear signal, and we read the signal very clearly."

The three Baltic countries — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — as well as Poland, have sought a greater presence of U.S. and NATO forces on their territory

To view more photos of the joint training go to: stripes.com/go/baltics



U.S. aircraft or ships that are already in Europe, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters. The exercises were long-scheduled, and no final decisions have been made about adding assets to the exercises, Kirby said.

Lithuania's active military numbers just 4,000 land forces — roughly the size of an American brigade combat team. The country has another 4,000 soldiers in reserve.

Leika described NATO, which the Baltic states joined in 2004, as the "most powerful defense alliance in world today."

Lithuania's membership in the alliance is "a two-way street," he said. "We cannot be free riders. We need to contribute with something. And our contribution was and is in all of the NATO operations."

In a briefing Tuesday at the Lithuanian training area, Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr., commander of U.S. Army Europe, told Leika that he wants to include more USAREUR assets in the training, including aircraft from the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade and possibly vehicles from other units.

Whatever the U.S. sends, Lithuanian Capt. Gediminas Alisauskas said, he and his men are eager to take advantage of the opportunity to train with the Americans. Russia's actions in Ukraine,

he said, "demands from us more training, more cooperation, more understanding and more readiness to be much stronger, ready and prepared."

The crisis has focused his men to train hard "with no shortcuts," he said.

Sgt. James Day, a 1373rd squad leader from Ocala, Fla., said the Lithuanians seemed eager to train, as were his men. Russia is not on his mind, he said, and it hasn't come up with the Lithuanians either.

"We're just here to train," he said. "We train all over Europe, and this is no different."

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report. millham.matthew@stripes.com Twitter: @matmillham

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

The Russians are coming! No, seriously

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The Russians are coming, the Russians are coming! No, seriously, they are.

But instead of the hilarious landing on New England beaches depicted in the 1966 classic film, they are engaged in a deadly incursion into neighboring Ukraine. Russia snatched the low-hanging fruit of Crimea with precision, thus protecting a crucial warm-water port. Now, its troops are moving into parts of eastern Ukraine.

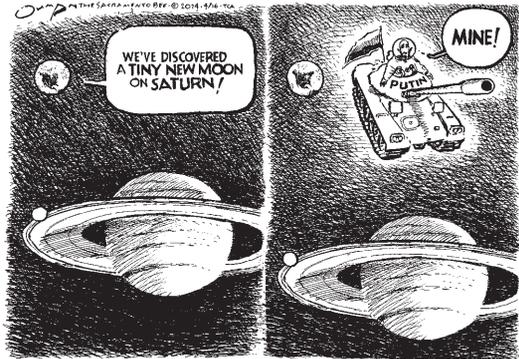
To be sure, they affect the usual "who-us?" demeanor — as they did in Crimea — claiming Ukrainian chaos is simply an uprising of the people against an illegal government in Kiev. But make no mistake, this is a concerted effort that is at the least organized and orchestrated by the Russian government.

Vladimir Putin is on a mission to return Russia to its Soviet Union superpower status.

The movie actually began in 2008, when Russia's forces mauled neighboring Georgia in a war that lasted all of five days. Putin characterized it as protection of pro-Russian secessionists. Sound familiar?

Then, as now, the world knew better. But the prevailing political calculus in the U.S. and Europe — the only likely place with the collective muscle to punish Russia — was that Russia had grown too powerful and, besides, Georgia really wasn't worth the fight, be it economic or otherwise. Best not to poke the bear.

Putin then spent the next half-decade and a huge portion of the national treasury focused on the 2014 Olympic Games in Sochi and the attention it would bring to Russia. Just as the Chinese in the 2008 Summer Games, Putin saw a tremendous opportu-



JACK OHMAN/Tribune Content Agency

nity to rebrand his nation for the world. But once the games ended, he used a dispute he had manufactured as an excuse to swallow Crimea.

Last Wednesday, the Ukrainian government ordered resumption of its own military operations against pro-Russian militants in the east after a political supporter was kidnapped and killed in Horlivka. Quite according to script, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov gravely warned in a TV interview that, "If we are attacked, we would certainly respond."

Here we go again. The European response has been timid as it worries that

imposing economic sanctions will prompt a retaliatory loss of Russian gas, among other things. The U.S. response has been slightly better as it targets sanctions against Putin's close loyalists, companies and government officials.

As a practical matter, economic sanctions are the only real weapon available, so they should be used to the fullest. Putin knows full well neither the U.S. nor Europe will go to war to save Ukraine.

The West must use the full extent of its economic power and be willing to accept some short-term blowback, if Russian expansionism is to be halted.

US 'pivot' toward Asia is the right strategy

By TOM DONLON

Questions have arisen in recent months about the sustainability of the United States' rebalance toward Asia. The costly cancellation of President Barack Obama's trip to the region during in the U.S. government shutdown last fall fueled that skepticism, which has only grown as urgent foreign policy challenges have tested U.S. leadership in the Middle East and Europe.

Yet the rebalancing of U.S. priorities and resources toward Asia remains the right strategy. This reorientation does not imply a turn away from allies in other regions or an abandonment of our commitments elsewhere. It represents a shift away from the near efforts in the Middle East and South Asia that have dominated U.S. national security policy and resources for the past decade and a shift toward the region that presents the most significant opportunity for the United States.

Every U.S. administration must ensure that the inevitable cascade of crises does not crowd out the development of long-term strategies. So at the outset of his first term, Obama directed his national security team to assess the projection and focus of U.S. power around the world.

The administration concluded that the United States had become substantially underinvested in the Asia-Pacific region — diplomatically, militarily, commercially and in terms of policymaker attention. We began implementing the rebalance from the very start. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's first trip in office was to Asia, something no secretary of state had done since 1961.

The decision to rebalance stemmed from a recognition of the United States' crucial

role in supporting Asia's social and economic development. Were it not for 70 years of U.S. investment in the unimpeded flow of commerce and the preservation of peace, Asia would be less secure, less prosperous and less free. Today, territorial disputes, nationalism, changing power dynamics and the North Korean threat make the U.S. presence all the more essential.

The rebalance is a comprehensive effort incorporating all elements of U.S. national power. It entails strengthening alliances and partnerships, building an economic architecture that can sustain Asia's growing prosperity, supporting democratic reforms and maintaining productive relations with China. The United States is making steady progress along each of these fronts.

The U.S. commitment to Asia's security is substantial and deepening. The United States is modernizing its alliances and strengthening the region's capacity to ensure the safety and navigation and respond to humanitarian disasters. Even amid uncertainty about its defense budget, the United States is set to expand the share of its naval assets in the Pacific to 60 percent of the global fleet by 2020.

But the rebalance is about more than military assets; it places an even greater emphasis on diplomacy and trade. The centerpiece of the economic rebalancing is the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the most important trade deal under negotiation today.

By eliminating trade barriers and harmonizing regulations, the TPP would connect a dozen Asia-Pacific economies in a massive trade and investment framework covering 40 percent of global gross domestic product. It would directly provide the United States with some \$78 billion in annual income.

The TPP's most important aims, however, are strategic. A deal would solidify U.S. leadership in Asia and, together with the negotiations over a free-trade pact in Europe, put the United States at the center of a great project: writing the rules that will govern the global economy for the next century. An open platform that countries can sign onto provided they commit to its high standards, the TPP would incentivize the spread of free markets and liberal economic principles.

Finally, the United States must continue to seek constructive relations with China. Some have caricatured the rebalance as a strategy to contain China. The United States has a good deal of experience with containment — and a \$500 billion annual economic relationship does not resemble that strategy.

In fact, the U.S. vision for Asia — an order rooted in stability, economic openness, the peaceful resolution of disputes and respect for human rights — presents the right environment for China's rise. Sustaining that environment requires the United States to maintain a strong presence and the necessary capabilities to meet its obligations to allies, constantly engage with Beijing and make clear that it rejects and will oppose the use of force, intimidation and coercion in territorial disputes. By upholding these principles, the United States can help ensure that the 21st century in Asia will be defined not by conflict but by security and prosperity.

Tom Donlon is a distinguished fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations and a senior fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center. He was national security adviser from 2010 to 2013. This article first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

10 inconvenient reasons not to vote for a veteran

By JIM GOURLEY
Foreign Policy

Maryland Attorney General and Democratic gubernatorial candidate Douglas Gansler committed a campaign faux pas last week when he intoned that his opponent, lieutenant governor and Iraq War veteran Anthony Brown, was not as prepared to do a "real job."

The situation is full of peculiarities. Fox News jumped all over the opportunity to support the military and slam a Democrat at the same time, but who misconstrued Gansler's "real job" remark to mean the job of governor when he was really talking about health care reform. Fox completely glossed over that aspect, because Gansler is a Democrat criticizing a Democrat for mismanagement of a health care rollout. Gansler also blew the matter of Brown's military service as a campaign issue out of proportion more than Fox. So it goes with curious cases of veterans in American political campaigns.

The issue is similar to the rancor that occurred during the Arkansas senatorial campaign when Democratic incumbent Mark Pryor said that his challenger, Iraq vet and first-term congressman Tom Cotton, felt "entitled" to office because of his military record. Cotton fired back by calling Pryor a liar and saying the federal government needs the sort of values he learned in the army.

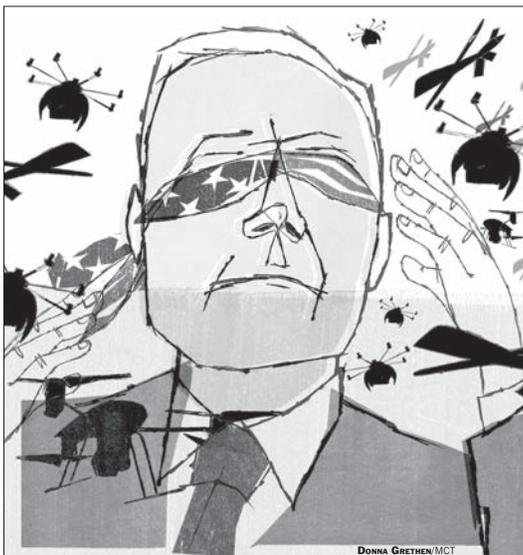
So long as veterans running for office promote their military service as a job qualification, the relative value of their service should be on the debate table. But American veterans are taking unfair advantage of the population's newfound reverence for "our heroes." No civilian politician can debate the merits of military service in government without becoming a pariah, and no veteran candidate will undermine their ace in the hole. So it falls to a veteran with Shermanesque interest in political office to submit to the benefit of public discourse, the 10 most inconvenient reasons why you should not vote for a veteran.

10. We are really bad at managing tax dollars.

The military's greatest fiscal accomplishments in the last decade have been the addition of new adverbs characterizing the scale of its financial mismanagement: institutionally, epidemically, atrociously, especially. Veteran candidates love to spout off about the level of responsibility they shouldered in the military. But unless they were a logistics or finance officer, they probably exercised very little control or supervision over accounting records. They were probably accountable for millions of dollars worth of equipment, but it's a lot harder to lose a Humvee or a helicopter than it is subcontractor records. If you think this doesn't come with liabilities in the civilian world, go ask the veteran executives at Wounded Warrior Project where the other 42 percent of your donation went.

9. We're just as political as the politicians.

One of the biggest messages veteran political candidates like to promote is that they want to bring "real leadership" to office instead of "politicians." That means one of three things: that the candidate doesn't understand what leadership is, that the candidate doesn't understand how political office works or that the candidate understands both and is fully aware their statement is a nonsensical platitude. It didn't even take Brown 12 hours to cleverly turn Gansler's personal critique into "disrespect and disservice to our nation's veterans." Add to this a personal anecdote: I attended the U.S. Air Force Academy with New York State Sen. Greg Ball, a Republican. As we were going to the quad was quite open about his desires to run for political office.



The guy hated the school, but he knew that a service academy class ring and a good military record would help him get into office. It doesn't make him evil or even a bad legislator, but it does strike at the narrative that veterans run for office because some burning bush they encountered in Iraq or Afghanistan told them to.

8. Being a vet doesn't make us a morally superior candidate.

I've already covered this. But just for good measure, let's take a moment to remember former Rep. Allen West, R-Fla.

7. Combat isn't an accomplishment.

"I served in Iraq/Afghanistan" is great applause bait for campaign rallies, but people ought to scrutinize it more. Cotton and Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., did go out there and face hostile fire. That demonstrates physical courage that all Americans should and do admire. But physical courage has only relative value in the halls of Congress, which hosts an entirely different type of butchery. There have been plenty of company and battalion commanders (and more than a few generals) in combat who were incompetent. As a guy who's been to Iraq and been shot at, I'm here to tell you it doesn't take political acumen — or any kind of acumen, for that matter — to go to Iraq and get shot at.

6. We really don't understand the average American.

Most current serving veteran members of Congress are former army officers. They are college educated and many have graduate degrees. They began their military careers significantly higher on the pay scale than their civilian peers, never had to worry about health care, lived in the

ultimate gated community, bought their groceries at federally subsidized stores, got all kinds of discounts when living on the civilian economy, were often given a pass on state income and sales taxes, and their pay raises and career advancement were more or less set to a stopwatch. Maybe being in the military is a real job, but it sure isn't like any other job in the world, and for a lot more reasons than "the sacrifices" for which it calls. Don't assume that fighting for you on a battlefield means this person knows how to do it in a legislative body.

