

Senate OKs bill to fight sexual assaults

By DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

97-0

WASHINGTON — The Senate overwhelmingly passed a bill late Monday making big changes in the military justice system to deal with sexual assault, including scrapping the nearly century-old practice of using a “good soldier defense” to raise doubts that a crime has been committed.

By a vote of 97-0, the Senate rallied behind a bipartisan plan crafted by three female senators

Senate vote late Monday to approve a bipartisan bill that would make big changes in military sexual assault prosecutions. Among the changes would be prohibiting the use of the “good soldier defense,” although a servicemember’s character could still be a factor in the sentencing phase.

— Democrat Claire McCaskill, of Missouri, and Republicans

Kelly Ayotte, of New Hampshire, and Deb Fischer, of Nebraska — that would impose a half-dozen changes to combat the pervasive problem of rape and sexual offenses that Pentagon leaders have likened to a cancer within the ranks.

“Unanimous agreement in the U.S. Senate is pretty rare — but rarer still is the kind of sweeping, historic change we’ve achieved over the past year in the military justice system,” McCaskill said after the vote.

That unanimous support was in sharp contrast to last week, when military leaders vigorously opposed a measure by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., that would have stripped commanders of their authority to prosecute cases and given that power to seasoned military lawyers outside the chain of command. The Senate voted 55-45 for that farther-reaching bill, but that was five votes short of the necessary 60.

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SINCLAIR TRIAL

Attorneys for Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair, who is charged with sexual assault, said they will try to renegotiate a plea bargain with a new set of military officials after the judge determined that the case might have been improperly influenced by political concerns.



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Thousands of Afghans turn out for funeral of prominent VP

Page 3

Afghan men take part in the funeral procession for Vice President Mohammad Qasim Fahim in Kabul on Tuesday. Fahim, a leading commander in the alliance that fought the Taliban who was later accused with other warlords of targeting civilian areas during Afghanistan’s civil war, died on Sunday. He was 57.

MASSOUD HOSSAIN/AP

Air Force to cut nearly 500 aircraft

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force plans to cut nearly 500 planes from its inventory over the next five years if the Defense Department’s fiscal 2015 budget request is approved by Congress, the service announced Monday.

The reductions — which would affect the active-duty, Guard and Reserve — would be implemented in 25 states and the District of Columbia, according to a diagram provided by the Air Force. Only 47 planes would be eliminated overseas at a time when officials are emphasizing the importance of maintaining a strong forward presence to deter adversaries and respond quickly to crises.

SEE AIR FORCE ON PAGE 4



DANA J. BUTLER/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

The Air Force plans to cut 51 F-15Cs from its fleet over the next several years as part of force structure changes included in the fiscal 2015 budget.

MILITARY

Large contingent of US troops to join South Korean exercise

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MLB

Bonds says he belongs in Hall of Fame

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FACES

Miranda Lambert ‘ready to rock’ on forthcoming album

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We don't expect anyone to be perfect from the get-go, but we have to get beyond this game of whack-a-mole."

— Tom Galvin, executive director of the Digital Citizens Alliance, which found there's been a resurgence of videos posted to YouTube and other sites that instruct users on how to buy prescription drugs and steroids online without prescriptions

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MILITARY

Sinclair seeks new deal for full case

By MICHAEL BRESCHER AND EMERY P. DALESIO
The Associated Press

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — Attorneys for an Army general charged with sexual assault said Tuesday that they have decided to try to renegotiate a plea bargain with a new set of military officials after the judge determined that the case may have been improperly influenced by political concerns.

Judge Col. James Pohl sent the jury of generals back to their duty stations around the world after defense lawyers for Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair announced their decision. The two sides now enter negotiations to try to resolve the case. A new general with new legal advisers would have to be brought in to approve any new deal.

