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Putin: Russia backs off from border

Moscow says troops have withdrawn to training grounds, but US rebuts claim

BY LAURA MILLS
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia has pulled back its troops from the Ukrainian border, Vladimir Putin told diplomats Wednesday as he urged insurgents in southeastern Ukraine to postpone their planned referendum Sunday on autonomy.

But the U.S. military said it had seen no sign of a Russian troop pullback.

"We've seen no change in the Russian

UKRAINE UNREST

force posture along the Ukrainian border," said a Pentagon spokesman, U.S. Army Col. Steve Warren. Without commenting on how the U.S. is monitoring activity along the border, Warren said "we would know" if Russian troops were on the move.

In a Moscow meeting with Swiss President Didier Burkhalter, Putin said the Rus-

sian troops have been pulled back to their training grounds and locations for "regular exercises," but didn't specify whether those locations were in areas near Ukraine. A Defense Ministry spokesman declined to say where the troops were now positioned.

Putin also called on Ukraine's military to halt all operations against pro-Russia activists who have seized government buildings and police stations in at least a dozen towns in eastern Ukraine.

SEE RUSSIA ON PAGE 10



'WHAT WAR IS ALL ABOUT'

Engravers take care in adding names to Vietnam wall | **Page 7**

Engraver Jim Lee inscribes Robert Kropotzchik's name into the black granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Friday.

CARLOS BONGIOANNI
Stars and Stripes

US to join search for Nigerian girls

BY CHRISTI PARSONS AND ROBYN DIXON
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration will send military, intelligence and law enforcement advisers to Nigeria to help the beleaguered government find and rescue more than 270 teenage girls abducted by the Boko Haram terrorist group last month, the White House said Tuesday.

The team will share U.S. intelligence and provide investigative help, not military force,

in the search for the students, who were kidnapped April 14 from a rural high school in Nigeria's Muslim-dominated northeast.

The deployment will mark the first public American assistance in a case that has sparked international outrage. The U.S. announcement came after the leader of Boko Haram vowed in a video to sell the girls as slaves, and after gunmen reportedly took at least eight more girls from another village overnight.

SEE GIRLS ON PAGE 11



SUNDAY ALAMBA/AP

Brig. Gen. Chris Olukolade, Nigeria's top military spokesman, center, discusses the search for 270 kidnapped girls on Tuesday.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Without substantial revisions — not only to lethal injection, but across the board — the administration of capital punishment in American is unjust, disproportionate and very likely unconstitutional.”

— Mark Earley, of the Constitution Project, in a statement after the nonpartisan legal research organization offered recommendations on changes to lethal-injection protocols

See story on Page 9

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Health and fitness

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MILITARY



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki testifies in October on Capitol Hill in Washington. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, says a leadership change may help resolve recent issues at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

VA chief: ‘I have work to do’ Shinseki notes there are issues, vows he will not resign

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The head of the Department of Veterans Affairs said Tuesday that he will not resign, but acknowledged he has work to do to rebuild the confidence of veterans.

In an interview with The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday, Eric Shinseki said his department will strive to improve its communication and work with veterans advocacy groups, but highlighted what he said were positive changes he has made while heading the department.

“I serve at the pleasure of the president,” he told the Journal. “I signed on to make some changes, I have work to do.”

On Monday, the head of one of the nation’s major veterans service organizations said Shinseki and top department leadership should step down following reports of delays and neglect that contributed to patient deaths at several VA facilities, including in Phoenix, where a secret wait list allegedly was used to cover delays in appointments.

The VA, the VA’s inspector general and the House Committee on Veterans Affairs are conducting

reviews of the Phoenix VA.

“As a result of what’s underway in Phoenix, I’m very sensitive to the allegations,” Shinseki told the Journal. “I need to let the independent IG complete his investigation.”

American Legion National Commander Daniel M. Dellinger said Monday the incidents “are part of what appear to be a pattern of scandals that has infected the entire system.”

He also called for the resignations of Under Secretary for Health Robert Petzel and Under Secretary for Benefits Allison Hickey.

Some key Republican legislators had joined the call of two prominent veterans groups for the resignation of Shinseki.

On Tuesday, Texas Sen. John Cornyn, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, and Sen. Jerry Moran, R-Kan., a member of the Veterans Affairs committee, said Shinseki should leave the VA.

“He needs to step down,” Cornyn told reporters. “The president needs to find a new leader to lead this organization out of the wilderness, and back to providing the service our veterans deserve.”

In a Senate speech earlier in the day, Moran said Shinseki seemed unwilling or unable to fix the department’s problems.

“Veterans are waiting for action and yet the VA continues to operate in the same old bureaucratic fashion, settling for mediocrity and continued disservice to our nation’s heroes,” Moran said. “There’s a difference in wanting change and leading it to happen.”

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., meanwhile, didn’t demand Shinseki resign, but said new leadership at VA would “be a step in the right direction.”

Concerned Veterans for America on Monday joined with the Legion in calling for Shinseki to resign.

Dellinger said it saddened him to demand the resignations, and he praised Shinseki’s patriotism and sacrifice for the country while serving in the military.

“However, his record as the head of the Department of Veterans Affairs tells a different story,” Dellinger said in his prepared remarks. “It’s a story of poor oversight and failed leadership.”

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Smokers who were overcharged to get refund

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will give refunds to customers who were overcharged for cigarettes when prices were raised last week at overseas stores.

The exchange raised the prices Thursday on all of the cigarettes it sells by as much as \$9.15 a carton.

An inaccurate price for Pall Mall cigarettes that had been entered into an exchange computer system resulted in a price jump of \$13.70 per carton — a 37.5 percent increase.

The increase was supposed to be \$7.95 per carton — a 21.8 percent hike.

Exchange spokesman Judd Anstey said the price was corrected the same day.

“Anyone who paid the erroneous price can bring in a receipt and receive a refund for the difference,” Anstey wrote in an email. “The Exchange apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused.”

The price hikes, Anstey said, resulted from a survey of state-side cigarette prices.

According to Defense Department regulations, the exchange is required to set the prices for tobacco products overseas on the basis of state-side averages, Anstey said.

The Defense Department has been under pressure to raise tobacco prices, which is the “single most effective way to reduce smoking,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Prices for some brands sold by AAFES jumped as much as 23.5 percent on May 1, according to data provided by the exchange. On average, cigarette prices leapt \$7.10 per carton, according to the exchange’s new data.

The largest percent increase — 23.5 percent — was for the Sonoma brand. Newport rose the most in dollar terms, up \$9.15 per carton.

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Can drinking bans curb sex assaults?

In an effort to curb sexual assaults in the military, the military is looking at how alcohol might be a catalyst in such attacks. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced a department-wide review of the services' alcohol policies.

Readers respond:

In my unit, alcohol is involved in better than 90% of the alleged sexual assault incidents. ... What I have seen is that if the alleged victim was drinking, the alleged perpetrator gets a major pass on the allegation.

— **Tunar**

The curfew that USFK imposed during the two off base rapes has caused on base rapes to go up. Making everyone be back on base by 1 am has created a situation where more rapes occur than happened when curfew was rescinded. Check the stats, might surprise you. But I'm sure USFK will never admit it.

— **MattFromAurora**

Very true, when I was there as a cop almost every weekend there would be fights or assaults in some barracks on-base. All the curfew did was allow bad behavior to be covered up from the locals.

— **parkerd61**

Finally we address the sickness and not the symptom.

— **Michael Hasbun**

I loved getting plastered when I was overseas but never once did I ever think of raping or assaulting anyone. Kick the criminals out and this will stop.

— **ND52**

DRUNK ON DUTY (ART 112 UCMJ), UNDERAGE DRINKING (ART 92 UCMJ) — Exactly what alcohol policies are they going to review?

— **Amelia Earwig**

Alcohol abuse was a problem I witnessed during my entire career and saw it throughout all the ranks and age groups.

— **Wally**

Italy's guardsmen holding weekend fest

By **KENT HARRIS**
Stars and Stripes

It's not Carnevale in Venice, but the crowds may be as thick this weekend in Pordenone, a city of 50,000 near Aviano Air Base, when hundreds of thousands of visitors gather wearing the feathered green hats of the Alpini mountain infantry troops.

The Alpini, similar to the U.S. National Guard, hold an annual

gathering of current and former members. This year's — the 87th — will be the first held in Pordenone. It runs from Friday to Sunday.

As evidenced by the thousands of Italian flags flying around the province for the past few weeks, other towns are participating as well, with concerts Friday and Saturday, and even the air base will host tours for Alpini visitors.

The main event in Pordenone is

a daylong parade on Sunday. The march, expected to involve 75,000 people with more lined along the route, starts at 9 a.m. on the SS-13 near the Electrolux facility and is expected to end about 8:30 p.m. at the city fairgrounds.

Active troops, dignitaries and chapters of retirees from countries around the world — including at least one from the United States — are scheduled to participate.

The downtown area of Pordenone will be closed to traffic from noon Thursday through Sunday, and the base population is being told to expect heavy traffic and crowds at events around the city.

The city's hospital should remain accessible with the brief exception of a parade Friday morning that starts at the hospital and finishes at City Hall.

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MILITARY

Military leaders, Congress clash on spending priorities

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military leadership on Tuesday pressed plans to slash popular troop benefits and curb pay raises but House lawmakers remain committed to preserving those benefits.

ANALYSIS

The Joint Chiefs of Staff testified during a rare gathering in the Senate and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke in Chicago on the need to reduce personnel costs.

Meanwhile, the House was set Wednesday to debate its own defense budget proposal, which would "nickel and dime" some ship, aircraft and construction programs to help fund pay raises and benefits for troops, said Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The Republican-controlled committee has rejected the Department of Defense proposals to cap pay raises at 1 percent and slash the costs of military supermarkets, housing allowances and the Tricare health care system — despite dire warnings by the entire Joint Chiefs of Staff in Senate testimony Tuesday that readiness could suffer otherwise.

The committee was expected to cobble together a final draft of the defense budget late Wednesday and send it to the full House for a vote.

"Through smart planning, rearrangement of capital and resources, targeted cuts and reduction of some bureaucracy, we've been able to shield our military from a crippling blow," McKeon said during a speech at the Heritage Foundation.

Pay and benefits remain untouched. McKeon and other Republicans in the House say the DOD has given Congress a false choice between cutting spending on troops and their families or overall military readiness.

The \$521 billion budget — and an additional \$79 billion for the Afghanistan War effort — would compromise on the embattled A-10 Warthog. It would take the aircraft out of service, but keep it in a high-level storage status; the planes could be quickly activated.

"It has saved the lives of countless American men and women in combat," McKeon said. "It still has over a decade of service life left in it, and it's to be replaced by a plane, the F-35, that is better suited to do other jobs."

The House budget also cuts spending on Navy ships, the KC-46 Pegasus aircraft and aircraft carrier-based drones.

"We looked for savings in programs like the Littoral Combat Ship, the Zumwalt destroyer, and military construction projects," he said. "Given the failing security situation abroad, it is the height of stupidity that we even have to make these choices in



Rick Vasquez/Stars and Stripes

Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testify Tuesday before the Senate Armed Services Committee, making the case that cuts to pay and benefits are necessary to maintain military readiness.

the first place."

Still, the budget provides for an array of equipment and programs, including nearly \$800 million to refuel the nuclear-powered USS Washington aircraft carrier, \$1 billion for readiness programs, \$80 million for body armor and \$100 million for medium and heavy tactical vehicles.

On Tuesday, the DOD was pushing a very different budget message — that pay and benefits reform is crucial to balance the budget and preserve military readiness.

Hagel lashed out at Congress for an "irresponsible deferral of governing responsibility" that allowed the Budget Control Act of 2011 to become law and force automatic cuts to the nation's defense spending.

"And even as Congress has slashed our overall budget, they have so far proven unwilling to accept necessary reforms to curb growth in compensation costs and eliminate DOD's excess infrastructure

and unneeded facilities," he said during a speech in Chicago.

Also Tuesday, all members of the Joint Chiefs testified to warn of the dangers of a shrinking defense budget and press for support of a 1 percent pay raise and reductions to commissary, housing and health care benefits.

In addition to the 1 percent pay raise, the DOD proposes cutting subsidies to base supermarkets from \$1.4 billion to \$400 million annually, reducing housing allowances until servicemembers pay about 5 percent for residences and utilities, and consolidating what Joint Chiefs Vice Chairman Adm. James Winnefeld called a "bewildering" Tricare health care system.

Overall, the reforms would save the military about \$2 billion in the 2015 fiscal year and \$31 billion over five years.

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Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR

Officers' Club 243-5030

Mother's Day Champagne Brunch

Sunday, May 11 from 0900 to 1400 in Kosano Dining Room
Time to appreciate mom, let us provide a spectacular array of food and give mom a well-deserved break. All moms will receive a free carnation. \$20.95/adult, \$10.95/8-11 years old, \$8.95/4-7 years old and free for three years and under. Reservations highly recommended for this very busy day. Open to all hands.

"Mabuhay in May" Philippine Promotion

Friday, May 23 from 1700 to 2100 in Kosano Dining Room
This all hands event brings a bountiful buffet of Filipino Fiesta foods. Door prizes and great family fun. \$25/adult, \$12.50/8-11 years old, \$10/4-7 years old and free for 3 years and under. Limited seating available, so get your tickets at the cash cage today!

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Sunday, May 11 from 0900 to 1400

Reservations highly recommended. Give mom a special treat to our elegant Mother's Day Brunch. We prepare spectacular brunch buffet ranging from pancakes and waffle station, made-to-order omelets, chef carving station and special menu, fruits and pastries to a never ending dessert buffet. With live music to enhance the mood and atmosphere. Adults \$19.95 | Kids 8-11 \$9.95 | Kids 4-7 \$4.95

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Saturday, May 17 from 1700 to 2045 in Italian Gardens
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Club Takemiya 246-8077

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 11 in Club Takemiya

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Armed Forces Day

Saturday, May 17 in Club Takemiya

For all you do, thank you! Receive \$1.05 off your entire meal for all guests in uniform, including take-out!

Negishi Club 242-4151

Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 11 in Negishi All Hands' Club

Nothing says I love you more than treating mom to a special meal! Along with our full buffet, this year's brunch will feature finger sandwiches, fresh fruit, petit fours and an array of drinks sure to bring a smile to her face! \$14.95.

Armed Forces Day

Saturday, May 17 in Negishi All Hands' Club

For all you do, thank you! Receive \$1.05 off your entire meal for all guests in uniform, including take-out!

MILITARY

Kamikaze farewell letters offered to UN

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

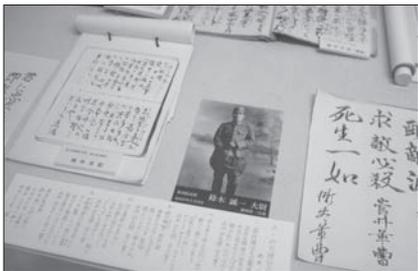
MINAMIKYUSHU, Japan — If a Japanese city has its way, the last letters home from World War II kamikaze pilots could be listed on a U.N. registry that seeks to recognize and preserve culturally important film, art and historical documents.

The letters, vetted by military censors, offer a striking glimpse into the minds of Imperial Japanese soldiers during the war. Some vow to kill American servicemembers, while others express sadness at their impending death.

"We had been thinking about a way to send out a message that there should be no wars to the world and how to eliminate wars," said Takeshi Kawatoko, a retired Japanese Army colonel who now is an official at the Chiran Peace Museum for Kamikaze Pilots, the old kamikaze air base-turned-custodian for the letters.

"We learned about a way to plead [our message] to the world." Minamikyushu, the city in southern Japan where the museum is located, submitted a proposal on Feb. 4, seeking recognition for 333 letters and farewell notes out of their museum collection — items that can be directly correlated to a specific pilot.

Officials from the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo declined to comment and would not say whether the U.S. government would oppose such a move. Officials from the United Nations Educational, Scientific



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

The city of Minamikyushu, Japan, has submitted 333 letters and farewell notes by Japan's World War II kamikaze pilots for consideration in the United Nations Memory of the World Register.

and Cultural Organization said a listing on the Memory of the World Register does not honor any person or event, nor does it indicate approval or endorsement.

Inclusion in the registry serves to raise awareness for the need to preserve historical records and understand different belief systems and ideologies as well as the motivation behind certain actions. The decision for inscription is made by a panel of experts working within a range of criteria to determine authenticity, world significance and uniqueness or rarity, UNESCO officials said. A decision on the letters is expected by mid-2015.

"Its registers serve to highlight

those items that have had an influence, either positive or negative, on the course of history," said Joe Springer, the program specialist responsible for Memory of the World. "From this perspective, they contribute to UNESCO's mandate of building peace in the minds of men and women."

The registry includes a wide assortment of entries from "The Wizard of Oz" to the Magna Carta. It also includes other items that might be deemed controversial, from archives of human rights abuses to records from the Holocaust and slavery.

"None of these generated any discussion in the press when they were listed, so presumably these

records were not considered controversial," Springer said. "The listing of slavery records did not commemorate their inherent atrocities or condone the practice."

Just under half of the 1,036 army kamikaze to die in the battle for Okinawa at the end of World War II flew from Chiran, museum officials said. The majority were teens or college age — called "the young boy pilots."

Their story was uniquely tragic. The base in Chiran, a small village that has since been absorbed by Minamikyushu, was set up in December 1941 as a branch of the Tachiarai Military Pilot School, museum officials said.

Aerial suicide attacks weren't used until October 1944 at the Battle of Leyte, named for the typhoon that defeated Kublai Khan as he tried to invade Japan from the sea in 1281.

In March 1945 — with American forces bearing down on Okinawa and the Japanese mainland — the air base switched its focus to the kamikaze to "save" Japan's mainland. The operation was over by July, with 439 dead from Chiran.

Before departing for their final mission, they left behind about 4,000 letters and other writings that are on display at the museum along with other items.

"Dear Mother," wrote 2nd Lt. Haruo Ohhashi, who died at the age of 27 on April 1, 1945. "How have you been? I feel that my 28 years of life was like a dream. I

thank you for your effort and love for me during these 28 years.

"So I will go today with bravery. As for my wife Ayako, please take care of her. We did not have a formal wedding ceremony yet. And we wanted to go home for once. However, we could not until now."

Many pilots at their last meals at the nearby Tomiya restaurant, owned and operated by Tome Torihama, their "mother" away from home. It is widely accepted that the letters left at the air base were largely written under the thumb of military censors so they might not reflect the true feelings of the pilots. Uncensored letters were left with Torihama.

Torihama fought for the pilots to be acknowledged, even as Japanese public opinion about the war reversed after it ended. Until her death, she maintained these were young men who were forced to die for something they didn't fully believe in.

These letters are not included in the package sent to the U.N., museum officials said. However, the proposal is supported by Torihama's grandson, Akihisa, who runs the Hotaru-kan, or Firefly House, a museum that showcases items left behind with his grandmother.

"They only included letters at Chiran Peace Museum, which were censored," said Akihisa, who hopes the recognition might bring visitors to his museum as well. "This was also the truth under the military administration, so I support the submission."

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Spearhead ends maiden run

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

The Navy wrapped up the maiden deployment of its new high-speed catamaran on Tuesday, when the USNS Spearhead pulled into Norfolk, Va., after a five-month tour of Europe and Africa.

The first of 10 planned Joint High Speed Vessels to be fielded by the service and operated by its Military Sealift Command, the Spearhead is designed for fast cargo and troop transport outside conflict zones. Its speed and low draft also make it attractive for other missions, a versatility explored during the deployment.

Military detachments embarked on the ship throughout the tour, including Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Riverines and special operators.

The vessel made port calls across Europe and Africa, participated in a law enforcement operation off the coast of Ghana and plugged into two exercises with African and European navies. It ferried a Marine unit to shore in Liberia.

Navy officials have been positive about the ship's performance and its potential for missions that don't require the heft or firepower of a warship.

"I think it provides a very flex-

ible option across the spectrum of operations, and we've just started to tap that potential," said Capt. John Rinko, commander of the logistics task force for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa.

The JHSV effectively replaces the Swift, a similar high-speed catamaran leased by the Navy through 2013 and used for exercises in waters that rarely see U.S. warships, such as those near Africa and South America.

After a few weeks in Norfolk to swap out its military detachment and undergo routine tests, the Spearhead will begin a four-to-five-month deployment around South America. Most of the civilian crew, about 25 mariners, will remain.

