

Coalition vows to defeat Islamic State

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

BRUSSELS — Foreign ministers from 60 countries pledged Wednesday to intensify the struggle against Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq through various means, including military operations and measures to cut the flow of foreign jihadis and financing.

“Coalition partners reaffirmed their commitment to work together under a mul-

tifaceted and long-term strategy to degrade and defeat ISIL,” the ministers agreed in a concluding statement, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group.

The U.S.-led coalition encompasses a broad range of countries, including NATO allies, traditionally neutral nations and Arab oligarchies. Participants said a follow-up ministerial meeting will be held in six months to review strategy.

“Today was an opportunity for represen-

tatives of about 60 members of the anti-ISIL coalition to get together, share their views, make suggestions about the road map ahead and discuss what needs to be done,” Secretary of State John Kerry, who hosted the conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels, told journalists after the meeting.

He said coalition airstrikes, which started almost four months ago, have had a significant impact on the battlefield, allowing Iraqi government forces to regain lost ter-

ritory and degrading the insurgents’ military capabilities.

The Islamic State group’s lightning success in defeating the Iraqi army this past summer as it consolidated broad territorial gains in Syria and Iraq sparked widespread alarm in the international community. The militants have executed many civilians, captured Iraqi and Syrian soldiers, and beheaded Western journalists and aid workers.

SEE DEFEAT ON PAGE 7



DEPLOYED
— TO FIGHT A —
DISEASE

US sailors see life and death in Ebola tests

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U.S. Navy Lt. Jose Garcia places each patient sample into a testing plate for analysis in order to identify the Ebola virus at a Naval Medical Research Center mobile laboratory at Bushrod Island, Liberia.

JERROLD DIEDERICH
Courtesy of U.S. Army Africa

MILITARY

Efforts underway to improve Pentagon’s procurement system

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FACES

Allison Williams is ready to soar as Peter Pan

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MILITARY

New secretary of defense will inherit old tensions of job

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QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"This administration is stacking terrorists like cordwood."

— Phillip Carter, senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, referring to the aggressive use of drone strikes by the Obama administration in places such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia

See story on Page 9

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MILITARY

Missileer charged in drug probe

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force is court-martialing a nuclear missile launch officer on drug and obstruction-of-justice charges stemming from a criminal investigation that led to the disclosure last winter of a separate exam-cheating scandal that implicated nearly 100 nuclear officers.

Second Lt. Nicole Dalmazzi, of the 341st Missile Wing at Malm-

strom Air Force Base in Montana, is the first launch officer known to have been charged since the drug investigation was made public in January.

The twin disclosures of alleged exam cheating and illegal drug use accelerated a wave of embarrassing news about the nuclear missile corps, which has been beset with discipline problems, low morale, leadership lapses and resource shortages. Last month the government announced plans for top-to-bottom changes in

how the force is managed and operated.

Dalmazzi was charged with illegal drug use and obstructing the Air Force Office of Special Investigations probe, according to Josh Aycock, a spokesman at Malmstrom.

He said her court-martial is scheduled for Jan. 21.

Efforts to reach Dalmazzi for comment Tuesday were unsuccessful.

As a missileer she is trained to operate the Minuteman 3 missile,

which is armed with a nuclear warhead and stands ready for launch on short notice from an underground site.

Because of the sensitive nature of the job, with its many classified procedures and potential for costly mistakes, any allegation of drug use by missileers is concerning.

Dalmazzi's 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom operates 150 of the Air Force's 450 Minuteman 3 intercontinental ballistic missiles.



JOSHUA L. DeMORTIS/Stars and Stripes

Wild about snow?

A bred-back tarpan, or Eurasian wild horse, walks through this winter's first snowfall Wednesday at Betzenberg Wildlife Park in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The area received about 3 inches of snow overnight. For more photos from the snowstorm, go to: stripes.com/go/snowywildpark.

Cargo planes collide over Fort Bragg; no one hurt

The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — No one was injured when Army and Air Force cargo planes collided in the sky over Fort Bragg, the military said Tuesday.

The Army C-27J and the Air Force C-130H were able to land without injuries to anyone aboard Monday night, Air Force spokeswoman Maj. Lisa Ray said.

Neither plane is able to fly, but Ray said she didn't know if that was because of damage of if they hadn't been thoroughly inspected.

The Air Force C-130, a massive turboprop aircraft that can carry helicopters and armored vehicles, was on a training mission, Ray said. The C-27J is a smaller propeller-driven cargo plane.

Ray said she didn't know how air traffic controllers failed to prevent the collision, or the altitude at which the planes were flying.

Correction

The Dec. 3 story on the defense bill should have said that under the agreement, servicemembers will receive a 1 percent pay raise for 2015.

Recruiters charged with having sex with student

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Felony warrants have been issued for two male Army recruiters facing criminal charges they had sex with a 17-year-old female student they met while recruiting at her

high school.

The warrants were issued Tuesday by the Osceola County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities say Christopher Doner, 30, was arrested on 10 counts of unlawful sex with a minor and booked into jail. Bail was set at \$20,000 and jail records showed he was still behind

bars Tuesday evening.

Detectives were still looking for John Back, 33, who they believe is in Michigan. He faces two counts of unlawful sex with minors.

Authorities say the teen's mother contacted detectives after learning about the encounters.

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PACIFIC



Louis Conter holds the bottle of sparkling wine that he and three other survivors of the 1941 attack on the USS Arizona will use for a toast to their fallen shipmates on Sunday, the 73rd anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Sitting beside him are fellow survivors, from left, Donald Stratton and Lauren Bruner.



Above: Four of the nine remaining survivors of the USS Arizona arrive at the Pearl Harbor Visitor Center in Honolulu on Tuesday for a news conference. From left are John Anderson in wheelchair, Donald Stratton, Louis Conter and Lauren Bruner, also in a wheelchair.



Left: Sparkling wine given to survivors of the USS Arizona by President Gerald Ford in 1975 will be used in Sunday's toast. The wine flutes once belonged to the ship.

PHOTOS BY WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Final toast to the USS Arizona crew?

Survivors of Pearl Harbor attack to gather at memorial for what may be the last official reunion

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii — John D. Anderson spent the night after the 1941 surprise attack on Pearl Harbor lying in a bomb-blast crater in the tarmac runway on Ford Island. The sailor had escaped the fiery decks of the USS Arizona, found a rifle and two bandoliers of ammo and started shooting at Japanese planes.

After hunkering there through the night with another sailor, a passing Marine patrol told him that survivors of the Arizona were to gather at a nearby dock so a head count could be made. "Everybody I saw there had rags around their heads," Anderson, 97, told a news conference Tuesday. Bandages covered their arms, skin was scorched and hair was burned off. "Beat up something awful," he said.

Now, days away from the 73rd anniversary of the attack, four of the nine living Arizona survivors have returned to Pearl Harbor for what is likely the last official reunion at the USS Arizona Memorial for the annual observance Sunday.

The Arizona sank after a massive explosion of its forward am-

munition during the attack, and 1,177 sailors died. Many of the bodies remained entombed in the sunken ship, which was designated a national memorial in 1962.

On Sunday afternoon, the four men will toast their shipmates with a bottle of sparkling wine given to their survivors' association in 1975 by President Gerald Ford from the White House wine collection.

Anderson, joined by Louis Conter, 93, Donald Stratton, 92, and Lauren Bruner, 94, will drink from original wine glasses from the USS Arizona. One glass will then be placed in the sunken ship's fourth turret barbette, which also holds 38 urns with the ashes of Arizona survivors who chose to be laid to rest there.

Although this year's gathering is being touted as a final reunion, Conter said he had a sure sign that at least some of the men would return to Honolulu in 2015.

"My wife saves quarters every year from the time we have the reunion so she'll have money for Mai Tais, and she's already saving them for next year. So I don't think this is going to be our last," Conter said. "John's our eldest man here, and Don's our youngest, but we've still got time to go.

'Everybody has to be someplace, and the good Lord saved just a few of us. A terrible day. A terrible day.'

Donald Stratton
USS Arizona survivor

So we'll be back out here no matter whether the rest of the crowd can make it or not."

During the sometimes emotional news conference, attended by many of the survivors' family members and friends, National Park Service historian Daniel Martinez announced that Bruner and Conter had decided to have their cremated ashes placed in the ship.

"Well, I studied it for a long time," Bruner said. "All my family and friends have been buried in various places, cemeteries. But it seems like after a while, nobody pays attention to them anymore after about five years. I hope that a lot of people will still be coming to the Arizona. I would be glad to see them."

Conter likened the interment to being "with our shipmates for our permanent duty station."

Martinez said he once asked

Stratton if he intended to have his ashes placed in barbette.

"He said to me that he came so close to being burned alive that cremation probably wasn't the way to go," Martinez said.

Stratton shared some of his memories of that December morning when, at age 19, he'd just finished eating breakfast and walked out onto Arizona's bow.

"Some sailors were pointing to Ford Island and hollering," he said. "I took a look and I saw one of the planes bank and see the sunrise of the Japanese insignia. I started for my battle station, which was one deck above the bridge, where the admiral and captain were both killed that day."

Standing next to Bruner, the sailors fired at the swarming planes but without much luck. Then the ship's forward ammo was hit.

"A million pounds of ammuni-

tion exploded, and the fireball engulfed us up there," Stratton said. "I went to get a gun and I discovered I didn't have any fingerprints. So you can imagine how badly my hands were burnt."

A sailor from a repair boat that had been alongside the Arizona cast a heaving line to the men so they could then pull up a larger rope. Stratton, Bruner and four other sailors escaped by scaling hand-over-hand across the flames on the 60 feet of rope.

Stratton was burned over 65 percent of his body. He arrived in a California hospital on Christmas Day, underwent recovery and rehab for more than a year, then returned to Nebraska after being medically discharged.

"I was there for about a year and then I re-enlisted and went back in," he said. He served as a ship's quartermaster in the South Pacific, all the way to Okinawa to the end of the war.

Stratton said he has asked himself why he survived the Pearl Harbor attack when so many of his shipmates didn't. For him, the answer is simply that "everybody has to be someplace, and the good Lord saved just a few of us. A terrible day. A terrible day."

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PACIFIC

Kadena student pleads guilty to sexual abuse

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Kadena High School student who allegedly raped an incapacitated classmate in front of other students and recorded the assault on his cellphone has pleaded guilty to sexual abuse in a plea deal with federal prosecutors in Minnesota, officials say.

Ricky Isiah Sherwood, who was 18 at the time of the incident, was originally charged with two counts of sexual abuse, production of child pornography and possession of child pornography, according to court documents. The incident occurred in February at the Kadena Air Base home of his legal guardian and uncle, a Marine Corps staff sergeant.

Under the deal reached on Nov. 14, Sherwood pleaded guilty to a charge that he knowingly engaged in a sex act with the then-17-year-old female, who was incapable of comprehending what was going on and unable to consent, said Tasha Rose Terry, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Minneapolis. The plea deal was filed with the court under seal, so terms weren't available.

Sherwood, of White Bear Lake, Minn., is slated for sentencing in late January or early February 2015, Terry said.

His attorney, Andrew Mohring, reached but not immediately be reached for

comment.

Sherwood's federal indictment in May shocked Okinawa's tightly knit military community. It was reported that the victim was taken to the U.S. Naval Hospital on nearby Camp Foster for evaluation on Feb. 11 after counselors spotted her at an on-base park. She said she had no recollection of events after a second cup of alcohol.

The evidence, including witness statements and video from Sherwood's cellphone, suggested he had sex with the teen, who appeared to be in distress during the encounter and was unable to stand, walk or dress herself afterward. Sherwood later reported to work on base as a part-time lifeguard and did not appear intoxicated, co-workers told investigators.

Investigators said Sherwood later admitted he provided alcohol to those present at his home and had sex with the girl. He produced the video he recorded on his cellphone.

Three additional alleged sexual assaults involving Kadena High School students came to light in the following weeks. School officials said at the time that Kadena students were given military-style Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training that had been modified for them.

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PACOM nominee offers stark view of progress in Myanmar

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nominee to become the next commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific says the time isn't right to expand nascent military ties with Myanmar as the Southeast Asian nation remains "firmly under military control."

That's an unusually stark assessment from a U.S. official of the state of reforms in Myanmar. Adm. Harry Harris Jr. was responding in writing to policy questions posed for his Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday.

Myanmar's shift from direct military rule toward a more democratic system was meant to be a crowning foreign policy achievement

for President Barack Obama. Restrictions have eased in the past three years, but there's been no change to a junta-era constitution.

Obama acknowledged on a visit last month that reforms have slowed or even moved backward. The administration has argued that U.S. military engagement with Myanmar officers could encourage them to submit to civilian rule, but interaction has been limited to date, going little beyond seminars on rule of law and disaster relief.

U.S. lawmakers have been wary of authorizing deeper ties, fearing it could confer prestige upon Myanmar's army, which is still fighting ethnic insurgents and accused of serious human rights abuses.

Air Force IDs airman missing in Guam

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Air Force says an airman who went missing on Guam's northern shore had deployed to Andersen Air Force Base from the 2nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

Airman Alec Dye was last seen in the early hours Monday near Tarague Beach, according to an Air Force statement Tuesday. Coast Guard officials said he is believed to have gone into the water.

KUAM News reported a call for help came in to Andersen Air Force Base Security at

4:45 a.m. Search-and-rescue efforts were mobilized shortly thereafter and continued on land and sea Wednesday.

Coast Guard Sector Guam is coordinating efforts with Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor and Coast Guard Cutter Washington, as well as jet skis, rescue swimmers, helicopters and small boats from Andersen's Fire Rescue, Guam Fire Rescue, Guam Police Department and Navy units.

"Emergency responders from across the island are continuing to work around the clock to return him to his family and wingmen," Col. Tyrell Chamberlain, 36th Wing vice commander, said in the statement.



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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Navy planning to award contract on latest carrier

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy intends to award Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc. a contract early next year, potentially for more than \$4 billion, to build the second of a new class of aircraft carriers.

“The Navy is still negotiating with the company to reach a fair and reasonable price, and we hope to do that as soon as possible,” Commander Thureya Kent, a spokeswoman for the service, said in an email. “Early 2015 is still” the intended contract award date, she said this week.

The ship, the USS John F. Kennedy, is the second of three planned in the new carrier class. While Congress has ordered that the Kennedy’s cost be capped at \$11.5 billion, the first ship, the USS Gerald R. Ford, is projected

to cost \$12.9 billion when completed and fully equipped, 22 percent more than estimated five years ago.

A Government Accountability Office report on Nov. 20 said the Ford’s cost may increase even more and that planned savings for the Kennedy assume labor efficiencies never achieved in building an aircraft carrier.

According to Huntington Ingalls, the new class of carriers has a redesigned command center and flight deck, can launch and recover 25 percent more aircraft than existing Nimitz-class carriers and can should have a projected \$4 billion in ownership costs over its 50-year lifespan.

Signing the contract may trigger increased congressional scrutiny of the \$43 billion program that so far has focused on the Ford, the costliest warship



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford sits in dry dock at Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia. The Ford is the first of a new class of aircraft carriers replacing the Nimitz-class carriers. The Navy is negotiating a contract for the second ship in the class.

ever. It’s about 83 percent complete and scheduled for delivery in 2016. The Kennedy is planned for a 2023 delivery.

Navy officials have estimated the Kennedy construction contract at more than \$4 billion, which doesn’t include items such as the ship’s nuclear power plant and radar, launch and command-and-control equipment.

Newport News, Va.-based Huntington Ingalls gets 94 percent of its revenue from the U.S. Navy, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

The Navy already is grappling with how to pay for a shipbuilding plan that anticipates the three-

carrier Ford class, as well as \$22.6 billion for at least 32 Littoral Combat Ships and a 12-vessel nuclear submarine fleet to replace the Ohio-class submarine, which may prove most expensive of all.

The contract to begin the Kennedy’s detailed design and construction originally was to be awarded to Huntington Ingalls in September 2013. Instead, the Navy extended an existing \$296 million “construction preparation” contract without disclosing details on the reasons for the delay.

The GAO said in its report last month that the contract award

was delayed because Huntington Ingalls’ prices grew “beyond the Navy’s expectations,” and the service took interim steps “to allow additional time for the shipbuilder to reduce cost risks prior to awarding a construction contract.”

Sen. John McCain, the Arizona Republican who’s in line to be the next chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee, last year praised the Navy for delaying the award, saying it would save money by giving the service more time to assess the technical challenges of building the second vessel.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Sectarian ties tight in temporary homes

Shiites' level of government aid is a cut above that given to other groups of displaced Iraqis

By SAMEER N. YACOUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — At a camp near Baghdad housing Shiite families who fled the Islamic State group, the mobile homes are stocked with heaters and get more electricity than residents of the capital. Some donated food is even refused.

But that's not the case everywhere in Iraq. Some of those who have run for their lives from the militants still go hungry, or they are turned away from towns where they seek shelter.

With a U.N.-estimated 1.8 million Iraqis pushed from their homes this year by the war with the Islamic State group, the country upended by the 2003 U.S.-led invasion finds itself splintering again along ethnic and religious lines.

The camps are not officially divided by sect. But they often end up that way, either because those fleeing their homes want to move in with people of the same community or because a particular camp's residents may have all fled from the same towns, dominated by a single community. While the Shiite-led provincial administration of Baghdad has thrown considerable help to the Shiites in Nabi Younis camp, many others are in squalid conditions, whether in the capital or in the northern Kurdish autonomy region.

The Shiites "feel more comfortable and safer in this camp because they live among their brothers from the same sect," said Ali Heleil, an officer in charge



KARIM KADIM/AP

Displaced Iraqi Shiite families take shelter at the Nabi Younis refugee camp, in a Baghdad suburb, on Nov. 27. Each of the camp's 200 mobile homes has heating and access to tap water.

of Nabi Younis near the eastern suburbs of Baghdad. "The Shiite people living around the camp are helpful to those people."

Iraq, a mixture of Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds and other ethnic and religious minorities, saw a similar migration amid the worst of its sectarian bloodshed between 2006 and 2008. Mixed neighborhoods in Baghdad emptied out as death squads roamed the streets

and dozens of bound bodies with gunshot wounds turned up each day. Things slowly improved after the U.S. troop "surge," but tensions always simmered just below the surface, especially as security forces cracked down on Sunni protests of their claims of marginalization by the federal government.

The lightning advance in August by the Sunni militants of

the Islamic State reopened those wounds. Centuries-old communities of religious minorities — some viewed as apostates by the Islamic State extremists — fled for their lives. Christians, Yazidis and many Sunni Muslims headed to the Kurdish-held north, while many Shiites chose to go south to the Shiite-majority areas.

Many Arab refugees said the Kurdish regional government

turned them away in order to maintain a Kurdish majority for an eventually independent country. Shiite militias that rose up to defend Baghdad and important shrines often harassed and detained fleeing Sunnis.

The quality of the aid often depends on the location. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimates about 2.2 million people need urgent humanitarian aid in places held by the Islamic State, like besieged Anbar province. It also estimates that up to 80 percent of the displaced people now living in Kurdish-held areas need winter clothes.

Those in the Nabi Younis camp, however, enjoy more electricity than the average resident of Baghdad. About 385 Shiite families have lived in the camp's 200 mobile homes since August. Each trailer has heating and access to tap water. The camp also has its own medical clinic. Children play soccer on a nearby field, and women take classes on hairdressing and operating computers.

"I worked as a hairdresser in my town," said Huda Mohammed, who was attending class. "I will try to start a business here."

The camp is supervised by the Baghdad provincial council. Its residents are under the protection of the central government and, in particular, the heavy-handed Shiite militias that have been deployed around Baghdad looking to stave off the militant advance. Police also protect the camp, manning two checkpoints to screen anyone trying to enter.

Iraqi official: Woman arrested isn't wife of Islamic State leader

By VIVIAN SALAMA
AND BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

this year.

If the woman is indeed al-Baghdadi's wife, she could potentially serve as a bargaining chip with Syria-based militants holding some 20 Lebanese security forces captured in a cross-border raid in August. Beirut has been under intense pressure from the families of the captured men to negotiate their release.

The interrogation of the woman was being supervised by Lebanon's military prosecutor. On Wednesday, a senior Lebanese military official insisted that the woman said she was al-Baghdadi's wife during her interrogation. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make public statements to the media. The official refused to give further details about the Syrian woman, beyond saying her first name is Alaa.

Assad says US-led airstrikes on terrorist group not efficient

By ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks published Wednesday that U.S.-led airstrikes targeting Islamic State group militants in his country are neither serious nor efficient, claiming they have failed to produce any tangible results.

He also accused Turkey of continuing to provide direct support to the militants.

Assad spoke in a rare interview conducted Nov. 28 in Damascus with Paris Match magazine, his first in months. His comments critical of the U.S. airstrikes appear intended to give the impression that his forces are the most effective in fighting Islamic extremists.

"You can't end terrorism with aerial strikes. Troops on the ground that know the land and can react are essential," the magazine quoted Assad as say-

ing. "That is why there haven't been any tangible results in the two months of strikes led by the coalition."

The full interview was expected to be published Thursday. Both Assad's forces and the U.S. have been bombing Islamic State group targets in northern Syria, although U.S. officials say they don't coordinate strikes with his embattled government.