Pohl had declined to dismiss the charges outright on Monday. But he reviewed newly disclosed

emails in Sinclair's case and said he found the appearance of "unlawful command influence" in Fort Bragg officials' decision to reach a plea bargain with the general in January.

The twist came with the Pentagon under heavy pressure from Congress and beyond to combat rape and other sex crimes in the military.

Under the military code of justice, the decision was supposed to be based solely on the evidence, not its broader political implications.

Pohl said the emails showed that the military officials who rejected the plea bargain had discussed a letter from the accuser's lawyer. The letter warned that allowing the general to avoid trial would "send the wrong signal."

Sinclair, 51, the former deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, is accused of twice forcing a female captain to perform

oral sex on him in Afghanistan in 2011 during a three-year extramarital affair. He has admitted to the affair but denied assaulting the woman.

The defense has portrayed the woman as a liar who concocted the allegations after she saw emails between Sinclair and another woman.

Sinclair, believed to be the highest-ranking U.S. military officer court-martialed on sexual assault charges, appeared upbeat as he left the courthouse Tuesday morning.

Lead defense attorney Richard Scheff said Sinclair would not agree to plead guilty to any charges involving sexual assault or any charges that would result in his being required to register as a sex offender.

Lt. Col. Robert Stelle, the lead prosecutor, declined to comment.

In December, Sinclair had offered to plead guilty to some of

the lesser charges in exchange for the Army dropping the sexual assault charges, but he was turned down.

Sinclair's plea offer was discussed in emails among a high-ranking Washington-based Army lawyer, the prosecutors and the commanding general overseeing the case.

The judge said he doesn't think the whole case was tainted, just the decision on a plea agreement.

Last week, Sinclair pleaded guilty to three lesser charges involving adultery with the captain and improper relationships with two other female Army officers. A trial then began on the remaining sexual assault charges, with a potential sentence of life in prison.

Now, with Tuesday's decision, the defense may ask Pohl to withdraw Sinclair's guilty plea in favor of whatever new deal can be hashed out with the Army.

Senate: Bill allows 'good soldier defense' only at sentencing

FROM FRONT PAGE

Although expressing reservations, the Pentagon had been generally accepting of the new bill.

The House could act on the legislation as a stand-alone measure or incorporate it into the massive defense policy bill that it pulls together in the spring.

"This is not the end of this," Ayotte said in brief remarks on the Senate floor after the vote. "We will make sure reforms are implemented, commanders are held accountable and victims are treated with dignity and respect."

The new legislation would change the military rules of evidence to prohibit the accused from using good military character as an element of his defense in court-martial proceedings unless it was directly relevant to the alleged crime. The "good soldier defense" could encompass a defendant's military record of reliability, dependability, professionalism and reputation as an individual who could be counted on in war and peacetime.

McCaskill described it as "the ridiculous notion that how well one flies a plane should have anything to do with whether they committed a crime."

The chairman of the Armed

Services Committee, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said Monday that the "military culture has been slow to grasp the painful truth that even a successful professional can also be a sexual predator."

Under the bill, the defense could still be used in the sentencing phase. The Pentagon has indicated that it is crucial as commanders adjust sentences to allow for plea agreements.

The measure also would give accusers a greater say in whether their cases are litigated in the military system or the civilian system and would establish a confidential process to allow alleged victims to challenge their separation or discharge from the military. In addition, it would increase the accountability of commanders and extend all charges related to sexual assault cases to the service academies.

In cases where a prosecutor wanted to move ahead with a case but a commander disagreed, the civilian service secretary would be the final arbiter.

The Pentagon has reservations about that last provision, suggesting it could have a chilling effect on majors and captains if they think every decision gets kicked up to the service secretary.

The Senate bill now goes to

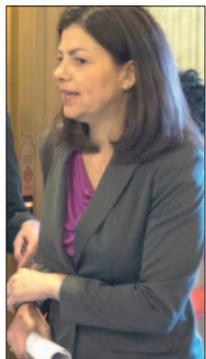
the House, where Michael Steel, a spokesman for Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said Monday,

"The entire House is proud of the bipartisan reforms on this important issue included in last year's defense authorization bill, and we will review this legislation to determine the best way to consider additional reforms in the House."