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Chinese, Vietnamese ships collide near oil rig

Vietnamese coast guard says ship rammed, harassed in disputed South China Sea

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Vietnamese and Chinese ships collided Wednesday near a Chinese oil rig in waters claimed by both nations in the South China Sea, further escalating a rift that began when China began drilling near a disputed island group last weekend.

Six Vietnamese crewmembers were injured by shattered glass when Chinese ships rammed Vietnamese vessels near China's Haiyang Shiyou 981 drilling rig in waters close to the Paracel Islands, Rear Adm. Ngo Ngoc Thu, vice commander of Vietnam's coast guard, told reporters at a press conference Wednesday night.

Vietnamese officials said China had brought more than 80 ships, including seven warships and 53 patrol vessels, to protect the rig, according to Vietnamese media reports.

Chinese ships have also blasted Vietnamese coast guard ships with water cannons repeatedly over the past few days, Thu said.

Vietnamese officials played video of the incidents Wednesday for reporters, some of whom have since posted the footage to YouTube. Photos purported to be of Chinese ships harassing and ramming the Vietnamese ships also were posted online by Vietnamese

news outlets.

Vietnam has not sent any of its military vessels to the area, instead relying on police and fisheries ships, Thu said.

The incidents occurred about 10 miles from the \$1 billion oil rig, Thu said, according to media reports.

"Our maritime police and fishing protection forces have practiced extreme restraint; we will continue to hold on there," Thu said at the press conference, according to The Associated Press. "But if (the Chinese ships) continue to ram into us, we will respond with similar self-defense."

A Vietnamese official told the AP that no ammunition had been fired in the area, which is about 150 miles from the Vietnamese coast and about 225 miles from China's Hainan Island.

As of Wednesday night, China had not yet issued a statement in response.

China has held de facto control over the Paracel Islands since a naval battle with South Vietnam in 1974, but Vietnam maintains its claim.

Two foreign diplomats speaking on condition of anonymity told the AP that Vietnam dispatched as many as 29 armed naval and coast guard ships to areas near the oil rig when it became aware of China's intentions.

Chinese claims to roughly 90 percent of the South China Sea — despite competing claims from Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Brunei and Taiwan — have increasingly concerned security officials in the United States and elsewhere, largely because of their potential to spark conflict in an area where much of the world's energy resources and consumer goods travel on ships.

The United States also operates ships in the region in a bid to preserve freedom of navigation in international waters — a concept China views far differently than the U.S. and many of its neighbors. While most nations claim rights to operations in the Exclusive Economic Zones within 200 nautical miles of a nation's shores, China does not.

Prior to reports of the collision, Daniel Russel, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said Wednesday that the United States was watching the conflict, but urged caution from all sides.

"We believe that it is critically important for each of the claimant countries to exercise care and restraint," he told Reuters during a visit to Hong Kong ahead of a previously scheduled trip to Hanoi on Wednesday.

"The global economy is too fragile and regional stability is too

important to be put at risk over short-term economic advantage."

The Maritime Safety Administration of China announced May 3 on its website that all ships should stay away from the rig, called the Haiyang Shiyou 981.

The decision drew immediate condemnation from Vietnam, where a Foreign Ministry spokesman called the area "undeniably within Vietnam's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf."

International maritime law generally considers waters within 200 nautical miles of a country's borders to be part of its exclusive economic zone.

China maintains it owns the area largely through a claim of historical discovery.

China's move comes just after President Barack Obama's visit to Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Malaysia. All except South Korea have territorial disputes with China.

During a news conference in Manila, Obama noted that the United States doesn't "go around sending ships and threatening folks" when it has territorial disputes, a pointed reference to China's actions.

China and Vietnam have repeatedly clashed over territory since Vietnam's official reunification in 1976. The two nations engaged in repeated border skirmishes from 1979 through 1990.



SOURCE: ESRI MCT

Besides the Paracel battle in 1974, the two navies fought over Johnson South Reef in the disputed Spratly Islands in 1988.

More than 70 Vietnamese sailors died in the Chinese victory, according to media reports.

Last year, China imposed fishing regulations on large parts of the South China Sea that the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and other nations view as their own or as international waters.

In recent years, Navy officials have accused Chinese ships of shadowing and obstructing the navigation of U.S. ships, though such accusations have dropped within the past year.

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MILITARY

At 'Wall,' updating history written in stone



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Preparing to cut a name into the black granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, engraver Jim Lee positions a stencil and a sandblasting platform as onlookers watch on Friday in Washington. Lee's business partner, Kirk Bochman, holds his hat to shade the area.

Engravers add names of Vietnam-era dead under watchful public eye

By CARLOS BONGIOANNI
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lined row upon row, the names etched on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial's polished black granite slabs are a somber reminder that more than 58,000 U.S. troops died — or were listed as missing-in-action — as a result of their involvement in the Vietnam War.

Even though the war ended four decades ago, the list continues to grow as Jim Lee and Kirk Bochman find spots to carefully sandblast new names on the memorial.

"It's a very poignant statement about what war is all about," Lee said last week, as the engraver and his business partner prepped a cordoned-off section of what's known as "the Wall."

On Sunday, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will host a ceremony at the memorial in recognition of the 13 veterans whose names they added. Eight veterans listed on the wall as missing will be recognized as having their status changed to "confirmed dead."

Lee and Bochman came to the memorial in 1986 to add 110

Watch as names are added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial starsandstripes.com/go/sandblast

names. The names on the original, dedicated in 1982, came from a Department of Defense master list that planners never intended to update, Lee said. Thinking the follow-up work might be "a one-time deal," Lee said he asked Jan Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, how long the updating might go on.

"He said to me, 'Jim, plan on it, you'll be out here doing this when you're 65.'"

Lee turns 66 in June. "I just said, 'Come on, no way. You've got to be kidding.' But it's true. We're still out here doing it," he said.

Even after doing this for 28 years, Lee remembers stories behind some of the names. He recalled one Vietnam veteran who spent 16 years in a coma at a VA hospital before he passed away. Another veteran — whom Lee said had visited the memorial — died after shrapnel lodged inside him from his days in Vietnam broke loose and severed his aorta.

Adding the names is a delicate process.

Precise measurements must be made to ensure letters are lined up, have the right width and are etched into the granite to a depth that matches the etchings already on the monument. If the inscription is too shallow, the new name will stand out. If it's cut too deeply, the name will lie in shadows.

The letters are burned into the wall as a dust-free sandblasting apparatus is passed over a stencil mounted with an adhesive. Aluminum oxide particles shot at high pressure cut into the granite under the stencil. The area around the letters has a rubber material that deflects the particles so the granite beneath the rubber does not get burned. At the same time the rock is being cut, a vacuum system sucks up the debris.

Ensuring that the adhesive holds the stencil in place is critical, Lee said. If the wall gets too hot, it could dry out and weaken the adhesive, causing stencil failure. Coupled with the strong suction of the vacuum system, a weakened adhesive could let the stencil lift up, allowing particles to mar the wall.

"That's the most terrible thing

that could happen," Lee said, adding that even the slightest error with the sandblaster will cause exposed granite to turn white. "And so, if you have the center of the 'O' come off because the wall was too hot, then you have a great big white blob in the middle of a letter."

At that point, Lee said, "you've done damage to the wall."

Not wanting their company, Engrave Write in Denver, to be the one that "ruins a national memorial," Lee and Bochman approach their job with the utmost care.

"This is not like most sandblasting. There are people immediately around you," said Lee who recalled mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters watching him burn the name of their loved one on the wall. "It's almost performance sandblasting, if you want to call it that."

Lee said that when he first began engraving names on the wall, he didn't anticipate how important the memorial would become to him.

"It's taught me a lot," he said. "To see what 58,000 names means. The sacrifice is pretty profound."

bongioanni.carlos@stripes.com

Additions

Staff Sgt. Jerry Leon Antrich
U.S. Army
June 20, 1930–Aug. 10, 1969
Date of casualty: Nov. 1, 1967

Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Joseph Baum
U.S. Army
Feb. 22, 1930–Feb. 28, 1971
Date of casualty: Unknown

Pfc. Henry John Drozdowski Jr.
U.S. Army
March 9, 1947–April 30, 2011
Date of casualty: Jan. 13, 1967

Spc. 5 Michael Noel Faherty
U.S. Army
Dec. 30, 1946–July 25, 1968
Date of casualty: Unknown

Pfc. Gregory Jackson Franklin
U.S. Army
July 19, 1949–Feb. 12, 1979
Date of casualty: Nov. 27, 1968

Spc. 4 William Arthur Gabrielsen
U.S. Army
April 2, 1947–March 10, 1970
Date of casualty: Aug. 12, 1968

Pfc. Ronald Hall
U.S. Army
July 20, 1948–Oct. 2, 1967
Date of casualty: Unknown

Spc. 4 Robert Kroptavich
U.S. Army
Oct. 26, 1942–Sept. 10, 1968
Date of casualty: Unknown

Spc. 4 Thomas Charles Littles
U.S. Army
Nov. 29, 1946–June 3, 1971
Date of casualty: Oct. 28, 1969

Pfc. Paul Luther Loidolt
U.S. Army
Aug. 30, 1948–Feb. 21, 1969
Date of casualty: April 4, 1968

Master Sgt. Walter Hugh Mauldin
U.S. Army
Sept. 9, 1931–May 8, 1968
Date of casualty: Unknown

Spc. 4 Alan Leslie Seamans
U.S. Army
June 10, 1949–Jan. 25, 1998
Date of casualty: Oct. 13, 1967

Pfc. Danny Joe Wilson
U.S. Army
July 8, 1944–Nov. 16, 2012
Date of casualty: Aug. 18, 1966

Status changes

Maj. Howard Vincent Andre, Jr. USAF; Memphis, Tenn.; Panel 21W, Row 80

Spc. 5 John Lawrence Burgess; USAF; Kingsley, Mich.; Panel 9W, Row 104

Col. Thomas Wayne Dugan; USAF; Reading, Pa.; Panel 36W, Row 14

Maj. Leo Fuda Guillemin; USAF; of West Chester, Pa.; Panel 53E, Row 14

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Barry Judd; USN; Cleveland; Panel 22E, Row 88

Lt. Col. Robert Edward Pletsch; USAF; Cleveland; Panel 53E, Row 21

Maj. James Elmo Sizemore; USAF; San Diego; Panel 21W, Row 86

Staff Sgt. Lawrence Woods; USA; Clarksville, Tenn.; Panel 1E, Row 68

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NATION

2 of Obama's closest advisers set to tell all in upcoming memoirs

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Over the next month, two of President Barack Obama's closest first-term advisers will spill insider details on the administration's handling of the early days of the Great Recession, the White House's cautious response to the Syrian civil war and the genesis of clandestine talks with Iran.

The back-to-back memoirs from former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and ex-Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will be the latest installments in what has become an often awkward Washington ritual: one-time confidants signing big book contracts to examine a presidency that is still ongoing and policy decisions that are still being implemented.

Clinton and Geithner's books will be released just four months after former Defense Secretary Robert Gates' memoir landed like a sucker punch in the West Wing. Gates gave political advisers in the White House virtually no warning — and no advance copy — of his headline-generating memoir, which included criticisms of Obama's decision-making.

Gates was sharply critical of Obama's decision-making in his book "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War." He was also unsparing in his critique of Joe Biden, accusing the vice president of having "been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."

However, Obama aides do not appear to be girding for a repeat of their experience with Gates'

book as they await the release of Geithner and Clinton's memoirs.

While Geithner has not provided the White House with advance copies of his book, "Stress Test," the text has been reviewed by lawyers at Treasury and the Federal Reserve.

Drafts of Clinton's book, "Hard Choices," have been circulating for months among a small number of officials in Obama's National Security Council.

Clinton's book will be combed for any sign of discord with Obama, the man who defeated her in the 2008 Democratic presidential campaign and whom she could run to replace in 2016. Clinton has said little about the book, due out June 10, though it is expected to center on the main foreign policy challenges she was involved in during her four-year tenure at the helm of the State Department, including Syria and the start of secret discussions with Iran that led to the current nuclear negotiations.

Discussing the book in March, Clinton said reliving her tumultuous years as secretary of state "has been eye-opening because when you are in the middle of it, you get up every day, you put one foot in front of the other and try to do the best you can."

Geithner's book comes out Monday and is expected to focus on the decisions the government made in response to the recession that gripped the United States at the start of Obama's presidency.

Geithner was at the center of the negotiations over the administration's massive economic stimulus package and controversial Dodd-Frank financial regulation bill.



CHRIS SEWARD, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Tea party favorite and U.S. Senate candidate Greg Brannon arrives with his family to vote in the primary election in Cary, N.C., on Tuesday. Voters in three states Tuesday chose primary candidates for dozens of state and federal offices.

GOP incumbents fend off tea party in early primaries

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Republican congressional incumbents in three U.S. states overcame challenges from anti-establishment candidates in the first of a spate of primaries testing the strength of the small-government tea party movement that first rocked the party years ago.

Tuesday's races marked the beginning of the political primary season in earnest ahead of the November elections, when control of the Senate will be at stake. Over the next several months, Republicans will hold numerous contests featuring incumbents or other establishment figures against tea party challengers.

The tea party movement has pulled the Republicans further to the right on issues such as immigration and taxes, energizing the conservative base in some regions of the country. But during the 2012 elections, tea party-backed

candidates unseated establishment-backed Republicans in some primary races only to lose to Democratic challengers in the general election. The Democrats retained control of the Senate.

In one of the most watched primaries, North Carolina House Speaker Thom Tillis defeated tea party favorite Greg Bannan and Baptist Minister Mark Harris on Tuesday for the right to challenge Democratic Sen. Kay Hagan in November.

Hagan, whom Republicans have made a top target in their drive to win a Senate majority in the fall, won her party's re-nomination over a pair of rivals, with about 80 percent of the primary vote.

The Republicans, who are expected to retain control of the House of Representatives in November, are six seats away from a Senate majority and determined to put electable candidates on the ballot.

Tillis won the nomination by running as a proud conservative who's not terribly different from his tea party and Christian-right opponents.

Now the question is whether he heaved so closely to his anti-establishment challengers that he will have trouble attracting moderate voters in a battleground state President Barack Obama won once and lost once.

Republican incumbents were also prevailing in Ohio, another battleground state. Rep. John Boehner, the speaker of the House, easily defeated two tea party challengers as he seeks his 13th term in Congress. First-term Rep. David Joyce had a slightly tougher time but was running well ahead of his tea party rival.

In Indiana, Republican Rep. Susan Brooks easily fended off a challenge from the right, rolling up 75 percent of the votes in a three-way race.

Federal auditors eye nonprofit group with USAID ties

By SCOTT HIGHAM
AND STEVEN RICH
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Auditors for two federal agencies are examining the operations of Arlington-based International Relief and Development, a nonprofit organization that is the largest recipient of grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The vast majority of its funding — 82 percent of \$2.4 billion — went to projects in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Employees who left IRD were asked to sign confidentiality agreements stipulating that they could not make disparaging remarks about the organization,

including to "funding agencies" or "officials of any government."

The Washington Post on Monday reported on IRD confidentiality agreements and on the nonprofit company's having hired numerous USAID officials.

Lawyers who reviewed the confidentiality agreements at the request of The Washington Post said they could violate whistleblower protections under the False Claims Act. IRD has said it is changing its policy to "conform to the latest developments in employment law."

John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, or SIGAR, said

his office is examining the agreements. "The threat of retaliation for reporting problems to oversight agencies is all too real," Sopko wrote in a letter to IRD founder Arthur Keys.

Sopko asked IRD to disclose how many employees have signed the agreements and to alert those who have that the documents are "null and void."

USAID also said its contractors should not use such language in confidentiality agreements.

"USAID contractors and implementing partners have an obligation to report allegations of waste, fraud or abuse related to USAID projects," the agency said

in a statement. "No contractor or partner should use nondisclosure agreements to limit the federally protected rights of its employees to report waste, fraud or abuse."

An IRD spokesman said the company is cooperating with Sopko's request. "We are in the process of complying," said William Pierce, senior director of APCO Worldwide, which IRD has hired as its media representative.

Sopko also wrote to the administrator of USAID, Rajiv Shah, requesting that the agency forbid the recipients of federal funds from using confidentiality agreements that prohibit their employees from talking to U.S.

government officials."

USAID Acting Inspector General Michael Carroll said Tuesday that his office will examine the "revolving door" of employees between the agency, IRD and other contractors.

At least 19 former USAID officials have been hired by IRD.

The agency said federal rules do not prohibit USAID employees from taking jobs with its contractors. "However, officials who leave the Agency are prohibited from representing a new employer back to the federal government on particular matters, like a contract on which the former employee worked," the agency said.

NATION

Panel urges changes in state executions

By SARI HORWITZ
The Washington Post

States should use only one drug to carry out death sentences, and it should be a single anesthetic or barbiturate that the U.S. government has approved for executions, according to a new report by a bipartisan panel of criminal justice experts that will be released Wednesday.

The 165-page study by the Constitution Project, a nonpartisan legal research organization, also recommends that states adopt lethal-injection protocols that are transparent, including providing information about the drugs used and the qualifications of the people administering them.

“Without substantial revisions

— not only to lethal injection, but across the board — the administration of capital punishment in America is unjust, disproportionate and very likely unconstitutional,” Mark Earley, a member of the Constitution Project’s death penalty committee, said in a statement. Earley was the Republican attorney general of Virginia from 1998 to 2001, when the state carried out 36 executions.

The report, “Irreversible Error,” does not take a position on the use of the death penalty but instead makes 39 recommendations to courts and policymakers in states that choose to use it, with the goal of preventing errors in the administration of capital punishment.

The findings are being released

‘... the criminal justice system faces vexing challenges in carrying out the ultimate punishment.’

Mark White
former Texas governor

three-drug cocktail from undisclosed sources. Lockett struggled on the gurney before dying of an apparent heart attack after 43 minutes. Oklahoma, like some other states, uses unproven drug cocktails; states say they need to

a week after Oklahoma’s bungled execution of convicted murderer Clayton Lockett, who was given an injection of a

conceal the source of the drugs to protect their suppliers from legal action and harassment.

President Barack Obama last week said that the United States continues to have “significant problems,” including racial bias, in the application of the death penalty. Obama asked Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. to examine the issue and report to him.

In a statement, former Texas governor Mark White, co-chair of the Constitution Project’s death-penalty committee, said the new report “provides a detailed road map” for the Justice Department to follow. The report was assembled by a panel that included former state attorneys general, governors, judges, police chiefs, corrections directors, victims’

advocates and law enforcement officials.

Problems with lethal injections are only a small part of what troubles the administration of capital punishment in America, said White, a death penalty supporter who oversaw 19 executions when he was governor.

“From the moment of arrest to the moment of death, the criminal justice system faces vexing challenges in carrying out the ultimate punishment,” White said in the statement.

The report recommends that Congress develop federal standards for accrediting forensic laboratories and that only examiners from labs that meet the accreditation standards be allowed to testify in capital cases.

Attorney: Captor left house open

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ariel Castro intentionally left doors unlocked at his house in the months before three women escaped after nearly a decade of captivity because he knew the end was near, his former defense attorney said.

Castro felt that the young girl he fathered with one of his captives was getting older and needed to be in school with a life outside the house, attorney Craig Weintraub told WKYC in Cleveland.

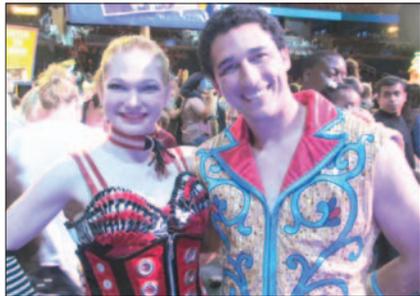
“He didn’t have the courage to go to the police department and surrender, and the only way this was going to happen is if he was negligent and allowed them to leave the house and be able to find a way out while he was gone a few hours,” Weintraub said.

Tuesday is the anniversary of the escape from the house by Michelle Knight, Amanda Berry and Gina DeJesus, whose breakout and subsequent recounting of the horrors they suffered during their time in captivity drew substantial attention. Castro pleaded guilty to charges last August and soon after committed suicide in prison.

Weintraub, who represented Castro, said Castro decided not to kill the three women because he had become close to the child he had with Berry.