Assad said the U.S. strikes "would of course have helped had they been serious and efficient."

"We are running the ground battles against Daesh, and we have noticed no change, especially with Turkey providing direct support to these regions," he was quoted as saying, using an Arabic acronym for the group.

Assad has insisted throughout Syria's nearly 4-year-old conflict that he has been fighting foreign-inspired Islamic extremists and "terrorists" — not Syrians calling for reform and freedom. Activists

say more than 200,000 people have been killed since March 2011.

Asked by the magazine about whether he was afraid of suffering the same demise as former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein or Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, Assad reportedly replied: "The captain doesn't think about death, or life, he thinks about saving his ship. If he thinks about sinking, everyone will die."

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WAR ON TERRORISM



VIORIANA MATO, POOL/AP

Secretary of State John Kerry, left, reaches out to shake hands with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi before a global coalition meeting on countering the Islamic State group in Brussels on Wednesday.

Defeat: Coalition leaders agree to aid fight against Islamic State

FROM FRONT PAGE

Wednesday's conference aimed to assess what has been achieved and plot future action.

"There was a consensus that the momentum ISIL had exhibited two months ago has been halted, that ... their hold on territory has been challenged already, and their finances have been strained," Kerry said.

The concluding statement said participants had agreed to support military operations, as well as the training and capacity building of local forces opposed to the Islamic State group.

Other measures agreed to at the meeting included stopping the influx of foreign volunteers, cutting funding to the group from foreign donors, addressing the humanitarian crisis and "exposing Daesh's true nature." Daesh is the Arabic name for the Islamic State group.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and retired U.S. Marine Gen. John Allen, the former commander of NATO troops in Afghanistan who is coordinating the coalition, briefed the ministers.

Since the bombing campaign started in August, the United States has conducted the vast majority of airstrikes against the militants, who proclaimed a caliphate in Syria and Iraq in June.

U.S. forces have been joined by warplanes from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Bahrain in Syria. Participants in the Iraq air campaign include Australia, Belgium, Britain, Can-

ada, Denmark, France and the Netherlands.

Separately, the Pentagon has confirmed that Iranian F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers have recently bombed militants in Iraq's eastern Diyala province. Although the fight against the Islamic State has forged an unlikely — and unacknowledged — alliance between the United States and Iran, the two rivals remain deeply opposed over Syria, where Tehran backs the regime of President Bashar Assad and Washington insists on his removal.

Kerry reiterated that Washington was not coordinating its military actions in Iraq with Tehran. Still, he allowed that "if Iran is taking on ISIL in some particular place and (this) has an impact, that effect is positive."

"The roughly 1,000 coalition air missions that we have flown have reduced Daesh leadership and inflicted damage on its logistical and operational capabilities," he told participants at the opening of the conference.

Iraqi forces have retaken territory near Mosul, Kirkuk and other towns, while in Syria the siege of Kobani, a town on the border with Turkey, has been blocked, he noted. This showed that the tide of war was turning against the militants, he said.

"No large Daesh unit can move forward aggressively without worrying what will come down on it," Kerry said.

lekic.slobodan@stripes.com

Iran bombs militant targets

Recent airstrikes helped drive Islamic State from 2 Iraqi towns

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Iranian warplanes have launched several airstrikes in recent days against Islamic State militants in eastern Iraq, U.S. and Iranian officials said Tuesday, the latest sign that America's longtime adversary is conducting a parallel but largely unacknowledged military campaign in the conflict.

At least some of the bombing runs were by F-4 Phantom jets, American-built warplanes provided to Tehran before the 1979 Islamic Revolution that ousted Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, a close U.S. ally.

In the shifting political landscape of the latest Iraq war, Tehran and Washington are in effect aligned on the same side and are conducting dual but separate military operations to back the beleaguered Baghdad government.

The U.S. and Iran have sent trainers and advisers to assist pro-government forces struggling against the Sunni Muslim fighters who swept into Iraq from Syria during the spring and summer. Iran's use of airstrikes marks an escalation of its role.

U.S. and Iranian officials have repeatedly disavowed any direct coordination on military operations and have said little in public about the recent airstrikes.

Four Iranian jets attacked Islamic State positions during an offensive in Iraq last month to retake two towns, Saadiya and Jalawla, less than 20 miles from the Iranian border in the eastern province of Diyala, said Hamid Reza Taraghi, a conservative Iranian politician who is well informed on military matters.

"Iran regards the area as a buffer zone and does not tolerate any military threats within that buffer zone," Taraghi said in an interview in Tehran. He said Iraqi officials "asked us to be quiet about it."

Iraqi officials also have remained publicly silent about the airstrikes, although Baghdad approved the operation and ensured that the airspace was free of American or other coalition warplanes, said two U.S. military officials who declined to be iden-

tified, citing the sensitivity of the matter.

There have been "a few" recent Iranian airstrikes, one of the officials said.

"We are not coordinating with the Iranians," the official added. "Iraqu owns the airspace."

Al-Jazeera aired video this week that appeared to show an Iranian F-4 on a bombing run as recently as Sunday.

The F-4 Phantom is a twin-engine, fighter-bomber jet built by McDonnell Aircraft Corp. for the U.S. Navy from 1961 until production ceased in 1981. Although the jets were sold around the world, only Iran and Turkey are said to still fly them and only a dozen or so are believed to be in operating condition.

Some Iraqi officials privately complain that the Obama administration has imposed limits on its own air campaign, saying that in an effort to prevent civilian casualties, U.S. airstrikes have avoided hitting Islamic State fighters in towns and villages. That has slowed the campaign to retake territory held by the militants, they say.

"The U.S. is always our first choice" for military assistance, but "if we need to seek help elsewhere, we will," said one Iraqi official, who asked to remain anonymous in discussing his government's thinking.

The reluctance on all sides to publicly acknowledge the Iranian airstrikes stems from sectarian and diplomatic sensitivities. But as the conflict widens, the complexities are becoming harder to manage.

Although Iran's air force is aging and small by Western standards, the airstrikes are a signal of Tehran's determination to back the Shiite Muslim-dominated government in Baghdad against the Sunni fighters who have captured much of western and central Iraq.

But too visible a military role by the Shiite-led government in Tehran could deepen concerns among Iraq's minority Sunni population and America's regional Sunni allies, such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar, that war against the Islamic State group is evolving into a sectarian clash that will further strengthen Iran and its proxies.

The Islamic State group has won sympathy from many Sunni Iraqis who accuse the Baghdad government of marginalizing the country's Sunni minority and taking orders from Tehran. Iranian officials are also concerned about the possibility that the Islamic State or other militant groups will begin recruiting from Iran's Sunni minority.

For the Obama administration, the growing Iranian role is likely to prompt criticism from Republicans that U.S. assistance to Iraq has been too limited since the 2011 pullout of U.S. forces and has given Iran an opening to deepen its military ties with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and his government.

In recent months, Iranian officials grew alarmed at the Sunni militants' advance to areas close to Iran's long border in ethnically and religiously mixed Diyala province.

As a result, Iranian jets helped Iraq and allied forces, including Kurdish fighters and Shiite militiamen, chase Islamic State fighters from the two towns in Diyala in late November.

Kurdish commanders have acknowledged receiving weapons and other aid from Iran in the battle to take back the two towns. Kurdish officials said there were no U.S. airstrikes during the offensive.

Fighting alongside Iraqi army units was the Badr Organization, a powerful Shiite militia in Iraq that is backed by Iran.

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EBOLA OUTBREAK

Work becomes personal at US Navy Liberia lab

By GREGG ZOROVA
USA Today

MONROVIA, Liberia — Ebola-infected blood arrives each day with a knock on the door.

Members of the U.S. military answer and take the samples. There's not a uniform or weapon in sight. The four sailors working in a laboratory at the end of a dirt road are deployed to fight a disease, not terrorists.

The vials they handle carry a name, gender and age — stark reminders, the sailors say, that what they learn can dictate if someone lives or dies.

Three of them are microbiologists, more accustomed to scientific research than fighting a deadly epidemic in West Africa. The fourth is a hospital corpsman. Their job since Oct. 2 has been to quickly identify patients free of Ebola so they can be separated from those who have the disease and to clear those who are recovering so they can go home.

What they didn't anticipate was making an emotional connection with many of the hundreds of Liberians whose blood the sailors have tested.

"I'm the person who enters every patient into the database," said Navy Lt. Andrea McCoy, 42, the officer in charge. "So every tube looks like a person to me whether it's a 5-year-old male that I'm entering or a 65-year-old female."

The disease has killed more than 6,000 people in West Africa, according to the World Health Organization. While new infections in Liberia have fallen sharply in the past several weeks, the epidemic is raging in neighboring Sierra Leone and remains a threat in Guinea.

"We had one sample that came from a 9-year-old boy," said Navy Lt. Jose "Joey" Garcia. "That boy was one of the hottest samples that we had. And when I say hottest, I mean that it had the most virus within it. That in itself is a death sentence."

The Navy testing lab here is one of seven in Liberia staffed by the U.S. Navy or Army. The troops are among 2,450 American servicemembers deployed to fight the disease. Just the addition of these new laboratories has rapidly reduced the time it takes to test samples.



U.S. Navy Lt. Andrea McCoy reviews specimen documentation and recording data in a laboratory log book in Liberia. The Naval Medical Research Center sent two mobile testing labs to Liberia to support Operation United Assistance.



PHOTOS BY JERROLD DIEDERICH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. Navy Lt. Jose Garcia inactivates the Ebola virus in a specimen. This step of sample processing renders the virus safe for further analysis at a Naval Medical Research Center mobile laboratory at Bushrod Island, Liberia.

Early in the epidemic it could take weeks to test for Ebola in drawn blood because labs were distant or few in number. Now results are available in a few hours.

"That right there is saving lives" said Garcia, 30, who back home works at the Naval Medical Research Center in Silver Spring, Md.

That the work might risk their own deaths has not been a major concern. Working from behind layers of protective gear, the sailor-scientists extract blood from each vial or body cells from each swab, and pummel them with ethanol and alkaline chemicals to kill the virus so it is safer to handle.

"There's always multiple layers of security between us and the actual blood samples," Garcia said. "I've never actually been afraid of working with the virus."

Standing at their door each day is a health worker or courier in gloves carrying a vaccine box. Inside are zip-close baggies, each with a vial of blood drawn from someone being treated at the Ebola clinic next door or three other centers in the country.

In some cases, the boxes contain swabs taken from the mouths of people who have died. The sailors try to confirm whether Ebola killed them.

The samples are put in a centrifuge to isolate material containing the genetic code.

That material is then fed into two

boxy computer analyzers — each taped with a nickname, "Rambo" and "Chuck Norris" — and the sailors wait for an answer.

It takes an hour. The machines read fluorescence emanating off treated samples. Results display as fever lines playing across a small screen. If a green line remains flat, the sample is negative for Ebola RNA. If it soars, the virus is present.

The sooner it soars, the heavier the viral load — and more lethal for the infected person.

The samples tell a story. The sailors can see when an entire family has been brought to a clinic and as the samples work their way through the lab, anxiety rises over whether a mother and father, and then young children, will all turn out to be infected.

"You're just praying that, hopefully, the 4-year-old is negative," Garcia said. "It's quite emotional."

At times, where a sample is rife with the virus, the Americans reach the painful conclusion that this person will not be heard about again — conceivably yet another death from Ebola.

At other times they receive uplifting news — samples arrive bearing a familiar name, someone whose blood has been tested before and who is clearly in recovery. The sailors can track the patient's progress as the virus diminishes over time and the person is on the

way to going home.

A high wall separates the laboratory from the Island Ebola Clinic next door. The gate to that clinic is just on other side of the wall from the laboratory. High on the wall is a guard outpost reached by a set of stairs from the laboratory side.

The release of cured patients has become a kind of ritual at the clinic. Those found free of Ebola wait to hear their names called and walk out.

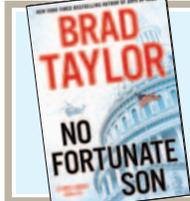
The sailors who handled their blood can't resist climbing the stairs to watch.

"Everyone who is going to be released is lined up," said Navy Lt. Christina Farris, 31, a microbiologist. "They ... give them new clothes and a start-up kit and a certificate saying they are Ebola free."

Farris, who did her post-doctoral residency at Texas A&M Health Science Center, devoted her life to the study of microbiology and curing disease in the laboratory. Seeing real people emerge after beating back a terrible illness, the progress which she helped track in the Navy lab, was an altogether different experience, Farris said.

When the cured patients walk past, Farris said, she can't help cheering them on.

"We hear their names and it's exciting to see them. They're so happy to be getting out. They're praising God," she said. "It's wonderful!"



Veteran operator Pike Logan and partner Jennifer Cahill learn that their latest actions have gotten them fired, despite having saved thousands of innocent lives. But their shock and fury are cut short when a terrorist organization starts targeting military relatives — and taking them hostage.

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MILITARY

New DOD secretary to face old tensions

By GREG JAFFE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama may have picked a new defense secretary, but an older and thornier problem remains: The commander in chief, who has publicly committed to ending America's two wars, must find ways to inspire the men and women he continues to send into battle.

Obama has had a difficult relationship with the military and his defense secretaries, who have often questioned his passion and commitment to the military's mission. Those misgivings could grow as troops, haunted by the muddled outcomes in Iraq and Afghanistan, increasingly ask whether the past 12 years of war were worth it.

"The military and veterans look to the president to give them a story that justifies their sacrifice," said Mike Breen, a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan and executive director of the left-leaning Truman National Security Project. "They're asking, 'What was the last decade of my life for? Fairly or unfairly, they are looking to the president for an answer.'"

Ashton Carter, the president's choice for defense secretary, may not have the answer to those questions. Although Carter has spent much of his professional life around the military and the Pentagon, he has a reputation as a savvy technocrat with deep familiarity of the Defense Department's weapons programs and budget process.

Focused on the day-to-day running of the military bureaucracy in Washington, he hasn't been a major architect of the administration's war strategies in Iraq and Afghanistan. Unlike many of his predecessors, he has never served in uniform or led troops in combat.

A perilous time

Now he's taking over at a particularly perilous time for the military, which is dealing with steep budget cuts, an uncertain outcome in Afghanistan, and a mission in Iraq and Syria that Pentagon officials have said could stretch for years. All are likely to deepen pre-existing tensions.

The White House sought Tuesday to play down reports of recent acrimony.

"There's always some natural tension between the Pentagon and the White House," said Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary.

The president can also point to some significant achievements on behalf of troops, including pay increases and broad expansion of benefits available to veterans. In the battle against al-Qaida and other terrorist groups, Obama has used drone strikes more aggressively than President George W. Bush in places such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia.

"This ministerial job is stacking terrorists like cordwood," said



Joe Gronowski/Stars and Stripes

Then-Deputy Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter talks at the National Press Club in Washington on May 7, 2013. Carter has been picked to become the new defense secretary.

Phillip Carter, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security.

Such appeals, however, don't necessarily resonate for soldiers and senior officers who have taken part in multiple tours of Iraq and Afghanistan and feel a deep emotional connection to the conflicts.

"Some in the military are very uneasy at the prospect that both of these wars could be on the cusp of being lost causes," said retired Lt. Gen. David Barno, who commanded U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

Unlike their Vietnam counterparts, who were a product of the draft era, today's professional soldiers and officers have taken part in multiple tours of Iraq and Afghanistan. For much of the decade they have lived with their families in what one professor at the U.S. Military Academy has described as a "no man's land," somewhere between war and peace. They've come home to bases with stone memorials bearing the names of their fallen friends. They've kept in touch with war widows and their children.

'We fought, we bled'

"In a sense, they are saying, 'We fought and we bled, and we are not willing to give this up,'" Barno said. "It is a much stronger sentiment in this force than anything I saw coming into the Army after Vietnam."

Chuck Hagel, who was recently asked to resign as defense secretary, was supposed to be the kind of leader who could smooth that transition from war to peace. A decorated Vietnam veteran, Hagel understood the trauma of fighting a losing war as well as

the vocabulary of leading and inspiring troops in combat.

As a former Republican senator from Nebraska, he also had close relationships on Capitol Hill. But Hagel had trouble penetrating Obama's inner circle and was criticized by senior administration officials as being an inarticulate spokesman for the president's policies.

Effective advocate?

In Carter, Obama has chosen someone who will be much more familiar with the inner workings of the Pentagon and someone who should be able to make Washington's largest bureaucracy run more efficiently. Although he hasn't served in the military, Carter has developed close relationships with many of the military's top brass over the course of decades.

He is also likely to be seen as a more effective advocate for the military inside the White House than Hagel, who some senior defense officials have criticized as unprepared and, at times, lacking as deep a knowledge of the issues facing the military as his predecessors.

Carter's selection, though, won't address the perception among some senior military officers that the president often lacks passion for their mission.

In Afghanistan, Obama has placed a high priority on cutting U.S. troop numbers during his final two years in office. The timelines, largely imposed by the White House, are intended to cap his generals' ambitions and make good on his repeated promises to end the longest stretch of conflict in U.S. history.

White House officials say the limits reflect the president's

concern for the troops and their families. "One of the most difficult decisions the president has to make is the decision to send our troops into harm's way," said a White House official who requested anonymity to describe the president's thinking on policy. "No one takes that responsibility more seriously than President Obama. . . . The sacrifices that thousands of military service members and their families have made during the past 13 years serve as a constant reminder to the president that war takes a disproportionate toll on a courageous few."

To many in the military, though, the long battles over exactly how many troops will remain in Afghanistan can smack

of micromanagement. The repeated references to "exit paths" and "responsibly ending wars" can seem like evidence of a lack of presidential resolve.

"When did it become normal to announce years in advance the precise number of troops you are going to have in a conflict and think that gives you an advantage?" asked one Army general who has served multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and spoke on the condition of anonymity to candidly discuss policy.

In Iraq and Syria, where U.S. attack helicopters are striking Islamic State insurgents and where soldiers are advising Iraqi forces, the president has mandated that American troops should not take part in combat.

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MILITARY

DOD procurement scrutinized

Lawmakers, industry officials eye reforms to improve oversight of defense spending

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One of the first casualties was the Crusader artillery program, which was canceled after the Pentagon spent more than \$2 billion on it. Then there was the Comanche helicopter debacle, which got the ax after \$8 billion. More than twice that amount had been sunk into the Army's Future Combat System, but that program got killed, too.

In all, between 2001 and 2011 the Defense Department spent \$46 billion on at least a dozen programs — including a new version of the president's helicopter — that never became operational, according to an analysis by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

But for evidence of a procurement system that's broken, critics say look no further than the major programs that are moving forward. They've grown half a trillion dollars over their initial price tags and have schedule delays of more than two years, according to the Government Accountability Office.

There are, however, new efforts underway to improve the Pentagon's purchasing methods. Those efforts could get a boost from Rep. Mac Thornberry and Sen. John McCain taking the helms of the House and Senate Armed Services committees. Industry officials say they believe that Congress will increasingly not only provide vigorous oversight of troubled programs but also enact meaningful reform.

Thornberry, R-Texas, has been working on a legislative package for about a year, an effort that coincides with initiatives coming out of the Pentagon to help spur innovation and streamline the acquisitions process. McCain, R-

‘If they could have a nuclear-powered tank that could fly itself to the battlefield, [the Pentagon would] want one. They'd have a 38-page requirement to buy a chocolate-chip cookie.’

Arnold Punaro
National Defense Industrial Association board chairman

Ariz., is Congress' leading critic of wasteful defense spending and is expected to make it one of his top priorities as chairman. Along with Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., he recently issued a compendium of 31 essays from defense and procurement experts on how the Pentagon could better do business.

And now the National Defense Industrial Association is offering in a report titled "Pathway to Transformation."

Again and again, that pathway has thudded into dead ends, as weapons programs continued to come in late, over budget or not at all. Pervasive doubt remains that this time will be different.

"The number one reaction one gets in making the Pentagon work better is 'Oh, right, we've heard that before. Good luck,'" Thornberry said recently at the Reagan National Defense Forum. "There's an enormous amount of skepticism that anything will really get better. I think it can. It must."

Key members of Congress, the Pentagon and industry all seem to be aligned, at least for the moment. And the dense and tedious

topic of acquisition reform has become a hot issue in Washington, especially as many believe defense spending will continue to be tightened.

In its report introduction, the NDIA wrote that it "believes that the conditions that have strongly resisted transformation of the acquisition process may be more susceptible to change today than at any time in the recent past."

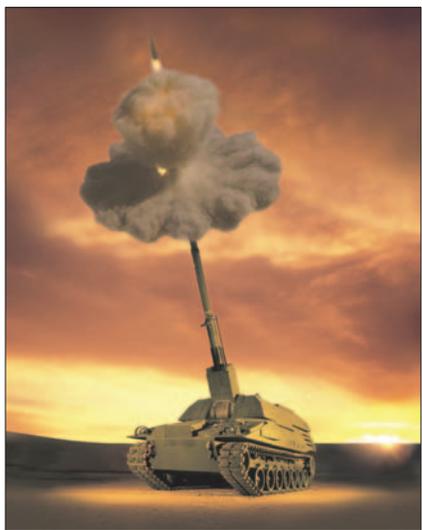
Those efforts would also get a boost, many think, if Ashton Carter is confirmed to replace Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. As a former senior Pentagon official, he helped devise a program called "Better Buying Power," which is designed to help the Pentagon get more for its money.