The Pentagon has estimated that as many as 26,000 military members may have been sexually assaulted in 2012, based on an anonymous survey. Many victims are still unwilling to come forward despite new oversight and assistance programs aimed at curbing abuse, the military says.

Some changes already have been made in the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Outraged lawmakers — Democrats and Republicans — rewrote parts last year, stripping commanders of their ability to overturn military jury convictions. That law also requires a civilian review if a commander declines to prosecute a case and requires that any individual convicted of sexual assault face a dishonorable discharge or dismissal.

The law also provides alleged victims with legal counsel, eliminates the statute of limitations for courts-martial in rape and sexual



EVAN VUCCA/AP

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., is one of three female senators who crafted legislation that passed Monday making changes in the military justice system.

assault cases and criminalizes retaliation against victims who report a sexual assault.

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MIDEAST

Afghans mourn influential vice president

Thousands pack cemetery for funeral

The Associated Press

KABUL — Thousands of Afghans waving flags and chanting crowded into a cemetery in Kabul on Tuesday after President Hamid Karzai presided over a funeral service for the country's powerful vice president.

Vice President Mohammad Qasim Fahim, who died on Sunday at 57, was an ethnic Tajik and a leading commander in the Northern Alliance, which battled the Taliban for years and helped the U.S. in ousting the Islamic militant movement from power in 2001.

His death came a month before presidential elections to choose a successor to Karzai, who is barred from seeking a third term.

At a funeral service earlier in the presidential palace, Karzai lauded him for always promoting national interest.

"I lost my best friend and my brother," Karzai said, surrounded by tribal leaders and other Afghan dignitaries and foreign diplomats.

"He was always with me in making important decisions on international and domestic

issues." The flag-covered coffin was then taken to a cemetery in Kabul, where thousands of people thronged the ambulance as it carried the body to the grave site.

'I lost my best friend and my brother.'

Afghan President Hamid Karzai

Fahim was an ethnic Tajik who was the top deputy of Ahmad Shah Massoud, the charismatic Northern Alliance commander who was killed in an al-Qaida suicide bombing two days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

He was widely accused of marginalizing Pashtuns in the years after the Taliban were ousted, but later reconciled with Karzai and was considered somebody who could mediate between factions.

Karzai's office said Fahim — who held the rank of field marshal and had survived several assassination attempts, most recently in 2009 in northern Afghanistan — died of natural causes in Kabul.



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, center, prays during the funeral procession for Afghanistan's influential vice president, Mohammad Qasim Fahim, in Kabul on Tuesday.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Warm 'aloha' home

More than 60 Hawaii-based soldiers have returned to Schofield Barracks on Hawaii after a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan. Members of the 525th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade, took command of Task Force Hannibal in 2013 and assumed responsibility for supporting U.S. and coalition forces in Regional Command North, according to an Army statement. Upon the troops' return home Sunday, commanders promptly released them to be with their families, the statement said.

Journalist's death in Kabul draws concern

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

A Swedish journalist was gunned down in broad daylight in the streets of Afghanistan's capital on Tuesday, highlighting the growing threat to both foreign and local media at a critical time for the stability of the country.

Longtime correspondent Nils Horner, 51, was killed by an unaffiliated gunman, according to his employer, Swedish Radio.

Kabul police reported that Horner was shot in the head just before noon while standing near a street in an affluent area, and died after being taken to a nearby hospital. He was with a local Afghan translator and driver who were questioned by police, police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai said.

It is unclear if Horner was targeted as a journalist, or more broadly as a foreigner. The Afghanistan Journalists Center has raised concerns that members of the media are facing harassment, humiliation and even physical harm as Afghanistan enters an important transition phase with an upcoming presidential election and the impending depart-

ure of foreign troops.