DeJesus, Berry and Knight disappeared separately between 2002 and 2004 in Cleveland. They were rescued from Castro’s run-down house May 6, 2013, after Berry broke through a screen door. Police found DeJesus and Knight upstairs where there were bedrooms outfitted with chains and locks.

According to police documents released this week, Berry told authorities after she escaped: “He didn’t lock the door, he always locks the doors. I thought it was a trick but I had to take that chance.”



WAYNE T. PITARD/AP

Samantha Pitard, standing with Andre Medeiros, was one of eight acrobats performing a circus hair-hanging stunt when a clamp snapped. Pitard was the first of the acrobats to be released from the hospital.

Injured circus performer is ready to return to the ring

By MICHELLE R. SMITH
The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — One of eight circus acrobats who plunged about 20 feet to the ground during a hair-hanging act witnessed by thousands says she’ll perform the stunt again.

“For me, you gotta get back up and do it again,” Samantha Pitard told The Associated Press after being released from a hospital Tuesday.

Pitard and seven other acrobats were performing an act described as a “human chandelier,” hanging from an apparatus by their hair. They were injured during a Sunday performance of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus when a clamp at the top of the chandelier-like apparatus snapped, dropping them to the ground.

The other women are still hospitalized and Pitard said she plans to stay in Providence to support her friends as they work to regain their health. Then she’d

like to return to the circus.

“I’m hoping to join back up with the tour and show the world that I’m OK, and I’m hoping some of the other girls will do the same,” she said.

Pitard, 23, a native of Champaign, Ill., said she’s the only one of the troupe who can walk on her own. The others need assistance or haven’t tried to walk because they’re undergoing operations. She said the others are expected to fully recover and are in good spirits after receiving an outpouring of support, including get-well cards from children who witnessed the accident. About 3,900 people were in the audience.

“Every single one of us in the troupe, every single circus performer, knows that they are risking their lives every time they go out there to perform or practice,” she said. “We hope it doesn’t happen, but we know that we are taking that risk, and we love it enough to take that risk every day to make people happy.”

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UKRAINE UNREST



ANDREW KRAVCHENKO/AP

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, left, inspects an army vehicle at Sloviansk, Ukraine, on Wednesday as Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a pullback of troops from the border.

Russia: Putin calls for delay of planned referendum

FROM FRONT PAGE

Ukraine launched a government offensive late last week to take back buildings and towns under control of the insurgents. At least 35 people, including many rebels, have died in that offensive, the government said.

Many had feared that Sunday's vote on more autonomy would be a flashpoint for further violence between the rebels and Ukrainian troops in the east. Russia annexed the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula of Crimea in March after residents held a vote and overwhelmingly backed secession.

"We believe that the most important thing is to create direct, full-fledged dialogue between the Kiev authorities and representatives of southeast Ukraine," Putin said. "Because of this, we ask that representatives of southeast Ukraine, supporters of federalization in the country, postpone the May 11 referendum in order to create the necessary conditions for such a dialogue."

Despite Putin's comments, pro-Russia militants calling themselves the Donetsk People's Republic said they would still hold the referendum on Sunday.

Putin also described Ukraine's May 25 presidential election as a move "in the right direction," and said his talk with Burkhalter, who is chairman-in-office for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, encouraged him that "our approaches (to Ukraine) coincide."

The Russian leader still repeated Russia's long-held stance that constitutional reforms must precede any nationwide vote in Ukraine.

In Berlin, a leading Ukrainian presidential candidate said he was prepared to negotiate a decentralization of power as pro-

Russia insurgents in the east have demanded.

But Petro Poroshenko, a billionaire chocolate magnate, added that some insurgents in the eastern region understand only "the language of force."

The U.S. and European nations have increased diplomatic efforts ahead of the presidential election as the insurgency makes the east of the country increasingly unsafe for journalists and international observers.

Seven international military observers with an OSCE mission were taken hostage by pro-Russian insurgents in the eastern city of Sloviansk on April 25 and released Saturday.

Russia and the West have expressed a desire for the OSCE to play a greater role in defusing the tensions in Ukraine.

In Kiev, the Ukrainian capital, Jeffrey Feltman, the U.N. under-secretary-general for political affairs, met with Ukraine's acting president, Oleksandr Turchynov, on Wednesday after visiting Moscow a day earlier. British Foreign Secretary William Hague also arrived to speak with the nation's leaders.

Speaking in a BBC interview, Hague lent his support to Ukraine's presidential election.

Ukrainians "cannot be bullied out of having their elections by disorder that is deliberately fomented and coordinated from another country, in this instance Russia," he said.

In one sign of compromise from the authorities in Kiev, Pavel Gubarev, the self-proclaimed "people's mayor" who was detained by Ukrainian authorities in March, was set free on Wednesday and was seen back in Sloviansk. His release was a big rallying cry for the pro-Russian side.

Europe feels sanctions' impact

By LORI HINNANT
The Associated Press

PARIS — Sanctions against Russia are taking a toll in Europe as well, figures showed Wednesday, as a top U.S. official negotiated potential new economic punishment for the Kremlin's incursion into Ukraine.

Treasury Undersecretary David Cohen, in Paris as part of the Obama administration's push to bolster European support for broader sanctions, acknowledged that the measures are also inflicting pain on companies in the United States and especially Europe, whose banks and energy firms have deep Russian interests.

"This is not cost-free for anybody, including the United States. We don't deny the reality that there's more exposure overall in Europe," Cohen told reporters.

But, he said, the stakes were higher after Russia's takeover of the Crimean Peninsula and the weeks of unrest in eastern Ukraine that have followed. Cohen would not specify what could trigger new sanctions, but said a recent execu-

tive order would allow the U.S. to target Russian companies in specific economic sectors.

He also said the U.S. and Europe were committed to ensuring that Ukraine's May 25 presidential elections take place without interference.

"We are looking to design the sanctions in a way that maximizes the impact of those we're trying to affect while minimizing the collateral impact," Cohen said.

Russia's economic slowdown predates the sanctions but appears to have accelerated. Investors pulled about \$60 billion out of the country in the first quarter of the year — more than in all of 2013 — and the economy is contracting. The ruble has fallen to record lows, cutting the value of revenues and investments made by foreign companies.

The effect is rippling through some of Europe's largest companies. French bank Societe Generale said Wednesday that the declining ruble and economic uncertainty forced the write-down of \$25 million euros on its Russian activities, which include a 92.4

percent stake in Rosbank.

BP, which has a 20 percent stake in Russia's largest oil producer, Rosneft, is facing even more complications. Rosneft's CEO is targeted by U.S. sanctions, and BP last week said its earnings from the Rosneft stake fell sharply in the first quarter because of the sliding ruble.

In Germany, factory orders plunged unexpectedly in March as the government warned that the crisis over Ukraine could add to underlying weakness among companies showing "temporary restraint in ordering activity due to current geopolitical events."

In a sign that even smaller-scale companies are suffering, Danish brewer Carlsberg said uncertainty in its Russian market led to \$12.5 million in first-quarter losses, with the assumption that sales there would continue to contract.

The U.S. has pressured senior American executives to skip an international economic forum in St. Petersburg, and Cohen said European governments share the view that attending "sends the wrong signal."

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WORLD

Syrian rebels give up Homs

By BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Exhausted and worn out from a yearlong siege, hundreds of Syrian rebels on Wednesday left their last remaining bastions in the heart of the central city of Homs under a ceasefire deal with government forces.

The exit of some 1,200 fighters and civilians will mark a de facto end of the rebellion in the battered city, which was one of the first places to rise up against President Bashar Assad's rule, earning it the nickname "capital of the revolution."

Gaining full control of Syria's third-largest city is a major win for Assad on multiple levels. Militarily, it diffuses the government hold on a swath of territory in central Syria, linking the capi-

tal Damascus with government strongholds along the coast and giving a staging ground to advance against rebel territory further north. Politically, gains on the ground boost Assad's hold on power as he seeks to add a further claim of legitimacy in presidential elections set for June 3.

By early afternoon Wednesday, more than 400 fighters had boarded several batches of buses that departed from a police command center on the edge of Homs' rebel-held areas, heading north, opposition activists said. Many of the rebels were wounded, and it was unclear how many civilians were among them.

An activist who goes by the name of Abu Yassin al-Homsi said all fighters and any remaining civilians would leave the city at the end of the day. According

to the deal, the rebels were being taken a few miles north to the rebel-held towns of Talbiseh and al-Dar al-Kabira on the northern edge of Homs province.

Al-Homsi said each fighter was allowed to carry his rifle and a bag of belongings with him. One rocket-propelled grenade launcher and a machine gun were also allowed on each bus in line with the agreement, he said.

"We are very sad for what is happening today," al-Homsi said. "We kept urging the international community to lift the siege but there was no response. We have lost more than 2,000 martyrs in nearly two years of siege."

The rebels will retain one townhold in Homs: Fighters in the Waer district, just outside Homs' Old City, have so far refused to join the evacuation.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Miscourt in ferry sinking

A girl places a paper ship in a memorial created to pay tribute to the victims of the Sewol ferry tragedy in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday. The South Korean government on Wednesday said it had miscounted the number of survivors — only 172 survived the April 16 sinking, not 174 as had been reported since April 18.

Girls: US military team to assist with logistics, intelligence in rescue effort

FROM FRONT PAGE

President Barack Obama spoke out on the abductions for the first time Tuesday, calling them "heart-breaking" and "outrageous."

"You've got one of the worst regional or local terrorist organizations in Boko Haram in Nigeria," he told ABC News. Obama said the Islamist group had been "killing people ruthlessly for many years now" and that the mass abduction of the students might help "mobilize the entire international community to finally do something against this horrendous organization."

Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said that U.S. Africa Command will send a small team of experts to the embassy in Nigeria to be part of the interagency "coordination and assessment cell." The team will consist of about 10 uniformed military personnel, mostly from Africa's headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, and is expected to travel to Nigeria within days.

These military personnel will advise and assist the Nigerians on communications, logistics, and intelligence related to the search and potential rescue of the kidnapped girls.

"Their mission there is to simply assess and advise," Warren said. "At this time, we are not considering a U.S. operation to help rescue the girls."

There is already a U.S. military presence at the embassy in Nigeria. There are about 50 U.S. troops there, including embassy security, Office of Military Cooperation and defense attaché staff. Warren doesn't know how many of those 50 will be assisting the coordination cell.

"The military personnel that have been in Nigeria have been seized by this since the beginning [of the crisis]. They've been doing what they were capable of doing," Warren said.

Some 20 Marines are there for

Nigerian official says hundreds are killed

LAGOS, Nigeria — Islamic militants killed as many as 300 in an attack on a border town in Nigeria's remote northeast, a state government official said Wednesday.

Shops and homes were set ablaze and razed in the attack Monday night in Gamboru Ngala, on Nigeria's border with Cameroon, Borno state Information Commissioner Mohammed Bulama

told The Associated Press by telephone. He said the fatality "figures are high — hundreds — but we are still awaiting details from the military authorities."

Nigerian federal Senator Ahmed Zannah said the attack lasted about 12 hours, according to the newspaper. The insurgents set homes on fire and gunned down residents who tried to escape from the flames, the paper reported.

From The Associated Press

training exercises, but they will not be part of the crisis response effort, according to Warren. The abduction was unbarbarous of rich Nigeria, which is currently hosting the World Economic Forum on Africa in the capital, Abuja. President Goodluck Jonathan, who has faced angry protests over the government's inability to find the girls, requested help Sunday from the U.S., Britain, France and China.

Secretary of State John F. Kerry told reporters at the State Department that he had spoken with Jonathan on Tuesday and that the Nigerian leader had accepted the American offer.

"We remain deeply concerned about the welfare of these young girls, and we want to provide whatever assistance is possible in order to help for their safe return to their families," Kerry said. On Capitol Hill, all 20 women in the Senate signed a letter asking Obama to pressure the United Nations Security Council to acknowledge Boko Haram's ties to al-Qaida and to ask the U.N. to consider international sanctions. The group has already been cut off from U.S. financial institutions.

"These girls were captured and

dispersed in northeastern Nigeria and in nearby Cameroon and Niger.

The sect opposes secular education and Western culture and says Nigerian schools are turning young people away from Islam. Its name translates from the Hausa language as "Western education is a sin," and the group is bitterly opposed to democracy.

The group, modeled on Afghanistan's extremist Taliban movement, mounted an operation in northern Nigeria in the early 2000s, targeting symbols of government authority such as military barracks, police stations and politicians.

It switched to civilian targets in recent years, leaving the country's north in military lockdown. The group is blamed for attacking churches, a bus station, school dormitories and villages. In February, gunmen believed to be from Boko Haram killed dozens of students at a school in Yobe state, slitting the throats of some and locking others in dormitories that were then set ablaze.

Despite staging major assaults that left hundreds dead in two towns, Boko Haram gained widespread international notice only after last month's mass abduction of the schoolgirls.

Fear of further attacks has led to the shuttering of schools in the region. The abducted girls had gathered from many district

schools so they could take exams, but the gunmen easily overpowered two security guards, forced the girls onto trucks and drove them into the forest.

In November, Human Rights Watch accused Boko Haram of abducting scores of women and girls, some as young as 12, to traffic them as sex slaves or to force them to become combatants.

"Witnesses described Boko Haram laying siege to towns, villages and highways; looting and burning houses, shops and vehicles; and executing and decapitating people," the report said. They particularly targeted members of civilian vigilante groups that have sprung up in response.

Shekau took over as leader after Boko Haram's founder, Mohammed Yusuf, was killed while in Nigerian police custody in 2009.

Described as a religious zealot of few words, Shekau occasionally releases video statements that appear designed to terrorize the country's fearful northern population.

"I enjoy killing anyone that God commands me to kill, the way I enjoy killing chickens and rams," he said in a video released in 2012 after an assault on the city of Kano left at least 180 people dead, many of them military men and their families.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.

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STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

The growing ranks of an aging US

By Lewis W. Diuguid

Baby boomers need to start paying more attention to data about older people because as time passes more of them will be us.

More than 75 million Americans are baby boomers born from 1946 to 1964. Boomers born 1946 through 1949 this year will be age 65 and older.

For May, which President John F. Kennedy in 1963 set as Senior Citizen Month and President Jimmy Carter in 1980 designated as Older Americans Month, the U.S. Census Bureau gives an interesting look into the lives of older people in this country. The census reports that 4.3 million people age 65 and older in 2012 were full-time workers, up from 1.3 million in 1992. Older people are living longer, but they are working longer, too.

Older people now are a lot more educated than in the past, with 82.6 percent of people age 65 and older in 2013 having completed high school or more and 25.3 percent earning a bachelor's degree or more. Older people also are well-rooted in their communities, with 80.7 percent being homeowners as of the fourth quarter of 2013.

Not every older person is well off. In fact, there are extremes — 9 percent, or 3.9 million people age 65 and older in 2012, live in poverty. But the median net worth of people age 65 and older in 2011 was \$170,516 compared with \$203,015 (in 2011 dollars) in 2005.

Blame the drop on the Great Recession, which hit people age 50 and older particularly hard with job retirement savings losses.

The number of people age 65 and older on July 1, 2012, was 43.1 million. They were 13.7 percent of the population. By 2056, people age 65 and older are expect-



Raymond Sternberg, 93, kisses Jerri Kane, 88, in their room at The Jewish Home in Reseda, Calif., in February. They are part of an aging American population being expanded by baby boomers.

ed for the first time to outnumber people younger than 18 in the U.S.

People age 65 and older are expected to number 92 million by 2060. One in five U.S. residents will be in that age group. About 18 million will be age 85 or older.

The ranks of baby boomers will dwindle, shrinking to 2.4 million by 2060. The youngest among today's boomers will be 96 years old in 2060. Rock on!

Lewis W. Diuguid is a member of The Kansas City Star's Editorial Board.

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'Leveling' income is an old and failed idea

By STEPHEN MOORE

In public policy, bad ideas are — no matter how many times they have been discredited — never completely gone away. They seem to pop up over and over. Enter the hot new book that has captured the imagination and attention of the left because it endorses an 80 percent tax rate on the rich in the name of "leveling" incomes.

The book is titled "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" by French economist Thomas Piketty. In addition to 1970s-style tax rates, he wants a new wealth tax on the rich and more money for social welfare programs. He's being treated like the modern-day Adam Smith by the media.

The way to create a more equal distribution of income, apparently, is by making everyone poorer.

Piketty warns that "meritocratic extremism" — which is another way of saying you get to keep the fruits of your labor — is ruining our nation's economy, and if we don't divide the pie more equally, the result could be "truly frightening." He says that his goal is to "save capitalism," which sounds much like the logic of President George W. Bush circa 2008 during the height of the financial crisis: We need to suspend the free enterprise system in order to save it.

Piketty insists he has 200 years of evidence to show that tax rates can and should go much higher on the rich. But he must not be counting the most recent 50 years, because this has been an era that has proven time and again that high tax rates can destroy an economy.

It's pretty simple, really: If you tax work, investment and achievement at a higher rate, you are going to get less of those things.

If tax rates didn't matter, as Piketty conjectures, then it would be hard to explain why Florida and Texas — states with no state income tax — have gained four times the number of jobs over the last 20 years as the two states with the highest rates, California and New York (with rates close to 13 percent). If overspending and high tax rates create a workers' paradise, why have American workers left these two states in such a steady stream?

The national story is even more compelling. In the 1960s, John F. Kennedy cut tax rates. This was followed by a similar round of rate reductions by Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. Under Reagan, the highest tax rate fell from 70 percent to 28 percent in 1980. Three things happened in the 1960s and '80s: 1) the economy exploded; 2) the share of income taxes paid by the rich increased; and 3) total tax receipts doubled as the economy roared back to life.

Here's an amazing statistic that Piketty chooses to ignore: When the highest income tax rate was 70 percent in the 1970s, the richest 1 percent paid about 19 percent of all federal income taxes.

But with a rate of 35 percent on the rich in 2011, the rich paid close to 38 percent

of all income taxes. The rich always find ways around high income taxes.

Piketty argues that even at an 80 percent tax rate, the rich would invest just as much as they did when rates were only half as high. By this logic, an investor will put his money down whether the government takes 80 cents out of every dollar earned or 40 cents of every dollar.

But in the real world, the amount of investment — and where the money is invested — is highly sensitive to the after-tax return. Business owners and investors move themselves or their investments to other places to escape high taxes.

Some 100 nations have ratcheted down tax rates over the last 30 years. It's pretty simple, really: If you tax work, investment and achievement at a higher rate, you are going to get less of those things.

That the left has come full circle to celebrating the anti-growth tax rates of the bad old days of the 1970s is a depressing reminder that liberals really haven't learned much of anything over the last several decades. In the Carter years, the combination of high tax rates and high inflation pushed Americans into ever-higher tax brackets, which contributed to the worst losses in middle-class incomes since the Great Depression.

If America is foolish enough to follow Piketty's advice, which is based purely on class warfare and envy, we may very well recreate the 1970s economic results all over again.

Stephen Moore is chief economist at The Heritage Foundation and co-author of "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of States."

OPINION

DC dinner gala produces ennui, self-loathing

By KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON

This is the time when Americans renew their hatred of Washington and Washington wallows in a bitter-sweet cocktail of self-love and self-loathing.

What is to say, Saturday night was the White House Correspondents' Association dinner amid a galaxy of pre- and after-parties. Attendee to these events is the also-annual hand-wringing about the dinner's value.

Those questioning, of course, are the media, who create the problem, then examine the problem, then suggest ways to solve the problem (that we don't really believe is a problem) and then go on to repeat the problem.

The rest of the world couldn't care less about the dinner except perhaps to note that Washington is out of touch with regular Americans and that journalists are too schmoozy with officialdom. Most journalists would agree, but who would want to miss the scholarship awards? Oh, you didn't know about those?

What we all hate most is the attendance of so many celebrities, who undermine the noble purpose of this convocation. Moreover, they tend to make journalists, who have spent considerable time looking their red carpet best, feel like last week's tulips.

Hence, the popular description of Washington as "Hollywood for Ugly People," and the dinner as the "Nerd Prom." Not that anyone in the media really feels this way, but it makes everyone feel better to say so, especially in light of the seething wall of protesters gathered each year outside the Washington Hilton.

The buzz-killer crowd, however, is quickly forgotten once inside, where an avenue of cameras and lights awaits stars passing along the red carpet. Note to future newbies: Your entrance is upstairs. Otherwise, you risk a probable humiliation that the lights will suddenly go dark and your grand entrance becomes a soul-killing walk of shame past a gantlet of fish-eyed fans of

other people.