If Carter becomes defense secretary, "I am certain he would be very engaged, informed and supportive of both the internal Pentagon, congressional and industry pushes for improvements," said Arnold Punaro, a retired Marine Corps major general who serves as chairman of the NDIA's board.

The association has offered a series of concrete legislative proposals — with draft language — that would provide more authority to contracting and acquisitions officials and hold them accountable when programs go wrong.

Punaro said that even as defense programs fall into trouble, he said, "you won't find anybody who was either fired or got a letter of reprimand or didn't get promoted ... No one is held accountable."

Military leaders tack on all sorts of new requirements to programs that blow budgets and schedules, he said. "If they could have a nuclear-powered tank that could fly itself to the battlefield, they'd want one," he said. "They'd have a 38-page requirement to buy a choco-



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The Crusader artillery system is shown in an artist's rendering. The program was canceled after costing more than \$2 billion.

late-chip cookie."

The NDIA also proposes to more intimately involve the secretaries of the various service branches in the acquisitions process and better connect the people who create the requirements for programs with the people in charge of buying them.

Government officials also acknowledge they could be part of the problem. The massive bureaucracy and red tape has scared off

large technology companies and have made it difficult for smaller firms that are driving innovation to break into the federal marketplace, they say.

The private sector — and not the Pentagon — largely drives innovation, Thornberry said during the Reagan forum, adding that "if we make it too hard, Google just says, 'It's just not worth messing with you people.'"



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NATION



J. SCOTT APPELWITZ/AP

House Speaker John Boehner, flanked by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Rep. Ander Crenshaw, meets with reporters on Capitol Hill on Tuesday following a House Republican caucus meeting.

Boehner acts to push off immigration fight to 2015

Tribune Washington Bureau
 WASHINGTON — Hoping to prevent a government shutdown by opponents of President Barack Obama's immigration plan, House Speaker John A. Boehner floated a proposal Tuesday that would fund most of the government — but not the immigration agencies — through the end of the 2015 fiscal year.

The Republican leader insisted the plan remained a work in progress as leaders tried to round up support. It would fund the immigration agencies only until early next year, when Republicans believe they would have greater leverage to fight the president once their new GOP majority is seated in Congress.

To sweeten the deal for GOP hardliners, a separate measure condemning Obama's go-it-alone executive action on immigration would be voted on in the House as soon as this week. That bill would be largely symbolic since the Democratic-controlled Senate is likely to ignore it.

In many ways, Boehner's move was the opening salvo in what is expected to be a long-running legislative fight to undo the pres-

ident's immigration executive action, which would protect as many as 5 million immigrants — mostly parents of U.S. citizens.

A government shutdown or prolonged budget battle over immigration is something Republican leaders want to avoid after the party takes control of Congress in January. They would prefer to focus on the GOP's broader agenda to scale back parts of the Affordable Care Act, cut taxes and bolster trade policy.

On immigration, Boehner and other GOP leaders say they will instead fight the president in the courts or attempt to rally public opinion against the plan, as was seen in Tuesday's grilling of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson at a House Homeland Security Committee hearing.

But some GOP conservatives are demanding a stronger response. A few want to use the upcoming Dec. 11 deadline to pass a new government appropriations bill as leverage, which could provoke a shutdown. GOP leaders say another government shutdown should be off the table, fearing Republicans would be blamed by voters for such a move.

Whether the Ohio Republican

can hold his troops to keep the government running remains to be seen. After emerging from a closed-door meeting with lawmakers Tuesday, he sounded a cautionary note.

"Frankly, we have limited options," Boehner said.

Democrats in Congress could provide Republican leaders with the help they need for passage.

On Tuesday they softened their opposition to Boehner's plan, which has been nicknamed the "cronimbus" — a hybrid of the short-term continuing resolution, or CR, that would be used to fund immigration accounts until early next year, and the broader "omnibus" spending package to fund the rest of the government through Sept. 30.

If enough Democrats agree to vote for the plan, Boehner could win passage even if he loses several dozen Republicans demanding a tougher approach. A similar calculus was at play in the Senate.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., the Democratic whip, signaled an opening to the GOP on Tuesday, saying he was not prepared to make a "hard no or a hard yes on that at this point."

GOP leaders clash over foreign policy

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The most ambitious Republican leaders have begun to clash with each other over the U.S. role in global affairs with the eye toward the 2016 race for president.

Several high-profile Republicans offered differing visions this week for U.S. leadership abroad, pitting the party's national security hawks against isolationist conservatives whose influence is growing in Republican politics.

The race for the Republican nomination is wide open, while Hillary Clinton looks like an early front runner for the Democratic nomination.

Largely an afterthought in the last presidential contest, foreign policy has become a place where prospective 2016 contenders can jockey for position before officially declaring plans to seek the White House.

"I will admit to being different from Republicans and other Democrats," Republican Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul told a gathering of business executives in Washington on Tuesday when he advocated for a smaller American presence in the world and described Iraq as "a huge mess."

"To those Republicans who love a Republican intervention, Iraq's worse off now," he said. "Do you think we're better or worse off with Hussein gone?"

Addressing the same crowd the night before, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush ordered the invasion that toppled Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in 2003, cited "a growing awareness that we can't withdraw from the world."

House moves to extend tax break package

WASHINGTON — The House is moving to extend a \$45 billion package of expired tax breaks through the end of the year, which would enable millions of businesses and individuals to claim them on their 2014 returns.

Beyond Dec. 31, their fate would be uncertain.

The House is expected to pass the package of more than 50 tax breaks Wednesday and send it to the Senate. Senate Democratic leaders were noncommittal about whether they would accept the bill or try to change it.

Time is short because the House plans to adjourn for the

year next week, and the Senate could as well.

"Let's see what they send us and we'll make a decision then," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

The \$45 billion would be added to the budget deficit.

The tax breaks benefit big corporations and small businesses, as well as commuters, teachers and people who live in states without a state income tax. In all, they affect about 1 in 6 taxpayers, according to The Tax Institute, the independent research arm at tax giant H&R Block.

Congress routinely extends the package of tax breaks every year or two but they were allowed to expire in January.

From The Associated Press

John McCain, a former presidential candidate who is not likely to run again, will be among the featured speakers at a foreign policy forum Wednesday titled, "A World in Crisis: The Need for American Leadership." He will be joined by at least two prospective presidential candidates, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, a freshman senator who, like Paul, is trying to tap into frustrations voters may have about America's lingering conflict in Iraq.

A CNN/ORC poll in September found that nearly 6 in 10 Americans think the United States should not play a leading role among other countries in trying to solve the world's problems.

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NATION



GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT/AP

Bridge to nowhere

A bridge worker looks over a car driven onto the pedestrian walkway of the Golden Gate Bridge on Tuesday in San Francisco. Authorities say a motorist drove his car into the walkway at 5:30 a.m. and was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. The driver suffered minor injuries. No one was on the bridge walkway at the time of the crash.

Air shipments of lithium-ion batteries could be fire risk

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dramatic government test results raise new concern that bulk shipments of rechargeable lithium batteries carried as cargo on passenger planes are susceptible to fires or explosions that could destroy the airliners.

U.S. and international officials have been slow to adopt safety restrictions that might affect the powerful industries that depend on the batteries and the airlines that profit from shipping them. The batteries are used in products ranging from cellphones and laptops to hybrid cars.

Shipments of rechargeable batteries on passenger planes are supposed to be limited to no more than a handful in a single box, under safety standards set by the U.N.'s International Civil Aviation Organization and adopted by the U.S. and other nations. But a loophole permits shippers to pack many small boxes into one shipment. Tens of thousands of the batteries may be packed into pallets or containers and loaded into

the cargo holds of wide-body passenger planes.

In an April test by the Federal Aviation Administration, a cargo container was packed with 5,000 lithium-ion batteries and a cartridge heater added to simulate a single battery experiencing uncontrolled overheating. The heat from the cartridge triggered escalating overheating in nearby batteries, which spread in a chain reaction. Temperatures reached about 1,100 degrees.

Once about 300 batteries had become involved, a fierce explosion blew open the container door and sent boxes flying, catching FAA and industry observers by surprise. Within seconds, the cargo container was in flames. The explosion came from a buildup of flammable gases. A second test in September produced similar results, despite the addition of a fire suppression agent.

Safety authorities have long known that lithium-ion batteries can fuel violent fires if they are defective, damaged, overcharged, incorrectly packaged or exposed

to extreme heat. But they have been allowed to be shipped on passenger planes because it was thought the halon gas fire suppression systems in the cargo compartments of airliners could extinguish any fire.

The container tests have raised a new worry: that an explosion could increase pressure in the cargo hold, activating depressurization valves that would let halon gas and smoke vent into the passenger cabin and cockpit. That would dilute fire suppression in the hold and let a fire rage unchecked.

The cargo problem is distinct from the one that caused a fire two years ago in a lithium-ion battery installed as part of the operating system of a Boeing 787.

The U.N.'s civil aviation agency is considering a series of proposals to strengthen packaging, labeling and handling standards for lithium-ion battery shipments. No consensus emerged at an October meeting in Brazil, and any changes aren't expected to take effect until 2017.

2 school buses crash in Tenn., killing 2 children and an adult aide

The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Two buses bringing children home from school collided on a Tennessee highway Tuesday afternoon, killing two students and an adult and injuring another 27 people.

Police said a preliminary investigation indicated one bus made a sharp left turn, crossed

over a concrete median and hit the second bus, which was traveling in the opposite direction. The second bus flipped onto its side and slid.

The children killed were in third grade or below, said Knoxville Police Chief David Rausch. The adult who died was an aide.

Three seriously injured people were taken to the University of

Tennessee Medical Center and were in stable condition, Rausch said. Medical Center spokesman Jim Ragonese said a total of seven people were treated there, and three of them had been discharged by Tuesday evening.

East Tennessee Children's Hospital spokeswoman Erica Estep said another 20 children were being treated there for injuries

Brown's stepdad investigated for angry comments

By JIM SALTER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Police are investigating Michael Brown's stepfather for angry comments on the streets of Ferguson after a grand jury decided not to indict the police officer who fatally shot his unarmed stepson, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Officials are looking into Louis Head's comments as part of a broader investigation into the arson, vandalism and looting that followed the Nov. 24 grand jury announcement. St. Louis County Police spokesman Brian Schellman said. Twelve commercial buildings were destroyed by fire.

Brown, 18, who was black, was killed Aug. 9 by Ferguson police Officer Darren Wilson, who is white. Wilson, who resigned from the Ferguson department over the weekend, had told the grand jury his life was being threatened, but some witnesses said Brown was trying to surrender.

Brown's killing sparked weeks of unrest and reignited debate over race relations.

"Video widely circulated after last week's grand jury announcement shows Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, on top of a car and breaking down as the decision blares over a stereo. Head, her husband, comforts her, then yells angry comments, including "But this bitch down."

Family attorney Benjamin Crump has called the reaction "raw emotion," but "completely inappropriate." He did not immediately return messages seeking comment Tuesday.

Head has not yet been interviewed by police, and there is no timetable for when the investigation will be complete, Schellman said. He declined to discuss what specific charges Head could face. A message left with a spokesman for St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch was not immediately returned.

CDC says circumcision benefits outweigh risks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials on Tuesday released a draft of long-awaited federal guidelines on circumcision, saying medical evidence supports the procedure and health insurers should pay for it.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines stop short of telling parents to have their newborn sons circumcised. That is a personal decision that may involve religious or cultural preferences, said CDC Dr. Jonathan Mermin.

But "the scientific evidence is clear that the benefits outweigh the risks," said Mermin, who oversees the agency's programs on HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

These are the first federal guidelines on circumcision, a procedure that involves cutting away the foreskin around the tip of the penis. Germs can grow underneath the foreskin, and CDC officials say the procedure can lower a male's risk of sexually transmitted diseases, penile cancer and urinary tract infections.

The guidelines are likely to draw intense opposition from anti-circumcision advocacy groups, said Dr. Douglas Diekema, a Seattle physician who worked on a circumcision policy statement issued by the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2012.

Indeed, the head of one group did argue against the CDC's conclusions on Tuesday, saying they minimize potential complications from the procedure.

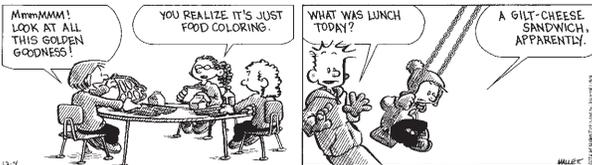
that were not life-threatening.

Rausch said 18 of the 20 had been on a bus going home from Sunnyside Primary School, which serves kindergarten through second grade. He described their injuries as "bumps and scrapes." The other bus involved in the crash was from Chilhowee Intermediate School, which serves third through fifth

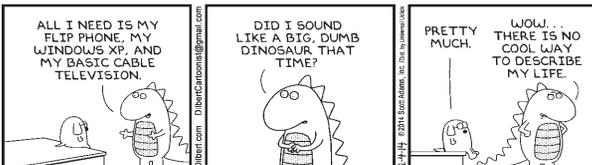
grade. Rausch said some children from that bus were taken by their families to the children's hospital.

Knox County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim McIntyre fought back tears at a news conference. "This is an unacceptable tragedy," he said. "This is what we work every day to try to prevent."

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Voting alliance
 - 5 Spill the beans
 - 9 Japanese sash
 - 12 Former attorney general
 - 13 Boo-Boo's mentor
 - 14 Affirmative action?
 - 15 Touring
 - 17 Attempt
 - 18 Moe, Larry or Curly
 - 19 Lucy's pal
 - 21 "Why should I care?"
 - 22 Holmes or Couric
 - 24 Highlander
 - 27 Apiece
 - 28 Gymnastics equipment
 - 31 Charged bit
 - 32 Dine
 - 33 Playwright Levin
 - 34 Closet invader
 - 36 Whatever number
 - 37 Heart of the matter
 - 38 17-syllable verse
 - 40 Syllable from Santa
 - 41 Go on a shopping spree
 - 43 Canine tooth
 - 47 Antiquated
 - 48 Healing
 - 51 "Cock-a-doodle—!"
 - 52 Stead
 - 53 Ocean predator
 - 54 Suitale
- DOWN**
- 1 Family biz abbr.
 - 2 Fast time
 - 3 Aware of
 - 4 Kathie Lee, to Hoda
 - 5 British cowbar
 - 6 Privy
 - 7 Fancy title
 - 8 Khan bathroom fixture
 - 9 Broadcasting
 - 10 Prove tedious
 - 11 Pastoral poem
 - 16 Id counterpart
 - 20 Burton or Robbins
 - 22 Sandra's "Speed" co-star
 - 23 Bohemian
 - 24 Video-game family name
 - 25 Bill's partner
 - 26 Promptly
 - 27 Pinnacle
 - 29 Play about Capote
 - 30 Lisa Simpson's instrument
 - 35 — Solo
 - 37 Sagan subject
 - 39 Pedestal occupants
 - 40 Color
 - 41 Carbonated quaff
 - 42 Take to a beanbag chair
 - 43 Pal
 - 44 Saucy
 - 45 Erstwhile Peruvian
 - 46 June 6, 1944
 - 49 Pinch
 - 50 Afternoon get-together

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

12-4

CRYPTOQUIP

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F S J E S M G F U G D T V X M E F S J D C

P D C G D K Z V M T T J T.

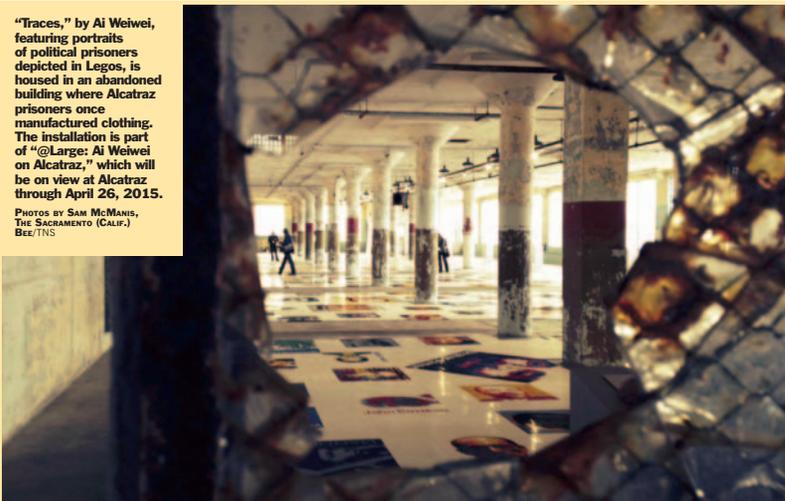
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF POULTRY SERVED IN LOUISVILLE IS ACTUALLY A SOY PRODUCT, IS THAT KENTUCKY FRAUD CHICKEN?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals O

NATION

“Traces,” by Ai Weiwei, featuring portraits of political prisoners depicted in Legos, is housed in an abandoned building where Alcatraz prisoners once manufactured clothing. The installation is part of @Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz,” which will be on view at Alcatraz through April 26, 2015.

PHOTOS BY SAM McMANIS, THE SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE/TNS



Art and agitprop at Alcatraz

Works by Chinese dissent artist Ai Weiwei on display at former prison

By SAM McMANIS

The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

AS IF the constricting feeling of isolation doesn't hit you in the viscera the moment you set foot on The Rock, as if those cackling gulls don't mock your confinement by swooping in and then taking flight on a whim, a perky, miked-up National Park Service docent hammers home the point mere steps away from the ferry gangway.

“The torture of being a prisoner of Alcatraz had to be, you know, seeing boats go by so close you could almost touch them,” the docent announced. “Seeing land so close, the beautiful sight of San Francisco had to be torture for prisoners. It was torturous being so close to world-class city.”

OK, we get it.

Alcatraz, perhaps the nation's most notorious abandoned federal penitentiary, was a lonely, forbidding and, yes, psychologically torturous place back in the day. Upward of 5,000 people a day come to gawk and snap selfies in front of cell blocks, admire the San Francisco skyline and, if prone to introspection, wonder what life might have

been like here for some of our most violent criminals.

Now, though, there is another reason to fight the tourist hordes and make the seemingly obligatory trip across the bay. A new seven-part, mixed-media installation, “@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz,” by the celebrated Chinese dissent artist Ai Weiwei, who's no stranger to confinement and torture himself, opened on Alcatraz in September, an art-as-agitprop creation sure to raise as many eyebrows and consciousnesses as fiscal revenue.

Choosing Alcatraz as his canvas is both fitting and, some critics sneer, too blatantly obvious. At times, it seems Ai is pummeling visitors with a metaphorical cudgel, with installations such as a Chinese dragon kite tethered indoors and a 5-ton metal sculpture of a wing that can be viewed only from a guard's gun gallery. Certainly, there is scant subtlety in Ai's overarching themes of exile and imprisonment, of isolation and alienation, how people worldwide are imprisoned or exiled for their thoughts and beliefs, for standing up for democratic ideals.

But need there be?

This is art for the masses, the most overtly political use of The Rock since 1969, when Indian activists led a two-year occupation. Nuance and esoteric profundity might appeal to art critics, but Ai here is going for a wider audience — ironically, an audience Ai will never meet, since he is under house detention by the Chinese government

for various offenses, including tax evasion. But, unlike many of his other works, Ai is bent on educating and illuminating rather than striving for the sublime. Which is why, in the exhibition's seminal piece, “Trace,” he uses the simplest of materials, the children's toy, Legos, to lay out 175 portraits of people imprisoned or exiled because of beliefs, actions or affiliations.

Spread over the vast expanse of the long-abandoned New Industries Building, where Alcatraz prisoners once labored making everything from shoes to brushes for the U.S. government, “Trace” presents panel after panel of poster-sized head shots of detained activists painstakingly constructed of 1.2 million Legos. Among those depicted are well-known activists, including Burmese political figure Aung San Suu Kyi; Tibetan singer and solo, arrested by Chinese authorities for recording an album calling for Tibet's independence; and American whistleblower Edward Snowden, who leaked classified NSA spying and data-mining information and then fled to Russia.

All of the “@Large” pieces, which also includes a sound installation in 12 cell blocks

'@Large: Ai Weiwei on Alcatraz'

The exhibition runs daily through April 26, 2015. While “@Large” is free, you must purchase a \$30 ferry ticket to the island from Pier 33 in San Francisco. To reserve a spot on the tour and ferry, go to alcatrazcruises.com or call (415) 981-7625.

featuring recordings of, among others, the Russian punk band Pussy Riot and Sudanese imprisoned poet-activist Mahjoub Sharif, were Ai's conception, said Cheryl Haines, executive director of For-Site arts foundation and the show's curator. But Ai, of course, was unable to actually visit Alcatraz because the Chinese government has confiscated his visa.

So Ai, 57, had to rely on For-Site to erect and align the pieces, which were dreamed up by Ai in his home studio and, in some cases, manufactured by Ai's staff in Beijing and shipped to San Francisco. On many of her trips to China to meet with Ai over the past two years, Haines said she assured the artist that his vision would be realized, by proxy. It was Haines' idea to use Alcatraz as a canvas, but she said Ai was immediately seized upon the possibilities.