5. Our life experience is limited.

Veterans have worked in some challenging conditions and done some great things. But they've also been uniquely equipped for success. Multiple studies have cited that only about 20 percent of Americans are eligible for military service. That's the demographic veteran candidates have worked with. Also keep in mind that as officers, they are the top 1 percent of that 20 percent. They have never been in a job environment that routinely demanded them to build consensus, make compromises or negotiate plans. It's an extremely hierarchical organization where everyone's job and authority exist in a crystalline lattice, units rarely have to worry about budgets, and the preferred method of getting people to do your work is punitive coercion. In other words, it's everything the government is not.

4. We're overrepresented as it is.

The current Congress has 88 veterans in the House and 18 in the Senate. That's a representation of 16 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Estimates put veterans between 7 percent and 12 percent of the

total U.S. population.

3. We make a mess of the dialogue.

The Gansler/Brown controversy isn't the only kerfuffle over veteran political candidates in recent memory. Remember Swift Boat Veterans for Truth? How about Special Operations for America? The only things that make a bigger mess of American elections than our wars are the people who fight them.

2. The parties are just using us as post-er children.

Civilian political candidates use formations of uniformed servicemembers as a backdrop so often it should be its own Internet meme. It was only natural for the parties to shift the servicemembers to the fore once they took off the uniforms.

1. We actually do feel entitled!

It's the ultimate fig leaf. If military veterans really are principled guardians of American values returned from fighting in distant lands, they'd love nothing more than to debate the merits of military service, the value of their experience and how it can benefit them in service to the American people.

If he really wanted to demonstrate the character he says the military gives him, Anthony Brown would have responded to Gansler's "real job" comment by turning the debate on all the other jobs and experiences he's had since his time on active duty. It would seem that defending his record as lieutenant governor is more relevant than his military service record. Instead, he used me and all the other vets in America as his personal deflector shield to turn Gansler's attack back on him.

Yet Brown fails to win the prize for arrogance last week thanks to the new campaign ad from Tom Cotton. The 30-second spot oozes the very sense of entitlement it hammers Pryor for accusing him of having the leverage of a bomber. The Cotton ad even explicitly says his former drill sergeant is an expert on having a sense of entitlement. Maybe there's a debate to be had over whether the ad's intent meets the definition of the word "entitled," but it certainly comes off as self-righteous.

Brown and Cotton may have taken different tones, but their message is the same. "I'm a vet, so you shut up." It's almost like a real life version of "Fight Club": The first rule of running against a veteran is that you do not talk about the fact that you're running against a veteran. That's a gross breach of the political process and, quite frankly, a spineless cop-out. Cotton doesn't come across as feeling entitled to office, but he clearly demonstrates a sense of entitlement in dictating the course of debate.

Gansler and Pryor (not to mention Duckworth's former opponent, Joe Walsh) are all guilty for clumsily approaching their rivals' military service records. However, it's notable that they displayed the same awkwardness as Cotton in wanting to gaffer, but was asking former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell about the relative merit of his comrades' death in Afghanistan. It is equally remarkable that the veteran candidates all responded as angrily as Luttrell did to Tapper.

Therein lies a genuine threat to democracy: If Luttrell can generate such backlash against the press for asking an honest question that it ceases public dialogue on such an important subject, what impact can government officials have on the decision-making process if they can use their prior military service to bully their peers into silence? If veterans want to prove they don't feel entitled to public office, they have to reject the belief that they're entitled to have their service record sheltered from public debate.

Gourley is an author, journalist and former military intelligence officer. He is a guest columnist of Thomas E. Ricks' Foreign Policy blog "Best Defense." He served in Iraq.

If veterans want to prove they don't feel entitled to public office, then they have to reject the belief that they're entitled to have their service record sheltered from public debate.

WIRED WORLD

‘A worm that can only bluff’

Search for Malaysian airliner shines light on China’s gap in technology

By JULIE MAKINEN
AND BARBARA DEMICK
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — In June 2012, China reveled in a major scientific achievement: The nation’s first manned deep-sea submersible, the *Jiaolong*, had dived more than 4.3 miles into the Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean. The feat, state-run media said, put China among the elite ranks as the U.S., France and Japan.

Equipped with sonar equipment and two mechanical arms that can lift as much as 220 pounds, the submersible is just the kind of vehicle that might prove useful in the search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which investigators believe is resting 2.8 miles beneath the surface of the Indian Ocean. Of the jet’s 239 passengers and crewmembers, 153 were Chinese.

While China has launched itself into the search effort with gusto — it focused its satellites to search for debris, scrambled ships and dispatched airplanes — the effort has thrown an awkward light on the gap between the country’s high-tech aspirations and its limitations.

China hasn’t offered the *Jiaolong* and the Australia-based search team hasn’t asked, leaving the lead role to a U.S.-built robot sub, the *Bluefin-21*.

“We are frustrated that we have this great vehicle and it’s not being deployed on this important mission,” said Cui Weicheng, who

helped design the *Jiaolong* and was aboard the vessel on several missions.

Then again, Cui acknowledged, Chinese officials might be worried about getting the submersible to the search area.

Its mother ship, the *Facing the Red Sun No. 9*, built in 1978, has had engine problems and is unreliable.

“On its last mission, from June to September 2013, the mother ship broke down many times,” Cui said. “It needed many repairs. I think that’s why the Chinese government may be hesitating to send it.”

Forty days into the quest to locate the Boeing 777, it’s been American, Australian and British equipment and vessels that have turned up what investigators have called the most promising leads. Meanwhile, officials in other countries have chafed about China getting out over its skirts, rushing to release technical findings that proved to be false leads.

“We cannot deny that the United States has much more advanced technology in this regard,” said Xu Guangyu, a retired military officer who is a consultant with the Beijing-based China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. “The U.S. satellite system is much better, as is their ability to analyze very complicated data. These are things that we have to learn from the United States.”

Earlier this month, the state-run *China Daily* newspaper ran a rather frank front-page article headlined “Tech Gap Exposed in Search Mission; Experts Say

More Development Needed in Nation’s Advanced Maritime Equipment.”

A few days earlier, China had grabbed headlines — and caught Australian search coordinators off guard — when state-run CCTV announced that China’s *Haixun 01*

search vessel might have picked up acoustic transmissions from the jet’s data recorders. It was the first report of any such “pings.”

But questions quickly arose when photos showed searchers using a commercially available \$16,000 hand-held device, made in the United States, dangled over the side of the boat.

An Australian navy ship, meanwhile, towed a deepwater pinger locator lent by the U.S. military.

Little more was said about the purported pings until Angus Houston, the retired Australian air chief marshal who has been coordinating the search efforts from Perth, said the Chinese data had been “analyzed and discounted as a credible transmission.” He said investigators were relying on four other detections made by the

American pinger locator.

Though Houston tried to minimize the awkwardness of the Chinese disclosure, other governments have bluntly admonished Beijing.

Malaysia’s acting transportation minister, Hishammuddin Hussein, rebuked it for wasting time by posting satellite imagery purporting to show debris over the South China Sea, along the aircraft’s intended flight path. The photos, he said, had been released by “mistake.”

In China, where the search has received wall-to-wall media attention, the public is eager to see the country make a breakthrough contribution. Asked about it, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that China was “going full steam ahead with the

search operation.”

As speculation ran high that China might dispatch the *Jiaolong*, named for a fabled sea dragon, authorities posted a statement on the submersible’s long-dormant Sina Weibo microblog account, apologizing for not keeping the account up to date. It explained that the team lacked the staffing to share fresh information.

Internet users met the message with disappointment and derision.

“To be honest, we don’t really care if you actually write posts on Weibo,” one commenter said. “We care about whether you can appear in the ocean southwest of Australia.”

Said another, “We need a dragon that can dive into the ocean, not a worm that can only bluff.”

A Chinese Ilyushin Il-76 prepares to land April 16 at Perth International Airport, Australia, after a mission trying to locate missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

RICHARD WAINWRIGHT/AP



ZHAO YINGQUAN, XINHUA/AP

Chinese rescue ships sail different ways March 13 as they conduct a search operation for the missing Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777. Almost immediately after the plane disappeared, Beijing dispatched its largest-ever rescue flotilla to the initial search area in the South China Sea.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gets prison term for making pipe bomb

KS TOPEKA — A northeast Kansas man was sentenced to a year and a day in federal prison on one count of making a destructive device.

U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom's office said Monday that Joseph E. Rogers, 36, of Topeka, acknowledged that he had built a pipe bomb for entertainment purposes. Grissom said Rogers talked about using plastic pipe wrapped in tape and filled with smokeless powder removed from ammunition.

Rogers was stopped and arrested Nov. 12, 2012, along with co-defendant Kyle C. Roe, 30, who told police that he had a bomb in his pocket.

Roe was taken into custody on an active felony warrant and was sentenced in December to 33 months in prison for possession of an explosive device.

FBI, agencies plan simulated mall attack

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — People shouldn't have been alarmed if they saw some unusual early morning activity at Quail Springs Mall in north Oklahoma City.

The Oklahoma City division of the FBI planned to conduct a training exercise at 1 a.m. Tuesday to simulate a terrorist attack at a public location.

The exercise was to involve several different agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security and state and local law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel.

FBI spokesman Martinus McConnell said the exercise would simulate a "complex mall attack" and would present participants with a variety of unique challenges, including active shooter scenarios.

Colleges left with costs of veterans' program

IL CHAMPAIGN — A state program that guarantees college tuition for Illinois veterans has provided less and less money in recent years. That leaves public universities and community colleges to pick up the tab, which is expected to top \$32 million this year.

The Illinois Veteran Grant, started in 1967 is considered an entitlement. That means that if the General Assembly doesn't appropriate money for it, the schools have to cover the cost.

The legislature in 2013 and 2014 provided no money. The state is wrestling with a budget deficit.

Tim Wendt, director of financial aid and veterans services at Parkland College in Champaign, said the school will spend \$600,000 this year on Veterans Grant funding.

The University of Illinois spent \$3.1 million last year.

Woman sentenced to prison in hit man case

MI MUSKOGON — A western Michigan woman

THE CENSUS

40K

The total weight in pounds of frozen turkeys that spilled across a highway in Iowa after a semitrailer overturned. The crash happened about 1:30 a.m. Friday on U.S. 61 south of Dubuque. The 41-year-old truck driver told police that he swerved to avoid a deer, struck a guardrail and overturned the truck and trailer. The driver was treated at a hospital for minor injuries and was cited for failure to maintain control.



PATRICK RECORD, THE ANN ARBOR (MICH.) NEWS/AP

Paddle and dog paddle

Josh Banniston kayaks on the Huron River as his dog, Maggie, swims alongside him at Gallup Park in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Saturday.

has been ordered to spend up to 30 years in prison for trying to hire a hit man to kill her husband.

Diane Hart was sentenced Monday to between six and 30 years in prison.

Her sister, Vickie Brill, is scheduled to be sentenced May 6 in the same case.

Both women pleaded no contest to solicitation to murder. The pleas aren't an admission of guilt but are treated as such for sentencing.

Authorities say the Ravenna-area sisters sought to have Hart's husband killed and met in a parking lot with an undercover state trooper. The meeting was videotaped.

Hart's attorney, Belinda Barber, said her client deserved a lighter sentence because she was only going along with Brill's plan.

Lawmakers reject anti-discrimination bill

LA BATON ROUGE — Attempts to advance gay rights legislation took another blow in the Louisiana Legislature.

The House Commerce Committee on Monday voted 12-3 to kill a measure that would have prohibited housing discrimina-

tion against gays, among others.

Under the proposal by Baton Rouge Rep. Pat Smith, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran's status, source of income, domestic abuse victim status and conviction record would have been added to the list of characteristics a property owner could not use to deny housing.

Opposition came from the conservative Louisiana Family Forum, who argued only "morally neutral" characteristics deserve protection.

Smith closed the hearing with a quote from the pope about treating all people fairly, but that wasn't enough to garner votes.

Miss America statue for tourist photos unveiled

NJ ATLANTIC CITY — The Miss America Pageant is in Atlantic City only once a year, but visitors to the seaside resort where the historic pageant began can now have their own crowning moments on the Boardwalk year-round.

The city dedicated a statue of Miss America on Monday, modeled loosely on former title holder Mallory Hagan but incorporating features from other past winners.

The statue depicts Miss Amer-

ica holding out the crown for a new winner to wear.

It quickly became a popular photo spot for strollers on the Boardwalk.

The Miss America Pageant returned to Atlantic City last year after a stint in Las Vegas.

The nationally televised finale will be held Sept. 14, the day after the annual "Show Us Your Shoes" parade on the Boardwalk.

Deputy terminated over photo of arrest

TN KNOXVILLE — An East Tennessee sheriff said a deputy was fired after a photo was published that appears to show him choking a college student who was charged with public intoxication and resisting arrest.

Knox County Sheriff Jimmy Jones said in a statement Sunday that he believes Frank Phillips, 47, used "excessive force" during the arrest Saturday night and that the deputy has been terminated.

Local media reported that two other deputies have been placed on administrative leave after photos showed them handcuffing the University of Tennessee student.