This experience can be helpful, on the other hand, as you summon the requisite pose of perpetual self-awareness. Your thinking should follow this vein: It's not that you want to go to the dinner. It's your job to go. Whether goes the president, so go the media. And of course, the media did invite him, as well as all those celebrities we find so disruptive. There's a circularity to all of this that suggests an apt metaphor.

Another handy prompt to self-awareness is being gridlocked among 2,800 overheated people in long gowns and tuxedos as they tried to funnel one's way toward the escalator to the pre-party area. Standing shoulder to shoulder with Cabinet members and screen stars reminds us that no matter one's station in life, we all perspire the same.

Almost no one present will fail to note his or her ambiguity toward the dinner and the parties that most are dying to attend. There are exceptions to this club-think, notably The New York Times and Tom Brokaw. The Times stopped sending its staffers several years ago, saying the media shouldn't be parting with people it covers.

Brokaw made headlines when he protested the celebrity-driven nature of the evening, specifically following Lindsay Lohan's overshadowing presence the year before last. He lamented that the purpose of the evening — to allow journalists and politicians to mingle in a lighthearted, relaxed environment — had been hijacked.

He was right about the Lohan spectacle. I was standing nearby visiting with Lohan's hostess, Greta Van Susteren, when none other than Rick Santorum brought his daughters for a snapshot with the starlet. Brokaw is also right about the superficiality and misplaced emphasis of the evening. For this reason, many of us, including Van Susteren, swear we'll never go again. But since most of us do attend again, I hoped Brokaw might relent and asked him to be my date this year.

With his usual blunt charm, he described in delicious detail why he would never again darken the door of the correspondents' dinner.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Jessica Simpson arrives at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner at the Washington Hilton Hotel on Saturday.

ner. Feeling shallow and contrite before such superior standards, I feebly offered that I agreed completely but, you see, I had this dress.

"Well," he said, "if you'd let me wear the dress, I might reconsider."

Oh, how I loathe myself, my lack of will, my willingness to laugh at great jokes, great

friends and eat free food — the real lure for journalists who remember when they were always hungry.

Thus, as you are my witness, I vow never again. At least until next time — or Brokaw wears a dress.

Kathleen Parker is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group.

An origination question for the Affordable Care Act

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

If the president wants to witness a refutation of his assertion that the survival of the Affordable Care Act is assured, come Thursday he should stroll the 13 blocks from his office to the nation's second-most important court, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals.

There can be no argument involving yet another constitutional provision that evidently has escaped his notice. It is the Origination Clause, which says: "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills."

The ACA passed the Senate on a party-line vote and without a Democratic vote to spare, after a series of unsavory transactions that purchased the assent of several shrewdly extortionate Democrats.

What will be argued on Thursday is that what was voted on — the ACA — was indisputably an revenue measure and unquestionably not originate in the House, which later passed the ACA on another party-line vote.

The ACA passed the Senate on a party-line vote ... after a series of unsavory transactions that purchased the assent of several shrewdly extortionate Democrats.

resources in his business.

Hence, he objects to the ACA's mandate that requires him to purchase it or pay the penalty that the ACA daintily calls the "shared responsibility payment."

In June 2012, a Supreme Court majority accepted a, shall we say, *creative* reading of the ACA by Chief Justice John Roberts. The court held that the penalty, which the ACA repeatedly calls a penalty, is really just a tax on the activity — actually, the nonactivity — of not purchasing insurance. The individual mandate is not, the court held, a command but merely the definition of a condition that can be taxed. The tax is mild enough to be semivoluntary; individuals are free to choose whether or not to commit the inactivity that triggers the tax.

The "exaction" — Roberts' word — "looks," he laconically said, "like a tax in many respects." It is collected by the IRS, and the proceeds go to the Treasury for the general operations of the federal government, not to fund a particular program.

The surely makes the ACA a revenue measure.

Did it, however, originate in the House? Of course not.

In October 2009, the House passed a bill that would have modified a tax credit for members of the armed forces and some other federal employees who were first-time home buyers — a bill that had *nothing* to do with health care. Two months later, the Senate "amended" this bill by obliterating it. The Senate renamed it and completely erased its contents, replacing them with the ACA's contents.

Case law establishes that for a Senate action to qualify as a genuine "amendment" to a House-passed revenue bill, it must be "germane to the subject matter of the [House] bill." The Senate's shell game — gutting and replacing the House bill — created the ACA from scratch. The ACA obviously flunks the germaneness test, without which the House's constitutional power of originating revenue bills would be nullified.

Case law establishes that the Origination Clause does not apply to two kinds of bills. One creates "a particular governmental program and ... raises revenue to

support only that program." The second creates taxes that are "analogous to fines" in that they are designed to enforce compliance with a statute passed under one of the Constitution's enumerated powers of Congress other than the taxing power. The ACA's tax, which the Supreme Court repeatedly said is not an enforcement penalty, and hence is not analogous to a fine, fits neither exception to the Origination Clause.

The ACA's defenders say its tax is somehow not quite a tax because it is not primarily for raising revenue but for encouraging certain behavior (buying insurance). But the Origination Clause, a judicially enforceable limit on the taxing power, would be effectively erased from the Constitution if any tax with any regulatory — behavior-changing — purpose or effect were exempt from the clause.

The Court of Appeals sits six blocks from the Senate, which committed the legislative legerdemain of pretending to merely amend a House bill while actually originating a new one. Across the street from the Senate sits the Supreme Court, where this case may be headed.

Two years ago, the Supreme Court saved the ACA by declaring its penalty to be a tax. It thereby doomed the ACA as an unconstitutional violation of the Origination Clause.

George Will is a member of the Washington Post Writers Group.

NATION

FAIR TERRITORY?

Ballpark proposal stirs slave-trade memories

By STEVE SZKOTAK
The Associated Press

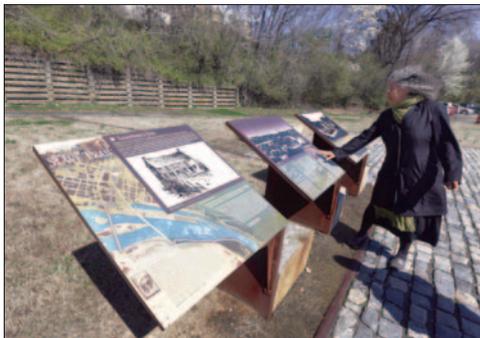
ARICHMOND, Va. — A proposal to build a ballpark in the slave-trading center of the former capital of the Confederacy has stirred opposition from blacks and others who contend it is “sacred ground” and no place to play baseball.

Opponents heckled Mayor Dwight C. Jones in November when he outlined plans for the \$200 million, stadium-centered economic development project in Shockoe Bottom, the city’s oldest neighborhood and home to its lucrative slave trade in the decades leading to the Civil War.

By some estimates, more than 300,000 men, women and children were jailed, bought and sold in the Bottom and shipped throughout the Southern states in the decades leading to the Civil War.

The stadium proposal has unleashed pent-up frustration among those who believe the city has literally buried that shameful chapter of its history.

Opponents have even recruited for their cause descendants of Solomon Northrup, whose tale of being kidnapped and sold into slavery was the basis of the celebrated movie



“12 Years a Slave.” He was held in a Richmond slave jail before being taken to New Orleans.

If nothing else, the debate has created the prospect of a long-overdue conversation about Richmond’s shameful role in the slave trade. Richmond was second only to New Orleans in slave commerce.

Maurie D. McInnis, professor of American art and material culture at the University of Virginia and scholar who has studied the slave trade in Richmond, said the city should embrace the moment.

“There is an energy and attention to a history that has been bulldozed away and that needs to be acknowledged and made accessible to a public audience that clearly has a real appetite for this history,” she said.

Shockoe Bottom lies east of the city’s financial district and a few blocks from the Capitol. It is home to nightclubs, shops and restaurants and lofts carved out of former tobacco warehouses.

While some have questioned the stadium development proposal for other reasons, the fiercest opposition has come from those who fear the construction will hamper future efforts to uncover remnants of the slave trade beneath generations of development.

“We are just now beginning to be able study what’s here,” said Ana Edwards, among the leading opponents of the stadium. “What they are proposing to do is essentially going to make it impossible to go any further.”

Supporters of the stadium have countered that brick-and-mortar remnants of the slave trade have long ago disappeared. They also have proposed a slave memorial and a \$30 million museum as part of the project.

Jones, who was greeted with chants of “Shame”

when he publicly outlined the development, has also proposed archaeological work that would recover slave-trade artifacts for future public display.

Jones, who is black, said in an interview the issue is “very personal” to him and the overall development will create jobs and economic growth for the city of 200,000.

A series of slave trail markers tell the Bottom’s history, from the James River where slaves were transported on steamboats for sale, to an archaeological dig at Lumpkin’s Slave Jail, one of the largest slave-holding businesses and one of the more notorious. It was called “The Devil’s Half-Acre” for the cruelty of its owner. A memorial now marks the site.

Nearby, a parking lot that once entombed a burial ground for thousands of slaves and freed blacks has been peeled away. It now is a vast grassy expanse beneath a tangle of interstate highways.

During the neighborhood’s heyday as a slave-trading center it was home to hotels, financial institutions and shops, including those that provided clothing to dress up slaves who were destined to be servants.

The business of slavery was conducted openly, with slaves marching to the rail station or the port. Auction houses generated millions in pre-Civil War dollars in revenue. Some traders served in city government.

The stadium development has the support of many business owners in the Bottom. They believe it will make a destination of the area, which has scared away some city dwellers because of highly publicized incidents of violence. Business owners say the rowdiness is overstated.

Paul Goldman, the former chairman of the state Democratic Party, is seeking to take the decision about the development out of the hands of city officials through a petition drive to blunt or at least slow the project. He believes the existing stadium is just fine.

“How can you decide anything unless you know where the history is?” he asked. “They’ll just bulldoze the history.”

“There is an energy and attention to a history that has been bulldozed away and that needs to be acknowledged and made accessible to a public audience that clearly has a real appetite for this history.”
Maurie D. McInnis
Professor,
University of Virginia

Above: Ana Edwards, the chief opponent of the Shockoe Bottom stadium proposal, visits the Lumpkin’s Jail historical site in Richmond, Va., on March 31. A proposal to build a minor league baseball stadium in Shockoe Bottom, the city’s oldest neighborhood and the center of the once-thriving slave trade, has drawn criticism from some who believe the area is sacred ground and shouldn’t be bulldozed for a ballpark.

NATION

An eye for artifacts

Archaeologists turn to emerging drone technology to detect buried mysteries

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN
The Associated Press

RALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Recently published research describes how archaeologists outfitted a customized drone with a heat-sensing camera to unearth what they believe are ceremonial pits and other features at the site of an ancient village in New Mexico.

The discovery of the structures hidden beneath layers of sediment and sagebrush is being hailed as an important step that could help archaeologists shed light on mysteries long buried by eroding desert landscapes from the American Southwest to the Middle East. The results of the research were published last month in the *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Since the 1970s, archaeologists have known that aerial images of thermal infrared wavelengths of light could be a powerful tool for spotting cultural remains on the ground. But few have had access to \$1 million satellites, and helicopters and planes have their limits.

Now, technology is catching up with demand.

Archaeologists can get quality images from very specific altitudes and angles at any time of day and in a range of weather using inexpensive drones and commercially available cameras that have as much as five times the resolution of those available just a few years ago. A basic eight-rotor drone starts at about \$3,700.

Jesse Casana, an archaeologist at the University of Arkansas, teamed up with University of North Florida professor John Kantner last summer to test the drones in a remote area of northwestern New Mexico, south of Chaco Canyon — once the cultural and religious center of ancient Puebloan society.

Kantner has been studying a village in the area known as Blue J. He found two households at the village's edge through test digs, but much of Blue J's secrets remain buried under eroded sandstone and wind-blown silt.

Blue J was most active close to 1,000 years ago, around the same time as Chaco. So finding structures such as kivas and great houses at the site would help solidify the theory that Chaco's influence spread far and wide. Kivas are circular, subterranean meeting places as-



AP photos

Researchers outfitted a customized drone with a heat-sensing camera to unearth what they believe are ceremonial pits and other features at the site of an ancient village in New Mexico.



These photos provided by the University of North Florida show shots taken by a drone of the Blue J village in northwestern New Mexico.



“The great thing about remote sensing is it really gives you a new set of eyes in the sky to see what is otherwise invisible.”

Sarah Parcak
University of Alabama in Birmingham archaeologist

sociated with ceremonial activities. Great houses were massive multi-story stone buildings, some of which were oriented to solar and lunar directions and offered lines of sight between buildings to allow for communication.

Aside from dozens of anthills, the drone picked up on much larger, unnatural circular shapes that are thought to be kivas. From the surface, those structures are invisible, Kantner said. He said crews can use the drone information to plan a dig at the location to search for the archaeological remnants.

“Really within a few hours we were able to survey this area that took me a long time, years of what we call ground reconnaissance and excavation to see what’s below the surface,” he said. “So this is great for quickly and pretty cheaply being able to find sites.”

There already is talk about using the drones in other dry environments such as Saudi Arabia and Cyprus, where the difference between daytime and nighttime temperatures would be great enough to allow the heat signatures of buried stone structures or other features to pop up on the thermal images.

Some researchers also have suggested using drone technology to search for a lost Spanish fort in Georgia and along the banks of Florida’s St. Johns River, Kantner said.

Sarah Parcak, an archaeologist at the University of Alabama in Birmingham who was not involved in the New Mexico research, said she’s excited about the potential for using the technology in her work in Egypt. She said drones outfitted with sensors can hone in on what’s most important in archaeology: the landscape and features that are buried beneath the ground.

“We think we know a site, and we’ve been working there for a long time, and lo and behold, new technologies show us things we weren’t even expecting,” Parcak said.

“The great thing about remote sensing is it really gives you a new set of eyes in the sky to see what is otherwise invisible.”

The drones have their limits. For example, flights usually are less than 15 minutes depending on battery power and camera weight, and the eight-rotor mini copters have been known to stop and come crashing to the ground.

There also are questions about whether federal regulators will toughen rules governing drone flights.

Kantner said as drones become more reliable, their ability to survey vast areas quickly will become even more important. He pointed to potential threats of oil and gas development and coal and uranium mining throughout the Chaco region.

“There are resources that we obviously need for our nation’s self-sufficiency, but on the other hand, we don’t want to give away our cultural patrimony by losing these archaeology sites,” he said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Wisconsin teens savor the sun in Atlanta

Madison, Wis., high school students sunbathe in Centennial Olympic Park after attending a career development conference on Tuesday in Atlanta. Temperatures hit the high 80s in the metro Atlanta area Tuesday.

Fire siren silenced to accommodate ospreys

NJ SPRING LAKE — Call the fire department — quietly. That's because a pair of ospreys has built a nest inside the fire siren at Spring Lake, and by law can't be disturbed.

So the siren has been turned off for the spring and summer, while firefighters and first aid members rely on pagers and cellphones to alert them of emergencies.

First responders in this Jersey Shore resort about 60 miles north of Atlantic City say so far things have been working smoothly. But Fire Chief Tom Mullaney said Spring Lake could have a serious problem if it loses power or has a communications glitch.

Spring Lake officials say they may need to create an alternate place nearby for the birds to nest next year.

Law declassifies horses as 'vicious' animals

CT HARTFORD — A new Connecticut law clarifies that horses are not inherently vicious, refuting two court decisions involving a horse in Milford that bit a child.

The state Senate approved the legislation 35-0 Tuesday. The House of Representatives backed the bill unanimously in April and Gov. Dannel P. Malloy says he will sign it into law.

The state Supreme Court in March upheld an Appellate Court decision that said a horse is "naturally inclined to do mischief or be vicious." Supreme Court justices said the question must be considered individually by lower courts.

Report: Stars broke into city hall to use toilet

FL BRADENTON — Two Bradenton police detec-

THE CENSUS

8 The height in feet that the Eugene, Ore., Planning Commission is considering to allow for residents' fences, following complaints about deer raiding flower and vegetable gardens. Currently the height limit is 3.5 feet for front yards and 6 feet for side and backyards.



tives are accused of breaking into city hall to use the bathroom and leaving the building unsecured for an entire weekend.

Officials told the Bradenton Herald that Ross Johnson is no longer employed by the department. The other detective, whose name was redacted from an investigative report, has a pre-disciplinary hearing scheduled in June.

According to the report, the two detectives "manipulated" a door lock to get inside the building on Feb. 7.

Johnson told investigators they didn't like using the police bathroom because it is "nasty."

Lawsuit filed in death of Tough Mudder racer

WV CHARLESTON — A Maryland woman whose son drowned last year along an obstacle course in West Virginia has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the organizers of the Tough Mudder event.

The lawsuit filed by Mita Sengupta says Tough Mudder LLC failed to follow basic safety precautions that led to the April 2013 death of Avishkek Sengupta, 28, of Ellicit City, Md.

Sengupta died a day after he was pulled from the water pit of the "Walk the Plank" obstacle. The obstacle involves climbing a wooden wall to a platform, then jumping 15 feet into a water pit.

Deputy charged in death of basketball coach

MS JACKSON — Police say a Missis-

sippi sheriff's deputy working as a recreation league basketball referee has been arrested in the death of a team's coach.

Jackson police said Joshua Adams, 37, is charged with murder. He is accused of punching Justin Griffin, 25, in a fight over play calls during a game.

Hinds County Coroner Sharon Grisham-Stewart said Griffin died Monday from blunt-force trauma to the head.

University president backs fight song review

UT SALT LAKE CITY — University of Utah President David Pershing said he agrees it's time to consider some changes to the school fight song that some find sexist.

Pershing announced Monday he's asking the Office of Student Affairs to oversee a committee that will weigh a "modest update" in the song, "Utah Man."

Student government leaders passed a resolution last month urging changes in the century-old song with lyrics that include, "our coeds are the fairest."

Mom jailed after son, 4, crosses highway

PA VINTONDALE — A western Pennsylvania woman has been jailed on charges she endangered her two young sons after police say the 4-year-old crossed a highway to visit his grandfather while the woman slept.

Online court records don't list an attorney for Melissa Cassatt,

26, of Buffington Township. Cassatt faces a preliminary hearing May 20 on charges of child and reckless endangerment after her children's grandfather called authorities when the boy crossed state Route 403 to his home on Friday.

Police said the boy's 2-year-old brother had previously been found outside the home in a soiled diaper, also while Cassatt slept.

Coast Guard rescues 3 on raft in rip current

TX TEXAS CITY — A man and two boys whose raft got caught in strong currents, drifted several miles and ended up in the Houston Ship Channel were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard, a spokesman said Monday.

Staff aboard the Caribbean Princess, a cruise ship in the area, summoned the Coast Guard on Saturday afternoon to assist the raft, said Petty Officer Andy Kendrick.

The Galveston County Daily News reported rip currents apparently pushed the raft away from a dike that is a popular area for fishing and boating. The raft had oars but nobody onboard carried a cellphone, Kendrick said.

The raft drifted about 3 miles from the dike and into the ship channel, according to Kendrick.

Bear released in wild returns to ski resort

NV RENO — A bear that apparently became too accustomed to the good life at a ski resort at Lake Tahoe is head-

ed for an animal sanctuary after Nevada wildlife officials decided he's become too domesticated to be returned to the wild.

The bear, named Heavenly, was captured in March after skirting past a busy ski lift at the Heavenly Mountain Resort at Stateline.

Veterinarians at the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care Center nursed him back to health and state wildlife officials released him in the mountains 25 miles south of the lake last week. They told KRNVTV he made it all the way back to Tahoe the next day and started approaching people again.

Police: Man shot in break-in during party

IN ECKERTY — State police say a man who broke into a rural southern Indiana home where a bachelorette party was occurring was shot by the prospective father-in-law.

The confrontation happened early Saturday as the women held a party near the Crawford County community of Eckerty, about 50 miles west of Louisville, Ky.

The (Jasper) Herald reported the women heard someone beating on the doors. Police said they hid and called for help.

Police said the prospective father-in-law wounded the intruder in the back as he drove away.

The 39-year-old man was taken to a hospital, but information on his condition wasn't released. Police say they didn't find a connection between the wounded man and those at the party.