“There's an interesting parallel in this exhibition about how a prison populace is controlled and not allowed to communicate with their community,” Haines said. “A lot of the imagery Weiwei uses here is about flight, how that represents freedom or lack of same. In ‘Refraction’ (that massive wing fashioned from reflective panels of Tibetan solar cookers), it addresses the sense of constriction in a wing that has been stilled, trapped inside a building. One of the things I like about that location is that as you view the artwork from the (guard) gun gallery, and you have a really palpable sense of what it must have been like to be detained here and constantly observed.”

Given the exhibition's controversial subject matter — for instance, is Snowden a figure of freedom, or a traitor? — National Park officials are quick to point out that no federal or public funds were used to subsidize the work. But the National Park Service and nonprofit Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy did eagerly team up with For-Site and private donors to sponsor “@Large.”

Howard Levitt, director of communications and partnerships for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, pointed to other provocative pieces at National Park displays, such as the Manzanar National Historic Site, which details the detainment of Japanese Americans during World War II as examples of his agency's commitment to presenting controversial issues.

“Alcatraz is one of those places,” Levitt said. “At its base, one of its major themes is incarceration. A lot of the pieces Ai Weiwei created are about incarceration, directly or metaphorically. We hope these pieces help access their own personal beliefs on them. Parks are places where we encourage people to form their own opinion, reach their own conclusions and find the meaning for themselves.”



Former NSA contractor Edward Snowden is depicted in Legos in Ai Weiwei's new exhibition.



“With Wind,” a traditional Chinese dragon kite, is one of Ai Weiwei's installations at Alcatraz.

WORLD

US teacher fatally stabbed in Abu Dhabi

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An American school teacher was stabbed to death in a public restroom at a mall by a suspect wearing the traditional black robe, full-face veil and gloves commonly worn by women working in the Gulf region, local police said Tuesday.

A statement posted on the Abu Dhabi Interior Ministry's website

said the victim was stabbed Monday with a sharp tool that has been confiscated by police. The statement said the American woman was 37 years old. Her name has not been made public.

The victim had 11-year-old twins who are now in the custody of police until their father, who is the victim's ex-husband, arrives from abroad.

Col. Rashid Borshid, head of the Criminal Investigation Department,

said the attacker remains at large. He said police are investigating possible motives and the gender of the attacker.

He said a fight broke out between the victim and the attacker in the women's restroom just before the stabbing, which took place on the upscale Reem Island in Abu Dhabi.

"The Abu Dhabi Police will spare no effort in order to unveil this heinous crime and bring the

culprit to justice," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

The U.S. Embassy in the United Arab Emirates said they are aware of the incident that took place Monday and are in contact with Emirati authorities. The embassy said it stands ready to offer all possible consular services.

The UAE prides itself on being a safe haven in the turbulent Middle East.

McCain comments on leader upset Hungary

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Hungary's foreign ministry says it has summoned the top American diplomat in Budapest after Sen. John McCain called Prime Minister Viktor Orban a "neo-fascist dictator."

McCain's comments on Tuesday were made while unsuccessfully trying to persuade the Senate to reject President Barack Obama's nominee to be the next U.S. ambassador to Hungary. McCain said soap opera producer Colleen Bell was "totally unqualified" for the task.

McCain, who met Orban in February, said Hungary was "on the verge of ceding its sovereignty to a neo-fascist dictator getting in bed with Vladimir Putin."

Ukraine says nuclear plant fault cuts power

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's energy minister said Wednesday that a technical fault at a nuclear power plant in the south of the country has cut power production but he insisted the incident poses no danger.

Volodymyr Demchishin said that the fault at a power-generating unit No. 3 in the Zaporozhnia plant led to a drop in electricity production, and that normal output will be restored by the weekend.

The plant's operator revealed earlier this week that a problem had occurred with a power-generating unit, but concern was provoked Wednesday after Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk referred to an unspecified incident during a Cabinet meeting.

State nuclear power station operator Energoatom said damage to a transformer in a power-generating unit on Friday provoked an automatic shutdown in the system. The reactor in the unit has been put into cold shutdown, making chain reactions impossible, Energoatom said.

Israeli lawmakers OK dissolving parliament

JERUSALEM — Israeli lawmakers overwhelmingly approved a motion on Wednesday to dissolve the Knesset in a preliminary vote, paving the way for early elections after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to iron out differences with coalition partners.

Israel's government, which took office in early 2013, has been riven by divisions from the beginning over major issues facing the country. On Tuesday, Netanyahu fired two rebellious Cabinet ministers and called for elections, plunging the country into a bitter campaign set to culminate in polls early next year.

Wednesday's vote in the 120-member Knesset, which passed 84-0 with one legislator abstaining, was an initial step. Further votes are expected next week that will officially disband the parliament and usher in new polls.

If the upcoming parliamentary votes pass as expected, the government will have served for one of the shortest periods in the country's history.

From The Associated Press

Australia acts to curb travelers' requests

The Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — No, you can't get a loan to pay for a prostitute in Thailand. And requesting assistance to evict a polecat above a ceiling in the U.S. is going to be futile.

Australia is taking steps to curb such absurd requests that its traveling citizens have lodged with Australian embassies and consulates around the world.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop announced the new measures Wednesday to underscore consular services as a last resort and to promote "a stronger culture of self-reliance and personal responsibility in the traveling public."

These measures include a new policy of providing minimal consular services to Australians who willfully, repeatedly or negligently get themselves into trouble. Changing for the consular help is also something the government is considering, she said.

"Our consular staff are not there to pay for the repairs to your jet ski; they're not there to pay your hotel bill; they're not there to lend you a laptop or to provide you with office space; they're not there to do your work," Bishop said, listing actual requests that Australian embassies have refused.

At the embassy in Bangkok — Australia's busiest — an Australian walked in with a prostitute and was refused a speeding fine for services already provided, said Anita Downey, a senior counselor or official at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Such requests are common at that embassy, she said.

Other officials said that frequently get outlandish requests include Los Angeles, Bali, Manila and Dubai, she said.

Diplomats have fielded requests for an armored car, help removing a polecat above the ceiling of a house and intervention to prevent payment of a speeding fine, senior foreign ministry official Justin Brown said.

Other examples: Australians who were evacuated from civil unrest in Egypt in a government-chartered Qantas airliner in an expected frequent flier miles for trip.



STEPH BELLAMY/AP

Shark 'photobombs' surfing competition

A shark jumps out of the water near where several surfers are paddling on their boards at Coffs Harbour, Australia, on Nov. 30. Steph Bellamy, who took the photo with her cellphone, said, "He jumped twice, he photobombed big time, then he went on his way." The mothers, like Bellamy, had children in the Coffs Harbour Boardriders club and were taking part in a special mothers' heat toward the end of day of a local surfing competition when the shark appeared. Colin Sempfordner, a James Cook University shark expert, confirmed that the image was of a shark. He said it was possibly a spinner shark, which is common in the region and is known to jump from the water. He estimated it was around 7 feet long.

Al-Qaida bombs home of Iran's Yemen envoy

The Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen — A car bomb exploded Wednesday near the home of Iran's ambassador to Yemen, killing two people amid a Shiite power grab in the impoverished Arab country believed to be supported by the Islamic Republic.

Iran's ambassador to Yemen, Hossein Niknam, was not at home when the bomb exploded at the residence in the capital, Sanaa, killing a security guard and his son, security officials said. The blast heavily damaged several nearby buildings and punched a hole into the residence. An Iranian flag later lay on the debris.

The Yemeni officials spoke on

condition of anonymity because they were not authorized by brief journalists.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian told the semi-official Tasnim news agency that the ambassador was unharmed.

"The Sanaa explosion didn't harm any Iranian diplomats. Only material damage was inflicted," Tasnim quoted Abdollahian as saying.

Niknam is new to the post and only presented his credentials to the Yemeni Foreign Ministry within the last week, according to Iranian state media.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, Yemen's local branch of the

terror group, later issued a statement on Twitter claiming the attack on the ambassador's house, located next to the headquarters of Yemen's main intelligence agency. The group has carried out similar attacks in Sanaa.

The car bombing comes after Shiite rebels known as Houthis captured the capital in September, routing fighters loyal to the Islamist Islah party and its tribal allies. Opponents of the Houthis view them as a proxy of Shiite Iran, something the rebels deny.

Local Al-Qaida militants have been battling Houthis in the central region where the Shiite group and its allies aim to expand their territory.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Most-wanted fugitive arrested for robbery

WA REDMOND — Police said a woman wanted in a Seattle store robbery was arrested in Redmond after someone recognized her from the Washington's Most Wanted Facebook page.

Police said they chased down Precious Shabazz, 18, last Saturday after she fled the store.

She's accused of kicking and punching an employee of a downtown Seattle store during a Nov. 5 robbery of \$2,600 worth of clothing. She was being held in the King County Jail with bail set at \$100,000.

Milk tanker slams into building, killing driver

PA CARLISLE — Police said a tanker truck carrying 50,000 pounds of milk careened off a Pennsylvania interstate and crashed into a pain management clinic, killing the driver.

Police said the tanker plowed through Carlisle Regional Imaging Services and Pain Management Clinic in South Middleton Township about 11 p.m. Monday. They identified the driver as David Shew, 61, of Chambersburg.

Police said the tanker stopped against an MRI machine whose powerful magnet sucked up firefighters' metal tools, complicating their response. Officials said they were also concerned about the building's stability.

The tanker was traveling north along Interstate 81. It left the roadway and overturned before hitting the building.

Man faces life sentence in cocaine, chase case

AR TEXARKANA — An Arkansas man who authorities said tossed crack cocaine out of his car window while fleeing a sobriety checkpoint has pleaded guilty.

The *Texarkana Gazette* reported that Brandon Waller, 20, entered the plea in Texarkana on Monday. Authorities said he made a U-turn when he saw the checkpoint in Hempstead County in September 2013.

They said he fled at speeds near 100 mph before tossing a bag with 289 grams of crack cocaine. Waller later told officers he planned to sell the drugs in Magnolia.

Waller faces up to life in federal prison when he is sentenced.

Man pleads not guilty to sex assault charges

VT ST. JOHNSBURY — A Vermont man pleaded not guilty to charges of sexually assaulting four women over a 12-year period.

Albert "Skip" Morrison, of Hardwick, was ordered held without bail after his appearance in Caledonia County Superior Court on Monday.

His lawyer argued that Morrison, 53, has been on parole for two years after being convicted of drunken driving and had been

THE CENSUS

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The number of years a 1946 copy of "Gone With the Wind" was gone from Rogers High School's library in Spokane, Wash., before being returned after a promise to waive the late fee. In October, Principal Lori Wyborne received a letter sent from Wayne Hachey in Carmel, Maine, who said he was cleaning out his father's New England cellar and found the library book. He didn't know how his father had gotten the book, and offered to ship it to the school if it waived the estimated \$470 late fee. The school agreed, and the book was returned. At right, school employees check records related to the returned book.



SCOTT G. WINTERSON, THE (SALT LAKE CITY) DESERT NEWS/AP

Record-setting re-creation?

More than 1,000 participants gather at Rock Canyon Park in Provo, Utah, in an attempt to set a world record for the largest re-creation of a live Nativity scene.

successfully supervised in the community by parole officers. He said he believed Morrison could be monitored.

The Caledonian Record reported that the alleged assaults date to 1996 and involve four women, including two girls under age 13.

People to pack hot-air balloon for good cause

MI FOWLERVILLE — Plans call for stuffing as many people as possible into a hot-air balloon this weekend in Michigan as part of an effort to collect food ahead of Christmas.

The annual "Christmas in the Ville" takes place Saturday in Fowlerville. As part of the event, the *Livingston County Daily Press* and *Argus* reported that organizers hope to get 1,500 people into the balloon portion.

Organizers are asking people going into the balloon to bring nonperishable food donations.

Event coordinator Steve MacDermid said head balloonist Ken Meyer fit nearly 1,200 people

into a balloon's envelope during another event, so Meyer had the idea to top that mark.

A highlight of "Christmas in the Ville" is a parade featuring more than 30 hot-air balloons.

Sea turtles caught in cold waters flown south

FL TAMPA — Nearly 200 sea turtles stunned by cold temperatures in the northern U.S. have been taken to Florida.

Thousands of Kemp's Ridley turtles migrate north during summer, then return south before cold weather strikes. But some didn't make it back in time and washed ashore or were found helpless at sea.

A Coast Guard aircraft took 193 of the amphibians from Cape Cod, Mass., to Orlando on Tuesday.

The Tampa Tribune reported that they've been divided among facilities around the state.

Cristy Barrett is a biologist at the Florida Aquarium in Tampa, where 10 of the turtles arrived.

She said the point of trying to save them "is to keep the species alive."

TSA seizes loaded gun from carry-on luggage

TN NASHVILLE — Federal transportation officials said they seized a loaded pistol from carry-on luggage at Nashville International Airport.

Transportation Security Administration spokesman Ross Feinstein said the loaded and chambered Taurus Millennium Pro 140 .40 S&W pistol turned up in the bag of a passenger headed for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport on Saturday.

Feinstein said the gun had nine rounds of .40 ammunition inside.

TSA officials called Nashville police, who arrested the passenger. The passenger's name was not immediately released.

Feinstein said the weapon is the 45th one discovered in carry-on luggage this year at the Nashville airport.

Driver slices motorist's face with a bayonet

NY WEST SENECA — A man has been charged with assault after state police say he sliced another motorist's face with a bayonet during a road rage encounter along a suburban Buffalo highway.

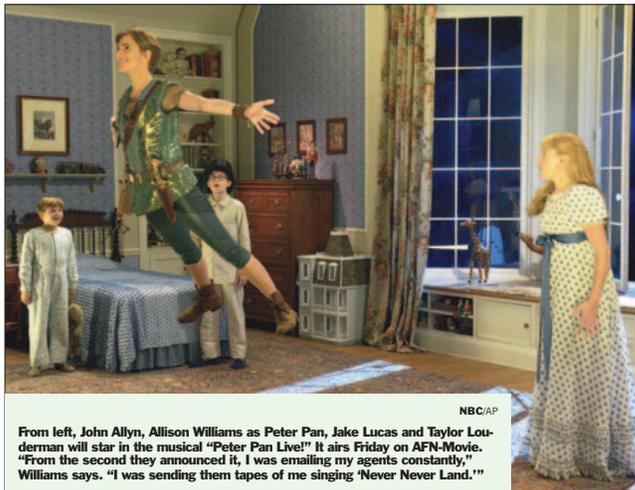
Troopers said Bryan Cirbus, 26, of West Valley, sideswiped another man's car Friday where Interstate 90 and Route 219 merge in West Seneca.

Police said both drivers pulled to the side of the highway, where Cirbus pulled out a bayonet. During the struggle, he allegedly cut the other man's face and hands and sliced his jacket while attempting to stab the man in the shoulder.

Cirbus was restrained by a woman riding with him, then left the scene before troopers arrived, according to police. He later turned himself in.

From wire reports

FACES



From left, John Allyn, Allison Williams as Peter Pan, Jake Lucas and Taylor Louderman will star in the musical "Peter Pan Live!" It airs Friday on AFN-Movie. "From the second they announced it, I was emailing my agents constantly," Williams says. "I was sending them tapes of me singing 'Never Never Land.'"

NBC/AP

'Peter Pan Live!' star Allison Williams is ready to soar

By FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

Losing your shadow: What is THAT about? asks Allison Williams. "As a kid you just accept it. But as an adult, I've spent a lot of time thinking about what it means."

Williams, at 26 best-known for the HBO series "Girls," feels her life since childhood has pointed toward this moment, when she (and her shadow) will headline "Peter Pan Live!"

As a toddler, she was already listening to the Broadway recording of "Peter Pan," and she viewed the 1960 NBC telecast starring Mary Martin countless times. She even played Peter Pan with her grandparents. "It was the only way they could get me into the bathtub," she recalls. "My grandmother would be Wendy, and she would take a toothpick and dental floss and pretend to sew my shadow on while I was splashing around. My father was Captain Hook. That was our game."

Soon after last November's triumphant live telecast of "The Sound of Music," NBC declared "Peter Pan" as this year's musical.

"From the second they announced it, I was emailing my agents constantly. I was sending them tapes of me singing 'Never Never Land.'"

Then she learned that Christopher Walken had been signed as the villainous pirate Captain Hook. "I thought, 'What a cool choice!' And my desperation level went through the roof. Then finally the call came this summer: 'Would you like to do 'Peter Pan'?'"

Here was a dream role that called for Williams to sing, dance, fight, master a British accent and, most challenging of all, fly.

"At first, to face a specific direction was hard. To land without looking down was hard. To maintain your body in a position where people don't see the harness was hard. Then you want to put your own personality into the flying style, to come up with tricks and positions that are original."

And working all this out, "you can't be up there too long at a time," she adds, "or you'll get sore. But it's soooo great. It's wickedly fun!"

It's as if she were born to be aloft in this role, and clearly she deems it a sacred trust, one about to come true, live, for an audience of millions.

"I will take very, very good care of Peter," she vows. "I promise. I promise."

New lawsuit brings Cosby abuse claims into court

The Associated Press

A lawsuit by a woman who claims Bill Cosby molested her when she was 15 years old has moved allegations of sexual misconduct against the comedian from the court of public opinion into the courthouse.

Judy Huth's civil lawsuit filed Tuesday in Los Angeles accuses Cosby of forcing her to perform a sex act on him in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion around 1974. She is the latest woman to accuse the comedian of sex abuse, and is the first one since 2005 to file a lawsuit.

Cosby has been beset for weeks by allegations by more than a dozen women that he drugged and sexually assaulted them in incidents spanning several decades. The comedian has not been criminally charged and many of the claims are so old, they are barred by statutes of limitations.

Huth's lawsuit, however, contends that she became aware of the serious effect the abuse had on her within the past three years. California law allows victims of sex abuse when they were minors to bring a claim after adulthood if they discover later in life that they suffered psychological injuries as a result of the abuse.

Cosby's attorney Martin Singer did not return an email message seeking comment Tuesday night.

Huth's sexual battery and infliction of emotional distress lawsuits state that she and a 16-year-old friend first met Cosby at a Los Angeles-area film shoot and the comedian gave the girls drinks a week later at a tennis club. The lawsuit states that Cosby took them to the Playboy Mansion after several drinks and told the teenagers to lie and say they were 19 years old if asked. Her lawsuit states Cosby forced her to perform a sex act on him with her hand.

Singer has denied previous accusations or said the women raising the claims in interviews had been discredited.

Relics from TV show given to Smithsonian

Kevin Arnold's green New York Jets jacket that he wore in "The Wonder Years" became a piece of history Tuesday along with other items from the popular TV show that were donated to the Smithsonian Institution.

Costumes, studio tapes, scripts and Polaroid photos from the show have been donated to the National Museum of American History by several people, including Fred Savage (who played Arnold), his real-life mother and other cast members. "The Wonder Years" ran from 1988 to 1993 on ABC and was recently released on DVD.

Curator Dwight Blocker Bowers said the show was "meticulously designed" to recall the American experience in a turbulent time of the 1960s through

the simple moments of growing up in a suburban town.

Isaac calls Star Wars trailer mind-blowing

Oscar Isaac is as wowed by the new "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" trailer as are its fans.

Isaac, one of the stars of the highly anticipated sequel, said the trailer was "pretty mind-blowing" during an appearance at Monday night's Gotham Independent Film Awards.

"I shot (the film) this summer and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life," the actor, who was nominated for a Gotham award for his role in "A Most Violent Year," told The Associated Press.

But when it came time to discuss the particulars of his character, Isaac was not about to reveal anything — including rumors that he's playing the son of Princess Leia and Han Solo.

"That's what you got from the trailer!" Isaac asked. "Hey, you run with that, buddy. You take that and run with it!"

When asked if he was Luke Skywalker's son, he laughed. "I can't say a word. What are you doing? I'm not going to tell you. I can't say a word, man," Isaac said.

The official "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" trailer has been viewed more than 10 million times since it debuted Nov. 28.

Other news

■ Singer-songwriter **Ed Sheeran** is the year's most streamed artist on Spotify, while Eminem tops the list in the U.S. Spotify announced its top streaming artists, albums and songs of 2014 on Wednesday. Pharrell's "Happy" was the most streamed song of the year globally. Katy Perry and Coldplay were the most streamed female and group around the world, respectively.

■ **Scarlett Johansson** and **Romain Durais** were secretly married this fall in Montana. The couple tied the knot in Phillipsburg, Granite County Clerk of Court Carol Bohrnsten said Tuesday. Johansson and Durais had been engaged since September 2013. They welcomed a daughter, Rose, in September.

■ **Warner Bros.** confirmed the casting of DC Comics' "Suicide Squad" in an announcement Tuesday. Will Smith will star as **Batman**. Tom Hardy will play the group's leader, **Rick Flagg**, and Jared Leto will take on **The Joker**. The rest of the gang will be **Margot Robbie** as Harley Quinn; **Jai Courtney** as **Batman**; and **Cara Delevingne** as **Poison Ivy**.

■ **Bobby Keys**, a saxophonist and lifelong rock 'n' roller who played on recordings by Buddy Holly and John Lennon and performed one of the all-time blow-out solos on the Rolling Stones' "Brown Sugar," died Tuesday at his home in Franklin, Tenn. He was 70 years old.