The Knoxville News Sentinel reported that the photos were taken by freelance photographer John Messner and first appeared

on the website of the U.K. Daily Mail. The caption says the deputy, whose hands appear to be around the suspect's neck, rendered him unconscious.

Man jailed by mistake receives settlement

MO ST. LOUIS — The city of St. Louis and its police department have paid \$62,500 to a man who was jailed by mistake for more than two months.

The payment settles a federal lawsuit filed by Travis Jones after he was arrested in November 2009 on charges of trespassing and resisting arrest.

Jones was also booked as Mark Crumble, who was wanted for violating probation, because police assumed he might be Crumble using Jones as an alias. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that jail records indicate that police and jailers knew within nine days that they had arrested Jones on another man's warrant, but Jones was held for two more months.

The city says as part of the settlement that it is not admitting any liability or wrongdoing in the case.

From wire reports

FACES

Cloney to end 'most eligible' status

By SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

Looks like George Clooney owes Michelle Pfeiffer a lot of money.

The 52-year-old actor — Hollywood's most determined bachelor, famous for a litany of fleeting loves — has taken himself off the romantic market, even though he once bet Pfeiffer \$100,000 that he'd never marry again.

After dating a string of actresses, models, a cocktail waitress and a former professional wrestler, Clooney recently proposed to 36-year-old international law attorney Amal Alamuddin — despite repeated protestations that marriage wasn't for him.

"This fascination with my love life is really something," he told the British newspaper *The Express* earlier this year. "I keep saying I'll never get married again or have children, but people just don't want to

believe me."

News of the engagement was announced by the human-rights law firm where Alamuddin works. Doughty Street Chambers said Monday its lawyers and staff "offer their best wishes and congratulations to Ms. Amal Alamuddin ... and Mr. George Clooney on their engagement to be married."

Alamuddin has advised former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Syria, helped ex-Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia



Clooney



Alamuddin

Tymoshenko challenge her imprisonment and represented WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange as he fought extradition to Sweden.

Tough guy

Willie Nelson gets a 5th-degree black belt ahead of 81st birthday

By PAUL J. WEBER
The Associated Press

Some advice for when Willie Nelson slides off his sneakers personalized with the word "Texas": Don't mess with him.

The country music icon — who turns 81 this week — received his fifth-degree black belt in the martial art of Gong Kwon Yu Sul on Monday night, parking his tou-bus outside the Austin studio of his instructor who began teaching him two decades ago.

Nelson didn't show off his chops, but Grand Master Sam Um assured a packed room that the "Red Headed Stranger" could hold his own against anyone.

As is typically the case wherever Nelson goes, other celebrities were close: this time Austin, Texas, resident Lance Armstrong tiptoed past parents of other students to see his fellow Texan honored.

"Honestly, I was surprised to be getting this degree," Nelson said on his bus before the ceremony. "I don't know what else is out there. I never thought about anything beyond second-degree black belt."

Nelson's birthday is Wednesday — though he's claimed before that the date is really April 29, a day earlier. He said a doctor gave him a clean bill of health earlier Monday during an annual exam.

The singer gives martial arts a lot of credit for that. Although off stage he's more famously known for more mellow interests — like smoking pot — Nelson said he stays physical whenever possible. He's also a runner and avid bike rider.

"I'm pretty healthy at 81. I think a lot of it has to do with the exercise that you do," Nelson said. "I think martial arts is one of the best exercises you can do. Mentally, spiritually, physically, everything. I'm sure that's helped."

Nelson cinched his black belt — personalized with his name — around a black robe and wore his signature braids behind his head.

When Nelson initially showed up to his studio, Um said he worried about the musician's heart because of his age. Then the instructor got a glimpse of his lifestyle over the next 20 years.

"He has more stamina than I do," Um said.



RALPH BARRERA, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Willie Nelson receives his fifth-degree black belt in the martial art of Gong Kwon Yu Sul on April 28 in Austin, Texas. "I think martial arts is one of the best exercises you can do," Nelson, 80, says. "Mentally, spiritually, physically, everything."

Fox to broadcast live musical 'Grease' next year

The Associated Press

Fox jumped into the theater game Monday by announcing it will broadcast a three-hour live version of the musical "Grease" that will feature "a young ensemble cast" that has yet to be named.

NBC got its ratings boost last December with its live broadcast of "The Sound of Music" starring Carrie Underwood. It says it's working on a live production of "Peter Pan" for next December.

"Grease" features such songs as "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightnin'" "We Go Together" and "You're the One That I Want." It was made into a 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

Tony nominations announced

The musical "A Gentleman's Guide to Love

and Murder" a musical romp in which a poor man comically eliminates the eight heirs ahead of him for a title, has nabbed a leading 10 Tony Award nominations.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch," a cult off-Broadway hit that this season stars Neil Patrick Harris, won eight nominations, while "After Midnight," a musical celebrating Duke Ellington's years at the Cotton Club nightclub, got seven, tied with "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical" and "Twelfth Night."

The nominations were announced Tuesday morning.

The musicals up for the big prize in June are: "After Midnight," "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," "Aladdin," and "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical." The best new play category has "Act One," "Mothers and Sons," "All the Ways," "Outside Mullingar" and "Casa Valentina."

Simon, Brickell arrested

Paul Simon and his wife, Edie Brickell, were arrested on disorderly conduct charges by officers investigating a family dispute, but the couple held hands in court Monday and said they did not feel threatened by the other.

Simon told a Norwalk Superior Court judge that he had a rare argument with his wife April 26 at their home in New Canaan, Conn.

A caller from the singers' home dialed 911 April 26 and hung up, police chief Leon Krolkowski said at a news conference Monday. Officers who responded found minor injuries and believed it was a case of domestic violence, he said. Simon and Brickell, who have been married for more than two decades, were each given a misdemeanor summons and one of them agreed to leave and go to another location, Krolkowski said.

Craig Ferguson says he's leaving 'Late Late Show'

By SCOTT COLLINS
Los Angeles Times

Craig Ferguson's nights of dancing with the fake horse are numbered.

"The Scottish-born host of CBS' "The Late Late Show" told his studio audience during Monday's taping that he will leave in December when his current contract expires.

"CBS and I are not getting divorced, we are 'consciously uncoupling,'" the 51-year-old comic joked in a statement issued by the network. "We will still spend holidays together and share custody of the fake horse and robot skeleton, both of whom we love very much."

Since he took over in 2005, Ferguson has developed "Late Late Show" into one of the most idiosyncratic shows in late night, featuring the host dancing with Secretariat (two actors in a horse costume), conversing with a robot sidekick and interviewing guests while chomping on an unlit pipe.

But Ferguson's future on CBS grew cloudy after reports earlier this month indicated the network had approached former "Daily Show" guest host John Oliver to take over the 12:35 a.m. slot (Oliver is doing a weekly show for HBO that premiered Sunday night). CBS also recently announced that Stephen Colbert will take over for "Late Show" host David Letterman in the 11:35 p.m. slot sometime next year.

Before he entered TV, Ferguson was a drummer in Glasgow rock bands; among his bandmates was Peter Capaldi, who now plays the title role in the British sci-fi series "Doctor Who."



AP

"CBS and I are not getting divorced, we are 'consciously uncoupling,'" Craig Ferguson says about his split from "The Late Late Show." "We will still spend holidays together and share custody of the fake horse and robot skeleton, both of whom we love very much."

WORLD

Kerry clarifies his 'apartheid' talk on Israel

By MATTHEW LEE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State John Kerry says he chose the wrong word in describing Israel's potential future after coming under withering criticism for saying the Jewish state could become an "apartheid state" if it doesn't reach a peace deal with the Palestinians.

In a statement released by the State Department Monday, Kerry lashed out against "partisan political" attacks against him, but acknowledged his comments last week to a closed international forum could have been misinterpreted. While he pointedly did not apologize for the remarks, he stressed he was, and is, a strong supporter of Israel, which he called a "vibrant democracy."

He said his remarks were only an expression of his firm belief that a two-state resolution is the only viable way to end the long-running conflict. He stressed that he does not believe Israel is, or is definitely on track to become, an "apartheid state."

"I will not allow my commitment to Israel to be questioned by anyone, particularly for partisan, political purposes, so I want to be crystal clear about what I believe and what I don't believe," Kerry said after U.S. lawmakers and pro-Israel groups criticized him, with some demanding his resignation or at least an apology.

"First, Israel is a vibrant democracy and I do not believe, nor

have I ever stated, publicly or privately, that Israel is an apartheid state or that it intends to become one," he said.

"Second, I have been around long enough to also know the power of words to create a misimpression, even when unintentional, and if I could rewind the tape, I would have chosen a different word to describe my firm belief that the only way in the long term to have a Jewish state and two nations and two peoples living side by side in peace and security is through a two-state solution," Kerry said.

On Sunday, The Daily Beast reported that Kerry had told a closed-door meeting of the Trilateral Commission in Washington on Friday that Israel risked becoming an "apartheid state" with two classes of citizens if negotiations to forge a peace deal fail and a two-state solution is not reached.

In his statement, Kerry defended his general point, noting that numerous Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and predecessors Ehud Barak and Ehud Olmert, have offered similar assessments in the past.

But he said while Barak, Olmert and Israeli Justice Minister Tzipi Livni "have all invoked the specter of apartheid to underscore the dangers of a unitary state for the future, it is a word best left out of the debate here at home."

Netanyahu's office declined comment on Kerry's remarks.



LEE JIN-MAN / AP

A man watches a television news program reporting about North Korea's live-fire artillery drills at a train station in Seoul, South Korea, on Tuesday.

N. Korea conducts artillery drills

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea conducted live-fire artillery drills near its disputed western sea boundary Tuesday, South Korean officials said, in a possible indication of rising frustration in Pyongyang as it pushes unsuccessfully for outside aid.

Both Koreas conduct such drills routinely, but they can be sensitive because North Korea doesn't acknowledge the U.N.-drawn sea boundary near South Korea islands and the North Korean main-

land in the Yellow Sea.

Last month, South Korea fired artillery shells into the North's waters after North Korea shells from a live-fire drill landed south of the boundary. After South Korean drills in 2010, North Korea shelled a South Korean island, killing four people.

On Tuesday afternoon, the North tested 50 rounds of artillery shells over 10 minutes, South Korean Defense Ministry spokesperson Kim Min-seok told reporters.

On the frontline Yeonpyeong Island, motel owner Kim Oh-mok

said she went to a shelter with other residents after hearing a broadcast telling her to do so. But she didn't hear the sound of artillery fire. Ongjin county official Hwang Young-mi said island residents were later told they could return home.

The sea boundary was drawn without Pyonyang's consent at the close of the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended with a truce, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula still technically in a state of war. North Korea argues the line should run farther south.

Iraqi market bombs kill 17

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A pair of back-to-back bombs ripped through an outdoor market northeast of Baghdad on Tuesday, killing at least 17 people and wounding 42, officials said.

The attacks are an apparent effort by the militants to discourage Iraqi voters from going to the polls on Wednesday in the first nationwide balloting since the 2011 withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Tuesday's attack took place in the town of al-Saadiyah, 90 miles northeast of Baghdad, a police officer said.

One of the bombs was placed in the middle of the town's main vegetable and meat market, he said, while the second was put near one of the exits — presumably trying to strike people fleeing from the first blast, a tactic widely used by insurgents in order to inflict as many casualties as possible. Four

women and two children were among the dead.

A medical official confirmed the casualty figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

None immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Earlier Tuesday, the al-Qaida splinter group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility for a wave of deadly attacks across Iraq on Monday, including a massive suicide bombing in a Kurdish town northeast of Baghdad that killed at least 25 people.

On Monday, insurgents mostly targeted polling stations where security forces were casting ballots two days ahead of the vote. The early balloting meant to give troops a chance to vote since most would be on duty on election day, guarding the polls.



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

California losing Toyota HQ to Texas

The Associated Press

TORRANCE, Calif. — Toyota delivered a surprise pink slip to California on Monday, announcing the company would move its U.S. headquarters and about 3,000 jobs from the Los Angeles suburbs to the outskirts of Dallas.

The world's largest automaker will keep a foothold in the Golden State — about 2,300 jobs will remain in California after the company settles into its new corporate campus in Plano, Texas. But the announcement is an economic and symbolic slap for California, a historic center of American car culture that has been trying to shake its reputation as a frustrating place to run a business, whether that involves shooting a film or selling a Prius.

"When you look at the whole package, it's difficult to be a business here," lamented Torrance Mayor Frank Scott, whose community on the edge of the Pacific will suffer as the jobs migrate to

Texas. "If all these great, high-end jobs are leaving California, then we are going to turn into a place that's

'When you look at the whole package, it's difficult to be a business here.'

Mayor Frank Scott
Torrance, Calif.

a retirement community" with low-paying service-sector jobs, Scott said. "We can't have that," he added, warning that unless the state has a change of attitude, "it's going to be way too late." Toyota's announcement comes about two months after Occidental Petroleum Corp. disclosed it was moving its headquarters to Houston from Los Angeles. Texas Gov. Rick Perry has been on a publicity campaign to promote his state as a haven for businesses seeking lower taxes

and eased government regulation, but Toyota didn't mention what, if any, role Perry played in the company's decision.