From wire reports

FACES

New TV for fall announced

A family drama about a hip-hop business empire from filmmaker Lee Daniels and a coming-of-age series from Steven Spielberg will be part of Fox's 2014-15 season, the network said Tuesday.

Daniels, the director of "Lee Daniels' The Butler" and "Precious," is writing, directing and producing "Empire," starring Terence Howard and Taraji P. Henson, Fox said. The series will feature original music and covers of current songs.

Spielberg is among the producers of "Red Band Society," with an ensemble cast starring Octavia Spencer. Fox described the series as an unconventional drama-comedy about teenagers that's set in a hospital pediatric wing.

Also Tuesday, NBC announced a new sitcom for next season, "Marry Me," starring Casey Wilson and Ken Marino as two apparently star-crossed lovers, and two new political dramas: Hope Davis and Scott Cohen star in "Allegiance," about a CIA analyst who learns his parents are former Russian agents being called back into service. "State of Affairs" will star Alfre Woodard as U.S. president and Katherine Heigl as a CIA analyst who shares a tragic loss with her.

NBC also said it will air the drama "Odyssey," about strangers fighting an international conspiracy involving the military, corporate interests and Middle Eastern terrorists.

Other news

■ "Avatar" actor Sam Worthington is on track to get his New York assault case dismissed after being accused of punching a photographer, who also was arrested. The Australian actor was due in court Thursday. But electronic court records show the misdemeanor case was resolved April 8 with an agreement that it will be dismissed if Worthington stays out of trouble for six months.



Worthington

■ Ben Bernanke, the former chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has a book deal. Bernanke's agreement is with publisher W.W. Norton & Co. for a book that will cover his years at the Fed and his response to the economic crisis. Norton told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the book, currently untitled, is scheduled for 2015.

From The Associated Press



PA, JONATHAN BRADY/AP

Miley's back

Miley Cyrus has said she is fighting fit, and resumed her Bangerz tour in London after a series of canceled shows. The 21-year-old pop star delayed U.S. dates until August after treatment for a sinus infection went awry, and last week postponed two European shows. But she told reporters she was "the poster child for good health" before performing at London's O2 Arena on Tuesday.



ABC/AP

Stars of the TV series "Nashville," from left, Will Chase, Charles Esten and Chris Carmack perform for the special episode "Nashville: On the Record" in Nashville. The series, along with many others, is warning for the broadcast networks to announce plans for next season. In the case of "Nashville," which airs Mondays on AFN-Spectrum, a cancellation from ABC would not only conclude the sudsy show, but it would halt a growing music franchise as well.

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

Stars of "Nashville" including Charles Esten, Clare Bowen and Jonathan Jackson performed songs from the ABC drama at a New York theater this week — and they hope rabid fans weren't the only ones watching.

Now is a nerve-jangling time for actors and creators of television shows, one week before the biggest broadcast networks reveal their plans for next season. The wait is particularly intense for series like "Nashville" that are considered on the bubble between returning and having the plug pulled.

The decisions get more complicated every year. Broadcast executives have more than just ratings to consider, and "Nashville" offers a good example. A thumbs-down from ABC not only ends a televised soap opera, but also a growing music franchise.

"I'm a combination of optimistic and emotionally vulnerable," said Esten, who portrays Deacon Claybourne, the musical and former romantic partner to fictional country star Rayna James (Connie Britton), before Tuesday's concert. "Every-one seems to be coming to a nice peak right now."

Under the old rules, "Nashville" would probably be toast by now. It was on the bubble last year, too, and in its second season averaged 4.5 million viewers, the Nielsen company said. That's down 9 percent from the show's rookie season, 18 percent from the youthful demographic ABC cares most about. In an industry obsessed by youth, the median age of the "Nashville" audience increased by two years.

Fortunately, "next-day ratings don't re-

Wait & sing

'Nashville' among the shows on the renewal bubble

ally mean as much as they used to," said Brad Adgate, a television analyst for Horizon Media.

Networks also look at how many people stream the show online, or record it to watch later on DVRs. That delayed viewing isn't as valuable to a network as people who watch live, but it counts for something, and "Nashville" adds to its audience more this way than most ABC shows, said Kevin Beggs, chairman of Lionsgate Television Group, the show's producer.

That indicates a devoted group of fans that makes time to watch every episode. Even if that group is small, passion is important, he said.

"More than ever it's about finding fan bases that are more than casual, who are

obsessed with a show," he said.

ABC's parent Walt Disney Co. shares in ancillary revenue from CDs of music featured on "Nashville" (the fourth collection was released Tuesday) and the concert tour. More than 600,000 soundtrack CDs have been sold, according to Big Machine Label Group. A special collection of tunes from the show's April 23 performance special was immediately made available on iTunes and was among the top five country albums two weeks later.

ABC, its executives spending hours in screening rooms this week evaluating programming options, isn't tipping its hand on the chances of a "Nashville" return.

The closely watched TV by the Numbers website lists it as a show in some doubt, but predicted it has more than a 70 percent chance of returning to ABC's schedule next year. Among the shows the website also considers on the bubble are NBC's "Hannibal," "Community" and "Growing Up Fisher," along with CBS' "Friends with Better Lives."

Perhaps tempting fate, or subtly encouraging ABC to keep it alive, "Nashville" writers will end the season with cliffhanger plotlines involving several of the show's characters, Beggs said.

Scott Borchetta, president and CEO of Big Machine, said he watched the "Nashville" pilot to be polite two years ago, but was hooked 15 minutes in when he heard the song "If I Didn't Know Better." That ranks No. 4 of the most-purchased "Nashville" songs on iTunes. A cover of The Lumineers' "Ho Hey," with more than 190,000 copies downloaded, is No. 1.

Each week after an episode airs, new songs are made available for sale.

"The music has been a great way to gauge what is going on with the viewing habits and purchasing habits," he said.

Under the old rules, "Nashville" would probably be toast by now. It was on the bubble last year, too, and in its second season averaged 4.5 million viewers, the Nielsen company said.

Fortunately, "next-day ratings don't really mean as much as they used to," said Brad Adgate, a television analyst for Horizon Media.

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Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles

- Men**
- First Round**
- Ernesto Gulbis, Latvia, def. Jerzy Janowicz, Poland, 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-2
- Kevin Anderson, South Africa, def. Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
- Joey Sijling, Netherlands, def. Tommy Haas (L), Germany, 6-4, 6-1, 6-4
- Miguel Angel Lopez, Spain, def. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, 6-3, 6-3
- Nicolas Pietrangeli, Spain, def. Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-7 (9), 7-6 (4)
- Andriy Pavlyuchenko, Ukraine, def. Fabio Fognini (1), Italy, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3
- Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1

Second Round

- David Ferrer (9), Spain, def. Albert Ramos, France, 7-6 (8), 5-7, 6-3
- Willes Riessman (6), Canada, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-2, 6-3
- Marcelo Meligioni, Spain, def. Fernando Verdasco, Spain, 2-6, 7-6 (4), 6-1
- Kel Niishiro (10), Japan, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-3, 6-2
- Dominic Thiem, Austria, def. Stanislas Wawrinka (3), Switzerland, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4

Women

- Sloane Stephens (16), United States, def. Christina McKelvie, United States, 6-1, 4-2, 6-3
- Li Na (2), China, def. Zheng Jie, China, 6-2, 6-3
- Maria Sharapova (8), Russia, def. Christina McKelvie, United States, 6-1, 4-2, 6-4
- Galina Safarova, Czech Republic, def. Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 6-1, 6-2

Men

- Sam Stosur, Australia, def. Garbine Muguruza, Spain, 7-5, 3-6, 6-1
- Tommy Taylor (10), Canada, def. Francesco Schiavone, Italy, 6-3, 6-1
- Marcelo Meligioni (10), Spain, def. Filip Prusac, Croatia, 6-3, 6-2
- Varvara Lepchenko, United States, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1
- Jan Ivanovic (11), Serbia, def. Bojana Janovanovic, Serbia, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1

Women

- Tomas Berdych (8), Czech Republic, and John Isner, United States, def. Jonathan Erlich, Israel, and Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4
- Karol Gollnolers and Marc Lopez, Spain, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, and Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 12-10

Second Round

- Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah, Colombia, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Marcelo Meligioni (10), Spain, 6-3, 6-2
- Alexander Peya, Austria, and Bruno Sanchez (2), Spain, def. Treat Huey, Philippines, and Dominic Inglot, Britain, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 10-8

Women

- Carla Beck, Zimbabwe, and Sania Mirza (5), India, def. Gabriela Babrowski, Canada, and Alicja Rosolska, Poland, 6-1, 6-7 (10), 7-6
- Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez-Villa, Spain, def. Tszeh Hsueh, Taiwan, and Lisa Raymond, United States, 6-2, 7-6 (1)

Second Round

- Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, def. Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, and Sabine Lisicki, Germany, 6-2, 6-2
- Martina Hingis, U.S., and Peng Jie, China, def. Julia Goepfert and Anna-Lena Groenefeld (8), Germany, 1-6, 7-6 (5), 10-8

Auto racing

NASCAR Sprint Cup leaders
Through May 4
1. Jeff Gordon, 247
2. Matt Kenseth, 244
3. Kyle Busch, 243
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 328
5. Carl Edwards, 328
6. Jimmie Johnson, 300
7. Jamie McMurray, 297
8. Ryan Newman, 299
9. Ryan Reed, 295
10. Brad Keselowski, 294
11. Denny Hamlin, 292
12. Kyle Larson, 289
13. Austin Dillon, 281
14. A.J. Allmendinger, 279

Pro football

NFL Draft order

At New York
May 8-10
First Round

- 1. Houston
- 2. St. Louis (from Wash.)
- 3. Jacksonville
- 4. Cleveland
- 5. Tampa Bay
- 6. Buffalo
- 7. Miami
- 8. Minnesota
- 9. Buffalo
- 10. Detroit
- 11. Tennessee
- 12. Chicago
- 13. St. Louis
- 14. Kansas City
- 15. Pittsburgh
- 16. Dallas
- 17. Baltimore
- 18. N.Y. Jets
- 19. Cincinnati
- 20. Arizona
- 21. Miami
- 22. Philadelphia
- 23. Kansas City
- 24. Cincinnati
- 25. New Orleans
- 26. San Diego (from Ind.)
- 27. New England
- 28. New England
- 29. San Francisco
- 30. Denver
- 31. Seattle

NFL Draft No. 1 Selections

The first choice in the annual selection of college players by professional football clubs. Player, team, position and college:

- 2013 — Eric Fisher, Kansas City, OT, Central Michigan
- 2012 — Adam Lock, Indianapolis, QB, Stanford
- 2011 — Cary Newton, Carolina, QB, Auburn
- 2010 — Sam Bradford, St. Louis, QB, Oklahoma
- 2009 — Matthew Stafford, Detroit, QB, Georgia
- 2008 — Jake Long, Miami, OT, Michigan
- 2007 — JaMarcus Russell, Oakland, QB, LSU
- 2006 — Mario Williams, Houston, DE, N.C. State
- 2005 — Alex Smith, San Francisco, QB, Utah
- 2004 — Eli Manning, San Diego, QB, Missouri
- 2003 — Carson Palmer, Cincinnati, QB, Southern Cal.
- 2002 — David Carr, Houston, QB, Fresno State
- 2001 — Michael Vick, Atlanta, QB, Virginia Tech
- 2000 — Courtney Brown, Cleveland, DE, Penn State
- 1999 — Tim Couch, Cleveland, QB, Kentucky
- 1998 — Peyton Manning, Indianapolis, QB, Tennessee
- 1997 — Orlando Pace, St. Louis Rams, T, Ohio State
- 1996 — Keyshawn Johnson, New York Jets, WR, Southern Cal.
- 1995 — K-Juan Carter, Cincinnati, RB, Penn State
- 1994 — Steve Watson, Cincinnati, DE, Ohio State
- 1993 — Drew Bledsoe, New England, QB, Washington State
- 1992 — Steve Emtman, Indianapolis, DE, Washington
- 1991 — Russell Maryland, Dallas, DE, Miami
- 1990 — Jeff George, Indianapolis, QB, Illinois
- 1989 — Troy Aikman, Dallas, QB, UCSD
- 1988 — Aundray Bruce, Atlanta, LB, Auburn
- 1987 — Vinny Testaverde, Tampa Bay, QB, Miami
- 1986 — Joe Jackson, Tampa Bay, RB, Auburn
- 1985 — Bruce Smith, Buffalo, DT, Virginia Tech
- 1984 — Irving Fryar, New England, WR, New York
- 1983 — John Elway, Baltimore, QB, Stanford
- 1982 — Kenneth Sims, New England, DT, Texas
- 1981 — George Rogers, New Orleans, RB, South Carolina
- 1980 — Billy Sims, Detroit, RB, Oklahoma
- 1979 — Tom Cousineau, Buffalo, LB, Ohio State
- 1978 — Earl Campbell, Houston, RB, Texas
- 1977 — Ricky Bell, Tampa Bay, RB, Southwestern Cal.
- 1976 — Lee Roy Selmon, Tampa Bay, DE, Washington

DE, Oklahoma.

1975 — Steve Bartkowski, Atlanta, QB, California.

1974 — Ed Jones, Dallas, DE, Tennessee State.

1973 — John Matuszak, Houston, DE, Tampa.

1972 — Walt Patulski, Buffalo, DE, Notre Dame.

1971 — Jim Plunkett, New England, QB, Stanford

1970 — Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, QB, Louisiana Tech.

1969 — O.J. Simpson, Buffalo (AFL), RB, Southern Cal.

1968 — Ron Yary, Minnesota, T, Southern Cal.

1967 — Bubba Smith, Baltimore, DT, Michigan State.

1966 — Tommy Nobis, Atlanta, LB, Texas Tech.

1965 — Jim Grabowski, Miami (AFL), RB, Illinois.

1964 — Tucker Frederickson, N.Y. Giants, RB, Auburn.

1963 — Lawrence Elkins, Houston (AFL), WR, Baylor.

1962 — Dave Parks, San Francisco, WR, Texas Tech.

1961 — Jack Concanon, Boston (AFL), QB, Boston College.

1960 — Terry Baker, Los Angeles, QB, Oregon State.

1959 — Buck Buchanan, Kansas City (AFL), DT, Grambling.

1958 — Ernie Davis, Washington, RB, St. Louis.

1957 — Roman Gabriel, Oakland (AFL), QB, N.C. State.

1956 — Tommy Mason, Minnesota, RB, Tulane.

1955 — Ken Rice, Buffalo (AFL), G, Auburn.

1954 — Billy Cannon, Los Angeles, RB, LSU.

1953 — Randy Duncan, Green Bay, QB, Illinois

1952 — King Hill, Chicago Cardinals, QB, Rice.

1951 — Paul Hornung, Green Bay, HB, Notre Dame.

1950 — Gary Cluck, Pittsburgh, QB, Cleveland

1949 — Bobby Garrett, Cleveland, QB, Stanford.

1948 — Harry Babcock, San Francisco, WR, Georgia.

1947 — Bill Wade, Los Angeles, QB, Vanderbilt.

1946 — Kyle Rote, New York Giants, HB, SMU

1945 — Leon Hart, Detroit, WR, Notre Dame

1944 — Chuck Bednarik, Philadelphia, G, Pennsylvania.

1943 — Harry Gilmer, Washington, QB, Alabama.

1942 — Bob Fenimore, Chicago Bears, HB, Minnesota

1941 — Frank Danowicz, Chicago, HB, Notre Dame.

1940 — Angelo Bertelli, Boston, QB, Notre Dame.

1939 — Frank Sinkwich, Detroit, HB, Michigan.

1938 — George Cafego, Chicago Cardinals, HB, Tennessee.

1937 — Al Kirsch, Chicago Cardinals, C, TCU.

1936 — Corbett Davis, Cleveland, FB, Nebraska.

1935 — Sam Francis, Philadelphia, FB, Nebraska.

1934 — Jay Berwanger, Philadelphia, FB, Chicago.

1933 — Sam Francis, Philadelphia, FB, Nebraska.

1932 — Jay Berwanger, Philadelphia, FB, Chicago.

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	4	2	14	11	10
New England	4	2	14	14	10
New York	3	2	14	14	12
Columbus	3	2	11	10	9
D.C.	3	2	11	11	11
Houston	3	3	11	12	14
Chicago	3	4	10	12	11
Philadelphia	1	4	8	10	13
Montreal	1	4	8	12	15
Chicago	0	2	6	12	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	6	2	19	20	13
Real Salt Lake	5	0	17	15	10
FC Dallas	5	3	16	18	15
Colorado	4	2	14	10	9
Vancouver	4	2	14	15	13
Los Angeles	2	2	8	7	5
San Jose	1	3	6	8	10
Chicago	1	5	3	6	18

Note: Three points for a victory, one for a tie.

Saturday's games

New England 2, Toronto FC 1
Vancouver 3, San Jose 2
Colorado 1, Los Angeles 0

Sunday's games

Portland 3, D.C. United 2
New York 1, FC Dallas 0
Sporting Kansas City 2, Columbus 0

Saturday, May 10

D.C. United at Philadelphia
Sporting Kansas City at Montreal
Chicago at New York, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto
FC Dallas at San Jose

Sunday, May 11

Los Angeles at Portland
Chicago at Colorado
Seattle FC at New England
Real Salt Lake at Houston

NWSL

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	2	0	15	12	2
FC Kansas City	2	0	12	8	7
Washington	2	0	6	7	9
Chicago	1	2	4	4	3
Western NY	1	1	4	4	3
San Diego	0	2	1	2	2
Boston	1	3	0	5	9
Houston	0	3	0	3	9

Note: Three points for a victory, one for a tie.

Wednesday's games

Seattle FC 2, Sky Blue FC 0
FC Kansas City 1, Chicago 0

Thursday's games

Seattle FC 2, Washington 1
Sky Blue FC 1, Boston 0
Western New York 1, Portland 1, tie
FC Kansas City 4, Houston 0

Friday, May 9

Chicago at Sky Blue FC, 7 p.m.
FC Kansas City at Western New York

Saturday, May 10

Seattle FC at Portland
Portland at Chicago
Sky Blue FC at Western New York
Houston at FC Kansas City

Sunday, May 11

Sky Blue FC at Western New York
Houston at FC Kansas City

Quarterfinals

Saturday, May 17

New York (NY)-Loyola (MD) winner vs. Bryant-Stiens-Syracuse winner
New York (NY)-Loyola (MD) winner vs. Air Force-Richmond-Duke winner

Sunday, May 18

Johns Hopkins-Virginia winner vs. Air Force-Richmond-Duke winner
Drexel-Pennsylvania winner vs. North Carolina-Denver winner

Saturday, May 24

at M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore

Championship
Monday, May 26
at M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore

Semifinal winners

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BALTIMORE Orioles optioned RHP Brad Brach for Norfolk (IL), recalled RHP Michael Brantley from Norfolk.

NATIONAL LEAGUE
C. George Kotlars for assignment. Reinstated RHP Michael Rucker from the 15-day DL.

DETROIT TIGERS — Optioned RHP Jose Ortega to Toledo (IL). Selected the contract of LHP Robbie Ray from Toledo.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated OF Lorenzo Cain from the 15-day DL. RHP Chris Leroux outright to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Reinstated RHP Michael Pineda from the suspended list and placed him on the 15-day DL. Reinstated RHP Brandon Beachy from the 15-day DL.

TEXAS RANGERS — Sent LHP Joe Saunders to Frisco (TX) for a rehab assignment.

National League

CHICAGO CUBS — Sent RHP Jose Veras to Tennessee (SC) for a rehab assignment.

CINCINNATI REDS — Banned OF Jay Bruce from the 15-day DL. Selected the contract of OF Roger Bernadina from Louisville (KY).

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Optioned RHP Pedro Baez to Chattanooga (SC). Reinstated LHP Clayton Kershaw from the 15-day DL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Released INF Greg Dobbs.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Optioned LHP Jeff Locke to Indianapolis (IL). Recalled RHP Trevor Larnach from Indianapolis.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Signed Chase Headley to Lase Eskinor (Cal) for a rehab assignment.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP Keith Traylor from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Ryan Mattheus to Syracuse.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Fired coach Mark Jackson.

LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS — Announced indefinite leave of absence.

MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Entered into an indefinite leave of absence.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed coach Wade Phillips to a three-year contract extension.

FOOTBALL

NFL — Reinstated 3 Tamar Jackson from suspension.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed LB Bradie James to a one-day contract and announced he would be waived.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed WR T.J. Stoeberl.