Victoria's Secret angels descend on London



JOEL RYAN, INVISION/AP

Taylor Swift, right, performs alongside models at the Victoria's Secret fashion show in London on Tuesday.

The Associated Press

Supermodels, million-dollar bras, rhinestones and glitter galore — it can only be a Victoria's Secret catwalk show.

The U.S. lingerie label brought its annual spectacle to London for the first time on Tuesday, dazzling guests with a high-octane mix of fashion and entertainment that featured 47 extravagant dressed models and performances by pop princess Taylor Swift.

Models sashayed down the catwalk wearing lingerie paired with sparkly, over-the-top costumes; think giant butterfly wings, full

feather skirts, and gold knee-high stiletto boots. Top models Adriana Lima and Alessandra Ambrosio donned the brand's fantasy bras — encrusted with thousands of jewels and worth \$2 million each — and **Karlie Kloss** wore gilded angel wings made of 18K gold.

Unlike most fashion shows, models walking for the lingerie label are told to have fun with the audience. They also got to wink, dance and laugh onstage with Swift, who appeared in a pink and black lace outfit. Ariana Grande and Ed Sheeran were also featured.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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OPINION

Janay Rice and her mom living in denial

By DEMETRIA L. LUCAS
 The Root

On the heels of a tell-all interview with ESPN published Friday, in which Janay Rice spoke for the first time about the night her then-flance, Ray Rice, knocked her unconscious in an elevator, Janay and her mother, Candy Palmer, sat for a two-part interview with the "Today" show's Matt Lauer. (Ray Rice put in an appearance toward the end.)

The interviews are an attempt to redeem Ray Rice, especially now that he is eligible to play in the NFL again. There's never been a question about his talent, but in the court of public opinion, he's persona non grata, a public relations nightmare.

The Rices and Mama Candy are doing their best to revive Ray's dream. There's a part of me that appreciates the all-hands-on-deck effort here: the wife pleading for her husband's redemption, the stern and protective mother-in-law vouching for her daughter's version of events, and Ray's near-begging humility. These are people who really care about one another. But they are also people who are in deep denial, and it would take a willful suspension of common sense to buy into their revisionist version of events.

I'll skip what Janay told Lauer, since most of it was covered in the ESPN interview, and get right to Mama Candy. I get why Mom has been trotted out for the national stage. Mothers get the benefit of the doubt for being sensible and pulled together. And by showing her support for her daughter while in fired-up, protective mode, Mama Candy lets us know that someone seems to have Janay Rice's back — so, you know, we can all stop being so concerned about Janay because Mom is there and holding things down.

Just as Janay did in her ESPN interview,

Mama Candy reiterates that this punch was a one-and-done occurrence. "There is no next time," she says adamantly. She adds that she didn't raise "a young woman to be an abused woman."

Um, OK.
 The truth of the matter is, Mom knows only what her daughter tells her. Mom isn't with the couple every day. So her denial about her daughter having been hit more than once, and her assurance that it won't happen again, is unreliable. No matter how much Mom and Janay may deny it, I'm unconvinced that the very first time Ray Rice hit Janay just so happened to be a knockout blow caught on camera. You're trying to tell me that there was no slapping, no spitting, in the seven years they were together before this, but this one time on Valentine's Day weekend, it just happened, with no buildup whatsoever?

And while Mama Candy gets assertive with Lauer about what type of daughter she raised, I just want to tap her on the shoulder and ask, "But ma'am, did you see the tape?" I'll never blame the mother's parenting for what happened to Janay Rice. That responsibility rests solely on Ray, who, when he finally shows up in the interview, completely takes the blame. ("My wife is an angel," he says. "She can do no wrong.") But the woman Mama Candy raised is, in fact, an abused woman. There's video footage of her being knocked out by her then-flance.

Mama Candy is saying that Janay is not a domestic violence victim (or survivor), and she keeps talking about "them" — domestic violence survivors — as if they're the people over there, not the person sitting on the couch next to her.

"What this has done, though, it has made us aware about the people that are actually living this every day," said Mama Candy. "I feel bad for their parents, their mothers, that they can't get their kids out of this ..."

But ma'am, your daughter got knocked unconscious by a man she was engaged to. This is the very definition of domestic violence. You are also "the people" you feel bad for. The Rices and Mama Candy are so adamant that there has been no additional physical abuse in the relationship, but given how they define domestic violence, I'm curious now about how this family defines abuse.

Papa Palmer has also been sent to the main stage for the apology tour. Many people have wondered about him, mostly, "What is he thinking?" "Cause no one can imagine that as a father, he had anything less than the highest level of anger after seeing, or at least hearing about, his daughter's assault.

Papa Palmer shows up toward the end of the interview, standing in the kitchen with his wife and the Rices. He doesn't say much until Lauer points out, "I know people are going to watch this interview and they're going to dissect every piece of language, every piece of body language, to see what's going on in this family. Are you aware you're going to be living under that scrutiny for a long time?"

Funny. While everyone else was talking around Papa Palmer, I'd been staring at him, (over)analyzing his body language, which screamed, "This is some BS. Get me out of here." He looked positively stank-faced, as if he were biting his tongue, until Lauer mentioned the bit about body language. Then he perked up and finally spoke.

"We know who we are, and we know the truth," he told Lauer.

"I'm sure they all do. But I'm still not convinced they're telling it to us.

Demetria L. Lucas is a contributing editor at The Root.com, a life coach and the author of "A Belle in Brooklyn: The Go-to Girl for Advice on Living Your Best Single Life." She is a cast member of the Bravo reality series "Blood Sweat and Heels."



In this image from video provided by "Today," the NBC show's host, Matt Lauer, left, interviews Janay Rice, holding daughter Rayven, and Ray Rice. Joining them are Janay's parents, Candy and Joe Palmer, right. Janay Rice says NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell wasn't being honest when he said Ray Rice was "ambiguous" about hitting her in a casino elevator.

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OPINION

On Ferguson, media inflamed as it informed

By KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON

As the curtain closes on the latest episode of “Ferguson,” the media series, it is fair to wonder whether events might not have spiraled out of control to the extent they did had the media settled on another topic.

Ebola, say. Remember that one? I’m not the first to wonder or comment on the media’s role in contributing to events, but some further clarifications seem warranted in this case.

First, as always bears repeating, The Media are neither the same animal nor equal. Think Tom Brokaw and Al Sharpton. Or TMZ and “60 Minutes.”

In practical terms, the differences are obvious. People in print media observe and relay what they have witnessed, leaving readers to visualize with their own intellectual resources. It’s little wonder so few still read anything longer than a tweet. Why exert oneself when tasty news niblets are just a tap and a scroll away?

And which do you suppose captures the attention of rioters, looters and grandstanders? Certainly not the guy scribbling on a skinny notebook.

Thus, when we talk about media, we’re really thinking about television. To the extent that people clown, plunder or pillage for attention, media presence does make a difference. Cameras not only capture the action but in some cases may well prompt the action. This doesn’t mean the media shouldn’t be there — or that media folks really want things to go awry to spike ratings — or, some have suggested, to die.

Except, of course, some do. A bad day in America is a good day in the newsroom. Thus it has always been and shall be. The symbiotic relationship between viewer and the viewed makes it so. What would you rather watch, after all? A congressman standing alone in the House chamber, talk-

ing to himself and a C-SPAN camera, or “Lethal Weapon”?

Still, for the most part, producers and reporters are doing their jobs, trying to bring up-to-date information to the public about events and issues that people are most likely to care about. The first person to contract Ebola in the U.S. was of paramount interest and entered into every sentient individual’s conversation for weeks. It deserved wall-to-wall coverage.

But did Ferguson? Acknowledging that race continues to challenge us and that too many unarmed blacks have been shot by white police officers — or, in the case of Trayvon Martin, by a nonofficer playing one in the movie in his head — there is still some muddle to the emphasis placed on Ferguson.

To what might we attribute it? “Reliable Sources” host Brian Stelter noted the surge in CNN’s ratings the night the grand jury announced that no charges would be brought against police officer Darren Wilson in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown. That should come as no surprise. CNN, where I was once employed, always enjoys a ratings spike during breaking news events.

And, yes, by the time the announcement was made, America tuned in. I happened to be in a restaurant bar when verdict time arrived. The whole place fell silent as patrons assumed their best “Cheers” bar positions and listened raptly.

Everyone cared! Was it because a white police officer fatally shot a black “unarmed teenager,” otherwise known as a 6-foot-4, 290-pound adult (though at 18 still a teen), who, the officer told the grand jury, punched the cop through his car window and tried to grab his gun?

It’s a compelling story, to be sure. But the intensity of interest was in no small part driven by certain media outlets and “journalists,” such as the agenda-driven Rev.



CHRISTIAN GOODEN, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

A protester poses for a “hands up” photo in front of a burning building on West Florissant Avenue in Ferguson, Mo., on Nov. 24.

Al, who talked of little else in the months since the August shooting. This relentless coverage, combined with the repeated use of photos showing a much-younger Brown, surely contributed to public contempt toward media.

Finally, what ultimately happened in Ferguson was but a brief incident compared to the weeks-long preamble of speculation that took place across cable news shows. How many times did you hear show hosts asking guests, “What do you think will happen?” “Do you think Ferguson residents will heed the call for calm?” “How

bad do you think it will be?” The media may not have caused events to spiral out of control in Ferguson and, to be fair, Sharpton may well have a legitimate role in shining a light on racial injustice. But when activists posing as journalists have television shows through which they stoke passions — and when certain media decide to magnify issues not in the name of justice but, let’s face it, for ratings — then journalism has a problem.

And that means America has a problem.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

DOD official’s budget plea to Congress: ‘Stop the madness’

By WALTER PINCUS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON

Congress has a week to “stop the madness” — Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work’s description of the legislative process that he says has prevented the construction of a defense budget.

“This is the fifth time in five years that Congress has been unable to do our basic business: pass a budget on time so that we can plan,” Work said at the Center for Strategic and International Studies’ 5th Annual Global Security Forum on Nov. 12.

“We’re in the third straight year of zero real growth in defense budgets,” he said, noting that former Defense Secretary Robert Gates had argued that the military needed about 2 percent to 3 percent in real growth to maintain a balanced program.

It’s two months into fiscal 2015, which began Oct. 1, and Pentagon officials “still have no certainty over the fiscal 2015 defense authorization,” he noted.

The government is running on a continuing appropriations resolution passed Sept. 19. That expires Dec. 11, so Congress has to act before that date or the government shuts down.

For the Pentagon, there is also the need to pass a fiscal 2015 defense authorization bill that includes language allowing continued training of moderate Syrian forces and Iraqi troops to fight the Islamic State, plus providing supplemental funds of \$1.6 billion to pay for the surge.

Work conceded that some of the Defense

Department’s current fiscal problems were self-inflicted.

Pentagon officials bet in 2012 that sequestration wouldn’t happen. Who thought Congress would allow another \$500 billion in future cuts over 10 years would take place on top of the \$487 billion already required by the 2011 Budget Control Act?

“The department listened to the assurances of many in Washington and particularly those in Congress who said that sequestration would never occur. It was simply too destructive and too idiotic and too irresponsible,” Work said.

It hit in fiscal 2013, requiring the Pentagon to cut an additional \$30 billion between March and October that year.

Here we are again.

Senior House and Senate members agree that sequestration — across-the-board cuts in all appropriations — is a stupid way to cut the budget, but it is the law. It will return in the fiscal 2016 Defense Department budget presented to Congress unless the law is changed.

“How can one really plan a program if they don’t really know for sure if that next \$500 billion [sequester cut] is going to trigger?” Work said.

“You hear some people say, ‘It’s all going to change,’ and you want to get rid of that,” he said of sequestration.

“We’ve heard that all before. ... OK, stop the madness,” he said.

Although he was diplomatic enough not to call it part of the madness, Work also went after Congress’ repeated rejection of the Pentagon’s attempts to reduce defense spending.

Near the top of his list was three years of congressional refusal to allow studies that could lead to reducing excess Pentagon facilities.

“I hear all the time that we should be able to accommodate these cuts by trimming overhead. Got a lot of fat in the department? Jeez, just get yourself into a 21st-century business operation,” Work said with some sarcasm.

He pointed out that the Pentagon spends “about \$55 billion annually to maintain, sustain and protect its bases.” The department, he said, has “about 24 percent excess capacity,” primarily because there were more facilities before recent reduction-in-force levels. “Now we have more excess capacity.”

“Imagine the largest private-sector companies being forced to maintain 24 percent of excess overhead. They’d be out of business in a heartbeat. Their shareholders simply would not stand for it,” Work said, implying that neither should Congress.

He added that he understood “it’s a hard thing to do. Nobody wants to lose a base in their district. But maintaining that extra capacity is a big problem for us because it is wasteful spending, period. It is the worst type of blat.”

The Pentagon’s answer is for Congress to authorize a new Base Realignment and Closure round, which would involve setting up a bipartisan panel to study a list of bases for possible closure, holding public hearings, getting presidential approval for the panel’s list and an up-or-down vote by Congress on a package of closures.

Previous BRAC rounds have saved \$12

billion annually — including \$4 billion a year from the round in 2005, which members of Congress still complain about because of its initial costs.

Work estimated that a new BRAC round, to begin in 2017, could generate \$2 billion a year in savings — but both the House and Senate have already rejected money to begin studying it.

The Pentagon also has run into congressional opposition in its attempt to reform the military pay and allowances, health care and retirement programs, which are the fastest-rising costs in the Pentagon budget. “Everyone knows that our rising personnel costs are simply unsustainable over time,” Work said.

“That’s another \$11 billion to \$39 billion” that could be saved, he said, adding, “The only thing that the committees have agreed upon is to freeze general officer pay,” which would save just \$10 million a year.

Other Pentagon requests that would have saved billions by reducing future spending on A-10 attack aircraft, Navy cruisers and National Guard aircraft also were voted down by Congress.

“It is no exaggeration to say we are constantly accused of crying wolf,” Work said, but it could be that Congress may turn out to be as big a danger to Pentagon spending plans as that figurative wolf.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODS-PACIFIC

Boys team capsules

Division I
Seoul American Falcons
2013-14 record: 17-4, 13th in Far East. Head coach: James Davis, first season. Key performers: Max Weekley, Jr.; SF; Zach McDaniel, Sr.; G; Travis Edwards, Jr.; D-Andre Metcalf, So.; G; Myles Haynes, Jr.; G; A.J. Batts, Sr.; G; Joe Harper, Jr.; G. Outlook: Rebuilding-contending. Have to overcome the loss of guard Dion Johnson, and Davis returns long-time assistant coach Boyd. Height has always been a strong suit. Falcons are as good as they have as they ever have been. The only missing ingredient is strong forward.

2013-14 record: 21-12, third in Far East. Head coach: Paul Etti, fourth season. Key performers: Justin Gordon, Sr.; C; Camario Harris, Jr.; PG; Justin Wilson, Sr.; G; Kortez Hixon, Sr.; G; Isiah Richardson, Sr.; SF; Jay Davis, Sr.; G. Outlook: Rebuilding, with a cadre of stars led by Preston Johnson. Rebuilt but Johnson thinks this team is more cohesive and has a better chance this season.

Kubasaki Dragons
2013-14 record: 15-10, ninth season. Head coach: Jon Fick, ninth season. Key performers: Nick Ashley, Jr., G-F (two-time All-Far East); Matthew Adams, Jr.; F; Imani Washington, Jr.; G; Eiji Graves, Jr.; G; J. (Transfer from Kadena); Jared Williams, Jr.; EJ; Elijah Williams, Jr.; D; Damian Burke, Jr.; G; Jonnal Bailey, Sr.; G. Outlook: Contending. Fick had won three titles in 10 seasons. He had after coming up just short in the final of the 2012-13 season. Fick has the components to take the final step.

2013-14 record: 2-19, 15th in Far East. Head coach: Kyle O'Brien, Sr.; EJ. Key performers: Kyle O'Brien, Sr.; Jabari Johnson, Jr.; Josiah Ferguson, Jr.; Tarik Cook, Jr.; D; DeAndre Boone, Jr.; G; James Torres, Jr.; G. Outlook: The mother of all rebuilding jobs. One player with varsity experience, O'Brien, led the team to 17th after new to the game or moving up from JV.

Division II
Daegu Warriors
2013-14 record: 25-7, defending Far East champion and PhiUoL ninth season. Key performers: DeAndre Rossale, Jr.; Joon Abaya, Jr.; Litzell Collins, Sr.; Devin Speights, Jr.; Jay Diaz, Sr.; Jonathan McCarty, Sr.

2013-14 record: 19-11, 11th in Far East. Head coach: Phillip Loyd, eighth season. Key performers: DeAndre Rossale, Jr.; Joon Abaya, Jr.; Litzell Collins, Sr.; Devin Speights, Jr.; Jay Diaz, Sr.; Jonathan McCarty, Sr. Outlook: Rebuilding, since the core of last year's D-II champion team was dismantled or transferred. But Loyd expects his Warriors to win the title once again by the KIA/C and Far East tournaments.

Osan Cougars
2013-14 record: 9-21, 26th in Far East. Head coach: James Tolvan, second season. Key performers: Seaver Copola, Sr.; Chase Kingsbury, So.; G; Sung DeAng, Sr.; G; Justin Majaling, So.; P; Nicholas Vay, Sr.; G.

2013-14 record: 15-5, seventh in Far East. Head coach: Paul Etti, 10th season. Key performers: Marcus Henagan, Jr.; G; J. Anderson, Sr.; G; Far East D-II champion Hunter Cort, So.; G; Jammar Harvey, Jr.; G; James Neal, Sr.; G; Justin Williams, Sr.; G. Outlook: Contending. An enrollment drop shifted the Panthers to D-II, where they could make a deep run at Far East.

LA Kings
2013-14 record: 9-21, seventh in Far East. Head coach: Scott Quinn, second season. Key performers: Josh Lyle, Sr.; G; Jake Lyle, Sr.; G; Rikki Kendall, Jr.; G; Gemar Caasi, So.; PG; Dylon Johnson, Sr.; F. Outlook: Rebuilding. A big number of players return and give the Cobras experience, but plenty of youngsters coming on the scene. Rebuilding. The team and Jackson Small will be a big task.

Edgen Eagles
2013-14 record: 15-11-1, fourth in Far East. Head coach: Chris Herrera, first season. Key performers: Terrill Carr, Jr.; G; Stephen Erbes, Sr.; G; J. Williams, Sr.; G; Eymar Thompson, Jr.; F; Isaac Victorino, So.; G. Outlook: Rebuilding. New coach, new system, and replacing transferred. Heaton and Klay Shanks are the only seniors.

Perry Samurai
2013-14 record: 16-10, 10th in Far East. Head coach: Dewayne Pique, fifth season. Key performers: Jarell Davis, Sr.; PF (all-Far East); Kadena Harris, Sr.; G; Vincent Emrican, Jr.; SG (all-Far East); Garrett Matias, Jr.; C; David Lawrence, Jr.; G.

2013-14 record: 15-11, fourth in Far East. Head coach: James Tolvan, second season. Key performers: Joseph Atkinson, Sr.; G; Alec Jones, Jr.; G; J. Williams, Sr.; G. Outlook: Rebuilding. Aside from the two returners, the lineup will be all new.

Zama Trojans
2013-14 record: 16-14, third in Far East. Head coach: Robert J. (all-Far East). Key performers: Joseph Atkinson, Sr.; G; Alec Jones, Jr.; G; J. Williams, Sr.; G. Outlook: Rebuilding. Aside from the two returners, the lineup will be all new.

Boys basketball preview

Falcons set to soar

By Dave O'Neaury
Stars and Stripes

It was months before basketball practice even began. Yet there was Xavier McDaniel, a junior transfer from South Carolina, alternately hitting jumpers and driving to the basket in the cool of Seoul American's air-conditioned Falcon Gym in late August.

Coach Jim Davis, who would bring McDaniel aboard his football team, asked the 6-foot-5, 265-pounder: "Can you dunk?" "He looked at me like that was the dumbest question in the history of mankind," Davis recalled. But that also told Davis, who is also the Falcons' first-year head basketball coach, that he had finally a find in the point, joining the likes of senior veteran Shawn Horne and sophomore DeAndre Metcalf to form a frontcourt glut.

And with returning guards Max Weekley and Myles Haynes joined by newcomers A.J. Batts and Jez Harper, the Falcons have the deepest backcourt they've had in years, Davis said.

Might this have them thinking of the national championship tournament title they just missed out on last year, and a first Far East Division I championship in five years?

"It depends on how they grasp the system and the flow of basketball," said Davis, who assisted

longtime coach Steve Boyd the last three years. "New blood. It's going to depend on how quickly they gel."

Though Horne is thinner than the brawny McDaniel, "we've had him the last two years and he's finally ready to blossom," Davis said. "I see Xavier being in the same spot next year."

McDaniel has the athleticism, but he's "still growing into his body," Davis said. "He's gotten bigger. Once that body catches up and he's got the size," he'll be great, Davis said.

While the Falcons appear to be the favorites in Korea, Kubasaki is also seeking tournament redemption. After leading by eight points in the second quarter, Faith Academy stormed back and beat the Dragons on their home court for the Far East D-II title.

But it's not something that ninth-year coach Jon Fick spends his night dwelling on. "I've thought about that game maybe five times in the last year," he said.