Perry, who made two visits to California to lure employers to his state, said Texas offered Toyota \$40 million in incentives from the taxpayer-funded Texas Enterprise Fund. The Republican governor said Toyota is expected to invest \$300 million in the new headquarters.

Republicans in California quickly blamed Sacramento for the loss, where Democrats control both chambers of the Legislature and every statewide office. A statement issued by Gov. Jerry Brown's Office of Business and Economic Development did not mention Toyota but stressed the state's steady balance sheet and jobs recovered after the devastating recession.

"Ford, Volkswagen and Nissan continue to invest in California, and the Golden State remains the center of new electric, zero-emission and self-driving vehicle

manufacturing and technology," the statement said.

Toyota will break ground this year on its new environmentally friendly headquarters in Plano, about 25 miles north of Dallas. Small groups of employees will start moving to temporary office space there this year, but most won't move until late 2016 or early 2017 when the new headquarters is completed.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 30)	\$1.4219
Dollar buys (April 30)	€0.7033
British pound (April 30)	\$1.73
Japanese yen (April 30)	100.00
South Korean won (April 30)	1,011.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6853
Canada (Dollar)	1.0966
China (Yuan)	6.2583
Denmark (Krone)	6.4065
Egypt (Pound)	7.0023
Euro	\$1.3826/0.7233
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.5232
Hungary (Forint)	223.11
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4694
Japan (Yen)	102.66
Kuwait (Dinar)	€0.2815
Norway (Krone)	5.9908
Philippines (Peso)	44.52
Poland (Zloty)	3.04
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2557
South Korea (Won)	1,029.33
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8828
Thailand (Baht)	32.28
Turkey (Lira)	12.1205

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

MARKET WATCH

April 28, 2014

Dow Jones	+87.28
Industrials	16,448.74
Nasdaq composite	-1.16
	4,074.40
Standard & Poor's 500	+6.03
	1,869.43
Russell 2000	-5.97
	1,117.06

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.50
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.49

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	76	61	Rain	Fort Wayne	64	50	Clcy	Louisville	68	55	Clcy	Pocatello	62	30	Clcy	Sioux City	50	38	Rain
Ablene, Texas	69	44	Cl	Cheyenne	45	28	Cl	Fresno	93	59	Cl	Lubbock	63	38	PClcy	Portland, Maine	45	37	Clcy	Sioux Falls	47	37	Rain
Akron, Ohio	70	52	Rain	Chicago	57	48	Rain	Goodland	54	31	Cl	Macon	80	67	Rain	Providence	84	51	Cl	South Bend	61	50	Clcy
Albany, N.Y.	59	41	Rain	Cincinnati	68	53	Clcy	Grand Junction	56	32	Cl	Madison	52	43	Rain	Reno	78	46	Cl	Spokane	71	40	Cl
Albuquerque	61	39	Cl	Cleveland	69	52	Rain	Grand Rapids	65	50	Rain	Medford	89	51	Cl	Pueblo	56	32	Clcy	Springfield, Ill.	56	47	Clcy
Allentown, Pa.	54	43	Cl	Colorado Springs	50	29	Clcy	Great Falls	65	34	Cl	Memphis	65	52	Clcy	Raleigh-Durham	81	65	Cl	Springfield, Mo.	53	40	Clcy
Amarillo	61	35	Cl	Columbia, S.C.	82	68	Rain	Green Bay	51	42	Rain	Miami Beach	88	72	Clcy	Rapid City	47	31	Cl	St. Louis	60	42	Rain
Anchorage	57	39	PClcy	Columbus, Ga.	78	66	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	78	62	Rain	Midland-Odessa	68	44	Cl	Reno	78	46	Cl	Tallahassee	86	70	Rain
Asheville	58	36	Cl	Columbus, Ohio	71	57	Cl	Harrisburg	59	45	Rain	Milwaukee	52	43	Rain	Richmond	57	62	Cl	Tampa	88	73	PClcy
Atlanta	77	64	Rain	Concord, N.H.	47	36	Rain	Hartford Springfield	48	40	Rain	Minneapolis-St. Paul	45	36	Snow	Roanoke	73	57	Rain	Tempe	58	40	Cl
Atlantic City	59	49	Rain	Corpus Christi	84	58	PClcy	Helena	67	35	Cl	Missoula	71	31	Cl	Rochester	62	45	Rain	Topeka	54	40	Clcy
Austin	74	59	Cl	Dallas-Ft. Worth	68	47	PClcy	Honolulu	61	40	Cl	Montgomery	61	43	Cl	Rockford	55	46	Rain	Tucson	86	56	Cl
Baltimore	67	50	Rain	Dayton	66	53	Clcy	Houston	76	53	PClcy	Nashville	71	54	Clcy	Sacramento	90	57	Cl	Tulsa	86	56	Cl
Baton Rouge	79	59	PClcy	Daytona Beach	86	70	PClcy	Huntsville	74	57	Clcy	Nashville	71	54	Clcy	St. Louis	55	48	Clcy	Tupelo	70	53	Clcy
Bilings	68	36	PClcy	Denver	52	31	Cl	Indianapolis	61	42	Cl	New Orleans	79	65	Rain	Salt Lake City	64	36	Cl	Waco	70	45	Cl
Birmingham	74	60	Clcy	Des Moines	59	39	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	73	54	PClcy	New York City	51	43	Rain	St. Thomas	87	77	Cl	Washington	56	52	Rain
Bismarck	51	31	Cl	Detroit	68	51	Rain	Jacksonville	88	69	Cl	Newark	51	45	Rain	Salem, Ore.	55	49	Cl	Wichita Falls	68	40	Clcy
Boise	72	38	Cl	Duluth	40	33	Snow	Juneau	54	37	PClcy	Norfolk, Va.	79	64	Rain	Salt Lake City	64	36	Cl	Wichita Falls	68	40	Clcy
Boston	45	41	Rain	El Paso	73	51	Cl	Kansas City	53	39	Cl	North Platte	51	31	Cl	San Angelo	71	45	Cl	Wichita Falls	68	40	Clcy
Bridgeport	72	42	Rain	Elkins	72	55	Rain	Key West	85	78	Cl	Oklahoma City	53	42	PClcy	San Antonio	79	51	Cl	Wilmington, Del.	59	47	Rain
Brownsville	80	67	Clcy	Erie	64	49	Rain	Knoxville	75	62	Rain	Omaha	51	36	Cl	San Diego	91	66	Cl	Wilmington, Del.	59	47	Rain
Buffalo	63	47	Rain	Eugene	86	48	Cl	Lake Charles	76	58	Cl	Orlando	90	71	Clcy	San Francisco	85	56	Cl	Wilmington, Del.	59	47	Rain
Burlington, Vt.	50	42	Clcy	Fargo	63	51	Clcy	Langston	61	43	Rain	Paducah	53	30	Clcy	San Jose	82	58	Cl	Wilmington, Del.	59	47	Rain
Caribou, Maine	56	28	PClcy	Fairbanks	62	36	Clcy	Las Vegas	82	59	Cl	Pendleton	74	39	Cl	Santa Fe	56	31	PClcy	Youngstown	69	50	Rain
Charleston, S.C.	64	48	Cl	Fargo	45	35	Snow	Lexington	69	56	Clcy	Peoria	53	45	Clcy	St. Marie	48	40	Rain				
Charleston, W.Va.	79	68	Rain	Flagstaff	58	30	Cl	Lincoln	51	36	Clcy	Philadelphia	59	46	Rain	Savannah	86	68	Cl				
Charlotte, N.C.	78	65	Rain	Flint	69	49	Rain	Little Rock	64	47	Clcy	Phoenix	90	64	Cl	Seattle	78	46	Cl				
				Fort Smith	60	43	Clcy	Los Angeles	93	63	Cl	Pittsburgh	71	51	Rain	Shreveport	70	50	Clcy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Mon., 104, Edinburg, Texas.
Lo: Mon., 15, Chemult, Ore.

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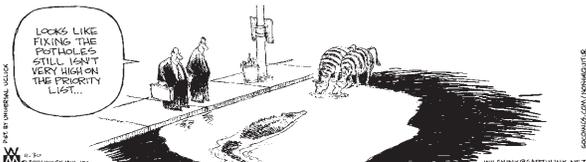
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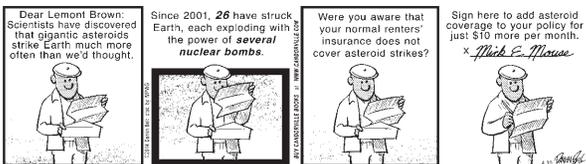
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Non Sequitur



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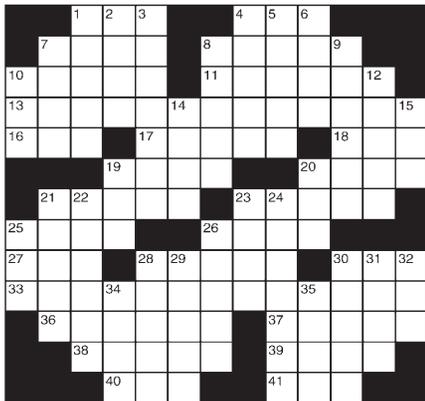
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Puncturing tool
- 4 Water barrier
- 7 Jai —
- 8 Falana and Albright
- 10 "Shake well before —"
- 11 Baffler
- 13 Porridge-eating trio
- 16 Writer Rand
- 17 George of "Star Trek"
- 18 Brazilian tourist spot
- 19 Cribbage scores
- 20 Big screen format
- 21 Down East
- 23 Thanksgiving parade sponsor
- 25 Whammy
- 27 Early bird?
- 28 Battery measures
- 30 Mauna —
- 33 "In the Still of the Night" quimut
- 36 Vestiges
- 37 Adores
- 38 Celebrities
- 39 Raw minerals
- 40 Illustrations
- 41 Club —

DOWN

- 1 Extraterrestrial
- 2 Desire
- 3 Reduce the load
- 4 Recipient
- 5 Suspect's excuse
- 6 Sorcerer
- 7 Wan
- 8 Welsh veggies
- 9 Falsely ingratiating
- 10 Actress
- 11 Hagen
- 12 Operatic solos
- 13 Go ballistic
- 14 Farway
- 15 Ferby

- 19 Snapshots
- 20 Unfriendly
- 21 Possibly will
- 22 Incenses
- 23 Wrestling surfaces
- 24 Son of King David
- 25 Lustrous
- 26 Consecrate
- 28 Ecclesiastical agent
- 29 Not hidden
- 30 Dwell (in)
- 31 Change for a five
- 32 Donkey
- 34 — morgana
- 35 Ripped

Answer to Previous Puzzle



4-30

CRYPTOQUIP

RJ KOQ HCCXKZTT UTZDCHH
XQKEQQJ UQCUTQ ZJG
TRCJN. KOQ XQNK NDNKQP

EZN PZJ-KC-PZJQ GQHJNQ.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I WAS ASKED TO HELP CARRY MANY UNWIELDY PICKLE JARS, BUT THEY WERE JUST TOO CUCUMBER-SOME.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals P

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Autos for Sale 148

Ford, E350XL Super Duty... Jeep, Cherokee Laredo, 2012 \$20,000.00... Volvo, S40, 2011 \$19,070.00

Autos for Sale 148

Ford, E350XL Super Duty... Jeep, Grand Cherokee Laredo, 2012 \$20,000.00... Volvo, S40, 2011 \$19,070.00

Autos for Sale 148

Jeep, Grand Cherokee Laredo, 2012 \$20,000.00... Volvo, S40, 2011 \$19,070.00

Motorcycles - Japan 166

HARLEY DAVIDSON, FXSTC 1990 \$10,000.00... Harley-Davidson, Ultra Classic for sale.