Afghanistan has been wracked by war since the 1970s, making it long a dangerous place for journalists to practice their trade. Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, local media organizations have blossomed, but some journalists fear for the future as international forces prepare to withdraw.

The head of the United Nations mission in Afghanistan, Jan Kubis, called on officials to do everything they can to bring Horner's assailants to justice.

"I am deeply concerned about civilians, be they Afghans or foreigners, being victims of targeted violence against them — moreover, this time the target was a media worker," he said in a statement.

On Monday, an Afghan journalist, Mukhtar Wafayee, was attacked and beaten by unknown assailants in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the AFJIC reported. According to reports by other journalists in the area, two men accused Wafayee, accused him of publishing propaganda and then severely beat him.

On Jan. 24, the body of Afghan journalist Noor Ahmad Noori was found in a bag, mutilated and stabbed, on the side of a road in south western Afghanistan.

Noori was a radio producer and had in the past worked as a translator for The New York Times. No motive for the killing was con-

firmed, but Noori's wallet with money was found on his body, which ruled out robbery, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The Committee to Protect Journalists says at least 24 journalists have been confirmed killed in Afghanistan since 1992. At least nine died in 2001, the year when the U.S. and European and local Afghan allies toppled the Taliban regime.

In its latest annual report, released in January, the AFJIC said threats to journalists have increased. It catalogued 84 cases of violence against media in 2013, including two cases of murder, four injuries, four detentions, one conviction, as well as closure of two radio stations and an armed attack on another, and dozens of other threats, insults and beatings.

"These attacks violate the journalists' right to life, undermine the public's right to know and create an environment of self-censorship, especially in insecure southern and eastern provinces," the report concluded.

"Keeping in mind the upcoming elections, reporters are seriously in need of law to have access to information, and if the government sources keep avoiding sharing information with media people, there is need to punish them," the AFJIC argued.

Zubair Babarkhail contributed to this report. smith.josh@stripes.com Twitter: @joshjnsmith



Horner

MILITARY

Air Force details cuts to aircraft based overseas

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The U.S. Air Force intends to further whittle down the number of fighter aircraft based overseas as part of overall planned cuts to its fleet, it was announced Monday.

The Air Force wants to retire 51 F-15Cs, including 21 overseas, starting in fiscal 2015, according to Air Force officials.

The reductions would be made over the next five years, leaving the Air Force with a total of 179 F-15Cs, said Ann Stefanik, an Air Force spokeswoman at the Pentagon.

Stefanik said Tuesday she could not say whether the overseas F-15C cuts would be made in the Pacific or in Europe or whether they would be shared by both theaters, "because host nation notifications have to occur first."

In Europe, about 20 F-15Cs are assigned to RAF Lakenheath, England, all with the 493rd Fighter Squadron, according to Air Force officials. Ten of those jets are currently in Lithuania to support the Baltic policing mission. The other two fighter squadrons at Lakenheath comprise the newer F-15E Strike Eagles.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials said Tuesday they could not yet talk about any proposed reductions to the command's assigned aircraft.

"We are aware that the proposed Fiscal Year 15 President's Budget includes the decrease of various types of aircraft, including some types that are assigned to this command," USAFE officials said in a statement.

"At this time we are awaiting budget approval and further guidance on what type of force changes we then need and if we are directed to take any action, we will coordinate with all stakeholders. As an Air Force institution, we are un-

able to discuss details on overseas force structure until host nation notification occurs," it said.

The Air Force cuts are outlined in President Barack Obama's fiscal 2015 budget request and must be approved by Congress. The Air Force plans to remove almost 500 aircraft across the inventories of all three components over the next five years. The biggest savings would come from the elimination of two entire fleets, that of the A-10 and U-2.