Had the game been lost by a couple of points, because of a foul call, or a coaching error, it would have been different. "We just met the wrong team on the wrong day," Fick said. "If we meet that team nine other times, there might have been a different outcome."

The Dragons bring back a solid



Joek Pak-Wydzynski/Special to Stars and Stripes

Seoul American junior forward Xavier McDaniel.

Seoul American junior forward Xavier McDaniel. The Division II side could be wide open now that the senior-laden group that paced Daegu to the title has departed. It's not your older brother's Warriors team, coach Phillip Loyd said. "I told the guys, they're going to be treated like the younger brother of the older brother who graduated last spring," Loyd said, adding, however, that he plans to be a contender by season's end. "Get us early, because by the end of the year, we're going to be a solid team."

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Girls team capsules

Division I
Seoul American Falcons
2013-14 record: 17-6, seventh in Far East. Head coach: Dean Florio, first season. Key performer: Glenesha Berryman, Sr.

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2013-14 record: 17-6, seventh in Far East. Head coach: Dean Florio, first season. Key performer: Glenesha Berryman, Sr.

Kadena Panthers
2013-14 record: 15-10, second in Far East. Head coach: Willie Wade, fourth season. Key performers: Jasmine Rhodes, Sr.; G/F; Alicia Vaughan, Sr.; G; Elva Harris, Sr.; F; Linda Vaughn, So.; G; Brea Garrett, Sr.; F; Sara Shanks, Sr.; G; Travis Edwards, Jr.; F; Rheaugh Wayne, Jr.; G. (transfer from Daegu); Brenden G. (transfer from Daegu); Brenda Guller, Jr.; G.

2013-14 record: 15-10, second in Far East. Head coach: Jeremy Wall, first season. Key performers: Josie Daffin, Jr.; G; Shae Burke, Sr.; G; Leigh Trumble, Sr.; F. Outlook: Contending. The team's core of last year's fifth-place team is gone, along with veteran players Bob Briggs.

Division II
Daegu Warriors
2013-14 record: 19-9, defending Far East D-II champion. Head coach: Ed Hearn, second season. Key performers: Taylor Myatt, Sr.; post (transfer from Seoul American); Brooke Sprigg, Sr.; G.

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Girls basketball preview

Panthers stake aim at last hurdle

By Dave O'Neaury
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — So close, yet so far.

That's been the narrative for Kadena girls basketball the last three seasons under coach Willie Ware. He says he hopes the Panthers have the tools to erase the bitter memories of one third-place and two runner-up finishes and take the last step to a Far East Division I title.

"We've been so close so many times," Ware said. "We've got some unfinished business and the girls are hungry."

Especially hungry are four seniors, guard Alicia Vaughan and forwards Jasmine Rhodes, Elva Harris and Brea Garrett, who have been on varsity since Ware took over the team in the fall of 2011. "This is a special year for them," Ware said.

"Time will tell, he said, whether Kadena is ready to take that final step. The Panthers have been dominant in Okinawa the past 11 seasons, winning league titles every season and only losing once in that span to Kubasaki.

"They know what it takes," Ware said. "They've been there. So, we're not taking anything for granted. We're going back to basics, fundamentals, working on stuff that we need to be really good at back."

While most of the Panthers haven't enjoyed the feeling of capturing titles, one of them — junior Rheaugh Wayne — transferred in from D-II champ Daegu.



Kadena's Elva Harris looks for shooting range against teammate Rheaugh Wayne during practice.

ferred their one two losses last year. ASDI is led by holdovers Mia Weiland, Kate Latimore, Ella Noll and Allie Rogers.

Ware thinks there's a good chance the two teams might meet again in the final. "We're pretty much the same team, but they're just like we are," Ware said. "It's going to boil down to execution and how badly the girls want it."

At the Division II level, only three players return for champion Daegu, so the race appears wide open. Perry has height in Ani and Lebet Erhart and an experienced guard in Naomi Ziola, and is calling on a cadre of players from other sports, Bobbi Hill and Sakura Fleming from soccer and Angel Cadavos of volleyball, to bolster the ranks.

Coach April Kelley says it's "too soon to tell" if that mix might mean a title, but that the new players could be "key to making Perry contenders. This is a young squad, with plenty of freshmen, no seniors and are eager to learn the game."

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS-EUROPE

Boys basketball preview

Realignment, attrition leave fields wide open

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The 2014-15 DODDS-Europe boys basketball season projects as one of the most unpredictable in recent memory. The organization's three reigning champions and several top challengers have been battered by roster churn and divisional realignment, opening the title hunt to worthy contenders. Here's a look ahead:

Division I

DODDS-Europe's large-school division has a multiple-time champion in the Patch Panthers, who will pursue their third straight title this winter. But at this point, the Panthers are more a symbol of the league's instability than a reigning juggernaut.

Patch returns just four players — three from last year — from the gritty team that fought off Wiesbaden for last season's title. Head coach Brad Rehwald said he's still sorting through a pack of nine or 10 Panthers in the mix for a starting nod.

That's not to say Patch won't put together something in time. It's just that its rivals, notably runner-up Wiesbaden, might be further along in that process.

The Warriors boast the only returning player from the 2013-14 All-Europe first team in senior center CJ Fridgen. The multiple-sport standout ranks as arguably



JOSHUA L. DEMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

Sophomore forward Chris Moore returns for Division III's Signonella this season.

the most athletic frontcourt player in DODDS-Europe and should thrive in his new role as the team's primary offensive weapon while continuing to serve as its defensive anchor. He'll be surrounded by fellow football stars Tim Cuthbert and Anthony Little.

The competition in the refurbished Division I field, now featuring a full nine teams, goes far beyond last winter's two finalists. Incumbent teams Ramstein, Kaiserslautern, Lakenheath and Vilscek would like to take advantage of the uncertainty at the top.

The Royals have a returning frontcourt star in senior forward Jesse Gray. He'll team up with a senior backcourt of Xavier Harper and Spencer Wright in hopes of securing their first title since 2010.

Longtime Kaiserslautern girls coach Corey Sullivan takes over the Raiders boys program this year, with a solid mix of seniors, returning players and new additions.

Vilscek, a surprise semifinalist last season, has just three seniors and two returning regulars in Gabriel Lewis and Jonathan Wade. But the team's emphasis on defense and conditioning will keep the Falcons competitive.

Lakenheath, likewise, will depend on long-held organizational tenets to alleviate a lack of proven talent. The Lancers have just three returning players.

Meanwhile, the road to a title grows tougher with the additions of Naples, SHAPE and Vicenza.

Like Patch, Vicenza is a reigning champion soldiering on without most of the players who led it to that title. But the Cougars, the 2013-14 Division II champions, have the added challenge of seeking a title at a higher level and with a new leader in former Schweinfurt coach Jesse Woods.

The Wildcats and Spartans, meanwhile, will field similar new-look rosters in hopes of gaining memorable Division I debuts. International School of Brussels won't compete in DODDS-Europe this season.

Division II

Usually a nearly-impenetrable pack of equally-matched teams, the Division II bracket has been

cracked wide open.

The removal of five teams from the division already created breathing room. But the fact that the relocated teams included champ Vicenza, along with perennial powers Naples and SHAPE, makes each remaining team's title hopes all the more realistic — the Cougars, Wildcats and Spartans occupied three of four divisional semifinal slots last year.

That's particularly true in Italy, where Aviano and American Overseas School of Rome enter the season optimistic. The Saints return nine players, including four starters. The Falcons, meanwhile, bring back sophomore phenom Otis Reale and four other returnees from a squad that advanced to the Division II semifinals a year ago.

While the Division II crowd has thinned considerably, DODDS-Europe's middle-sized division retains its signature parity. Nearly every team in the field has a chance to make a deep postseason run.

Hohenfels has been steadily improving over the last few seasons. With four returning starters, a number of experienced seniors and a vacant throne to target, this might be the year the Tigers put it all together.

AFNORTH is similarly dangerous with an all-senior backcourt of Eren Yabici and Darel Marshall potentially leading the

2012-13 champion Lions back into serious contention.

Ansbach, Bitburg, Black Forest Academy, Marymount and Rota will send largely inexperienced and unproven squads in search of a breakout season.

Division III

Add Brussels to the list of boys champions decimated by attrition. The standout frontcourt that powered the Brigands' Division III championship run has moved on, leaving a pair of underclassmen guards to shoulder the team's hopes of a repeat.

But that duo — junior Michael DeFazio and sophomore Tim Wilkinson — might be up to the job, and their cause will be aided by senior guard Hayden Pfefferkorn, who missed last year's title run due to injury.

As is often the case, Brussels' biggest threat might come from Signonella. The Jaguars boast talent at all positions, notably sophomore forward Chris Moore and junior point guard Jason Berlin.

Baumholder and Alconbury will return to Division III after a brief stint in Division II. The Dragons, particularly, should jump right into the title race behind a core of four returning starters.

Menwith Hill, meanwhile, is playing its final season before closing its doors next summer.

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Girls basketball preview

Reigning champs facing new, old foes

BY GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The 2014-15 DODDS-Europe girls basketball season tips off this weekend with a fresh look, courtesy of the fall realignment that dispersed members of the Division II logjam into other ranks. Here's an overview:

Division I

Even as the division itself undergoes a major transition in absorbing Naples, Vicenza and SHAPE, its top incumbent contenders are dealing with their own significant changes.

The Patch Panthers are seeking a return to the Division I championship game, which they lost last year to Wiesbaden. But the team will launch its bid under a new head coach, Melody Green, and with just three players back from last year. Expect standout juniors Treshon Jenkins and Jaxen Godfrey to carry the squad early.

The Ramstein Royals have a new head coach in Nathan Brewster. But the roster enjoys considerable stability. Five players are back from last season, including three high-scoring starters in guards Desiree Palacios and

Rezana Todman and All-Europe post Lindsey Breton.

The Vilscek Falcons will look to move into the division's upper tier after a 6-6 campaign last year ago. Starting guard Elisabeth Hendrix will lead that effort.

Among incumbent Division I teams, the Kaiserslautern Raiders and Lakenheath Lancers are faced with the largest rebuilding projects. Kaiserslautern, under former Bitburg and Ramstein coach Lin Hairstone, will field a new-look squad with several promising freshmen and sophomores. Lakenheath returns just two varsity players.

The path to the championship game grew tougher when realignment slotted three more teams into Division I. Each is capable of some serious disruption to the large-school hierarchy.

Naples features many of the players from the Division I runner-up Division I squad, including seniors Keeley Solo, Andrea Hall and Jessica Wheeler.

Fellow new divisional contenders SHAPE and Vicenza, meanwhile, lurk as dangerous dark-horse threats.

Wiesbaden has competed in the last two Division I championship games, including last year's win

over Patch, and boasts a cast of returning talent that is the envy of DODDS-Europe. That list includes first-team All-Europe performers in forwards Catherine Klein and Cierra Martin, the latter of whom was named last season's Stars and Stripes girls basketball Athlete of the Year. Senior guard Rebecca Russell is also back to orchestrate the offense.

International School of Brussels won't compete in DODDS-Europe this season.

Division II

The promotion of Naples, Vicenza and SHAPE will seem to have a significant impact on the power structure. But that doesn't appear to be the case.

Three of last year's four semifinalists remain, a list that includes reigning champion Black Forest Academy, runner-up AFNORTH and Hohenfels.

First-team All-Europe star Emily Campbell is back for BFA, serving as the Falcons' primary offensive threat and the centerpiece of a defense that routinely held opponents under 20 points last winter. Five of her teammates also return, including guards Hannah Harrop and

Anna Kragt.

AFNORTH brings back three starters — sophomore wing Grace Phillips, center Eliska Volenova and All-Europe forward Eriq Balkum — from last year's European finalist squad.

Hohenfels has six returning players, including All-Europe guard Shelby Atkinson and fellow starters Amelia Heith and Arianna Kragt.

Rising Bitburg might have assembled enough pieces to challenge them. The Barons, eliminated early in last year's tournament, add transfers Elise Rasmussen and Victoria Porras to a core of returning starters Saïre Matthews, Alexa Landenburger and Destiny Walker.

Contenders such as Aviano and American Overseas School of Rome, once limited to Italian competition until the tournament, will get a regular-season shot at home this winter. Ansbach and Hohenfels in January. Both Italian teams return around half of their rosters from last season, as does local rival Marymount.

Even Spanish squad Rota, Division II's most distant team, will get an idea of its competition with a January visit to play Bitburg and AFNORTH in the Netherlands.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Cierra Martin, last season's Stars and Stripes girls basketball Athlete of the Year, returns for the defending champions this season.

Division III

DODDS-Europe's smallest division welcomes back familiar foes Alconbury and Baumholder. The Dragons and Buca, both former Division III schools, seek to make an immediate impact.

That leaves stalwart contenders Brussels and Signonella to fight off their new-again rivals. The Brigands have won the last two Division III championships, beating the Jaguars last February.

Menwith Hill could muster enough players for a girls team.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DOMESTIC-EUROPE

Boys basketball team capsules

Division I
Kaiserslautern Raiders
2013-14 record: 9-3
Coach: Cory Sullivan
Projected key players: G Caleb Chastain; G Jeremiah Collins; F Jai Markus Myers; F Bridger Hawkins; F Antwan Hayes.
Outlook: Successful Raiders girls coach Sullivan shifts to the boys squad this season, where he'll helm a roster full of playmaking guards and proven seniors.

Lakenheath Lancers
2013-14 record: 7-7
Coach: Brad Campbell
Projected key players: G Kentavious Seawood; F Joey Bussiere; G Joey Hunter; G/F Myles Erkins; F/C John Calvin McClain.
Outlook: An all-new starting lineup necessarily creates uncertainty, but under Campbell the Lancers are always competitive.

Witch Wildcats
2013-14 record: 8-4
Coach: Craig Lord
Projected key players: G Terrell Statler; F Ty'Rick Riggins.
Outlook: The former Division II stalwarts will face a higher level of competition armed with just two returning varsity contributors.

2013-14 record: 10-2 (Division I champion)
Coach: Brad Rothwald
Projected key players: Not provided.
Outlook: The ninth two-time defending champions will have a decidedly different look and might take some time to find their stride.

Ronald Royals
2013-14 record: 8-4
Coach: Randy G'Connor
Projected key players: G Xavier Harper; G Spencer Wright; F Jesse Gray.
Outlook: Coach's experienced backcourt of Harper and Wright and Gray's frontcourt contributions give the Royals a chance to shine.

SHAPE Spartans
2013-14 record: 10-0
Coach: Tom Loftholmer
Projected key players: G/F Austin Stephens; G Noah Sadtzer; G Noah Parker; G Spyros Toukoulouis; F Isaac Yunerich; F Shaquille Henry; F William Henry.
Outlook: With just one returning player in Stephens, a host of inexperienced newcomers and a new spot in DODS-Europe's largest division, the challenges are legion for the Spartans.

Vicenza Cougars
2013-14 record: 10-0 (Division II champion)
Coach: Jesse Woods
Projected key players: G Mauro Molina; F Joshua Bulgin; G Randall Bagdas.
Outlook: Former Division I coach Woods finds three members of last year's championship squad.

2013-14 record: 7-5
Coach: John Sabalia
Projected key players: G/F Gabriel Lewis; G/F Jonathan Wade.
Outlook: Years of steady progress paid off with a third-place finish last season, but the process begins anew this winter with only Lewis and Wade back.

Wiesbaden Warriors
2013-14 record: 1-1
Coach: David Brown
Projected key players: C CJ Pridden; F Anthony Little; G Tim Outbrett.
Outlook: Pridden emerged as perhaps DODS-Europe's most potent post threat last season, and Brown will surround him with new but substantial talent.

American Overseas School of Rome Falcons
2013-14 record: 6-5
Coach: Phil Davis
Projected key players: G Otis Reale; G/F Jack Leng; G/F Thomas Semprini; G/F Leo Picchi; G/F Greg China.
Outlook: The Falcons were surprise semifinalists last year and have a chance to do even better with five returning players and a more robust regular-season schedule.

Aviano Saints
2013-14 record: 7-5
Coach: Curtis Hartz
Projected key players: Not provided.
Outlook: The Saints return nine players, including four starters, from last year's solid group and enter the season as a favorite in new-look Division II.

2013-14 record: 1-2
Coach: Nate Goolsby
Projected key players: G/F Colton Thomas; G De-John Williams; G/F Micah Getty; C Curtiss Wilson.
Outlook: The Barons remain a regional and divisional underdog.

Black Forest Academy Falcons
2013-14 record: 4-10
Coach: Chris Greathouse
Projected key players: F John Basler; F James Bonham; G Cameron Lockwood; G Jason Kragt.
Outlook: Strong outside shooting and solid defense will make the Falcons a tough out.

2013-14 record: 8-5
Coach: Kathleen Cielmons
Projected key players: F David Vidovic; G Greg Eaddy; F Tony Saintmulus.
Outlook: Strong team leadership and a commitment to defense should top the Tigers in the hunt for Division II.

Marymont Royals
2013-14 record: 2-7
Coach: Demetrio Lafitte
Projected key players: F/G Lotanna Mba; G Marco Matassa; G/Diego Lebrjari; F Giovanni Acampora.
Outlook: Four starters are back from last year's squad, but that team couldn't make a divisional dent.

Rota Admirals
2013-14 record: 1-6
Coach: Ben Anderson
Projected key players: G D'Angelo Gallardo; G Luis Ferrer.
Outlook: Freshman guard Gallardo and the smaller competitive pool give the Admirals fresh hope.

Division III
Alconbury Dragons
2013-14 record: 2-9
Coach: Ron Behr
Projected key players: G Wes Roddelliff; G/F Fritz Sherecno; F Pavel Karamschin; G Joey Behr.
Outlook: The Dragons should return to Division III with a vengeance, bringing four returning starters for an expected deep postseason run.

Baunhölzer Bucs
2013-14 record: 5-9
Coach: Darrid Winfrey
Projected key players: G Jaylon Bentley; G Jaylen Martin; F Kardarius Williams.
Outlook: The Bucs have a first-year coach and six freshman players, but the potential is there to be competitive.

Brussels Brigands
2013-14 record: 5-7 (Division III champion)
Coach: Chris Vahrenhorst
Projected key players: G Michael DeFazio; G/F Tim Wilkinson; G Hayden Pfeifferker.
Outlook: Last year's immensely talented frontcourt is gone, but a top-shelf backcourt will keep the Brigands in title contention.

Month Hill Mustangs
2013-14 record: 3-7
Coach: Pete Resnick
Projected key players: F Jonathan Brugman; G Brayden Nungesser; G Ben Dixon.
Outlook: The tiny school will struggle to stay competitive in its final season before closing in June.

Sigonnella Jaguars
2013-14 record: 6-9
Coach: Matt McKown
Projected key players: F Chris Moore; G Jason Berlin; F Thomas Meyer; F Derek Mattis; G Zach DeSanto.
Outlook: Few Division III teams can match the Jaguars' mix of roster depth, experience and athleticism.

Girls basketball team capsules

Division I
Kaiserslautern Raiders
2013-14 record: 10-2
Coach: Lin Hirston
Projected key players: F Andrea Freese; F Morgan Dozier; G T'ya Tramm; G Althea Hohann.
Outlook: After finding success with Bitburg and Ramstein, well-travelled coach Hirston takes over a young and promising Raiders squad.

Lakenheath Lancers
2013-14 record: 10-4
Coach: Tom Wittroy
Projected key players: C Dejah Quick; G Adrianna Ruffin.
Outlook: The stars that carried the Lancers into the Division I elite have graduated, but the inside-out combination of Ruffin and Quick provides a good foundation for a new era.

2013-14 record: 1-2
Coach: Shelley Smith
Projected key players: G Keylee Soto; G Charity Hollingsworth; F Jessica Wheeler; F Abby Lynch; F Aundrea Hall; F Angelica Sheld.
Outlook: The well-rounded Wildcats are packed with experience, outside shooting and strong post play should have no problem competing at the Division I level.

2013-14 record: 10-2
Coach: Melody Green
Projected key players: F James Godfrey; G/F Treshon Jenkins; C Abigail Zipperer; G Marissa Encarnacion.
Outlook: The Panthers have the talent to play their way back to the Division I title game and potentially reverse last year's disappointing loss.

Ramstein Royals
2013-14 record: 9-3
Coach: Nathan Brewster
Projected key players: G Desiree Palacios; F Lindsey Bretton; G Kezana Todman.
Outlook: In the Bretton and Todman, the Royals boast three of Europe's most productive players. They'll be heard from in Division II.

2013-14 record: 6-4
Coach: Todd Mitchell
Projected key players: G Begona Rodriguez Bravo; F Ryan Paine; F Katie Mitchell; F Megan Vanheckelom.
Outlook: The Spartans return two starters and boast a strong front line, enough to hold their own in Division I.

2013-14 record: 3-5
Coach: John Kohut
Projected key players: Not provided.
Outlook: The Cougars will get an idea of where they stand when they host new divisional rivals Patch and Wiesbeck along with familiar foe Naples in late January.

2013-14 record: 6-6
Coach: Adrian Crawford
Projected key players: G Autumn Cole; G TyBrea Hopkins; F Janin Powers; G Elisabeth Hendrix.
Outlook: The Falcons will need a breakout season from one of their talented wings to move into the division's upper echelon.