Bicycles 220

2009 JVC 56" HD LCD \$500.00... 2011 Bose Lifestyle V28 \$1,500.00

Home Electronics 570

2009 JVC 56" HD LCD \$500.00... 2011 Bose Lifestyle V28 \$1,500.00

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on TV

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

Tennis

Portugal Open

Monday
At Estádio Nacional
Purse: Men \$250,000 (W750); Women \$250,000 (Int'l)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Simple

Men	Women
1. Andy Golubev, Kazakhstan, def. Adrian Panarino, France, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4	1. Bojana Janjic, Serbia, def. Monica Puig, Puerto Rico, 6-4, 6-4
2. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, def. Mikhail Kukushin (6), Kazakhstan, 6-1, 7-6 (3)	2. Yana Wickmayer, Belgium, def. Uroslje Radwanska, Poland, 6-4, 7-5
3. Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4	3. Simona Jablon, Tunisia, def. Maria Jojo Coelho, Portugal, 6-3, 6-1
4. Mikhail Kukushin (6), Kazakhstan, def. Karim Knapp, Italy, 6-2, 6-4	4. Olga Danilovic, Kazakhstan, def. Karim Knapp, Italy, 6-2, 6-4
5. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 4-6, 6-6, 6-0	5. Olga Danilovic, Kazakhstan, def. Karim Knapp, Italy, 6-2, 6-4

Doubles

1. Frantisek Cermak, Czech Republic, and Mikhail Elgin (6), Russia, def. Rui Machado and Frederico Ferreira Silva, Portugal, 7-6 (2), 6-1

Women

Sandra Klimeschits, Austria, and Andreea Klepac, Slovenia, def. Janette Husarova, Slovakia, and Barbora Zalkova, Strycova (4), Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-4, 10-8

Liesl Huber and Lisa Raymond (3), United States, def. Ekaterina Losova, Russia, and Barbara Luz, Portugal, 6-1, 6-2

Valeria Solovits, Czech Republic, and Valeria Solovits, Czech Republic, def. Barbora Zalkova, Strycova (4), Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-0

Men

Alejandro Falla, Colombia, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 6-3, 6-2

Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 6-2, 7-6 (3)

Martino Matosevic, Australia, def. Ivor Lendl, Czech Republic, 2-6, 6-5, retired

Dustin Brown, Germany, def. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, 7-6 (3), 6-1

Doubles

Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah (2), Colombia, def. Martin Erremich and Christopher O'Connell, Australia, 6-3, 6-4

Colin Fleming and Ross Hutchins, Britain, def. Daniele Acciani and Andrea Seppi, Italy, 6-3, 7-5

ATP money leaders

Through April 27	Money
1. Stanislas Wawrinka	\$3,354,141
2. Novak Djokovic	\$2,744,541
3. Rafael Nadal	\$2,628,257
4. Roger Federer	\$2,001,522
5. Tomas Berdych	\$1,445,250
6. Kei Nishikori	\$1,060,057
7. Greg Dimitrov	\$804,032
8. David Ferrer	\$723,773
9. Alexander Golopvopov	\$674,995
10. Marin Cilic	\$624,302
11. Ernests Gulbis	\$586,459
12. Andy Kim	\$552,744
13. Kevin Anderson	\$528,750
14. John Isner	\$458,389
15. Victor Hango Tsonga	\$424,842
16. Bob Bryan	\$396,707
17. Santiago Giraldo	\$421,371
20. Gael Monfils	\$394,233

WTA money leaders

Through April 27	Money
1. Li Na	\$3,094,665
2. Dominika Cibulkova	\$1,575,326
3. Flavia Pennetta	\$1,355,975
4. Victoria Williams	\$1,246,523
5. Agnieszka Radwanska	\$1,245,133
6. Peng Shuai	\$1,166,700
7. Eugenie Bouchard	\$637,946
8. Venus Williams	\$596,700
9. Sara Errani	\$583,252
10. Angelique Kerber	\$581,599
11. Kristina Mladenovic	\$546,233
12. Jelena Jankovic	\$557,025
13. Sara Sorribes Tomic	\$517,000
14. Alize Cornet	\$505,946
15. Varvara Lepchenko	\$496,700
16. Roberta Vinci	\$490,330
17. Caroline Wozniacki	\$403,554
18. Peng Shuai	\$361,700
19. Victoria Azarenka	\$360,255
20. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova	\$310,537

College baseball

Collegiate Baseball poll

TUCSON, Ariz. — The Collegiate Baseball poll with records through April 27. Votes in top 10 are in parentheses. See www.collegiatebaseball.org for sports information directors' records.

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1	Virginia	31-8	491	(4)
2	Oregon State	31-9	481	(4)
3	Cal Poly	32-13	486	(11)
4	Miami, Fla.	32-13	486	(11)
5	Florida State	32-13	486	(11)
6	Louisiana-Lafayette	39-6	481	(3)
7	Washington	29-10	476	(5)
8	Florida	32-13	476	(11)
9	Louisiana St.	33-11	473	(10)
10	Mississippi	33-12	466	(12)
11	Indiana	28-12	463	(13)
12	OK State	33-12	466	(12)
13	Texas Christian	30-13	464	(15)
14	South Carolina	34-11	462	(18)
15	Oregon	30-9	459	(7)
16	Alabama	29-15	457	(8)
17	Penn State	30-9	454	(7)
18	Central Florida	28-16	451	(22)
19	Louisville	33-11	450	(23)
20	UC Irvine	28-14	448	(28)
21	Texas Tech	33-15	445	(NR)
22	Texas	37-13	443	(NR)
23	Rice	31-15	441	(19)
24	Northwestern Cal	32-17	439	(NR)
25	Vanderbilt	33-12	436	(26)
26	Arizona State	32-17	436	(NR)
27	UNLV	28-15	431	(NR)
28	Mississippi St.	28-17	429	(20)
29	Louisville	33-11	429	(23)
30	Liberty	35-10	425	(30)

Baseball America Top 25

DURHAM, N.C. — The top 25 teams in the Baseball America poll with records through April 27 and previous ranking (voting by the staff of Baseball America).

Rank	Team	Record	Pvs
1	Virginia	31-8	5
2	Oregon State	31-9	6
3	Louisiana-Lafayette	39-6	5
4	Florida State	32-10	6
5	Washington	29-10	7
6	Florida	32-13	11
7	South Carolina	34-11	11
8	Miami	32-13	11
9	Mississippi	33-11	11
10	Alabama	29-15	8
11	Arizona State	32-17	12
12	Rice	31-15	12
13	Northwestern Cal	32-17	14
14	Houston	31-12	14
15	Texas Christian	30-13	23
16	Oklahoma State	30-15	23
17	Texas	32-13	10
18	Vanderbilt	33-12	26
19	Texas Tech	33-15	NR
20	Central Florida	28-16	NR
21	Mercer	34-11	NR
22	Kentucky	31-17	17

Monday's scores

1. Bridgewater (M.A.), 7-1, Mass. College 1-0
2. Endicott (Mass.-Boston 7 Penn St.-Altona, 7-8 Penn St.-Harrisburg 7-0
3. Post (Conn.) 5-4, Chesnut Hill 3-1
4. Middlebury (Vt.) 2-1, Nichols 1-6
5. Waker 9-5, Susquehanna 3-2

AP spotlight

1922 — Charlie Robertson of the Chicago White Sox pitched a no-hitter in the first game against the Detroit Tigers.

1967 — Milwaukee Braves pitcher Tom Seaver pitched a no-hitter against the Baltimore Orioles 11-0.

1992 — The Montreal All Stars won a unanimous 15-round decision over Jimmy Young in Landover, Md., to retain his world heavyweight title.

1992 — The Red Wings and Canucks became the ninth and 10th teams in NHL history to rebound from 31 deficits to win playoff games. Detroit made the playoffs North Stars' 1-0 win in the first round. Vancouver defeats the Winnipeg Jets 5-0 in the Smythe Division.

1993 — Monica Seles, the top-ranked women's tennis player, was injured during a changeover at the Citizen Cup in Hamburg, Germany. Guenter Parche, a tennis coach, threw a court razor and sticks a knife into the back of Seles.

2002 — Texas Rangers shortstop Alex Rodriguez becomes the second-youngest player to reach 250 homers during a 10-win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

2003 — James Van Der Beek, John Ruiz to win the WBA heavyweight title over Mike Tyson.

2005 — Barry Bonds scores 28 home runs and blocks Rajon Rondo's potential win-loss at Chicago 3-0 in Game 2 of the triple-overtime upset over Boston to force Game 7. Ray Alcorn scores a career 500th point for the Boston Bruins while tying the NBA playoff record with nine three-pointers.

Golf

2014 Ryder Cup points

At Gleneagles Hotel, Glenelg, Scotland
Sept. 16-21, 2014
Through April 27

Player	Points	YTD Money
1. Bubba Watson	6,258.984	4,459,071
2. Jimmy Walker	4,459,071	3,457,313
3. Matt Kuchar	3,758,832	3,758,832
4. Dustin Johnson	3,758,832	3,758,832
5. Tiger Woods	3,758,832	3,758,832
6. Patrick Reed	3,038,246	2,688,515
7. Harris English	2,688,515	2,688,488
8. Jason Day	2,688,488	2,688,488
9. Phil Mickelson	2,688,488	2,688,488
10. Sergio Garcia	2,688,488	2,688,488
11. Chris Kirk	2,214,857	2,214,857
12. Webb Simpson	2,214,857	2,214,857
13. Ryan Moore	2,174,555	2,174,555
14. Kevin Stadler	2,174,555	2,174,555
15. Jordan Spieth	2,174,555	2,174,555
16. Victor Dubuisson	2,297,434.71	2,165,473.77
17. Jamie Donaldson	1,932,606.94	1,932,606.94
18. Henrik Stenson	1,932,606.94	1,932,606.94
19. Adam Scott	1,932,606.94	1,932,606.94
20. Joost Luiten	1,932,606.94	1,932,606.94
21. Louis Oosthuizen	1,186,936.34	1,186,936.34
22. Sergio Garcia	1,186,936.34	1,186,936.34
23. Miguel Angel Jimenez	1,082,801.41	1,082,801.41
24. Francesco Molinari	1,082,801.41	1,082,801.41

World Points

1. Henrik Stenson	280.48
2. Sergio Garcia	205.48
3. Rory McIlroy	157.41
4. Thomas Bjorn	134.86
5. Jamie Donaldson	140.36
6. Luke Donald	130.28
7. Adam Scott	140.36
8. Justin Rose	108.37
10. Miguel Angel Jimenez	99.66

FedEx Cup leaders

Rank	Player	Points	YTD Money
1	Jimmy Walker	4,456	\$4,422,071
2	Bubba Watson	2,840	\$4,422,071
3	Matt Kuchar	2,036	\$3,121,107
4	Dustin Johnson	1,834	\$3,038,426
5	Patrick Reed	1,324	\$2,569,772
6	Harris English	1,290	\$2,569,772
7	Chris Kirk	1,152	\$2,181,286
8	Jason Day	1,152	\$2,181,286
9	Chandler Powell	1,042	\$1,200,337
10	Chandler Powell	1,042	\$1,200,337
11	Webb Simpson	937	\$2,089,776
12	Kevin Stadler	937	\$2,089,776
13	Ryan Moore	902	\$2,086,504
14	Oklahoma State	897	\$2,086,504
15	Will MacKenzie	890	\$1,782,250
16	Michael Van Dyke	884	\$1,782,250
17	Kevin Na	834	\$1,066,652
18	Grahan Delaet	811	\$1,760,934
19	Brian Stuard	797	\$1,760,934
20	Keegan Bradley	799	\$1,640,915
21	Matt Jones	747	\$1,224,423
22	Jason Day	769	\$2,010,360
23	Ryan Palmer	747	\$1,224,423
24	Justin Henley	733	\$1,499,994
25	Charles Hoffman	723	\$1,349,657
26	Brandt Snedeker	716	\$1,349,657
27	Russell Knox	712	\$1,136,727
28	Charles Howell III	680	\$1,224,423
29	Ryo Ishikawa	667	\$1,239,264
30	Chandler Powell	667	\$1,239,264
31	Chesson Hadley	649	\$1,237,706
32	Luke Donald	646	\$1,172,651
33	Dave Doonan	647	\$1,172,651
34	Daniel Summerhays	620	\$1,077,390
35	Bill Haskins	617	\$1,077,390
36	Chris Stroud	615	\$1,203,782
37	Michael Dowling	615	\$1,203,782
38	Sergio Garcia	592	\$1,367,867
39	Arian Hrakavac	585	\$1,012,875
40	Stacy Fowler	585	\$1,012,875
41	Brian Kram	577	\$1,063,897
42	Scott Stallone	577	\$1,063,897
43	Brendon Todd	569	\$805,863
44	Robert Stroh	569	\$805,863
45	Rory McIlroy	557	\$1,274,470
46	Scott Brown	537	\$983,500
47	Jonas Blixt	531	\$1,160,909
48	Robert Garrigus	519	\$874,301
49	John Huh	508	\$949,014
50	Adam Long	508	\$949,014
51	John Huh	486	\$919,860
52	Jerry Kelly	486	\$919,860
53	Hunter Mahan	484	\$945,148
54	Hideki Matsuyama	484	\$945,148
55	Michael Hoey	484	\$945,148
56	Jay Furuk	469	\$1,014,437
57	Michael Hoey	469	\$1,014,437
58	John Huh	459	\$811,112
59	K.J. Choi	448	\$806,835
60	Freddie Jacobson	448	\$806,835
61	Ben Martin	448	\$806,835
62	Freddie Jacobson	447	\$709,567
63	Justin Bradley	447	\$709,567
64	Justin Hays	427	\$609,511
65	Brandt Snedeker	427	\$609,511
66	Brendan Steele	408	\$683,867
67	Justin Leonard	407	\$692,943
68	Justin Leonard	407	\$692,943</

NFL



BARBARA J. PERENIC, COLUMBUS DISPATCH/MCT

Bradley Roby (1) of Ohio State believes he can beat the odds and make the jump to the NFL after only three seasons with the Buckeyes, foregoing his senior year of eligibility.

NFL riches a leap of faith

Early jump from college ball to the pros is fraught with risk

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Greg Robinson decided to leave college for all the usual reasons. He played for a national championship at Auburn, is generally regarded as a top-five pick and wants to help his family financially. For the 6-foot-5, 332-pound offensive tackle, the decision to give up his final two seasons of college eligibility made sense.

For some of the other 101 early entrants in this year's draft, whether they're ready or not, it's a choice fraught with risk.

"I can guarantee you 30 of them (underclassmen) will not make a roster and if you're lucky enough to end up on a practice squad, they won't get credit for the season and your development as a player is going to be arrested," longtime NFL executive and current ESPN analyst Bill Polian said. "Some won't even make the roster or a practice squad and then they won't have any college eligibility left, and in many cases they won't have a degree."