Canadian Football League

BC LIONS — Reinstated DT Khalil Mack from suspension.

WINNIPEG BLUE BOMBERS — Released LB Chris Quatles and Gerald McRath.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Named Peter Laviolette coach.

KAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Signed G Andrei Vasilevich to a three-year, entry-level contract.

ECHL

CHICAGO — Suspended Alaska LW Tom McErl. One game.

MOTORSPORTS

NASCAR — Fired chief Kenny Francis \$25,000 for rules violations during qualifying for the Sprint Cup race at Talladega Superspeedway on Saturday.

Baseball

Major League Soccer
MLS — Fined L.A. Galaxy forward for embellishment during friendly game.

WRESTLING

USA WRESTLING — Named Bruce Burnett national freestyle coach.

COLLEGE

ASSUMPTION — Named Chelsea Pittivore coordinator of athletic communications.

GEORGE WASHINGTON — Signed women's basketball coach Jonathan Tsai to a contract through 2020-21.

KENTUCKY — Signed football coach Mark Stoops to a contract extension through 2017.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE — Named Ronie Hamilton men's assistant basketball coach.

ROHDE ISLAND COLLEGE — Named Steve Sweeney women's assistant volleyball coach.

Boxing

Fight schedule
May 10
At La Guaira, Venezuela, John Perez vs. Fernando Merino. Oct. 12 for Perez's interim WBA World light welterweight title.

At The Galen Center, Los Angeles, Bernabe Stiverne vs. Chris Arreola, 12 for the vacant WBA super flyweight title.

At Foxwoods, Mashantucket, Conn., Joel Diaz Jr. vs. Tyler Asseltine, 10, super featherweights.

At Montreal, Delain Rodriguez vs. Joachim Alcine, 10, light middleweights.

College baseball

Tuesday's scores

EAST
Keuka 8, Utica 4

SOUTH
Charleston Southern 12, The Citadel 7
Georgia Tech 3, North Florida 1
Louisville 11, Vanderbilt 7
Maryland 10, VCU 1

MID-SOUTH
North Carolina 5, Campbell 0
Kentucky 4, Tennessee 0
USC-Ashville 7, Tennessee 0

WEST
West Virginia 4, Virginia Tech 0
Houston

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Showcase Camp: A chance to connect

Players seek ways to get colleges' attention

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

For years, Ramstein boys soccer coach Dominik Ludes has assembled a group of DODDS Europe standouts at season's end and taken them to the United States, where the newly-formed team would play in a series of summer tournaments. This succeeded in getting a handful of the system's best players in front of college coaches who might offer them scholarships. But Ludes sensed that more was possible.

"I thought, 'Let's try it the other way around,'" Ludes recalled. "'Let's get those coaches to Germany.'"

Thus the College Soccer Showcase Camp was born. This year's event, open to boys and girls in grades seven through 12, is set for May 24-26 at Sportschule in Biburg, Germany, starting just two days after the DODDS soccer tournament championship games.

Ramstein senior Brianno Illari will attend the camp for the second straight year.

"That was the first time I was able to be connected with coaches," Illari said. "It was an awesome opportunity."

Illari's enthusiasm for the event likely stems from the fact that, for him, it has already fulfilled its mission. The Royals star has signed his letter of intent to play next year at Virginia Military Institute, an NCAA Division I program in Lexington, Va.

Illari isn't the only DODDS Europe prospect to attend last year's camp and go on to sign a college scholarship. Sigonella's Alessandro Thomas will join Illari at the Division I level with DePaul; Illari's Ramstein teammate Cameron Hansen is bound for Division II Barry University in Miami Shores, Fla.; Christian Rauschenplatt has caught on with two-year program Northern Oklahoma College.

The four are furthering a trend established last year. Heidelberg standouts Andrew Guelle (Dubuque), Vincent Harrington (Iona) and Hannes Rogers (Merchant Marine Academy) earned collegiate deals after attending the camp.

The camp isn't free. Participants pay 300 euros for the weekend, which includes room and board in addition to the instruction from visiting college coaches. But families of players chosen for Ludes' select teams were responsible for the cost of a round-trip transatlantic flight and two weeks of transportation and lodging. Put in that light, Ludes said, the camp is a bargain.

"Not everybody has the financial backing to send the kids to the U.S. to play in these tournaments," Ludes said.

The camp doesn't always lead to a scholarship with one of the schools in attendance, nor does just attending the camp guarantee a scholarship.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Vicenza's Alexandra Frank made contact with VMI coaches through a friend at the school and will play there next year.

Most of those attending won't receive an offer. But players who have participated say they'll gain experience and perhaps find out if they're capable of playing at the next level.

Thomas attended the camp last spring. He signed earlier this month with DePaul, a school that wasn't represented at the camp. Thomas made initial contact with DePaul coaches through an associate of his father.

Still, the Showcase was a positive experience for Thomas. He developed a relationship with the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and was considering signing on with the school before the appeal of Division I soccer swung his decision. And the on-field time with college coaches gave the All-Europe stalwart an idea of what college soccer might be like.

"As a player, I was exposed to just how a college coach runs his practices," Thomas said. "It's a great opportunity."

As it turned out, Thomas' opportunity might lead to more opportunities for future DODDS Europe stars. DePaul is among the 15 collegiate programs committed to attend this year's camp, Ludes said. Other schools scheduled to participate in the camp are the University of Wisconsin, Bowling Green State, IUPUI, Northern Kentucky, North Carolina Wesleyan, Elmira College, Concordia, Denver University, Washington University-St. Louis, Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Dubuque, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the Merchant Marine Academy.

While last year's camp was open only to boys, this year's camp is also available to girls. So far, Ludes said, about 80 boys and 35 girls have registered.

The three days of camp carry the poten-



Ramstein's Brianno Illari, left, battles Patch's Peter Rice for the ball during a match in April. Illari attended the College Soccer Showcase Camp last season.

tial to account for the next four years of an attendee's life. That kind of pressure might be overwhelming. But Thomas and Illari agree that the tension subsides when cleats meet the turf.

"I'd never been in an experience like that before," Illari said. "Once you actually got to talk to the coaches, they put you at ease. They just wanted you to play your game."

Thomas said the chance to share a field with college coaches is far more valuable than sending or posting video clips online, the strategy he and countless other DODDS Europe prospects have tried in hopes of catching the right eye.

"It is hard to reach out to those coaches," Thomas said. "As a DODDS player it's very difficult because a lot of coaches do want to see players in person and see how they interact during the game."

"It's been rough, but thankfully it worked out."

While Ludes' camp may develop into a consistent pipeline from DODDS Europe to college, it's not the only possible path.

Earlier this spring, Vicenza senior Alex Frank signed her letter of intent to attend VMI, accepting an offer that she said includes an athletic scholarship covering half of her tuition. While she'll end up on the same campus as Illari this fall, her journey was far different.

Frank had a friend who attended VMI, and through that contact began commu-

nicating with the school's coaching staff. With initial interest established, she registered for the program's summer camp and flew to the U.S. When she landed and checked in with coaches to confirm her schedule, however, she learned the camp was canceled. Luckily, she was still able to meet with VMI coaches; now, she thinks the "one-on-one" interaction she happened into helped her cause more than a spot in a crowded camp might have.

"I think that worked out to my benefit," Frank said.

Frank, coming off an All-Europe junior season in which she piled up 20 goals and 11 assists, then settled into a more conventional recruiting pattern. She maintained email contact with VMI coaches and took her official visit in November, spending two days touring the campus and athletic facilities, meeting the current Keydet team and watching practice. She made her verbal commitment to the school while on her tour. A few months later, she signed and filed the necessary paperwork to make her decision official, choosing VMI over a similar opportunity at Liberty University.

With her future secured, Frank has spent the spring focusing on school and the Cougars, who she hopes to lead to another shot at the Division II championship after losing to Naples in last year's final.

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Top performances in Europe

Boys soccer

Alessandro Thomas, Sigonella: The All-Europe mainstay was valiant in defeat on Saturday, scoring all four Jaguars goals in a 6-4 loss to American Overseas School of Rome.

Christian Harvey, Patch: Harvey provided the bulk of the Panthers offense on Saturday, scoring twice as Patch earned a 3-0 shutout of Vilseck.

Girls soccer

Katie Couble, Sigonella: Couble scored five goals in the Jaguars' 6-4 victory over AOSR.

Isabella Lucy, Naples: The All-Europe wing tuned up for the postseason Saturday with a two-goal, four-assist performance in an 8-2 rout of Florence.

Baseball

Taylor Moore, Baumholder: The Bucs got their long-awaited first wins Saturday behind Moore, who struck out 10 in a 12-0 shutout of Altonbury and drove in four runs in a sweep-clinching 16-2 romp.

Kieffer Allen, Ramstein: Royal hurler was all

but untouchable against a solid SHAPE lineup Saturday, yielding one hit and no earned runs and striking out seven in a 15-5 Ramstein win.

Softball

Amber Marvin, Patch: Versatile Pitcher starred on the mound and at the plate in Patch's sweep of Hohentens on Saturday, scoring five runs on the day and picking up the pitching win in the second game.

Elana Montanez, Vilseck: The efficient Falcon needed to face just 12 batters to wrap up

her three-inning, no-hit effort in an 18-3 win over Wiesbaden on Saturday.

Rack

David Zarczyk, Kaiserslautern: The Raider sprinter won the 100 and 200-meter dashes on Saturday, leading his school to a team win over defending champion Wiesbaden.

Kelly McCaskill, Ansbach: The Cougar runner owned the 800-meter race Saturday at Stuttgart, qualifying for the European championship with a time of 2:30.27.

HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS PACIFIC

Far East meet faces qualifying, financial hurdles

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

TORII STATION, Okinawa — When it comes to the Far East Track and Field Meet, everyone can agree on at least two things: It'll be May 19-21 and held at Yokota Air Base.

After that, ideas start to diverge. Since the meet began in 2010, there's been an ongoing discussion about how many athletes should qualify for each event, how many from each school and how qualifying should work in general.

The largest issue this season appears to be the qualifying date.

Athletes and coaches believe April 27 is too early, with a potential of three weekends of meets after that losing much of their value. Athletes' incentive to continually improve might suffer as a result.

Administrators say qualifiers have to be determined as early as possible in order to buy airline tickets cheaply and other logistical concerns.

"It all comes down to the plane tickets," meet director Dan Galvin said, citing DODDS' ticketing procedures. "If they want these events at all, they have to do it within limited budgets. If they can't afford to buy (tickets) later, they have to do qualifying early."

But that hurts the quality of meets such as Saturday's Kanto Plain and DODDS Korea finals, which come after the deadline.

"With the training people do in the regular season, they plan to peak right around districts and Far East because they are so close to each other," said two-time Far East cross-country champion Andrew Kilkenny of Kadena. Okinawa's district finals were last Saturday.

Coaches try to see both sides of the issue.

"I'm not in the situation (Athletic Coordinator Don Hobbs) is in. Are we even going to have a Far East? Do we have enough money to do it?" Humphreys coach Mitch Moellendick said. "Can it be done better and not be done better? I know that Don is doing his best get as many participants as possible."

To do that, Hobbs solicited quotes from six local travel agencies in late April. He sought fares for six flights, bunching as many teams as he could to hold down costs.

"And we always go with the lowest bid," Hobbs said, adding that if the qualifying deadline was pushed to May 3 or 10, "we wouldn't necessarily get the low bid. The later you wait, the higher the bid is."

DODDS Pacific won't provide specific dollar figures for its sports programs, but Hobbs and others have said there is less money this year than last year.

Tickets cannot be bought in blocks with names filled in later for teams traveling



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena's Preston Harris clears the high jump bar during a track and field meet at Mihama, Okinawa in April. Harris, who has qualified for the Far East Track and Field Meet, won with a jump of 6 feet, 2 inches.

internationally such as Guam or Seoul American, Hobbs said. And names can't be substituted later either, he said.

So an athlete who meets a qualifying time or mark after the deadline is out of luck.

"I've gotten a lot of e-mails presenting some heartbreaking arguments why we should let one more kid in who's just off the qualifying mark," Galvin said.

The first Far East meet in 2010 saw each school able to field five boys and five girls, with no qualifying times or marks. That's something Moellendick, who coached Zama at the time, said he was "adamantly" against and doesn't want to see happen

again.

"Let's have them qualify, let's have it mean something, you want to bring the best of the best, give them an incentive to work to work hard ... instead of saying it's another free trip on the government's nickel," he said. "They have a goal to meet and not just say they went."

"Do we want people running Pacific or Far East record times in the 800 and have people finish 30 or 40 seconds behind this?" Hobbs said.

Some have suggested moving up the district meets to meet the qualifying marks, then holding all-comers meets — in which military members could also participate

— decathlon weekends or meets featuring only relay races.

"Why not?" Hobbs said.

"That's an interesting thought," Galvin said. "It would be interesting to see what they could do to fill in" after qualifying.

Most of those surveyed say they expect to see more changes in the track schedule in the coming years.

"If it's five years ago, we wouldn't have Far East track," Kubasaki coach Jon Pick said. "It's in its infancy, how people qualify, how the meet should be run, ticketing; it's a new event and we're still trying to figure it out."

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Top performances in the Pacific

Track and field

■ Sophomore distance specialist **Hunter Finenech** broke the Okinawa district meet record in the 1,600 on Saturday, clocking 4 minutes, 37.22 seconds, beating the old mark set by Kubasaki's Erik Armes a season ago by .21 seconds. He began the meet by helping Kadena break its own record in the 3,200 relay, running 8:24.53, beating the old mark by 3.4 seconds.

■ Kadena thrower **Jazmyin Sharper** broke the Okinawa district record in the discus, throwing it

29.64 meters, beating the old mark of 28.74 set in 2007 by Kubasaki's LaKesa McClain.

Softball

■ Left-hander **Julia Ring** pitched four-hit ball over five innings with no walks and nine strikeouts as Seoul American romped 16-1 over Humphreys on Friday.

■ **Asia Abdul** ripped two in-park home runs and knocked in four runs as Kadena closed the Okinawa regular season by downing Kubasaki 6-1. The Panthers won the season series 7-1.

■ **Isa Munoz** had two extra-base hits in three at-bats and drove in four runs to give Kubasaki its first and only victory over Kadena 11-10 on Thursday.

Girls soccer

■ **London Jackson** scored four times for Yokota on Friday, giving her a team-leading 10 on the season, leading the Panthers past Zama 6-0, their second shutout in consecutive matches.

■ **Sarah Clayton** netted four goals in those two Yokota matches, including a hat trick in a 3-

0 shutout of Christian Academy. Her goal against Zama gave her six on the season.

■ **Sydney Johnson** scored a hat trick and assisted on another goal as Kubasaki routed Naha Nishi 11-0 on Saturday at West Naha.

Boys soccer

■ **Imani Washington** netted three goals, giving him 13 on the season, as Kubasaki played two matches with adult teams and came away with a win and a tie. The Dragons beat Mil United 4-2 and played Brazil FC to a 5-5 draw.

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NHL PLAYOFFS

Wild wake up with Game 3 gem

Minnesota cuts Chicago's series lead in half with a shutout victory

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Matching the Chicago Blackhawks is a tough task, and the Minnesota Wild weren't going to catch up without more presence and production from their top forwards.

After a couple of quiet games and two sluggish periods, Mikael Granlund, Zach Parise and the rest of the Wild's skill-position players came to life.

Granlund scored twice, Parise had a goal and an assist, and Erik Haula jump-started the Wild by scoring early in the third period in a 4-0 victory over the Blackhawks on Tuesday in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinal series.

"The big guys definitely came through tonight," Wild coach Mike Yeo said.

Ilya Bryzgalov made 19 saves for his first shutout in the playoffs in eight years, and the Blackhawks had their lead whittled to 2-1 with their first loss in 2½ weeks.

Game 4 is Friday in Minnesota. The announced attendance of 19,416 was the most in franchise history, but the atmosphere didn't match that until shortly after the second intermission. Pucks were whizzing way wide of the net, and clogged shooting lanes led to plenty of thwarted opportunities.

"They're probably as tight a team as we're going to play all year," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said.

Haula finally brought the fans to their feet.

The rookie center from Fin-



Wild center Mikael Granlund, left, scores on Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford as Zach Parise looks for a rebound during Game 3 on Tuesday. Minnesota won 4-0 to cut Chicago's lead in the series to 2-1.

land, once a standout for the University of Minnesota, started the play from the neutral zone and finished in front of the rush for a tap-in of Justin Fontaine's slick pass through the defense. Then less than three minutes later, Granlund took a pass from Jason Pominville and went to his backhand to slip a high shot past Corey Crawford's glove for the 2-0 lead.

The crowd began to taunt the goalie with a "Craw-frod! Craw-

frod!" chant, and Parise put the exclamation point on the night with a power-play goal, the first in 23 chances for the Wild over their last two playoff series against the Blackhawks. Then Granlund got an empty-netter with 1:17 left.

"We know when we play like we can, we can beat any team in this league, especially here at home," Granlund said.

Crawford stopped only 14 shots for the Blackhawks, who dropped

their first two games to St. Louis in the last round before winning four in a row. Since losing to the Blues on April 19, they took the lead in all six games and outscored their opponents 23-9.

Despite outscoring the Wild 9-3 in the first two games of this series, the Blackhawks have not been able to test Bryzgalov much.

"It was pretty familiar territory for us. We knew we had to win the game," Parise said.

Scoreboard

Second round

(Best-of-7; x if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Montreal 2, Boston 1
 Tuesday: Montreal 4, Boston 2
 Thursday: at Montreal

Saturday: at Boston

x-Monday: at Montreal

x-Wednesday: Pittsburgh 2, Boston 1

N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 2, OT

Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 0

Pittsburgh 2, N.Y. Rangers 0

Wednesday: at N.Y. Rangers

Friday: at Pittsburgh

x-Sunday: at N.Y. Rangers

x-Tuesday, May 13: at Pittsburgh

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago 2, Minnesota 1

Chicago 5, Minnesota 2

Chicago 4, Minnesota 1

Tuesday: Minnesota 4, Chicago 0

Friday: at Minnesota

Sunday: at Chicago

x-Tuesday, May 13: at Minnesota

x-Thursday, May 15: at Chicago

Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 0

Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 1

Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 1

Thursday: at Los Angeles

Saturday: at Los Angeles

x-Monday, May 12: at Anaheim

x-Wednesday, May 14: at Los Angeles

x-Friday, May 16: at Anaheim

Tuesday

Wild 4, Blackhawks 0

Chicago	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	4	0
Scoring	Third Period—1, Minnesota, Haula 2 (Fontaine, Moulson), 1:41; 2, Minnesota, Granlund 3 (Pominville, Fontaine), 4:18; 3, Minnesota, Parise 4 (Suter, Pominville), 17:25 (pp.); 4, Minnesota, Granlund 4 (Niederreiter, Coyle), 18:43 (en).			
Shots on goal	Chicago 7-8-4—19; Minnesota 5-8—18			
Power-play opportunities	Chicago 0-2; Minnesota 0-4			
Goals by	Chicago, Crawford 6-3-0 (17 5:40 (19-18)); Minnesota, Bryzgalov 4-0-0 (19-18)			
	A—19,416 (17,954). T—2:28.			

Canadiens 4, Bruins 2

Montreal	0	1	1	2
Boston	0	0	1	2
Scoring	First Period—1, Montreal, Plekanec 3 (Vanek, P.Subbán), 10:57; 2, Montreal, Eller 2 (Gauthier, Marchand), 17:48			
	Second Period—3, Montreal, Weisz 2 (Gauthier, Marchand), 17:48; 4, Montreal, Bergeron 3 (Krug, Marchand), 17:48			
	Third Period—5, Boston, Iginla 3 (Gauthier, Marchand), 12:47; 4, Montreal, Eller 3 (19:57)			
Shots on goal	Boston 9-12-7—28; Montreal 10-12-4—26			
Power-play opportunities	Boston 0-1; Montreal 0-1			
Goals by	Boston, Rask 5-3-0 (25 0:28-20, 2:25); Montreal, Eller 4-1-0 (28-26)			
	A—21,273 (21,273). T—2:41.			

Subban, Weisz lead Habs to 2-1 lead over Bruins

The Associated Press

MONTREAL — P.K. Subban has picked the right time to go on an offensive tear.