Wiesbaden Warriors
2013-14 record: 10-2 (Division II champion)
Coach: Jim Campbell
Projected key players: G/F Cierra Martin; G Rebecca Russell; F Catherine Klein; G Sydney Hill.
Outlook: The Falcons will remain unequivocally loaded with elite talent and enter the season as favorites to win again.

Division II
AFORTH Lions
2013-14 record: 9-7
Coach: D.C. McDonald
Projected key players: G/F Grace Phillips; C/Elika Vekic; G/Debra Martin.
Outlook: Tall, tough and well-coached, the Lions annually rank among the teams opponents dread facing. This year's group should bring more of the same.

2013-14 record: 6-7
Coach: Myra Taylor
Projected key players: G/F Cedrianna Paige; F Gabi Dore; G Reivan Hussein; G/F Stephanie Avila.
Outlook: Spirited new coach Taylor takes over a squad with six returning players and three senior leaders in Paige, Dore and Hussein.

American Overseas School of Rome Falcons
2013-14 record: 2-7
Coach: Carmela Verardi
Projected key players: G Anne-Constance Blanchette; G Alessia Giombini; F Alison Cook; F Morgane Peeters.
Outlook: Standouts forward Cook and Peeters give the Falcons a chance to be among the most formidable two-way frontcourts.

2013-14 record: 9-2
Coach: Laura Corder
Projected key players: G Victoria Vigli; F Jasmine Cole; F/G Jasmine Bell; C Cass Awallt.
Outlook: The Saints have all the ingredients for a championship, but experience from experience to size to a standout lead guard in Vigli.

2013-14 record: 2-1
Coach: Chris Howard
Projected key players: F Saïreah Matthews; C Elise Rasmussen; G/Alexa Landenburger; G/F Victoria Porras; G Destiny Walker.
Outlook: With Landenburger leading three returning starters and transfers Porras and Rasmussen adding reinforcements, the Barons are poised for a run at the title.

Black Forest Academy Falcons
2013-14 record: 9-6 (Division II champion)
Coach: Cevin Sweeney
Projected key players: C Emily Campbell; G Hannah Harrop; G/F Anna Kratt.
Outlook: The return of All-Europe centerpiece Campbell makes the Falcons preserve favorites to repeat the Division II championship.

2013-14 record: 10-0
Coach: Shawn Rodman
Projected key players: G Shelby Atkinson; G Amelia Heath; F Lindsey Sweeney; F Joyce White.
Outlook: Half of last year's European semifinalists are back for another run, this time through a league and Division II bracket.

Marymont Royals
2013-14 record: 10-0
Coach: Christine Pagano
Projected key players: G Sofia Plaza; G Klara Buriankova; G Marisa Sweeney; F Joyce Whites.
Outlook: The Royals are looking to improve on a dispiriting winless campaign behind seven returning varsity performers and freshman point guard Plaza.

2013-14 record: 4-3
Coach: Edward DeMert
Projected key players: F Jamaica Barnes.
Outlook: The Spin-based Admirals remain mostly mysterious until the tournament, but the low production of Barnes should quickly earn opponents' attention.

Division III
Alconbury Dragons
2013-14 record: 2-9
Coach: Chris Fishkin Jackson
Projected key players: F Harveysha Booker; G J'ya Green; C Jada Griffin-Howard; G Lolani Hall.
Outlook: Freshman post Sharpe and sophomore wing Tillman embody the Bucs' hopes of moving on from last year's hapless campaign.

Baunhölzer Bucs
2013-14 record: 7-3
Coach: Tim Conroy
Projected key players: G Chloe Proietto; G Alice Bigelow; F Lola Helbing; G/F Maria Vahrenhorst; G/F Catherine Martin.
Outlook: The two-time defending champions are moving on without most of the players responsible for that reign. But the team's fresh crop of talent is promising.

Sigonnella Jaguars
2013-14 record: 4-6
Coach: Michelle Chandler
Projected key players: Sydney Moore; G/F Kisha Chandler.
Outlook: Low-post anchor Moore will be asked to lead the team's inexperienced team on the Jaguars' usual trip deep into the tournament bracket.

STARS AND STRIPES

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Top Scores for Week 13

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260	Badger6	Fort Sam Houston	2258	Camp Humphreys	Camp humphreys
228	cbrows	dobbins	2236	michaegarza98	31098
228	BIG JOHN	Camp KAIA	2232	G-Mo's Raiders	kadena
226	Falcons#11	Wiesbaden	2222	scatter	Mac DIII AFB
226	Dolphinman	Hohenfels	2216	cowbo#48	Wiesbaden Air Base
224	top10	fort steward	2212	OKC Yukon	Tinker AFB
224	jeffrypic	Fort Indiantown Gap	2210	Grateful Shamacks	Scott AFB
224	philypmac69	KLEBER	2206	R.CROPS G BOV#ZII	ABERDEEN PROVING Ground
222	jubei421	Langley AFB	2198	chicago i	eatherneck
222	Lucky1	Fort Jackson	2198	leathal23	Camp Foster

NBA

Roundup

Pelicans spoil Durant's return

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Kevin Durant didn't look rusty when he drove past Anthony Davis for a long-tended dunk, or when he fired off any of his three three-pointers.

The 27 points scored by the reigning NBA MVP in his comeback from a foot injury just wasn't enough for Oklahoma City to overcome Tyreke Evans' relentless drives to the hoop or Davis' all-around dominance.

Evans scored 15 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, Davis had 25 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks, and the New Orleans Pelicans snipped a three-game skid with a 112-104 victory over the Thunder on Tuesday night.

"I was content in myself. I knew my wind wasn't what I wanted it to be, obviously, but I felt good out there," said Durant, who missed the Thunder's first 17 games with a fractured right foot.

Thunder coach Scott Brooks said before the game he'd limit Durant to 30 minutes for his first few games back, and that was how much he played in New Orleans.

"I just got to keep putting together good days and I'll keep getting back to where I want to be," Durant added. "To get back to midseason form like I want to be is going to take some time. No excuses for me. I'm out there. I got to play hard as I can no matter what and I got to go out there and be the best leader and player I can be."

The Pelicans had three players with double-doubles. Jerome Hamilton had 23 points and 11 rebounds.

"We did a great job of being disciplined on our game plan, knowing what guys were going to do and we just stayed with it for four quarters," Davis said.

"We've got to defend, rebound and run. That's what we do. That's going to get our offense going," Davis added. "When we're moving the ball, sharing the ball, cutting hard and playing for each other, it makes the game a lot easier."

Warriors 98, Magic 97: Stephen Curry made a go-ahead three-pointer with 2.2 seconds remaining and visiting Orlando won its 10th straight.

In the most dramatic finish in their streak to date, Curry sprinted up court and lost Tobias Harris with some crafty dribbling before pulling up to swish the shot. Curry shot his slippers and pounded his chest as the announced sellout crowd of 19,596 roared at noisy Oracle Arena.

Mavericks 132, Bulls 129 (207): Monta Ellis hit three foul shots for Dallas with 1.2 seconds left in the fourth quarter, then made a go-ahead three pointer in the second overtime.

Ellis finished with 38 points,



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Thunder forward Kevin Durant scored 27 points against the Pelicans in his first game back after a foot injury. New Orleans won 112-104.

including his trio of foul shots that made it 108-111.

Raptors 117, Kings 109: Visiting Toronto's Kyle Lowry scored 27 points and made a pivotal jumper with 57 seconds left.

Terrence Ross matched his season high with 20 points.

Cavaliers 111, Bucks 108: Kyrie Irving scored 28 points, LeBron James had 26 points and 10 assists and Mike Miller provided a much-needed spark off the bench, leading the hot Cavaliers to their fourth straight win.

Kevin Love added 27 points for the Cavs, who got all they could handle from the young Bucks.

Trail Blazers 105, Nuggets 103: LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 39 points and set up the winning basket on a pass inside to Robin Lopez with 1.3 seconds left, helping visiting Portland rally for the win.

Hawks 109, Celtics 105: The Kyle Korver scored 24 points, and his host Hawks rallied to beat the struggling Celtics.

Paul Millsap added 19 points for Atlanta, which has won three straight and five of six. Korver went 6-for-7 from three-point range.

Nets 98, Knicks 93: Brook Lopez scored 23 points, Joe Johnson added 22 and visiting Brooklyn improved to 2-0 this season against its rival city.

Deron Williams finished with 19 points for the Nets, who won for just the third time in 10 games after blowing most of a 16-point, second-half lead.

Suns 116, Pacers 99: Goran Dragic scored 34 points, Eric Bledsoe had 27 and the Suns earned their fourth straight victory over the visiting Pacers.

Lakers 106, Pistons 96: Lakers star Kobe Bryant scored all 12 of his points in a row, leading an impressive flurry in the third quarter.

The host Pistons held Bryant scoreless in the first half.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Toronto	7	2	78	0
Brooklyn	7	4	63	6
New York	7	5	58	7
Philadelphia	4	15	21	10
Charlotte	4	15	21	10

Southeast Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Washington	11	5	68	—
Atlanta	8	8	50	2 1/2
Miami	9	8	52	2 1/2
Orlando	9	13	35	6
Charlotte	4	14	22	9

Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Chicago	9	6	61	—
Cleveland	9	7	56	1
Milwaukee	10	7	59	1 1/2
Indiana	7	11	39	4
Detroit	3	15	16	8

Western Conference				
Northwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Memphis	15	2	88	—
Houston	13	4	76	2
Portland	12	5	71	3
Dallas	14	5	73	2
New Orleans	15	5	75	0

Pacific Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Portland	14	4	77	—
Denver	13	5	72	1
Oklahoma City	15	3	78	0
Utah	14	4	76	0
Phoenix	4	12	25	9

Monday's games			
Team	W	L	Pct GB
San Antonio	109	Philadelphia	103
Toronto	117	Miami	106
Denver	103	Utah	101
L.A. Clippers	127	Minnesota	104
Cleveland	111	Milwaukee	105
Cleveland	111	Boston	104
L.A. Lakers	106	Oklahoma City	104
Brooklyn	98	Chicago	104
New Orleans	112	Chicago	104
Portland	105	Denver	103
Toronto	117	Sacramento	109
Golden State	98	Orlando	97

Tuesday's games			
Team	W	L	Pct GB
L.A. Lakers	107	Washington	102
Chicago	106	Charlotte	102
Portland	106	Atlanta	102
Toronto	117	Boston	104
L.A. Clippers	127	Golden State	102

Wednesday's games			
Team	W	L	Pct GB
Chicago	107	Washington	103
Portland	106	Atlanta	103
Toronto	117	Boston	104
L.A. Clippers	127	Golden State	103

Thursday's games			
Team	W	L	Pct GB
Cleveland	107	New York	103
Portland	106	Atlanta	103
New Orleans	112	Golden State	103

Friday's games			
Team	W	L	Pct GB
Brooklyn	117	7-22	Lopez 31-10-0-6, Johnson 24-12-23-13, Williams 16-4-2-10, Piunick 4-6-2-10, Televicov 1-4-0-2, Jack 2-0-0-4, Anderson 13-9-0-2, Gutierrez 9-0-9-0, Jordan 9-0-0-0, Totals 98-99 14-20-98
Stouidre	6-10	5-17	Dalemberg 12-0-22, Shumnum 7-9-10, Lillard 1-4-0-0, Hardaway Jr. 1-0-0-2, Ayc 2-3-0-0, JaSmith 1-3-0-2, Priest 0-0-0-0, Larkin 2-1-0-0, Wear 1-0-0-2, Totals 35-81-12-14-93
New York	18	27	29-93

Saturday's games			
Team	W	L	Pct GB
Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 6-17 (Oklahoma 5-8, Houston 4-0, Bogdanovic 1-1, Televicov 2-2, Jack 0-2), New York 4-12 (Atlanta 3-1, Orlando 2-4, Larkin 2-4, Shumnum 1-4, Anthony 1-7, Hardaway Jr. 0-3), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Brooklyn 40, New York 45 (Anthony, Stouidre 9), Assists—Brooklyn 24, New York 22 (Calderson 7), Total Fouls—Brooklyn 20, New York 21, Technicals—Garnett, Brodome, New York, defensive three second 2, A—19-812 (19,763).			

Hawks 109, Celtics 105				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Boston	Green	10-16	4-4-25	Sullinger 9-16-0-22, Zeller 2-4-5-8, Rondo 14-15-0-22, Jeffers 12-15-0-22, 7-0-8, Bass 3-9-0-0, Turner 5-7-0-12, Williams 10-15-0-22, Wallace 0-0-0-0, Totals 41-81-11-13-105
Atlanta	Carroll	2-8	5-15	Millsap 17-15-10-22, Horford 8-12-10-22, Toussaint 9-0-9, Korver 8-9-2-24, Antic 3-6-2-10, Schick 2-1-1-5, Mick 0-0-0-0, Sefos 10-4-3-0-0, Scott 2-2-0-4, Bazemore 3-3-0-7, Totals 43-82-12-14-105

Lakers 106, Pistons 96				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Golden State	15	4	78	—
Portland	14	5	73	1
Denver	13	5	72	1
Oklahoma City	15	3	78	0
Utah	14	4	76	0
Phoenix	4	12	25	9

Mavericks 132, Bulls 129 (207)				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Dallas	15	3	83	—
San Antonio	10	8	56	10
Phoenix	4	12	25	9
Golden State	15	4	78	0
Portland	14	5	73	1
Denver	13	5	72	1
Oklahoma City	15	3	78	0
Utah	14	4	76	0
Phoenix	4	12	25	9

Warriors 98, Magic 97				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Orlando	9	16	35	—
Atlanta	8	17	32	1
Phoenix	4	12	25	9
Golden State	15	4	78	0
Portland	14	5	73	1
Denver	13	5	72	1
Oklahoma City	15	3	78	0
Utah	14	4	76	0
Phoenix	4	12	25	9

Raptors 117, Kings 109				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Toronto	117	5	96	—
Los Angeles	10	15	40	10
Phoenix	4	12	25	9
Golden State	15	4	78	0
Portland	14	5	73	1
Denver	13	5	72	1
Oklahoma City	15	3	78	0
Utah	14	4	76	0
Phoenix	4	12	25	9

Trail Blazers 105, Nuggets 103				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Portland	105	4	96	—
Los Angeles	10	15	40	10
Phoenix	4	12	25	9
Golden State	15	4	78	0
Portland	14	5	73	1
Denver	13	5	72	1
Oklahoma City	15	3	78	0
Utah	14	4	76	0
Phoenix	4	12	25	9

Three-Point Goals—Orlando 16-22 (Atlanta 12-15, Houston 4-12, Golden State 12-15, Portland 12-15, Phoenix 12-15, San Antonio 12-15, Toronto 12-15, Utah 12-15, Washington 12-15, Wizards 12-15), New York 12-15 (Atlanta 12-15, Houston 12-15, Golden State 12-15, Portland 12-15, Phoenix 12-15, San Antonio 12-15, Toronto 12-15, Utah 12-15, Washington 12-15, Wizards 12-15), Golden State 15-4 (Atlanta 15-4, Houston 15-4, Portland 15-4, Phoenix 15-4, San Antonio 15-4, Toronto 15-4, Utah 15-4, Washington 15-4, Wizards 15-4), New York 15-4 (Atlanta 15-4, Houston 15-4, Portland 15-4, Phoenix 15-4, San Antonio 15-4, Toronto 15-4, Utah 15-4, Washington 15-4, Wizards 15-4), Golden State 15-4 (Atlanta 15-4, Houston 15-4, Portland 15-4, Phoenix 15-4, San Antonio 15-4, Toronto 15-4, Utah 15-4, Washington 15-4, Wizards 15-4), New York 15-4 (Atlanta 15-4, Houston 15-4, Portland 15-4, Phoenix 15-4, San Antonio 15-4, Toronto 15-4, Utah 15-4, Washington 15-4, Wizards 15-4), Golden State 15-4 (Atlanta 15-4, 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COLLEGE BASKETBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Top 25 roundup

Louisville escapes scare from Ohio St.

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Terry Rozier made clutch jumpers down the stretch, including a big three-pointer with 46 seconds remaining, to help No. 5 Louisville survive No. 14 Ohio State 64-55 Tuesday night in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.

The Cardinals (6-0) were in danger of blowing a 17-point half-time lead before Rozier made three straight baskets in the final minutes including the key shot from behind the arc to provide a 59-53 lead.

Anas Mahmoud and Montrezl Harrell each added a free throw before Rozier made a steal with 16 seconds left and hit a foul shot to finish with 11 points.

Wayne Blackshear's two free throws with five seconds left sealed Louisville's win. He finished with 22 points including four three-pointers.

D'Angelo Russell scored 17 points for Ohio State (5-1), which still had chances to win despite shooting 30 percent.

No. 3 Arizona 91, Gardner-Webb 65: Stanley Johnson and Gabe York each scored 18 points, and host Arizona blitzed Gardner-Webb during a 16-0 second-half run to roll over the Bulldogs.

Arizona (7-0) needed to shake out the cobwebs after the holiday break and had to rally from a sluggish start with a big run to end the first half. The Wildcats again were flat to open the second half, but had an even bigger run in them, hitting 11 straight shots during an 18-2 stretch that put the game out of reach.

Arizona shot 56 percent and made 10 of 17 from three-point range to extend its home-winning streak to 25 games.

No. 6 Texas 63, Texas-Arlington 53: Freshman Myles Turner scored 18 points to carry host Texas over Texas-Arlington — a lethargic tuneup before the Longhorns head to Kentucky to play the No. 1 Wildcats.

Texas, which beat defending national champion Connecticut on Saturday, struggled for long stretches and often got sloppy

against the Mavericks, who lost by 48 to Kentucky last week.

No. 9 Gonzaga 76, Southeastern Louisiana 57: Kyle Wiltjer scored 20 points as host Gonzaga used a big second half to beat scrappy Southeastern Louisiana.

Domantas Sabonis added 14 points and Kevin Pangos 12 for Gonzaga (7-0), which trailed after the first half.

Joshua Filmore had 14 points and Zay Jackson and DeVonte Upon each scored 12 for Southeastern Louisiana (2-6) of the Southland Conference.

No. 15 Miami 70, Illinois 61: Freshman Deandre Burnett scored a season-high 19 points and host Miami won a matchup of unbeaten teams Tuesday night, beating Illinois in the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Burnett had played in only three games previously, but he became the fourth player to lead the young Hurricanes in scoring this season. The 6-foot-2 guard added eight rebounds in 24 minutes.

Miami, which has never previously been ranked so high so early in a season, improved to 8-0. The Illini fell to 6-1 with their earliest loss in the past four years.

No. 17 Michigan 68, Syracuse 65: Spike Albrecht rattled in a three-pointer with 31 seconds remaining to put Michigan ahead, and the host Wolverines held on.

Albrecht's shot broke a 63-63 tie after Syracuse (5-2) had rallied from a 10-point second-half deficit. Michigan led 66-65 after Michael Gbinje scored inside for the Orange, and Derrick Walton missed the front end of a one-and-one for the Wolverines. But Syracuse freshman Chris McCullough threw the ball out of bounds with 15 seconds remaining.

No. 20 Iowa State 96, Lamar 59: Matt Thomas scored 44 points, Georges Niang added 13 and host Iowa State pounded Lamar.

Bryce Dejean Jones had 12 points, 10 rebounds, eight assists and four steals for the Cyclones (4-1), who shook off a sluggish start with a game-deciding 16-0 run late in the first half.



BILL WIPPERT/AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Brian Hoyer, center, looks to pass against the Bills last week. The Browns said Wednesday that Hoyer will start against the Colts on Sunday over rookie Johnny Manziel.

Briefly

Browns stick with Hoyer

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Brian Hoyer held off Johnny Manziel again.

Cleveland's struggling veteran quarterback kept his job and will start Sunday against Indianapolis after first-year coach Mike Pettine decided he would be a better choice to lead the Browns down the stretch than Manziel, the super-hyped rookie who gave the team a spark last week in a loss at Buffalo.

Hoyer has played poorly for a month, but the Browns (7-5) are sticking with him as they try to make the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

"After thorough evaluation and talking to the staff, we feel Brian gives us the best opportunity to win on Sunday," Pettine said in a statement. "This is a football decision and those are always going to be based on what we think is best for our team."

Hoyer was benched in the fourth quarter last week for Manziel after throwing two interceptions against the Bills. He has just one touchdown pass and six interceptions in his past three games and Hoyer's decision-making — one of his strengths earlier this season — has been questionable.

In other NFL news:
 ■ Buffalo Bills president Russ Brandon announced Wednesday

that the team is done playing regular-season "home" games in Toronto after reaching an agreement with Rogers Communications to terminate the four remaining years left on the series.

UAB abandons football program

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — UAB is shutting down the football program.

The university announced the decision Tuesday minutes after President Ray Watts met with Blazers players and coaches. UAB made the decision after a campus-wide study conducted by a consulting firm over the past year.

Watts says financial realities "are starker than ever and demand that we take decisive action for the greater good of the athletic department and UAB."

The Blazers are 6-6 and bowl eligible after coach Bill Clark's first season. The program's only bowl trip came in 2004.

Hockey great Beliveau dies at 83

MONTREAL — Jean Beliveau, who won 10 Stanley Cups with the Montreal Canadiens and became one of the most revered figures in the sport, died Tuesday aged 83.