The current crop of early entrants includes many players fans are counting on to become franchise cornerstones: Blake Bortles, Teddy Bridgewater, Jadeveon Clowney, Johnny Manziel and Sammy Watkins. All come with questions, some about their maturity.

The list is also rife with smaller-school stars such as Willie Snead, Brett Smith and Pierre Warren, who could go anywhere or not at all on draft weekend.

This was not the landscape the NFL envisioned when it opened the door to players who had been out of high school for at least three years.

From the inaugural underclassmen class of 1995 through 2010, the list of non-seniors declaring

Early entrants



The number of entrants who gave up collegiate eligibility to participate in the NFL Draft since it was first permitted in 1995:

1995: 42	2005: 51
1996: 46	2006: 52
1997: 44	2007: 40
1998: 41	2008: 53
1999: 42	2009: 46
2000: 31	2010: 53
2001: 54	2011: 56
2002: 43	2012: 65
2003: 54	2013: 73
2004: 44	2014: 102

Source: www.pro32.ap.org

for the draft remained essentially steady, with 31 to 54 declaring each year. The number topped 50 just six times during that span.

Over the last four years, when the new collective bargaining agreement and rookie wage scale went into effect, things have changed dramatically.

A record-breaking 56 underclassmen declared for the draft in 2011. A year later, it was 65. Last year, it was 73 and now it has jumped to 98, plus four players who have graduated but have eligibility remaining — enough to fill more than three full rounds.

Those who work closely with college football players insist it's no coincidence.

Like NBA draft prospects, football players are increasingly being advised to make the jump sooner so they get that second, richer contract at an earlier age.

"If you're a good player, even second- and third-round draft choices are good football players. You've got to get through four years before you get to free agency and three years before you start to talk about a contract ex-

tension," agent Tom Condon said, noting he routinely urges players to think long and hard about staying in school. "So I think that is a motivating factor."

Because the average NFL playing career lasts less than four years, many players never get that second contract — a fact many of them never consider.

Indiana University coach Kevin Wilson makes sure his players get that information and to know something else.

"It's mathematically proven that more college graduates make it (in the NFL) and more college graduates are the most likely to get the second contract," he said.

What confounds Polian is why players tend to ignore evaluations of the NFL's draft advisory board, which he helped create in the mid-1990s. He believes everyone with a grade lower than the third round should go back to school.

Wilson acknowledged that he's found the board to be remarkably accurate.

But it's not just agents or family members pushing players to leave early. Players honestly believe they can defy the odds.

"You don't come out until you know you're ready mentally and physically," former Ohio State cornerback Bradley Roby said. "Maybe the contracts, yes, you're not getting as much money in the first rounds and in the early rounds like you were, so that's an incentive to go ahead and get out there."

They're more fearful of injuries while still in school, too.

The reality, though, is that more underclassmen think they're ready to make the jump for a variety of reasons, including money.

"I have two younger siblings, and it would be a blessing if I could help my mom put them through college," Robinson said.

Clowney: Tired of answering questions about his work ethic

FROM BACK PAGE

move was videotaped, broken down and debated. Critics saw him breathing heavily in last season's opener against North Carolina and said he was out of shape. Some claimed his lack of production, with just three sacks last season, was because he was saving himself for a pro career.

Gamecocks coach Steve Spurrier didn't help, questioning his player's commitment when Clowney didn't suit up against Kentucky last October for what later turned out to be a strained muscle near his ribs.

Spurrier was displeased with his defensive star in the heat of the moment. "It doesn't want to play, he doesn't have to play. Simple as that," the coach said after beating Kentucky last Oct. 5.

Spurrier acknowledged he was more upset that protocol for Clowney's absence wasn't followed, and said the Gamecocks wouldn't have this run of success — 33-6 the past three years — without Clowney on the field.

The scrutiny has intensified since Clowney announced after the Capital One Bowl in January he was giving up his final season of eligibility to go to the NFL. His judgment has been questioned regarding speeding tickets — two in December — and his limiting private workouts.

Just this week ESPN analyst Merrill Hoge said Clowney, while gifted, was "atrocious" when it came to the game's fundamentals. His ESPN colleague, Mel Kiper Jr., thinks Clowney has it all and should be the No. 1 pick.

"I don't know how you can take

anybody over Clowney," Kiper said Wednesday. "He's a once-in-every-20-year guy."

Clowney tried to tune out the critics and concentrate on preparing for the NFL. His skills look as honed as ever after running a 4.53 second 40-yard dash time at the NFL combine in February, and putting on a show at South Carolina's pro day earlier this month.

Among those attending were Texans coach Bill O'Brien, defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel and general manager Rick Smith, all contemplating what to do with that pick.

Is Clowney tired of effort questions?

"I've been tired of it, but you have to keep doing it," he said.

Gamecocks defensive coordinator Lorenzo Ward said Clowney has things to work on, such as improving his play against the run. But "the NFL is a passing league and that's what he is gifted at doing," Ward said.

"It's not like he has to play run every down. He can chase the quarterback a lot and they can use him schematically to do that."

Ward believes Clowney earned some of the inquiries coming his way. "I think there is a lot of good and bad to some of the things that happened to J.D.," he said. "I think some of the situations that happened, he put himself in."

For Carroll, Clowney's always taken in criticism and worked to disprove the harsh words.

"That's what motivates him and that will always carry him to be better," he said.

Where will he go?

Though South Carolina's Jadeveon Clowney will likely be the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft in May, some experts predict he could end up with any of the top five teams. Here's a sampling of scenarios for each team to grab the talented defensive end:

- 1. Houston Texans (2-14 record in 2013):** Choosing a quarterback (Blake Bortles, Johnny Manziel or Teddy Bridgewater) is still in the discussion in Houston, but it will be difficult for the Texans to pass on draft's best pass rusher in Clowney. — Charles Davis, NFL.com
- 2. St. Louis Rams (7-9; pick acquired from Washington Redskins):** Houston believes Blake Bortles has the physical tools to develop into a franchise QB and will go No. 1. If the Rams don't trade down and take an OT, they'll definitely grab Clowney. — Bryan Fischer, *Corbis* Football 24/7
- 3. Jacksonville Jaguars (4-12):** New coach Bill O'Brien and the Texans would regret not taking a franchise QB with the Rams in a prime spot to trade down or take an OT they need, Clowney would fill a huge need for the Jaguars. — Mike Huguenin, *Corbis* Football 24/7
- 4. Cleveland Browns (4-12):** Things would have to break right for Clowney to end up with Cleveland. With the Texans needing a franchise quarterback, the Rams looking to trade down or take an OL at No. 2 and the Jaguars badly needing a QB, Clowney could drop. — Zack Wassink, Yahoo Sports
- 5. Oakland Raiders (4-12):** Conventional wisdom says the Raiders have a pressing need on that side of the ball, especially at OT. But these are the Raiders. Conventional wisdom for the draft left Oakland years ago. A trade up with the Rams at No. 2 would land Clowney. — Paul Gutierrez, ESPN

NHL PLAYOFFS

Penguins oust pesky Blue Jackets

Malkin's hat trick powers Pittsburgh to Game 6 clincher over Columbus

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Evgeni Malkin and the Pittsburgh Penguins finally flexed their offensive muscles.

And they needed every bit of scoring they could muster.

Malkin had a hat trick and the Penguins almost blew a four-goal lead before holding off the Columbus Blue Jackets 4-3 on Monday night to clinch their first-round playoff series in six games.

"It's more important that we win the game and (end) the series," Malkin said of the 10th time he's scored three times in a game in his career.

"Going into the second round now, you feel so much better when you have confidence. I hope in the next round I can score more."

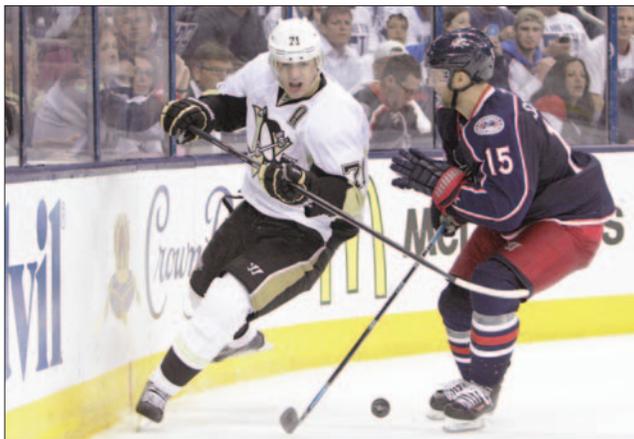
Pittsburgh awaits the winner of the New York-Philadelphia series, with the Rangers leading 3-2 going into Tuesday night's Game 6.

It's a good thing that the Penguins that Malkin — scoreless in his past nine playoff games including the first five in the series — finally found the net.

The Blue Jackets, closer to making te times than thinking about a Game 7, scored three times in a 4:52 span in the third period to turn up the pressure on the Penguins, an overwhelming favorite before the series got under way.

"We're a proud group in here," forward Brandon Dubinsky said. "We didn't want to get embarrassed on home ice. If it was going to be our last game of the season, we didn't want to have any quit. We have to have any quit in this locker room all season. We just kept pushing and pushing."

Brandon Sutter also scored before leaving with an injury and



Jay LaPietre/AP

The Penguins' Evgeni Malkin, left, chases the puck as the Blue Jackets' Nick Shultz defends Monday during the third period of Game 6 of their Eastern Conference first-round series in Columbus, Ohio. The Penguins won 4-3 to take the best-of-7 series 4-2.

Matt Niskanen had two assists as the Penguins became the first team in the series to score first and win—but barely. Marc-Andre Fleury made 24 saves and made a couple of big stops after the game turned into a squeaker.

"It was a good test," he said of the wild last few minutes.

Coach Dan Bylsma said the toe-to-toe matchup heralded a new level of contentious play between the teams.

"We've got a rivalry going here with the Jackets," he said. "They gave us everything we could handle and it was a nice series for them. That was an extremely tough first-round opponent."

Fedor Tyutin, Artem Anisimov and Nick Foligno scored for Columbus. Foligno's redirect of a Tyutin shot cut the gap to a goal with 4:47 left.

A crowd of 19,189 stood and roared the rest of the way as the

Blue Jackets piled up scoring chances.

The Penguins were hard pressed to fight off the aggressive Blue Jackets after goalie Sergei Bobrovsky, who also had 24 saves, was pulled for an extra attacker with less than two minutes remaining in the game.

Matt Calvert was wide with a potential tying shot with 3:30 left. Dubinsky's shot with 35 seconds left was deflected by Fleury.

Roundup

Kings, Wild win to force pair of Game 7s

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Justin Williams forced the tiebreaking goal underneath Alex Stalock with 8:04 to play as the Los Angeles Kings beat the San Jose Sharks 4-1 on Monday, rallying all the way back from an 0-3 series deficit to force a decisive Game 7.

"Maybe we got a break, maybe we didn't," Williams said. "But nobody blew the whistle."

San Jose's bench loudly protested the call, saying the puck should have been blown dead under the goalie Stalock, but it was upheld on video review.

"We got cheated," Sharks coach Todd McLellan said. "Simple as that. I was told that you could see the puck lying behind his feet the whole time."

McLellan said the Sharks couldn't see the puck on video review. Kings coach Darryl Sutter

thought replays showed the puck was loose.

Williams and Anze Kopitar each had two goals and an assist, and Jonathan Quick made 25 saves as the Kings became just the ninth team in NHL history to force a seventh game after losing the first three. Just three teams in NHL history have rallied from an 0-3 deficit to win a series. Los Angeles could join them in Game 7 in San Jose on Wednesday.

"We certainly didn't want to go away quiet," Kopitar said. "We're only thinking about one more step now. We're going to have to play our best game of the series up there."

Wild 5, Avalanche 2: Zach Parise scored early and late on tipped shots as host Minnesota tacked on two empty-net goals for a victory over Colorado to send their first-round playoff series to a decisive Game 7.

Parise and Mikko Koivu each had two assists. The teams will meet again in Denver on Wednesday, with the winner taking on the Chicago Blackhawks in the Western Conference semifinals.

Parise scored just 49 seconds into the game and Mikael Granlund made it 2-0 later in the first period, but a costly turnover by Ryan Suter at the end of a failed 5-on-3 situation led to a short-handed goal for the Avalanche when Paul Stastny scored for the fourth time in the series.

Nick Holden got the tying goal in the second period for the Avalanche, but Parise stole the show.

Parked in the crease with the season on the line, he took a shove in the back from goalie Semyon Varlamov and then outmuscled defenseman Erik Johnson for position on Koivu's shot from behind the circle with 6:29 left in the game.



Tony Avelar/AP

Los Angeles Kings center Anze Kopitar celebrates his goal against the San Jose Sharks in the third period of Game 6 on Monday in San Jose.