The 2013 Norris Trophy winner had his third straight two-point game with a goal and an assist, and the Montreal Canadiens held off the Boston Bruins for a 4-1 victory Tuesday to take the lead in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

The Canadiens are up 2-1 with Game 4 on Thursday in Montreal. Subban has 11 points in seven playoff games.

"I'm just the beneficiary of the guys playing well around me, supporting me," the defenseman said. "It starts in goal. Well, it actually starts with our coaching staff and making sure everybody is feeling confident. We're doing it together. It's fun to play on teams where you know guys will support you."

Lars Eller and fourth-line winger Dale Weisz also had a goal and an assist and Tomas Plekanec scored Montreal's other goal.

Patrice Bergeron and Andrei Meszaros scored for the Bruins. Subban became the third Cana-

dians defenseman with three consecutive games of more than one point in the playoffs, after Larry Robinson in 1978 and 1987 and J.C. Tremblay in 1971.

Unlike the first two games, the Bruins were unable to erase a two-goal deficit in Game 3. Their third-period comeback fell short, and Eller ended it with an empty-net goal with three seconds left.

"I don't think we played badly. We just made stupid mistakes that ended up costing us the game," said Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask. "We have to get rid of those and keep playing like we're playing. You're three goals behind and it's tough. You battle back, but time's running out. We have to try to get that lead and play with the lead."

For the third straight game, the Canadiens held a 3-1 lead in the third period. This time, they didn't let it slip away. In Game 2 on Saturday in Boston, the Bruins scored four goals in the final 10 minutes for a 5-3 comeback win.

Rask was pulled with 2:20 left. Only four seconds later, Meszaros beat Carey Price with a high shot through traffic off a feed from



The Canadiens' P.K. Subban, right, celebrates with teammate Dale Weisz after scoring in the first period of Game 3 on Tuesday in Montreal. The pair combined for two goals and two assists as the Canadiens won 4-2 to take a 2-1 lead in their second-round series.

Milan Lucic.

"We learned a little bit from the last game and we didn't panic," said Eller, who has eight points in seven playoff games after a disappointing regular season.

The Bruins took control of the puck through the first 10 minutes. Then Michael Bournival made a

gritty play to get the puck around the boards to Subban, who left it for Thomas Vanek for a diagonal pass that gave Plekanec a shot into an open side for his third of the playoffs at 10:57.

Subban was sent off for roughing after a high hit on Reilly Smith that also took out Vanek, sending

the Austrian off the ice with an apparent right leg problem. He returned for the second period.

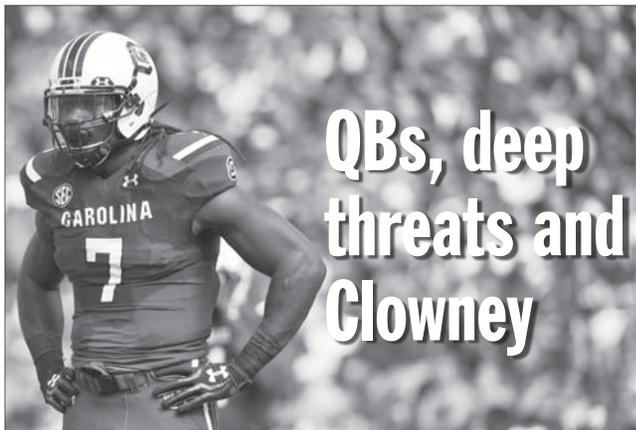
"I spoke to him after and he said, 'I'm fine. Don't worry about it,'" Subban said. "I was pretty happy to see him back there skating. Obviously I don't want to hurt my own teammates with a body check, but sometimes that happens."

As Subban's penalty ended, Rask neglected to alert his teammates by banging his stick on the ice. That left the defenseman open to collect Eller's pass, go in on a breakaway, fake out Rask and score at 14:44.

Mike Weaver blocked a shot that went to Daniel Briere, who sent Weisz in on a breakaway with a pass up the middle. The fourth-line winger beat Rask between the pads for a three-goal lead at 13:52 of the second.

But Bergeron won a face-off from Plekanec in the Montreal zone and reached across himself to deflect Torey Krug's point shot past Price with 2:12 left in the period. That put the Bruins in comeback mode. But despite pushing hard, they managed only seven third-period shots.

NFL DRAFT/MLB



QBs, deep threats and Clowney

RAINER ERHARDT/AP

Pairing likely No. 1 pick South Carolina defensive end Jadeveon Clowney with J.J. Watt could give Houston the NFL's best 1-2 pass-rushing combination as the three-day draft kicks off Thursday in New York.

Dominating South Carolina DE the headliner in a talented class

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Quarterbacks, deep threats and Jadeveon.

For all the interest in QBs such as Johnny Football, and all the praise for the deep class of deep-threat receivers, the first player taken Thursday in the NFL draft figures to be that most coveted of defenders, the sack master end.

South Carolina's Jadeveon Clowney is expected to go to the Houston Texans, who get the first pick in the three-day proceedings at Radio City Music Hall.

Criticism of his work ethic and suggestions that he spent much of last season trying to avoid injury have been overwhelmed in most draft rooms by video of Clowney at his best. Those clips show him beating double-teams, even triple-teams. He's been so impressive that many NFL insiders believe Clowney would have been the top overall pick had he been eligible after his 2012 sophomore season.

"With a player like Jadeveon in his second year, he was a tremendous player," said former NFL player Tom Condon, now a prominent agent. "And then he had to play his third year and you hear the questions about what kind of motor does he have. I watched him this year and I thought he was a fantastic player."

Should Houston bypass adding Clowney to a defense that already has a disruptive star end in J.J. Watt, the Texans could opt for a quarterback. They dealt incumbent Matt Schaub to Oakland, leaving Case Keenum and T.J. Yates behind center.

But grabbing Texas A&M's often-spectacular and unpredictable Johnny Manziel at the top of the draft could be a reach. Same thing for the other quarterbacks being dissected by scouts for



First-round order

1. Houston Texans
 2. St. Louis Rams (from Washington Redskins)
 3. Jacksonville Jaguars
 4. Cleveland Browns
 5. Oakland Raiders
 6. Atlanta Falcons
 7. Tampa Bay Buccaneers
 8. Minnesota Vikings
 9. Buffalo Bills
 10. Detroit Lions
 11. Tennessee Titans
 12. New York Giants
 13. St. Louis Rams
 14. Chicago Bears
 15. Pittsburgh Steelers
 16. Dallas Cowboys
 17. Baltimore Ravens
 18. New York Jets
 19. Miami Dolphins
 20. Arizona Cardinals
 21. Green Bay Packers
 22. Philadelphia Eagles
 23. Kansas City Chiefs
 24. Cincinnati Bengals
 25. San Diego Chargers
 26. Cleveland Browns (from Indianapolis Colts)
 27. New Orleans Saints
 28. Carolina Panthers
 29. New England Patriots
 30. San Francisco 49ers
 31. Denver Broncos
 32. Seattle Seahawks
- Note: Washington Redskins and Indianapolis Colts do not have first-round selections. Washington's first pick is in the second round, 34th overall; Indianapolis' is in the second round, 59th overall.

two extra weeks this year, because the draft was moved back into early May.

Choosing Central Florida's Blake Bortles, Louisville's Teddy Bridgewater, Fresno State's Derek Carr (brother of 2002 overall top pick David Carr of the same school and an NFL bust) or any other passer might be a stretch.

Instead, many teams drafting early may opt for guys who stretch the field. NFL draft guru Gil Brandt calls it "a very strong draft for receivers," and general managers drool about Sammy Watkins of Clemson, Mike Evans of Texas A&M, Marquise Cooks of Oregon State, Marquise Lee of Southern California, Odell Beckham Jr. of LSU and Kelvin Benjamin of national champion Florida State.

Asked what impact the speedy, strong, elusive workaholic Watkins might have on the Browns, general manager Ray Farmer said: "Big, big, really big. Ginormous."

"He's explosive," Farmer adds. "He's got really good hands. He's demonstrated he can run all the routes. He can be productive. So saddle him on the opposite side of Josh Gordon and WOW!"

Other WOW factor players attracting attention before the draft include Buffalo linebacker Khalil Mack, UCLA linebacker Anthony Barr, Alabama safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix and North Carolina tight end Eric Ebron.

But the guys in the trenches never should be ignored, with three tackles — Greg Robinson of Auburn, Jake Matthews of Texas A&M (son of Hall of Fame offensive lineman Bruce Matthews) and Taylor Lewan of Michigan — projected to go in the first dozen picks. Defensive tackles Aaron Donald of Pittsburgh, Tim Jernigan of Florida State and Louis Nix of Notre Dame also are likely first-rounders.

Just like last year, when no running backs went in the first round, that position is devalued in 2014. Top ball carriers in this crop include Carlos Hyde of Ohio State and Tre Mason of Auburn.

The impact of underclassmen will be felt more in this draft than ever, with a record 98 declaring for early entry.

Interleague roundup

Hit streak reaches 26 for Rockies' Arenado

The Associated Press

DENVER — Nolan Arenado just couldn't get anything to fall on a night when everyone else was finding holes.

Finally, in his last at bat — and with the game long decided — Arenado laced a double that landed squarely on the white left-field line.

That's the way it's been going lately for one of the Colorado Rockies' hottest hitters.

Arenado ran his hitting streak to 26 games and Carlos Gonzalez had five of Colorado's season-high 21 hits as the Rockies routed the Texas Rangers 12-1 on Tuesday.

"Just nice to get that," Arenado said of his RBI double in the seventh.

His streak is one away from the team record of 27 set by Michael Cuddyer last season. It's also the longest for anyone 23 years or younger since Albert Pujols hit in 30 straight games in 2003.

"It was a little dramatic, but he finally did it," Gonzalez said. "It was a great night for him — a very important night for him."

The first four hitters in Colorado's lineup — Charlie Blackmon, Drew Stubbs, Troy Tulowitzki and Gonzalez — went a combined 13-for-20 with two homers and seven RBIs to help the Rockies take two games from Texas at Coors Field. Colorado now travels to Arlington, Texas, for two more in a home-and-home situation.

Blackmon led off with a homer. Stubbs added another in the seventh.

"We got guys up and down the order and on the bench that can really swing it," Arenado said.

Juan Nicasio (4-1) got through five innings without his best command, giving up two hits and one run. He also walked a season-high five.

Robbie Ross Jr. (1-3) had a rough outing as he allowed six runs and 12 hits in 5½ innings.

The Rangers' most effective pitcher on this night was actually an outfielder: Given the lopsided score, and to save his bullpen,

manager Ron Washington sent Mitch Moreland to the mound for the eighth. He set the Rockies down in order as he became only the sixth position player to pitch in Rangers history.

It's the first time he's pitched since 2008 and that was in a minor league game. Moreland was hitting around 94 mph, too.

"I tried to let a couple go, especially early in the count, just to have some fun," Moreland said. "It's tough in a game like that to have some fun, but it's always been a dream of mine."

Leading 4-1, the Rockies broke open the game with a six-run sixth in which they sent 12 batters to the plate. Pinch hitter Brandon Barnes even got up twice, hitting singles both times.

Red Sox 4, Reds 3 (12): Grady Sizemore lined one out the Green Monster to score the game-winning run in the 12th inning and host Boston beat Cincinnati.

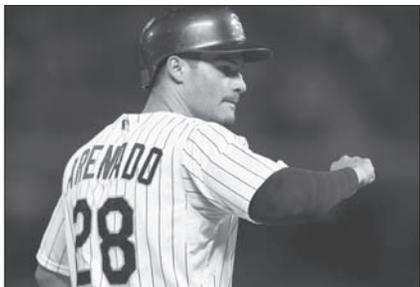
Logan Ondrusek (0-2) took the loss. He pitched a scoreless 11th but gave up singles to David Ortiz and Mike Napoli before Sizemore hit a liner off the left field wall.

Blue Jays 6, Phillies 5 (10): Juan Francisco's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning lifted visiting Toronto over Philadelphia. Edwin Encarnacion and Colby Rasmus went deep for the Blue Jays. Marcus Stroman (1-0) pitched 1½ scoreless innings for his first career win. Aaron Loup got the final two outs for his second save.

White Sox 5, Cubs 1: Gordon Beckham's tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning helped the White Sox beat the rival hot Cubs.

Moises Sierra had a career-high four hits for the White Sox, starting in place of Adam Dunn who was scratched about 30 minutes before the first pitch because of a bruised right calf.

Royals 3, Padres 1 (11): Alex Cobb singled in the go-ahead run with one out in the 11th inning and pinch-hitter Billy Butler followed with an RBI double for visiting Kansas City, which beat San Diego to snap their season-high five-game losing streak.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Colorado Rockies' Nolan Arenado doubled in the seventh inning to extend his hitting streak to 26 games in the Rockies' 12-1 win over the Texas Rangers in Denver on Tuesday.

MLB

AL roundup

Cabrera powers Tigers to rout over lowly Astros

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Robbie Ray provided a glimpse of what the Detroit Tigers saw in him when they acquired the pitching prospect for Doug Fister.

Ray gave up one run in his major league debut and got plenty of run support, especially from Miguel Cabrera, to help Detroit rout the Houston Astros 11-4 on Tuesday night for its season-high seventh straight win.

When Ray walked off the mound and to walk the dugout in the sixth inning, he was given a standing ovation by a crowd that included his mother, father, fiancée and her family.

"I did enjoy it," he said. "I started tearing up a little bit."

Some of those same fans may have wondered what the Tigers were thinking when they traded Fister to Washington for the 22-year-old Ray during the offseason.

"I got the sense that before today, they didn't know who I was," Ray said.

Now, they know and 27,939 fans probably liked what they witnessed from the hard-throwing lefty.

Ray (1-0) gave up one run, five hits and a walk and struck out five in 5½ innings. He probably earned another turn in the rotation because Anibal Sanchez is on the disabled list with a cut on his right middle finger.

Ray responded well when Jose Altuve led off the game with a bloop double down the right field line. Dexter Fowler followed with an infield single after Ray ran past first base when Cabrera tossed him the ball. Ray struck out the third and fourth batters in Houston's lineup and an inning-inning groundout got him out of the jam.

The former Nationals prospect had a shot to have a scoreless start, but second baseman Ian Kinsler dropped a popup that allowed Fowler to score in the sixth inning.

"He's got good stuff and a good head on his shoulders," Tigers catcher Alex Avila said. "But people can't — or shouldn't — put pressure on the kid about being part of the Fister trade."

Cabrera homered in the first inning for his first of four hits and four RBIs. He raised his batting average to .293 after it was .206 on April 21. The reigning two-time AL MVP, who matched a season high with

the four hits, had an RBI single in the seventh and a two-run double in the eighth.

The Tigers scored two runs in the third inning and another in the fourth. J.D. Martinez was the only player in Detroit's lineup who did not have a hit until he had an RBI single in the five-run eighth.

Houston, which has the worst record in the majors (10-23), lost its fourth straight and sixth in seven games.

Brett Oberholzer (0-6) allowed four runs, nine hits, two sacrifice flies and a walk over six innings.

Indians 4, Twins 2: Josh Tomlin earned his first major league win since 2012, pitching into the seventh inning and leading host Cleveland over Minnesota.

Tomlin (1-0) allowed one run and four hits in 6½ innings. He was called up from Triple-A Columbus before the game after missing most of last year while recovering from Tommy John surgery. He struck out four, walked one and won for the first time since July 5, 2012, with the Indians. He had his elbow operation the next month.

Orioles 5, Rays 3: Ryan Flaherty and Nick Markakis both drove in a run after a power outage in the eighth inning and visiting Baltimore beat Tampa Bay.

The 19-minute delay came after a series of lights went out at Tropicana Field. The outage was soon after Steve Clevenger's one-out double off Joel Peralta (1-2) put runners on second third.

After Steve Pearce walked, an RBI single by Flaherty and Markakis' run-scoring grounder gave Baltimore the two-run lead.

Yankees 4, Angels 3: Brian Roberts hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the ninth inning, and visiting New York beat Los Angeles for its second win in seven games.

Roberts had an early RBI single before he connected with two outs against Ernesto Frieri (0-3), putting his first homer with his new club into the elevated right field stands at Angel Stadium.

Mariners 5, Athletics 3: Rookie Roenis Elias struck out six while pitching into the seventh in win consecutive starts for the first time, Justin Smoak drove in three runs and Seattle beat Oakland for its season-high fourth straight victory.

Smoak hit an RBI double and Dustin Ackley an RBI single in the first to back Elias (3-2).



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

The Pirates' Starling Marte scores ahead of the tag by Giants catcher Buster Posey in the ninth inning on Tuesday. Marte was called out, but that was overturned upon review. It was a walk-off triple and an error that allowed Marte to score as the Pirates won 2-1.

NL roundup

Replay turns Pirates into walk-off winners

Out at plate reversed as Pittsburgh beats San Francisco

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Expanded instant replay has a new fan in Starling Marte.

At least, that is, when the Pittsburgh Pirates are on the right side of it. The speedy outfielder was called out, then ruled safe on a replay review with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, lifting the Pirates by San Francisco 2-1 Tuesday, ending the Giants' six-game winning streak.

It was 1-11 when Marte tripled off the right-field wall against Tim Hudson. Marte slid into third, got up and bolted home when the relay from second baseman Elieir Adrianza skipped by third baseman Pablo Sandoval for an error.

Sandoval recovered to throw home and plate umpire Quinn Wolcott initially ruled Marte was tagged by San Francisco catcher Buster Posey. A brief review showed Marte's right hand touched the plate before Posey's glove swiped Marte's chest.

Marte joked he likes replay "sometimes," but never doubted which way the call would go on the umpires took a longer look.

"I know I was safe," Marte said. "It was just about waiting for the umpire to make the decision."

Pirates manager Clint Hurdle raced out of the dugout to challenge the call. He wasn't sure at the time whether Marte was safe for not, but figured Marte deserved the benefit of the doubt.

"It's an aggressive play," Hurdle said. "We continue to talk about being aggressive. We can't use the safety brakes."

A night after rallying from a six-run deficit to win a five-hour, 13-inning marathon, the Giants were stunned when Marte's drive and Adrianza's miscue ruined an otherwise spectacular effort from Hudson (4-2).

The veteran right-hander allowed two runs on five hits in 8½ innings, striking out five and walking one. The only Pirate to advance past second base over the final

seven innings was Marte.

Tony Watson (3-0) worked around two singles in the ninth to earn the win. Marte scored both Pittsburgh runs and Ike Davis added two hits as the Pirates won for just the fourth time in their last 13 games.

Marlins 3, Mets 0: Henderson Alvarez pitched a six-hitter for his second shutout this season as host Miami won again at home, beating New York. Miami is a major league-best 16-5 at Marlins Park.

Alvarez (2-2) struck out seven, walked none and threw 111 pitches. His only other victory this year was a complete-game 7-0 victory over Seattle on April 19.

Braves 2, Cardinals 1: Justin Upton homered and scored the tiebreaking run on Chris Johnson's eighth-inning single, and host Atlanta beat St. Louis to end their seven-game skid.

Braves' right-hander Gavin Floyd was impressive in his season debut, allowing one run on six hits in seven innings.

Dodgers 8, Nationals 3: Clayton Kershaw pitched seven shutout innings in his first outing since Opening Day and Hanley Ramirez and Drew Butera homered as Los Angeles beat host Washington.

The Dodgers kept outfielder Yasiel Puig out for the second straight game since he crashed into an outfield wall in the ninth inning Sunday at Miami. Jayson Werth had four hits for the Nationals.

Diamondbacks 7, Brewers 5: Aaron Hill hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning after Miguel Montero had a tying single, rallying visiting Arizona.

Evan Marshall (1-0) pitched 1½ innings of scoreless relief in his major league debut for the victory. Addison Reed pitched a scoreless ninth inning to record his ninth save in 10 opportunities.

Paul Goldschmidt and Chris Owings also homered for Arizona, which has won five of its past seven games on the road.



PAUL SANCI/A/P

The Tigers' Miguel Cabrera hits a solo-home run off Astros pitcher Brett Oberholzer in the first inning of Tuesday's 11-4 victory at Comerica Field in Detroit.

SPORTS BRIEFS/NBA



Ben Margot/AP

Golden State Warriors fired coach Mark Jackson on Tuesday. His three seasons with the Warriors will be remembered for the way he helped turn a perennially losing franchise into a consistent winner.