If the proposed F-15C cuts do indeed come from Europe, it

The Air Force wants to retire 51 F-15C Eagles, including 21 overseas, starting in fiscal 2015.

would mark the third significant reduction of USAFE's fighter fleet since 2010. Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany lost 21 F-16s starting in 2010 as part of Air Force cost-savings plan. The base last year also said goodbye to 21 A-10s — the last remaining "Warthogs" in Europe — as part of Air Force cutbacks to meet tougher budget limits and a new defense strategy shifting focus away from Europe to the Asia-Pacific region.

The service's fiscal 2015 force structure adjustments call for the reduction of 24 A-10s overseas. Air Force officials on Tuesday said they couldn't say from where those cuts would be made.

The plan also calls for cutting 20 C-20H aircraft from the Air Force's overseas fleet in fiscal 2015. Those planes, a military modification of the commercial Gulfstream aircraft, are used to transport distinguished military and government officials.

Adam L. Mathis contributed to this story.
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JOSHUA BRUCE BRUNS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A South Korean sailor watches as the USS Lake Erie, a Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser, pulls into Mokpo, South Korea, on Saturday. The ship is one of four U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyers that arrived in South Korea to participate in the annual Foal Eagle field training exercise.

S. Korea, US set to begin amphibious landing drill

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Nearly 10,000 U.S. troops will join the South Korean military later this month in the peninsula's largest joint amphibious landing drill, South Korea media reported Tuesday.

U.S. Forces Korea officials did not comment on the exercise, although a Pentagon spokesman told South Korea's Yonhap News Agency that the number of troops taking part in this year's Ssang Yong exercise — to be held March 27 through April 7 — is unprecedented.

"The scale of this year's Ssang Yong is greater than any other in the past, proving the Navy and Marine Corps' ability to conduct the full spectrum of a combined arms, amphibious landing operations in cooperation with our international partners," Lt. Col. Jeff Pool told Yonhap.

Yonhap reported that along with the 9,500 U.S. forces, some 3,500 South Korean marines and 1,000 South Korean sailors would be involved.

According to the U.S. 7th Fleet, the U.S. contingent for Ssang Yong, which means "double dragon," will include 7,500 Marines and 2,000 U.S. Navy personnel. The 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade from Okinawa and the 7th Fleet's Commander Task Force 76 will participate in the exercise, which will address such scenarios as disaster relief and complex expeditionary operations, according to a U.S. military statement.

Yonhap reported that 12 U.S. and South Korean amphibious ships would take part in the drill, along with an unspecified number of Okinawa-based V-22 Ospreys. About 130 Australian soldiers are also expected to participate.

A spokesman for South Korea's Defense Ministry declined to answer questions Tuesday about

Ssang Yong, saying queries should be directed to U.S. military public affairs personnel.

Ssang Yong falls under the umbrella of the ongoing Foal Eagle joint field-training exercise, which ends April 18. As part of Foal Eagle, four U.S. Navy guided-missile destroyers arrived Saturday in ports across the peninsula: the USS Curtis Wilbur and USS Lassen in Pyeongtaek, the USS Lake Erie in Mokpo and the USS Howard in Donghae.

About 12,700 U.S. troops and 200,000 South Korean troops are participating in either Foal Eagle or Yeosu Reserve, the annual joint command post exercise that ended last week.

During last year's Ssang Yong, 21 U.S. servicemembers were injured when a U.S. military helicopter made a hard landing near the Demilitarized Zone.

Stars and Stripes staffer Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this story.
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Air Force: As war winds down, military wants to prioritize high-end platforms over personnel

FROM FRONT PAGE

The drawdown was necessitated by budget constraints imposed by Congress. The Air Force's proposed base budget is \$109.3 billion, down from the \$114.1 billion originally proposed for this force but slightly higher than the \$108.8 billion actually enacted by Congress. If sequestration goes back into effect in fiscal 2016, the service's budget would take further hits.