Scoreboard

First round (Best-of-7) (X=if necessary)	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Boston 4, Detroit 1	
Detroit 1, Boston 0	
Boston 3, Detroit 0	
Boston 3, Detroit 2, OT	
Boston 4, Detroit 2	
Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 0	
Montreal 5, Tampa Bay 0, OT	
Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 1	
Montreal 3, Tampa Bay 2	
Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 3	
Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 2	
Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3	
Columbus 4, Pittsburgh 3, 2OT	
Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3	
Columbus 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT	
Pittsburgh 3, Columbus 1	
Monday: Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3	
N.Y. Rangers 3, Philadelphia 2	
N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1	
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 1	
N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1	
Tuesday: at Philadelphia	
x-Wednesday: at N.Y. Rangers	
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Colorado 5, Minnesota 3	
Colorado 5, Minnesota 4, OT	
Colorado 4, Minnesota 2	
Minnesota 1, Colorado 0, OT	
Minnesota 2, Colorado 1	
Colorado 4, Minnesota 3, OT	
Monday: Minnesota 5, Colorado 2	
Wednesday: at Colorado	
Chicago 4, St. Louis 2	
St. Louis 4, Chicago 3, 3OT	
St. Louis 4, Chicago 3, OT	
Chicago 2, St. Louis 0	
Chicago 4, St. Louis 3, OT	
Chicago 3, St. Louis 2, OT	
Chicago 5, St. Louis 2	
Anaheim 4, Dallas 2	
Anaheim 3, Dallas 3	
Dallas 3, Anaheim 0	
Dallas 4, Anaheim 2	
Anaheim 6, Dallas 2	
Anaheim 5, Dallas 4, OT	
San Jose 3, Los Angeles 3	
San Jose 7, Los Angeles 3	
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 3, OT	
Los Angeles 6, San Jose 3	
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 0	
Monday: Los Angeles 4, San Jose 1	
Wednesday: at San Jose	

Monday Kings 4, Sharks 1	
San Jose	0 1 0-1
Los Angeles	1 0 3-4
First Period— Los Angeles, Williams 3 (Doughty, Muzzin), 5:39.	
San Jose 1 (Kopitar) on San Jose, Sheppard 2 (Braun, Torres), 12:26.	
Third Period— Los Angeles, Williams 4 (Doughty, Kopitar), 18:24 (en), 7.	
Kopitar 2 (Williams, King), 13:27, 5. Los Angeles, Kopitar 3 (Doughty, Martinez), 14:42 (pp).	
Shots on Goal— San Jose 11-9-6-26.	
Los Angeles 16-9-11-46.	
Power-play opportunities— San Jose 0 of 4; Minnesota 1 of 5.	
Goals— San Jose, Stalock 0-1-0 (30 shots-26 saves). Los Angeles, Quick 3-3 (26-25).	
A—18,384 (18,118). T—2:39.	

Wild 5, Avalanche 2	
Colorado	1 1 0-2
Minnesota	2 0 3-5
First Period— Minnesota, Parise 2 (Suter, Johnson), 1:59, 2; Minnesota, Granlund 2 (Pominville, Foligno), 9:35, 3; Colorado, Stastny 4 (O'Reilly), 18:24 (en), 7.	
Second Period— Colorado, Holden 2 (O'Reilly, Duchene), 4:47 (pp).	
Third Period— Minnesota, Parise 3 (Koivu, Suter), 13:31, 6. Minnesota, Pominville 1 (Hull, Parise), 18:24 (en), 7; Minnesota, Scandella 2, 19:04 (en).	
Shots on Goal— Colorado 6-14-3-23.	
Minnesota 9-8-23.	
Power-play opportunities— Colorado 1 of 4; Minnesota 1 of 5.	
Goals— Colorado, Varlamov 3-3-0 (21 shots-18 saves). Minnesota, Kuemper 3-1-0 (24-24).	
A—19,314 (17,954). T—2:37.	

Penguins 4, Blue Jackets 3	
Pittsburgh	2 2 0-4
Columbus	0 0 3-3
First Period— Pittsburgh, Malkin 1 (Kunitz), 9:11, 2; Pittsburgh, Malkin 2 (Crosby, Niskanen), 13:13 (pp).	
Second Period— Pittsburgh, Sutter 3, 3:34, 4; Pittsburgh, Malkin 3 (Gokinen, Niskanen), 15:22.	
Columbus, Tyutin 1 (Calvert, Johnson), 10:21 (sh), 6; Columbus, Anisimov 1 (Johnson, Atkinson), 13:54 (pp), 7; Columbus, Foligno 2 (Tyutin), 15:13.	
Shots on Goal— Pittsburgh 16-7-5-28.	
Columbus 10-10-19-27.	
Penalties— Pittsburgh 1 of 5.	
Goals— Pittsburgh, Fleury 4-2-0 (27 shots-24 saves). Columbus, Bobrovsky 2-4-0 (28-24).	
A—19,189 (18,144). T—2:30.	

KENTUCKY DERBY/AUTO RACING

'He's the kind of horse you dream about'



GARRY JONES/AP

Trainer Art Sherman watches Kentucky Derby hopeful California Chrome get a bath after a morning workout at Churchill Downs on Tuesday in Louisville, Ky.

77-year-old trainer likes California Chrome's chances

By **BETH HARRIS**
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky.— Art Sherman knows what it's like to be at the Kentucky Derby with a brilliant colt that wins the race.

He just hasn't done it in 59 years.

In 1955, Sherman was an 18-year-old exercise rider for Swaps, a California-bred chestnut colt who beat Nashua to wear the garland of roses on the first Saturday in May.

"I was just a kid then and just glad to be learning," he said.

Now he's 77 and bringing his own California-bred chestnut to Churchill Downs, where California Chrome seems to be the favorite.

The colt with the modest pedigree and impressive résumé traveled outside his home state for the first time Monday. He flew to Churchill Downs, where he started getting used to the surface with a jog on Tuesday.

"He'll look around and know he's at a racetrack and feel right at home," Sherman said. "That's the way he is."

California Chrome has won his last four races by a combined 24½ lengths, including the \$1 million Santa Anita Derby.

"He's the kind of horse you dream about," Sherman said.

California Chrome finished first in the Derby points leaderboard that determines the maximum 20-horse field for the 1¼-mile race. He's won six of 10 career starts and has already topped \$1

million in earnings.

Pretty impressive for a colt from humble beginnings.

His mother, named Not For Love, won just one race. She was purchased for \$8,000 by Steve Coburn and Perry Martin, a move that prompted a trainer to call them "dumbasses" for getting involved in racing.

Feeling inspired, Coburn and Martin named their operation DAP Racing, which stands for Dumb Ass Partners. Their silks include an image of a donkey.

"We're every day people. I'm up at 4:30 every day going to work," said Coburn, a press operator at a 13-employee Nevada company that makes magnetic strips for credit cards and driver licenses.

Martin runs a laboratory in Sacramento, Calif., that tests high-reliability equipment, like car air bags or medical equipment, or as he says, "The kind where somebody dies if something goes wrong."

Coburn and Martin's partnership is based on handshake, and their wives are friends who enjoy the sport, too. The group came up with California Chrome's name by drawing it out of a hat.

Sherman has his first Derby start because Coburn and Martin contacted him about training their horse.

"He's old school and he's a regular guy," Coburn said. "He doesn't have a huge barn and he's able to spend quality time with every horse he has in his barn."

Sherman is based at Los Alamitos Racecourse in Orange County,

Calif., 30 miles and a world away from Santa Anita, the mecca of racing in Southern California.

Once a former jockey and racing official, Sherman took out his trainer's license in 1980. His son, Alan, assists him with California Chrome, easily the best horse that's ever been in their barn.

"I'm very humbled to have a horse like this," said the elder Sherman, whose personality is not unlike that of California Chrome.

"He's so easy going, laidback. Nothing seems to bother him."

Sherman plans to tour California Chrome around Churchill Downs. He wants the colt to get used to the paddock, where he will be saddled Saturday, and the starting gate, where 20 fractious colts will line up.

"He gets anxious in the gate," Sherman said. "He knows he's got to come away from there running so we have to school him."

He'll probably slip California Chrome some of his favorite horse treat — Mrs. Pasture's Paddock Cookies, made of molasses, corn and barley.

"I've had some," Coburn said. "They're good. Tastes like a granola bar."

Come Saturday evening, Sherman, Coburn, Perry and jockey Victor Espinoza hope to be tasting victory.

"I know there's always a question until they've done it, but I really think this horse will go a mile and a quarter, no problem," Sherman said. "He's doing everything right."

No penalty needed for NASCAR's Richmond scrap

Q CHARLOTTE, N.C. quick quiz: Who won the 1979 Daytona 500?

The answer, of course, is Richard Petty.

But very few people — if any — equate that race with "The King" grabbing the sixth of his seven Daytona 500 victories. That race is instead infamous for the last-lap crash between Donnie Allison and Cale Yarborough as they raced for the lead. The crash sparked a three-man fight after Allison's brother, Bobby, pulled up to the accident scene.

The brawl in the closing moments of the first race to be broadcast live in its entirety was a monumental moment for NASCAR, and the lasting image as the traditionally Southern sport officially announced its arrival on the national scene.

Fast forward 35 years later to Saturday night at Richmond International Raceway, where tempers flared after the race. It seemed much ado about nothing when Brad Keselowski stomped down pit road to angrily wag his finger at Matt Kenseth in a scene that was just enough to keep viewers from changing the channel, but not enough to generate any real excitement.

Then things got really interesting. An overhead camera happened to catch Casey Mears confronting Marcos Ambrose in the garage. About? Who knows. The two

were racing each other for 18th place and Fox hardly had its cameras tuned to that battle.

But something happened between the two to get Mears upset, and his anger only grew as Ambrose seemed to dismiss him and turn away.

So Mears grabbed the Australian, shoved him a bit and Ambrose responded with a right hook to Mears' eye. It was hard enough to draw blood and knock Mears' hat from atop his head.

NASCAR was reviewing the incident and considering whether to discipline either of the drivers in its Tuesday penalty notices.

If the sanctioning body is smart, it will close the file and move on to Talladega without taking any action against either driver.

Forget for a minute that it was a fight that put NASCAR on the national map, and that hard-scrabble, passionate drivers who aren't afraid of confrontation are the bedrock of the sport. To this day, it's those incidents that generate the most conversation. Joey Logano's late pass of Kenseth, Keselowski and Jeff Gordon to win the race didn't garner many national headlines on

Sunday, but Ambrose's shot to Mears' face most certainly did.

The decision to leave Ambrose and Mears alone isn't about the attention that a fight draws to the sport.

It's about short-track racing on a Saturday night and the emotions that come from driving hard on tight tracks and in close quarters. Fans watch Bristol and Martinsville and Richmond wally expecting to be treated to bumping and banging and the post-race confrontations that come from explosive tempers.

The incidents are celebrated and find their way into promotional materials for the tracks and NASCAR itself.

Taking that into account, Mears can't be punished for confronting Ambrose after the race. Something happened on the track that infuriated him enough to seek out Ambrose.

That conversation happened to take place in the garage, NASCAR's version of the office place, and it happened in a flurry of frenetic, post-race activity. Drivers return their cars to the haulers after the race, and at Richmond, the haulers are lined up in tight quarters. Crews are working furiously to pack up the car and the equipment, fans are milling about trying to chase down their favorite driver, reporters are rushing to seek out interviews before the parties slip away in the darkness.

In that setting, Ambrose was grabbed and then shoved by a fellow driver. He reacted violently with a punch that might have startled Floyd Mayweather Jr., let alone Mears.

Should Ambrose be punished for defending himself? For reacting in a heated moment? Absolutely not. It wasn't a sucker punch, it didn't put any crew members or fans in danger, and Mears himself seemed to take it in stride.

The morning after he was punched, Mears ran in Jimmie Johnson's charity race and acknowledged Ambrose "got me pretty good with that shot" in an interview with NASCAR.com.

"Out of all the NASCAR fights or punches or when you see people swinging, usually it's a lot of fly-swatting. He actually connected so that was pretty good," Mears said. "Everybody gets mad after those races when everybody is trying so hard. It's a passionate sport, obviously. It's tough when you first get out of the car, when you don't have a good chance to cool off, it escalates pretty quick."

Indeed, the culture of short-track racing is an expectation of post-race fireworks. Unless NASCAR wants to remove that element and expectation, it should leave Ambrose and Mears alone.

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

MLB

NL roundup

Davis lifts Brewers after 4 Ks

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS—Chris Davis overcame striking out four times with a run-scoring triple in the 12th inning as the Milwaukee Brewers defeated the St. Louis Cardinals 5-3 on Monday.

Davis drove in Jonathan Lucroy, who doubled off Seth Maness (0-2) to start the inning. Mark Reynolds then drove in Davis with a sacrifice fly. Davis, who finished 1-for-6, struck out in the second, fifth, sixth and 10th.

Zach Duke (2-0) picked up the win with two innings of scoreless relief, and Francisco Rodriguez recorded his 12th save in as many opportunities by getting Jhonny Peralta to fly out with two on to end the game.

Milwaukee, which leads the majors with 19 wins, has won four of five and eight of 10.

Allen Craig and Matt Holliday homered for St. Louis, which has lost four of six.

Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 5: Troy Tulowitzki homered, had two doubles and drove in three runs to lead big-hitting Colorado over hot Arizona.

Baseball's best offensive team so far this season, the Rockies roughed up Wade Miley (2-3) for seven extra-base hits in the first six innings, including two homers.