A supremely skilled center who spent 18 full seasons and parts of two others with Montreal, Beliveau was also a popular ambassador for the sport. He scored 507 goals and captured the Canadiens for 10 seasons before his retirement in 1971, then moved seamlessly into an executive position with the club.

Beliveau was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1972. He won two league MVP awards and has his name engraved on the Cup 17 times, including for years he was in the Canadiens' front office.

Hunter reaches 1-year deal to join Twins

NEW YORK — Torii Hunter is returning to the Minnesota Twins, and injured Atlanta pitchers Kris Medlen and Brandon Beachy were among 32 players tossed into the free-agent market Tuesday along with San Diego shortstop Everth Cabrera and New York Mets outfielder Eric Young Jr.

Hunter, a five-time All-Star with nine Gold Gloves, agreed to a \$10.5 million, one-year contract with the Twins



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NFL

Anderson brings balance

Broncos RB giving Manning option to stay grounded

By ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — John Elway had Terrell Davis to give Denver a different dimension in the late 1990s. Now, Peyton Manning has C.J. Anderson.

The undrafted second-year back from Cal has gouged opponents for an average of 164.5 yards from scrimmage since leaping from injured running backs Ronnie Hillman and Montee Ball a month ago.

And he's provided a toughness and balance that Manning appreciates.

"I like it. We kept the defense on their heels," Manning said after Anderson ran for a career-best 168 yards in Denver's 29-16 pounding of the Chiefs. That bested the 167-yard performance he had a week earlier against Miami.

"He has been special," said Manning.

When Anderson hasn't had his head buried in his playbook lately, he's been immersed in his cellphone. He had 165 texts to go through Monday morning, including this nugget from his mother: "Just keep grinding. Stay humble."

Anderson promised her once more that he'll never let this sudden success go to his head.

"I'm just playing the same ball I've been playing since I was 8," he said. "Just trying to have 18 (Manning) and the coaching staff trust me a lot more and just trying to do a lot more to help my team win."

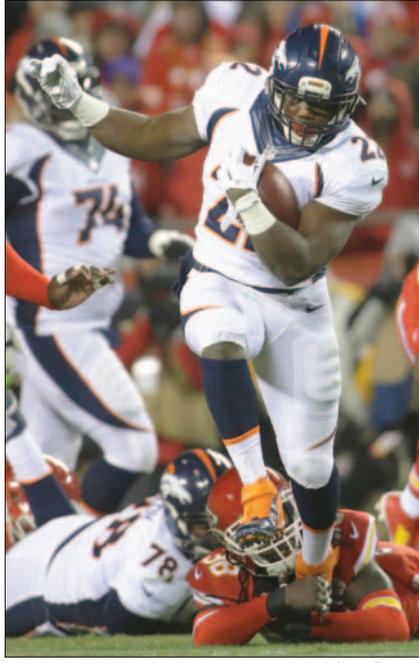
He did plenty against the Chiefs, gaining 90 yards after contact and helping the Broncos control the clock for nearly 39 minutes, running 79 plays to Kansas City's 38.

That, in turn, kept Denver's defense fresh enough to pile up six sacks and another half-dozen QB knockdowns.

Anderson's churning style was still paying dividends a day later.

"Man, I turned on the film and we only got like 21 minutes of scratch," Chris Harris Jr. said. "Usually it's like 40. So, I mean that's a huge difference. And it's something we need every week. Time of possession is huge. We don't want to put all of the onus on Peyton. It's a team game this year, a total team this year. So, we want to everybody to make his job a lot easier."

Last year, Manning set NFL re-



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Broncos running back C.J. Anderson runs past a tackle by Kansas City Chiefs strong safety Ron Parker on Sunday. Anderson ran for a career-best 168 yards in the 29-16 victory for Denver.

cord by throwing for 5,477 yards and 55 touchdowns. But that one-dimensional offense was exposed in the Super Bowl, and the Broncos vowed to become a well-rounded team this season.

Enter Anderson, the 5-foot-8, 224-pound wrecking ball whose smarts help him hit the holes fast and whose low center of gravity keeps him mowing over linebackers and defensive backs once he eludes the linemen.

"It's just running hard and letting people feel my story," Anderson said.

That story is one of growing up in the Country Club Crest neighborhood in Vallejo, California. It's one of dodging danger on the streets. It's a story of being smart but also the wise guy in high school and having to go to Laney College for two years, where he learned to hit the books with the same passion that he hit the holes.

He transferred to Cal, where he would rise from seventh string to second string but make just two starts in two years before being bypassed in the 2013 NFL draft.

He signed with the Broncos, he said, because "for one, I knew I had the football IQ to play with

18. Two, I felt the running back position wasn't solidified."

Anderson gave half of his \$12,500 signing bonus to his mom, Neva Craig, who works as an elementary school lunch lady.

He rushed for 69 yards in his first preseason game but a knee injury set him back and he ended up rushing just seven times for 38 yards his rookie season.

This year, he hit the halfway point with just 82 yards rushing and one catch. Over the last month, he scored three times and gained 658 yards from scrimmage while averaging 5.6 yards a carry and 11.3 yards per catch.

Anderson and his two brothers were raised by a single mother who taught her boys to be humble and never forget their roots.

"My mom says it best: We were never fed with a silver spoon," Anderson said. "There were nights where dinner was peanut butter and jelly. I mean, there was so many things that we've been through. Every time I'm on the field when I break a tackle or lay the boom, I'm just letting them know this is what I've been through at home and what I did to get here."

Scoreboard

AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks		Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
P. Manning, DEN	476	318	377	391	5	1
L. Luck, IND	491	313	404	311	11	2
P. Rivers, DEN	468	308	328	25	2	0
Rothlisberger, PIT	471	314	370	26	6	1
Bradley, NYG	452	293	324	28	6	1
Fitzpatrick, HOU	287	181	238	17	8	0
Flanco, BAL	406	256	298	20	6	0
Alec Smith, CAN	350	228	234	16	4	0
Tannehill, MIA	424	282	381	20	9	0
K. Orton, BUF	291	187	200	13	0	3

Rushers		Att	Yds	LG	TD
L. Bell, PIT	216	1066	454	81	5
Forsett, BAL	179	1009	546	52	7
A. Foster, HOU	180	901	501	43	7
A. Charles, CAN	162	807	498	47	8
L. Miller, MIA	150	729	496	33	3
Je. Hill, CIN	144	683	474	62	6
Ivory, NYJ	146	641	439	71	5
D. Robinson, JAX	125	552	442	41	4
Bernard, CIN	136	540	397	89	1
C. Anderson, DEN	98	536	547	26	1

Receivers		No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Am. Brown, PIT	88	1258	131	54	11	1
De. Thomas, DEN	88	1255	143	86	10	0
E. Sanders, DEN	82	1152	140	74	7	0
Edelman, NYE	77	743	9.6	44	2	0
K. Allen, SD	72	762	10.6	35	4	0
Hilton, IND	68	1145	16.8	28	5	0
Gronkowski, NYE	65	910	14.0	46	6	0
Anderson, HOU	65	720	11.1	26	2	0
L. Cobb, GBV	65	643	9.9	48	2	0
D. Hopkins, HOU	60	1041	17.4	76	6	0

Punt Returners		No	Yds	LG	TD
Edelman, NYE	15	250	13.3	64	0
Hammond Jr., KAN	15	207	13.8	47	0
Ad. Jones, CIN	19	223	11.7	47	0
De. Thomas, DEN	17	161	9.8	28	0
Carrie, OAK	18	159	8.8	27	0
McKevan, BUF	21	183	8.7	24	0
J. Landry, MIA	19	160	8.4	21	0
Am. Brown, PIT	23	178	7.7	36	0
Jay Jones, BAL	22	175	7.9	33	0
McCluster, TEN	17	125	7.4	48	0

Kickoff Returners		No	Yds	LG	TD
Jac. Jones, BAL	26	819	31.5	108	1
Ad. Jones, CIN	19	596	31.2	97	0
J. Landry, MIA	24	715	29.8	74	0
K. Davis, DET	61	511	29.1	89	1
Whalen, JAX	30	761	25.4	40	0
W. Totten, IND	14	279	25.7	32	0
L. Washington, TEN	10	470	23.5	32	0
L. Murray, OAK	19	429	22.6	38	0

Touchdowns		TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
J. Charles, KAN	12	8	4	0	72
Ju. Thomas, DEN	10	2	0	7	72
Am. Brown, PIT	4	1	0	68	0
A. Foster, HOU	11	7	4	0	66
Broncos, DEN	11	7	0	66	0
Gates, SD	9	0	0	54	0
Gronkowski, NYE	9	0	0	54	0
Broncos, DEN	9	0	0	54	0
To. Smith, BAL	8	0	0	48	0
Forsett, BAL	8	0	0	48	0

Kicking		FG	LG	Pts
Gostkowski, NYE	42	42	26	93
Vinatieri, IND	43	43	26	93
Ad. Jones, CIN	41	43	26	93
D. Carpenter, BUF	23	24	27	58
W. Totten, IND	31	32	27	58
Sulislim, HOU	33	33	24	55
Bulluck, HOU	33	32	21	55
Brady, NYJ	31	32	25	54
Cummins, CLE	25	27	21	52
Nugent, CIN	25	25	19	49

NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks		Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
A. Rodgers, GBV	380	247	325	311	5	3
R. Motta, DAL	324	221	278	22	8	0
M. Ryan, ATL	465	298	378	10	0	0
C. Palmer, ARI	224	141	166	11	0	0
R. Wilson, SEA	335	214	266	15	5	0
M. Ryan, ATL	465	298	378	10	0	0
Cutler, CHI	448	298	310	24	14	0
Sanchez, ARI	275	226	404	8	0	0
E. Manning, NYG	440	277	380	22	12	0
Kaepernick, SFN	376	230	273	15	8	0

Rushers		Att	Yds	LG	TD
D. Murray, DAL	282	1457	511	81	5
L. McCoy, PHI	242	1018	421	53	4
M. Lynch, SEA	213	956	451	33	3
A. Morris, WAS	210	893	425	30	3
Forte, CHI	201	828	412	32	5
Lacy, GBV	175	770	440	37	6
M. Ingram, NOR	176	767	446	31	6
Gore, SFN	161	712	393	28	6
R. Wilson, SEA	91	679	746	52	4
A. Ellington, ARI	201	660	328	22	3

Receivers		No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Ju. Jones, ARI	82	1169	14.3	41	5	
G. Tate, DET	80	1136	14.2	73	3	
Forte, CHI	78	659	8.5	56	0	
Maclin, PHI	71	1088	15.3	68	9	
J. Nelson, GBV	70	1119	16.0	80	10	
Boehling, NYG	68	958	14.1	74	4	
D. Bryant, DAL	67	952	14.2	68	10	
G. Smith, NYG	67	924	13.8	74	4	
J. Jeffery, CHI	65	922	14.2	70	10	
Ma. Bennett, CHI	65	737	11.3	37	5	

Punt Returners		No	Yds	LG	TD
Way, WAS	55	2804	51	83	8
A. Lee, SFN	55	2594	47	47	2
Sa. Martin, DET	54	2530	46	46	9
Morstead, NOR	41	1897	46	46	3
Weatherford, NYG	61	2790	45	47	0
Masthay, GBV	3	1685	58	45	5
Norham, CAR	28	67	2	45	0
Bosher, ARI	54	825	35	46	5

Kickoff Returners		No	Yds	LG	TD
B. Cunningham, STL	23	664	28.9	75	0
Dw. Harris, DAL	22	600	27.3	60	0
C. Patterson, MIN	26	664	25.5	49	0
K. Ross, DET	21	600	28.6	60	0
Ch. Williams, CHI	24	223	9.3	28	0
B. Walters, SEA	21	181	8.6	21	0
Hester, ARI	31	73	2.4	38	0
Fatton, TAM	19	293	15.4	28	0
Roberts, WAS	19	430	22.6	45	0

Touchdowns		TD	Rush	Rec	Pts
M. Lynch, SEA	12	0	0	72	0
Cobb, GBV	10	0	0	60	0
J. Nelson, GBV	10	0	0	60	0
H. Young, NYG	9	0	0	54	0
Lacy, GBV	9	0	0	54	0
Maclin, PHI	9	0	0	54	0
Graham, NYG	9	0	0	54	0
K. Benjamin, CAR	8	0	0	48	0
M. Evans, TAM	3	0	0	24	0

AFC team statistics

OFFENSE	Yds	Rush	Pass
Indianapolis	4383	1120	3263
Atlanta	4173	1095	3078
A. Foster, HOU	3804	1109	2695
Baltimore	3763	1063	2700
Cleveland	3662	1139	2487
Buffalo	3641	1121	2520
San Diego	3462	873	2588
Cincinnati	3436	1245	2191
Chicago	3317	963	2353
Buffalo	3199	982	2218
Kentucky	3163	225	2938
Kansas City	3121	1291	1829
N.Y. Jets	3115	1482	1633
Houston	3045	983	2064
Oakland	2799	725	2074

DEFENSE	Yds	Rush	Pass
Denver	3023	727	2296
Buffalo	3013	663	2357
Miami	3168	1186	1982
Minnesota	3040	852	2188
San Diego	3318	1102	2216
Arizona	3441	1064	23

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Baylor on verge of Big 12 repeat

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Bryce Petty and fifth-ranked Baylor are going home after a close call. The Bears are on the verge of another Big 12 title and still in contention for a spot in the new four-team playoff.

The quarterback is confident the fifth-ranked Bears (10-1, 7-1 Big 12) will get that playoff chance as long as they take care of the first part in their home finale against ninth-ranked Kansas State.

“No doubt. It’s hard to say anything else but yes. Again, it’s out of our control until we win next week,” Petty said. “We win the Big 12 championship, and everything will fall in (place), I guarantee.”

Another thing Petty is sure about is playing in Baylor’s latest de facto championship game next Saturday night. He sustained a concussion midway through the third quarter against Texas Tech and could only watch after that as Baylor gave up almost all of a 25-point lead before a 48-46 victory.

“Definitely,” Petty said soon after Saturday’s game when asked about playing against K-State. “Just a little dinger. I’ll be all right.”

For the second year in a row, the Bears finish the regular season at home with a chance for a league trophy. They already have

consecutive 10-win seasons for the first time in team history.

While the other four power conferences play championship games next weekend, the Big 12 goes into the first Saturday of December with Baylor, fourth-ranked TCU and K-State tied atop the standings.

By the time Baylor and Kansas State kick off, they will know if they are playing to win the title outright or share it with TCU. The Horned Frogs, whose only loss was at Waco on Oct. 11, are home against last-place Iowa State earlier in the day.

TCU, coming off a 48-10 win at Texas on Thanksgiving night, moved up two spots and jumped over Baylor in the new AP poll Sunday.

The College Football Playoff selection committee will ultimately decide if Baylor or TCU — or maybe neither or both — get in one of the national semifinal games. The Horned Frogs were third and three spots ahead of Baylor when the new playoff rankings came out Tuesday night. The final poll comes out next Sunday.

“It’s hard to repeat as champions. I mean, did anybody want to beat Muhammad Ali or Leon Spinks? I mean, who were they after more? I’m thinking Ali,” coach Art Briles said. “If you do it, that hat you’re wearing needs to have a feather in it because it’s hard to do. It’s extremely hard to do.”



ANDY MANIS/AP

Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon, right, runs against Minnesota's Brien Boddy-Calhoun during the first half of Saturday's game in Madison, Wis. The Badgers will face Ohio State in the Big Ten championship game.

Badgers bounce back

No. 11 Wisconsin returns to Big Ten title game

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Bouncing back from adversity has been a trademark all year for No. 11 Wisconsin.

The season might have gone a little smoother if the Badgers hadn't had to dig themselves out of tough spots in the first place.

Even so, coach Gary Andersen's squad is right where it had hoped to be when training camp began four months ago — on the verge of a Big Ten title. The Badgers play No. 6 Ohio State in Indianapolis on Saturday for the championship.

“We just have a bunch of guys who love fighting and love working hard, even if it doesn't seem like it's going our way,” linebacker Marcus Trotter said Monday.

Few Wisconsin fans thought their hometown team would be in this spot following a 20-14 loss on Oct. 4 at Northwestern. The quarter-



**Big Ten Championship
Wisconsin vs. Ohio State**
AFN-Atlantic
2 a.m. Sunday CET
10 a.m. Sunday JKT

back position was in limbo, the defense had trouble stopping the run and the Badgers dropped to 3-2 after losing their conference opener.

But in many of the Badgers' eyes, the loss turned out to be the season's turning point. They've won seven straight, all in conference play, to claim the West Division crown.

Slowly but surely, Wisconsin (10-2) has gotten production from

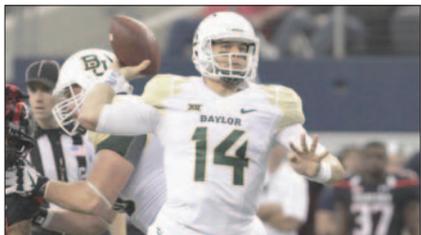
the quarterback position, with Joel Stave reclaiming the starting job and Tanner McEvoy coming in as a mobile, change-of-pace reliever.

The defense has regrouped against the run, aided by the returns of defensive lineman Warren Herring and Trotter from injuries. Herring went down in the season-opening loss against LSU, the last time Wisconsin had its starting front seven intact.

The one constant has been junior running back Melvin Gordon, who has blossomed into a full-fledged Heisman Trophy contender.

Gordon went from a 38-yard outing in Week 2 against lower division school Western Illinois, to setting a Big Ten single-season rushing record of 2,318 yards — and counting.

“I think everything worked out exactly how we planned it. At the end of the day, we wanted to be here,” Gordon said.



TIM SHARR/AP

Baylor quarterback Bryce Petty said he expects to play Saturday against Kansas State after leaving last week's game against Texas Tech in the third quarter because of a concussion.

Finish: Since only loss, TCU has won six straight

FROM BACK PAGE

last weekend, is home Saturday night against No. 9 and league co-leader Kansas State (9-2, 7-1). The Wildcats lost 41-20 at TCU on Nov. 8.

Since their 61-58 loss at Baylor on Oct. 11, the Frogs have won six games in a row — three of those against ranked teams.

“We didn't have time to feel sorry for ourselves,” Patterson said. “I just told them if you want to prove people wrong, then what you have to do is you have to get ready to play. We just kind of went out and did what we needed to do.”

While the Frogs try not to talk about

what happened at Baylor, senior cornerback Kevin White acknowledged that it can be hard not to occasionally think that they could be undefeated. But they just keep moving forward.

“That just shows how we've grown this year, how last year really pushed us into this year,” White said, referring to the 4-8 season when TCU lost four conference games by a combined 11 points. “Our maturity — keep focused and keep staying on track to what we're trying to accomplish now.”

The Horned Frogs are coming off an impressive 48-10 romp at Texas on

Thanksgiving night. They are a nearly five-touchdown favorite over the Cyclones.

All they want is one more victory that will assure a share of the Big 12 title no matter who wins Saturday night in Waco. “We had our slipup — we got beat by Baylor. Baylor had their slipup — they got beat by West Virginia. Ohio State had their slipup — they got beat by Virginia Tech,” Patterson said. “You can look at all that stuff 1,000 ways. ... Like everybody does, you can skew your stats any way you want to go skew them for everybody to look better than the other two or three or four teams.”



BRANDON WADE, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

TCU quarterback Trevone Boykin and the Horned Frogs are nearly five-touchdown favorites against Iowa State.

SPORTS



Durant's debut

NBA MVP scores 27 points
in loss to Pelicans **NBA Page 28**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Finish it

One victory remains
between TCU, playoff

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

TFORT WORTH, Texas
CU and coach Gary Patterson have gotten some more separation from those final 11 minutes at Baylor nearly two months ago.

While both teams are 10-1 going into the final Saturday of the Big 12's regular season, with each looking for a share of the league title and a spot in the first four-team playoff, TCU got a huge boost Tuesday night.

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The Horned Frogs moved up two spots to third in the new College Football rankings. That pushed them ahead of undefeated Florida State and, more importantly, three spots ahead of the No. 6 Bears.

"We've got to finish the journey," Patterson said Tuesday night. "I don't know if there is a gap. I know we have one more game and have to finish this."

There has been plenty of debate about whether TCU should get in the playoff, or if Baylor should because of the head-to-head victory Oct. 11 when the Bears overcame a 21-point deficit in the fourth quarter and got a game-ending field goal against the Frogs.

Both still have one more game to play Saturday, the day before the playoff selection committee puts out its final rankings.

"You've got to let your team speak, and that's the only way you can do that, that's on the field," Patterson said earlier Tuesday during his weekly campus news conference.

The Horned Frogs (fourth in the AP poll, one ahead of Baylor) are home to play last-place Iowa State (2-9, 0-8 Big 12), which beat TCU in its last visit to Fort Worth two years ago before the Frogs won 21-17 on the road last season.

Defending Big 12 champion Baylor (10-1, 7-1), which held on for a 48-46 win over Texas Tech

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RON T. ENNIS, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

TCU coach Gary Patterson has his team poised to make the first college football playoff.



TCU's Josh Doctson celebrates a catch during the Horned Frogs' 48-10 drubbing of Texas on Thanksgiving night.

ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

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