Briefly

Warriors can Jackson after three seasons

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Mark Jackson came to the Golden State Warriors talking big and brash. He promised playoff appearances and championships, and he delivered plenty of wins along the way. Away from the court, Jackson never backed down from doing things how he wanted. His inability to mesh with management — and management's inability to mesh with Jackson — increasingly overshadowed his success and ultimately cost him his job.

The Warriors fired Jackson after three seasons Tuesday, ending the franchise's most successful coaching tenure in the past two decades but also one filled with drama and distractions.

"Obviously it was not made exclusively on wins and losses," Warriors owner Joe Lacob said.

Lacob and general manager Bob Myers both thanked Jackson, saying he helped make the Warriors a more attractive franchise. But Myers said the decision to dismiss Jackson was "unanimous" among the team's executives — though still not easy — in part because the Warriors want a coach who can "develop a synergy" with "everybody in basketball operations."

Jackson's time with the Warriors will be remembered for the way he helped turn a perennially losing franchise into a consistent winner and the bold and bombastic way in which he did it.

He guaranteed Golden State would make the playoffs in his first season, then finished 23-36 after the NBA labor lockout. The Warriors went 47-35 last season and had a memorable run to the second round of the playoffs, and they were 51-31 this season before losing in seven games to the Clippers in the first round.

The Warriors, who have surrounded star Stephen Curry with a talented nucleus since Lacob's group bought the franchise in 2010, had not made the playoffs in consecutive years since 1991-92.

They made the postseason once in 17 years before Jackson arrived.

Flyers promote Hextall to general manager

PHILADELPHIA — Ron Hextall got his "dream job." Hextall was promoted to general manager by the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday to replace Paul Holmgren, who was elevated to president. Hextall is Philadelphia's all-time winningest goalie and served as assistant GM last year.

"I'm extremely excited about this new opportunity to manage the Philadelphia Flyers," Hextall said. "I look forward to working closely with Paul in our new hockey structure and working toward our ultimate goal of winning the Stanley Cup."

The Flyers were eliminated by the New York Rangers in seven games in the first round of the playoffs. They haven't won a Cup since 1975, but have reached the Finals and lost six times.

Mizzou's Sam to receive Ashie Courage Award

NEW YORK — Michael Sam has been selected the winner of the Arthur Ashe Courage Award. The Missouri defensive end who likely will be drafted by an NFL team this weekend, will receive the award given to individuals who transcend sports at The 2014 ESPYs on July 16.

Sam, the SEC Defensive Player of the Year, has announced that he is gay, making him set to become the first openly gay player in the NFL. ESPN is honoring Sam for "his courage and honesty that resonates beyond sports."

"I'm very honored to be presented with the Arthur Ashe award," he said. "It is about courage."

"You know I don't think there is anything courageous I did. I look forward to when we can live life in a world when guys don't have to come out in public."

Top Clippers executive taking indefinite leave

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Clippers President Andy Roeser is taking an indefinite leave of absence while the NBA restructures the franchise in the wake of owner Donald Sterling's lifetime ban.

Roeser's immediate departure was announced by the NBA on Tuesday. The league announced plans last week to appoint a CEO to oversee the franchise in Sterling's absence.

"This will provide an opportunity for a new CEO to begin on a clean slate and for the team to stabilize under difficult circumstances," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver banned Sterling for life, fined him \$2.5 million, and urged owners to force him to sell the Clippers a week ago, responding to league-wide outrage over racist comments made by the 80-year-old real-estate mogul.

Sterling is the NBA's longest-tenured owner after buying the Clippers in 1981. Roeser, one of the Clippers' alternate governors, is one of the league's longest-tenured executives, having just completed his 30th season with the team.

The announcement of Roeser's leave surprised Clippers coach Doc Rivers while he prepared the team for Game 2 of its second-round playoff series in Oklahoma City.

"I knew they were going to bring in a new CEO eventually, but it is [a surprise]," Rivers said. "The

NBA is doing their job and we're just trying to keep this thing together."

Roeser has been a loyal frontman for Sterling since the franchise's days in San Diego and he stood by Sterling during every controversial period of the owner's career. Only radio and television play-by-play announcer Ralph Lawler has worked for the Clippers longer than the 54-year-old Roeser, who became team president in 2007.

But Roeser infuriated many longtime Clippers employees last week after Sterling's private conversation was made public by TMZ.

While nearly everyone else was reacting with outrage, Roeser released a statement questioning whether the recordings of Sterling were legitimate, while simultaneously apologizing on Sterling's behalf for sentiments about Magic Johnson on the recordings. Roeser's statement was sympathetic to Sterling and criticized V. Stiviano, Sterling's longtime associate and the other voice on the recordings.

Rivers said Roeser's statement upset many loyal Clippers employees who were horrified by Sterling's comments. Rivers held meetings with much of the Clippers' front-office staff last week while Sterling was ousted, encouraging them to keep working for the franchise.

"That rubbed a lot of people the wrong way," Rivers said. "Andy right away said that was the wrong statement, so he apologized for that, and then we moved on."

MVP: Second-place LeBron backs vote

FROM BACK PAGE

During a speech in which Durant revealed a humility and vulnerability rarely displayed by a professional athlete, he also drew some laughs.

"I could walk in and have a terrible day and I could see Hasheem (Thabeet) smiling at me, at 7-foot-3 with small pants on," he said. "That would change my day."

Durant mentioned qualities about each teammate, showing respect for the veterans who challenge him and the rookies who inspire him to do things the right way because they look up to him.

"I go home and I think about that stuff, man," he said. "When you've got people behind you, you can do whatever."

Durant won his fourth scoring crown in five years by averaging 32 points. The 6-foot-9 forward helped the Thunder go 59-23, second-best in the league, despite playing much of the season without three-time All-Star Russell Westbrook because of a nagging knee injury.

"He's basically put himself in front of everybody else in the league and shown that he's the best player in the world," Westbrook said at the end of the regular season.

James agreed, saying Monday: "Much respect to him and he deserves it. He had a big-time MVP season."

Durant's run of 41 consecutive games this season with at least 25 points was the third-longest streak in NBA history.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Thunder forward Kevin Durant won his fourth scoring crown in five years, averaging 32 points.

"It was a two-man race and then toward the end, it was kind of a no-brainer," Griffin said.

James averaged 27.1 points, 6.9 rebounds and 6.3 assists while shooting nearly 57 percent from the field. Griffin averaged 24.1 points and 10.1 rebounds.

Durant scored at least 40 points 14 times. He also averaged 7.4 rebounds and a career-high 5.5 assists while shooting 50 percent from the field.

While Westbrook was out after his recent knee surgery, Durant averaged 35 points and 6.3 assists as the Thunder went 20-7 and remained among the league's elite.

Teammates and opponents say Durant became a more complete player this season. They praised him for improving his court vision, consistently making the extra pass and moving more efficiently without the ball.

"I think we take it for granted," teammate Nick Collison said. "To be able to stay on for long periods of time — have to cut hard, catch the ball in the right spot and defend on the other end — is tough to do. To be able to show that shows that he has an edge to him. He doesn't take a night off."

Though Durant's consistency stood out this season, he had several exceptional games. He scored 48 points on Jan. 4 at Minnesota, then scored 48 again two games later at Utah. He scored a career-high 54 points in a home win against Golden State on Jan. 17 and two games later scored 46 at home in a victory against Portland.

Two games after that, he had a triple-double — 32 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists — in a win at Philadelphia, and he followed that with 41 points in a victory over Atlanta. He scored 51 points at Toronto on March 21 in a staggering 53 minutes and hit the game-winning three-pointer with 1.7 seconds left in double overtime.

He capped it off in the season finale by scoring 21 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter against Detroit and winning the game with a dunk with 16.5 seconds left.

"I put in so much work, and so many people helped me," he said. "I feel like we all won it. Our equipment guy gave me a hug today and said, 'This is my first MVP' and I thought about that. And I said, 'Yeah, this is our first MVP.' I couldn't have done it without the teammates, without the trainer. Everybody. We all just did this together."

NBA PLAYOFFS

Parker, Spurs give Blazers playoff lesson

By Raul Dominguez
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — After nearly falling on their faces in the opening round of the playoffs, the San Antonio Spurs found their footing Tuesday night and ran the Portland Trail Blazers off the court.

Tony Parker had 33 points and nine assists and San Antonio never trailed in a resounding 116-92 victory over Portland, bullying the younger Trail Blazers in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

"He's been doing that for a lot of years," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "It's nothing different. He's the guy that's our attack guy. (He) creates for everybody and starts the offense. He's also played very good defense this year and most people don't really see that."

Parker, who had 32 points in Game 7 against Dallas, scored 13 points in the first quarter on a series of drives and capped it with a corner three as San Antonio built a 10-point lead 8 minutes into the game.

"The Spurs never led by less than 20 in the second half."

"They did what championship teams do." Portland forward LaMarcus Aldridge said. "They came out and set the tone early. Most of the guys on [Portland's] team haven't even been in the second round, and [the Spurs] have won championships. They've been here. I think they definitely came out and they let us know how it's going to be."

Kawhi Leonard had 16 points and Tim Duncan added 12 points and 11 rebounds for San Antonio.

More importantly for the Spurs, their bench contributed mightily after being virtually nonexistent in the series against Dallas.

Marco Belinelli had 19 points and the Australian connection of Aron Baynes and Patty Mills had 10 points apiece.

"We came out swinging, caught them with a few early punches and they were on their back heel at that point," Baynes said. "It was good for us that we came out like that but now we have to maintain it."

The Spurs had their most complete game of the postseason, playing with the flair and fluidity that resulted in the league's best regular-season record.

"I think Game 7 [against Dallas] gave us a lot of confidence for our team," Parker said. "I think team-wise we played our best game in Game 7. I think tonight was a little bit of the same thing. Defensively, it was one of our best games because Portland has a lot of shooters, a lot of scorers."

Portland, meanwhile, didn't come close to resembling the confident and sharp-shooting group that upset Houston in the opening round.



ERIC GAY/AP

The Spurs' Tony Parker drives around Portland's Damian Lillard during the second half on Tuesday in San Antonio. Parker had 33 points in the win.

Aldridge had 32 points and 14 rebounds and Damian Lillard had 17 points for Portland, but the All-Star duo combined for just 17 points in the first half as San Antonio built a 26-point lead.

"They knew where we were going to do [plays]," Aldridge said. "They tried to deny guys on certain sets. They tried to force guys to try their weak hand. They did what good teams do. I think guys are going to learn from it."

Lillard was pushed out of the paint by 6-foot-7 Leonard early in the game and was nearly knocked off his feet defensively by a series of blistering picks.

It wasn't any easier physically for Lillard, who opened the game shooting 1-for-5 against Tiago Splitter and Baynes.

"The first half was not what we were looking for," Portland coach Terry Stotts said. "San Antonio really came out with a lot of energy and aggressiveness. They were the more aggressive team at both ends of the floor for the whole half."

Splitter had an early steal on a pass to Aldridge and nearly had a second when he poked a dribble away as the 6-11 forward attempted to push his way into the block. Splitter hit the court in a failed attempt to keep the ball from going out of bounds, but it mattered little as the tone had been set for a long night for Aldridge and the Trail Blazers.

Heat keep rhythm and roll past Nets

Garnett held scoreless as Miami renders Brooklyn's 4-0 regular season meaningless

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Once the Miami Heat finally figured out how to get rolling against Brooklyn, they never ceded control.

And after a regular-season series against the Nets in which nothing went right, nothing seemed to go wrong for the Heat in this one.

The 0-4 record against the Nets in the regular season? That seems officially forgotten by Miami. As far as the Heat are concerned, 1-0 is all that matters now, after LeBron James scored 22 points, Ray Allen added 19 off the bench and Miami pulled away in the second half to beat Brooklyn 107-86 in Game 1 of the teams' Eastern Conference semifinal series on Tuesday night.

The Heat hadn't played in eight days, yet looked in perfect rhythm.

"You never know how exactly it's going to be for that first game," Allen said. "We were beating up on each other for a whole week. We were ready for another opponent and we came out and played exactly the way we wanted to play."

It was a three-point game early in the third quarter. By the time that period ended, the Heat were up by 13 and three Nets starters got up the rest of the night off. A 24-9 run by the Heat during that quarter made all the difference, not just blowing the game open but putting an emphatic end to any notions that Miami couldn't beat Brooklyn.

"I think the most important thing was the rhythm we were in," James said. "It seemed like we didn't take much time off at all."

Chris Bosh scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Dwyane

Wade finished with 14 points and Mario Chalmers had 12 for Miami, which recorded at least one regular-season win against every team except Brooklyn, losing four times by a total of 12 points.

"This one was much different. In the regular season, teams like Brooklyn and San Antonio, they're going to exploit you just a little bit sometimes," Bosh said. "That's what I love about the playoffs — you can sit and study your opponent, get your strategy together and figure a plan of attack."

Game 2 is Thursday night in Miami. Deron Williams and Joe Johnson scored 17 points each for the Nets, who got only eight from Paul Pierce and no points from Kevin Garnett in 16 minutes.

"This is the defending champs," Nets coach Jason Kidd said. "It's always going to be at a high level and we've got to find a way to match it."

Miami's lead was 55-52 early in the third quarter after a three-pointer by Williams, and every indication was that the Heat and Nets — who played three one-point games and a double-over-time affair in the regular season — were heading down to the wire again.

Not quite. Bosh scored seven straight points and Miami was on its way. Allen's three-pointer pushed the lead to 14. James and Chris Andersen added two free throws apiece and just like that Miami's lead was up to 79-61.

"They have been waiting on us," said Garnett, who went scoreless for the first time in his 139 postseason games. "They have been resting. They have been hearing that we beat them this and all that. We need to be better, and we will be."

Scoreboard

Conference semifinals	Tuesday	Heat 107, Nets 94
(Best-of-7, 5-2 necessary) EASTERN CONFERENCE Miami 1, Brooklyn 0 Tuesday, May 12: Brooklyn 94 Thursday: at Miami Saturday: at Brooklyn Monday, May 12: at Brooklyn X-Wednesday, May 14: at Miami Friday, May 16: at Brooklyn X-Sunday, May 18: at Miami Washington 10, Indiana 96 Washington 102, Indiana 96 Wednesday: at Indiana Washington 102, Indiana 96 Sunday: at Washington Tuesday, May 13: Indiana 96 X-Thursday, May 15: at Washington X-Friday, May 16: at Washington	SPURS 116, Trail Blazers 92 Portland — Batum 3-12 0-0 7, Aldridge 12-25 8-9 32, Lopez 2-5 6-7 10, Lillard 6-15 5-17, Matthews 2-6 4-5, Williams 3-11 1-0 6, Robinson 0-0 2-2 2, Wright 0-0 0-21, Barton 3-4 0-0 3, McCollum 0-1 0-0 0, M. Leonard 0-2 0-0 0, Freeall 0-1 0-0 0, Watson 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 31-82 25-102 SAN ANTONIO — K. Leonard 6-13 3-5 16, Duncan 5-9 2-2 12, Splitter 2-6 1-1 5, Parker 13-24 2-3 3, Green 0-3 0-0 0, Ginobili 0-6 2-2 2, Diaw 2-3 1-2 6, Baynes 5-7 0-10, Mills 3-5 3-3 10, Belinelli 7-9 2-2 19, Bonner 0-0 0-0 0, Joseph 1-2 1-1 3, Ayres 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 44-87 21-25 116 Portland 16 23 26 27 92 San Antonio 29 26 25 26-116 Three-Point Goals—Portland 4-16 (Barton 3-3, Batum 1-5, Lillard 0-1, McCollum 0-1, Williams 0-3, Matthews 0-3), San Antonio 7-16 (Belinelli 3-5, Parker 1-1, Diaw 1-1, Mills 1-1, K. Leonard 1-4, Baynes 0-1, Green 0-1, Ginobili 0-2); Fouled Out—Matthews, Rebounds—Portland 53 (Aldridge 14), San Antonio 50 (Duncan 11), Assists—Portland 9 (Williams 4), San Antonio 21 (Parker 9), Total Fouls—Portland 25, San Antonio 21, Technicals—Ginobili, A.—18,51 (18,797).	Brooklyn — Johnson 7-11 0-0 17, Pierce 3-0 0-0 3, Garnett 0-2 0-0 0, Williams 7-10 0-17, Livingston 4-9 2-9, Blatche 1-4 2-4, Anderson 2-7 2-5, Kirilenko 1-3 3-4 5, Plumlee 1-3 0-2 0, Thornton 0-2 0-2 0 11, Teleovic 2-5 0-2 5, Gutierrez 0-2 0-2 0, Totals 33-107 10-86 MIAMI — James 10-15 2-2 22, Batter 3-5 0-0 0 11, Cole 2-3 0-0 6, Lewis 0-2 12, Wade 7-13 0-14, Andersen 2-3 2-4 7, Johnson 1-4 0-0 0, Cole 2-3 0-0 6, Lewis 0-2 0-0, Haslem 1-1 0-2, Douglas 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Beasley 1-0 0-0 0, Totals 42-114 16-107 Brooklyn 20 23 23 20 86 Miami 22 24 13 28-107 Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 10 24 (Williams 3-5, Johnson 3-3, Pierce 2-4, Teleovic 1-3, Thornton 1-3, Anderson 0-3), Miami 9-23 (Allen 4-7, Cole 2-3, Batter 2-4, Josh 1-4, Jones 0-1, Chalmers 0-2, Lewis 0-2); Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Brooklyn 36 (Pierce 6), Miami 42 (Josh 11), Assists—Brooklyn 11 (Livingston, Williams 3), Miami 22 (Wade 5), Total Fouls—Brooklyn 18, Miami 17, Technicals—Brooklyn defensive three second, A.—19,470 (19,600).



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Miami's Chris Bosh, left, passes around Brooklyn's Kevin Garnett in the first half on Tuesday in Miami. The Heat won 107-86. Bosh scored 15 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Garnett didn't score.

Calendar

- May 20 — Draft lottery.
- June 5 — NBA Finals begin.
- June 5 — Draft early entry withdrawal deadline.
- June 26 — NBA Draft.

SPORTS



NFL Draft preview
Clowney headlines talented group of prospects | **Page 27**

NBA



STEVE GOCH, THE OKLAHOMAN/AP

Oklahoma Thunder star Kevin Durant holds up his MVP trophy for fans during a rally following the official MVP announcement on Tuesday in Edmond, Okla.

'I had to go take it'

Emotional Durant credits support from mom, Thunder for first MVP award

By **CLIFF BRUNT**
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — In accepting his first MVP award, Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant made a point of sharing the honor with those who made it possible.

In a soul-baring speech that lasted more than 25 minutes, Durant fought back tears several times while thanking each of his teammates, the coaches, support staff and team executives, and finally his family. The emotional outpouring culminated with a tribute to his mother, Wanda Pratt, and the sacrifices she made, the inspiration she provided while raising Durant and his brother

in the suburbs of Washington, D.C.

"You made us believe," Durant said to Pratt, who was at the ceremony in Edmond, Okla. "Kept us off the street. Put clothes on our backs, food on the table. When you didn't eat, you made sure we ate. You sacrificed for us. You're the real MVP."

Durant explained that Pratt was a single mother with two boys, and though times were tough while growing up, Pratt always thought something better was ahead. Durant said to appreciate moments like these, he often looks back to gain perspective.

"One of the best memories I had is when we moved into our first apartment," he said

as tears streamed down Pratt's face. "No bed, no furniture, and we just all sat in the living room and hugged each other, 'cause that's when we all thought we made it."

He's really made it now. The young man who said he was told he "wasn't supposed to be here" won the NBA's top individual honor Tuesday, receiving 119 first-place votes. Miami's LeBron James, who had won the last two MVP awards and four of the previous five, finished second with six first-place votes, and Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers was third.

Durant, 25, called it "surreal" and at one point, as he thanked his teammates,

Inside:

■ Heat solve Nets in time to take Game 1, Page 31

he stopped and said, "I don't know why I'm crying so much."

"Everything in my life, I had to take it," Durant said. "They're not going to give it to you out of sympathy. I wouldn't want it any other way. This was another case, if I wanted to win the MVP, I had to go take it. I felt that this was the year I did that."

SEE MVP ON PAGE 30

Qualifying date posing problems for Far East track meet | **Page 25**

Ramstein coach hopes soccer showcase helps boost college contacts | **Page 24**