Tulowitzki led off the sixth with his sixth homer and Justin Morneau added a two-run shot in the inning to extend his hitting streak to 12 games. Nolan Arenado had one of Colorado's six doubles to stretch his hitting streak to a baseball-best 18 games and the Rockies had 12 hits overall.

Franklin Morales (3-1) allowed four runs in five innings and LaTroy Hawkins worked a perfect ninth for his eighth straight save.

Gerardo Parra homered for Arizona.

Padres 6, Giants 4: Rene Rivera hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the fifth inning to follow his two-run double for a career-high five RBIs, single-handedly backing Tyson Ross in visiting San Diego's victory over San Francisco.

Ross (3-3) did just enough in 5 1/3 innings to beat the Giants for the second time in 11 days, allowing eight hits and four runs with four strikeouts and two walks.

Rivera hadn't driven in a run all season before Monday, and the five RBIs were most by a Padres player at 15-year-old PET Park. Brandon Hicks homered for the second straight day, following his walkoff against Cleveland with a leadoff shot in the fifth.

Giants starter Madison Bumgarner (2-3) walked a season-high four in the loss.

First base umpire Angel Hernandez had two calls overturned by replay.



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Aaron Harang, a 35-year-old journeyman who was released by the Cleveland Indians during spring training, has been the biggest surprise in the Atlanta Braves' starting rotation this season. Harang leads the majors with a 0.85 ERA.

Braves' new-look rotation thriving in first month of season

By CHARLES ODUM
The Associated Press

As they entered the season, the Atlanta Braves were hoping to just hang on through the first month while they waited for Mike Minor and Gavin Floyd to join a depleted rotation.

Instead, manager Fredi Gonzalez faces a different problem for the Braves, who were off Monday: How does he make room for another arm in a rotation enjoying the majors' best opening month in 100 years?

There's no weak link as the starters' 1.57 ERA easily leads the majors. St. Louis is second at 2.24.

The rotation was a big question after Tim Hudson and Paul Maholm departed as free agents. The issue reached crisis stage when Kris Medlen and Brandon Beachy needed season-ending Tommy John surgeries during spring training.

Veterans Ervin Santana and Aaron Harang have joined Julio Teheran and Alex Wood as the staff's new leaders for the first-place Braves.

Minor, who was a projected top starter, is expected to come off the disabled list this week. Rookie David Hale could lose his spot, but it's no easy decision. Hale is 1-0 with a 2.31 ERA in four starts and is coming off an outstanding win. Hale allowed two hits in eight innings in a 4-1 victory over the Reds on Saturday night, facing the minimum 21 batters in his last seven innings.

A tough call? "Sure," Gonzalez said. "We're pitching well, we're playing well. You don't want to disrupt that."

The staff has posted numbers through 24 games unmatched by any modern staff — including the Braves' rotation of the 1990s with 2014 Hall of Fame inductees Greg Maddux

By the numbers

1.57

ERA for the Atlanta Braves' starting pitchers, who easily lead the major leagues in the category. The St. Louis Cardinals are second at 2.24.

1914

The last time a starting rotation posted a lower ERA through the first 24 games. The Chicago White Sox opened with a 1.36 mark that year.

and Tom Glavine, plus John Smoltz.

According to STATS, the 1.57 ERA through 24 games matches baseball's best start since the 1914 White Sox opened with a 1.36 mark. The 1915 Phillies starters also had a 1.57 ERA through 24 games.

The NL East-leading Braves (17-7) were to open a series at Miami on Tuesday night. Wood was scheduled to face Marlins ace Jose Fernandez in a rematch of a memorable duel on April 22 when they combined for 25 strikeouts and no walks in Miami's 1-0 victory.

Low-scoring games are the rule for the Braves this month. Atlanta completed a three-game sweep of the Reds on Sunday with a 1-0 victory in 10 innings, with Teheran matching

Johnny Cueto's eight scoreless innings.

The Braves have played five 1-0 games — including two hard-luck losses by Wood.

"I'd rather have it this way than the other, when you're scoring 14 runs and giving up 13 every night," Gonzalez said. "Our bats will pick up, sooner or later."

Before this year, the best opening month for a Braves rotation in the modern era was a 2.37 ERA in 1997, according to STATS.

Harang, who leads the majors with his 0.85 ERA, is the biggest surprise. The 35-year-old journeyman was released by Cleveland in spring training and signed with the Braves.

Teheran, seventh at 1.47, said matching scoreless innings with Cueto helps him believe he deserves to be ranked with baseball's best starters.

"Now I feel like one of those guys," said Teheran, who was 14-8 with a 3.21 ERA in his 2013 breakout season.

Teheran is only 23.

"I know how good he can be," Braves shortstop Andrelton Simmons said. "He's proving to people that he deserves to be the ace for the team."

Wood also is 23. Minor and Hale are 26.

Minor was 13-9 with a 3.21 ERA last year. He had urinary tract surgery on Dec. 31, which pushed back his spring schedule. He then developed the shoulder soreness and was shut down in spring training.

Entering this season, Minor had the fourth-best ERA (2.90) since the 2012 All-Star break, so the Braves have to make room for the left-hander.

Hale could be sent to the minors or to the bullpen. An even tougher decision could come soon when Floyd, recovering from Tommy John surgery early in the 2013 season with the White Sox, also is ready.

Gonzalez just shook his head as he avoided the question.

"One at a time, please," he said.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Sterling given lifetime ban

Commissioner says Clippers owner's comments 'deeply offensive'; also fined \$2.5M

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling has been banned for life by the NBA in response to racist comments the league says he made in a recorded conversation.

Commissioner Adam Silver said he will try to force the controversial owner to sell his franchise. Sterling has also been fined \$2.5 million, and Silver made no effort to hide his outrage over the comments.

He said a league investigation found that the league's longest-tenured owner was in fact the person on the audiotapes that were released over the weekend.

"We stand together in condemning Mr. Sterling's views," Silver said. "They simply have no place in the NBA."

Sterling acknowledged he was the man on the tape, Silver said.

Sterling is immediately barred from attending any games or practices, be present at any Clippers office or facility, or participate in any business or player personnel decisions involving the team.

He also cannot participate in any league business going forward.

"This league is far bigger than any one owner, any one coach and any one player," Silver said.

The fine will be donated to organizations dedicated to anti-discrimination and tolerance efforts that will be jointly selected by the NBA and the Players Association, Silver said.

Sterling's comments were released over the weekend by TMZ



RICHARD DREW/AP

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver addresses the media during a news conference Tuesday in New York.

and Deadspin, and numerous NBA owners and players have condemned them. Even President Barack Obama weighed in on the crisis, the first of Silver's brief tenure as commissioner.

Before Silver took the podium, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban tweeted out a photo of the NBA Constitution, saying "It exists for a reason."

The announcement of the sanctions came just hours before the Clippers will play Golden State in Game 5 of a knotted-up Western Conference first-round playoff series.

In the past, Sterling faced extensive federal charges of civil rights violations and racial discrimination in his business dealings, and some of his race-related statements would be described as shocking.



DANNY MOLOSOCH/AP

Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, right, was banned for life from the NBA on Tuesday by Commissioner Adam Silver after audio was made public of Sterling making racist remarks. Silver called Sterling's comments "deeply offensive and harmful," and also fined him the maximum of \$2.5 million.



VERNON BRYANT, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Spurs forward Boris Diaw, right, Tim Duncan, center, and Mavericks center Samuel Dalembert go after a loose ball during the first half Monday in Dallas. The Spurs won 93-80 to tie the series 2-2.

Diaw, Ginobili pace Spurs to get even with Mavericks

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Boris Diaw's big third quarter wasn't enough to hold off a Dallas comeback.

The San Antonio veteran's decisive shot in the final minute was. Diaw hit a go-ahead three-pointer for the last of his 17 points, Manu Ginobili scored 23 and the top-seeded Spurs held on to beat the Mavericks 93-89 in Game 4 on Monday night, pulling even in their first-round playoff series.

"You've got to give up something," said Dirk Nowitzki, who was running at Diaw as the shot was released. "That was a tough one."

Just like Vince Carter's buzzer-beating three-pointer was for the Spurs two days earlier, when Dallas went up 2-1 with a one-point win. The difference was, the Mavericks had a chance to do something about Diaw's shot after San Antonio went up 90-87 with 32 seconds remaining.

Nowitzki, who had 19 points, had a putback on a missed three by Monta Ellis to get Dallas within in 90-89 with 19 seconds to go. But the Mavericks let nearly 10 seconds run off the clock before fouling Ginobili.

Ginobili missed one of the free throws, giving Ellis a chance to tie on a driving layup. Ellis, who led the Mavericks with 20 points, missed again to finish a 6-for-20 shooting night.

"I had a good look at the end but it didn't go down," Ellis said.

The Spurs, who led by 20 points

in the third quarter, regained the home-court advantage by getting a split of two games in Dallas, matching what the eighth-seeded Mavericks did in San Antonio.

Game 5 is Wednesday night in San Antonio, and the Spurs are going back tied because a bench that's been quiet this postseason outscored Dallas' reserves 50-30.

"We knew that we could do better," Diaw said. "We didn't play the same like we did during the regular season."

Tim Duncan and Tiago Splitter had double-doubles for the Spurs, with Duncan getting 14 points and 10 rebounds and Splitter adding 10 points and 12 boards.

San Antonio, which led from early in the second quarter until late in the fourth, was down 83-82 when former teammate DeJuan Blair was ejected for kicking Splitter in the back of the head after getting called for a foul when he got tangled up with the San Antonio center as both players fell to the court.

Ginobili, who had five assists, made the technical free throw for an 83-all tie, and Splitter hit both free throws on the foul for an 85-83 San Antonio lead.

Blair had a big hand in getting Dallas back in the game, scoring all 12 of his points and grabbing nine of his 11 rebounds in the second half.

"It's real disappointing because with me in the game our momentum was going great and when that happened and that got me

out of there, that was a big deal," said Blair, who said the kick was unintentional.

San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich challenged his team to play with more " nastiness " after falling behind in the series with two straight losses, and his Spurs responded in the first half.

The best display was in a dominant second quarter, when the Spurs outscored the Mavericks 32-13. Kawhi Leonard intended to swat Carter's driving shot into the stands. Instead, Patty Mills dived into the seats to save it, sending the Spurs on a fast break that ended with a miss by Tony Parker, who had 10 points of 5-for-14 shooting.

Parker's miss didn't matter, though, because the Mavericks were in the middle of a 5-minute scoreless stretch that included eight straight misses to cap a 2-for-18 shooting spell from late in the first quarter to late in the second. Dallas shot 21 percent in the second quarter.

Diaw scored eight points on 4-of-5 shooting in the third quarter, and looked like he was going to be able to hold off the Dallas surge.

"Manu and Boris changed the entire game," Duncan said. "They kept us from blowing a lead."

Dallas hurt itself with missed free throws. Samuel Dalembert was 1-for-6 from the line two nights after he hit two late to get Dallas even in a back-and-forth final minute. The Mavericks were 18-for-28 from the line.

SPORTS



Lifetime ban
Clippers owner Sterling has 'no place in the NBA' | Page 30

NFL

Here comes Clowney



South Carolina's Jadeveon Clowney is the likely top pick in the NFL Draft.

DAVE MARTIN/AP

South Carolina DE's talent worth top pick, but draft experts divided over work ethic

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Get ready, NFL quarterbacks, Jadeveon Clowney is coming. The freakish athlete with the easy grin and questions galore about his work ethic is poised to bring the whole package to the NFL in next month's draft. Whether the South Carolina defensive will go No. 1 overall to the Houston Texans is one of the hottest topics in the league. There's no debating this, though: Clowney loves making big plays — and he's ready to do that from the outset at the next level. "I think I work just as hard as anybody," Clowney says. "If you pick me and pair me with guys, I'm going to try and outwork them also."

Clowney has been pointed to the NFL ever since then-South Pointe High coach Bobby Carroll heard about the 6-foot-3 eighth grader walking through his team's weight room. "Who is that?" Carroll asked. Now 6-6 and 266 pounds, Clowney has

set off similar reactions throughout his life. He's been a lightning rod for attention — and for those picking apart a talent that seems as promising as any to enter the league in quite a while.

He was criticized by some when he chose South Carolina in 2011 for putting off his college announcement nearly two weeks so he could hold a televised session on his birthday, Feb. 14.

Inside:
■ Early jump from college to NFL fraught with risk, Page 24

Clowney's youth coaches say they had to stay on top of him to make sure he played up to his enormous potential. It was the same situation at South Carolina, where Clowney's physical ability, fast first step and innate skill at making the big play overshadowed any questions.

It seemed like smooth sailing for the friendly sophomore when he capped his most successful season (school records of 13 sacks and 23½ tackles for loss) with his signature moment: a helmet-popping hit on Michigan's Vincent Smith in that year's Outback Bowl. Smith fumbled and Clowney reached over with one hand to palm the football — a sequence that became must-see Clowney.

He became a face of college football and his every

SEE CLOWNEY ON PAGE 24

Jadeveon Clowney celebrates a sack of Clemson QB Taj Boyd.
C. ALUKA BERR, THE STATE/MCT

Penguins advance; Kings, Wild win to force pair of Game 7s | **NHL, Page 26**

Athletics' Gray outduels Rangers' Darvish with 3-hit shutout | **MLB, Pages 28-29**