"Our challenge in a constrained funding environment is to maintain the balance that we've achieved by investing in a modern force tomorrow," Air Force budget director Maj. Gen. Joe Martin told reporters at the Pentagon last week.

The cuts would entail the elimination of the entire A-10 and U-2 fleets, as well as significant reductions in the number of F-15Cs and MQ-1s.

"In addition to fleet divestment, we made the tough choice to reduce a number of tactical fighters, command and control, electronic attack and intra-theater airlift assets so we could rebalance the Air Force at a size that is supported by forecasted funding levels," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark

A. Welsh III said in a news release. "Without those cuts, we will not be able to start recovering to required readiness levels."

The Air Force's top budget priorities are the F-35 fighter, the C-46 tanker and the new long-range bomber, and the Pentagon is trying to protect those programs from the budget axe, officials said.

The procurement budget for the F-35, which has been plagued by cost overruns, technical problems and schedule delays, would cap the program at about \$4.3 billion from \$5.3 billion this year, funding the purchase of 26 planes. The Air Force would buy seven new tankers at a cost of \$1.6 billion. Money for research, development and testing for the new bomber would more than double, from \$359 million this year to \$914 million, Martin said.

As the war in Afghanistan draws down and China continues to rise militarily, the U.S. military is trying to move assets to the Asia-Pacific region and prioritize high-end platforms over personnel.

"The FY15 request favors a smaller and more nimble force, putting a premium on rapidly deployable, self-sustaining plat-

forms that can defeat more technologically advanced adversaries," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said last month.

To maintain capability at lower cost, some assets will be moved from the active-duty force to the Reserve. The size of the Reserve fleet will decrease by only 17 aircraft, according to the diagram.

"Wherever possible the Air Force leveraged opportunities to rebalance personnel and force structure into the Reserve component," Air Force Secretary Deborah James said in the news release. "For that reason, at most Air Reserve component locations where we divested aircraft, we replaced the existing flying missions with a new mission and preserved the majority of the manpower to ease the transition."

In addition to getting rid of aircraft, the service also plans to slash personnel. The Air Force would reduce its end strength from 503,000 airmen to 483,000 in fiscal 2015. The removal of 17,000 active-duty airmen and 3,000 Air Reserve members would be accomplished through the elimination of weapons systems, reductions in headquar-

ters staffing and paring back aircrew-to-cockpit ratios as combat in Afghanistan winds down, officials said last week.

The Air Force plans to use voluntary force-reduction measures to thin out the ranks, as well as involuntary programs if necessary, Martin said.

At this point, these Air Force plans are just proposals because Congress has yet to approve them. Certain measures, such as the elimination of the A-10, will be strongly opposed by some lawmakers.

At a budget hearing last week, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said some of the proposed force structure reductions would be "difficult for many to support."

Sens. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., John McCain, R-Ariz., and Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., have all come out against the elimination of the A-10. Ayotte's husband is a former A-10 pilot. McCain and Chambliss each represent states where dozens of the aircraft are based.

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PACIFIC

Camp Foster agrees to evacuation route

By LISA TOURTELOT
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa—Officials from the Marine Corps and Chatan city signed an agreement Tuesday that will allow the Japanese people access to Camp Foster in the event of a natural disaster.

The agreement finalizes the procedures Chatan and base officials will take should a tsunami or other natural disaster strike the island. An initial agreement was signed Nov. 5, 2012, and the two sides have worked together since then to create a standard procedure and implement joint disaster training between the local Marines and Okinawans.

"[The agreement] represents a lot of work between the city of Chatan and Camp Foster over the past few years, and it contains in it promises of continued cooperation in the event of a tsunami or other such disaster," said U.S. Marine Col. Katherine Estes, Camp Smedley D. Butler commander.

Estes, who signed a similar agreement with the city of Ginowan, began work to create the agreement following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami on mainland Japan.

The agreement signing also

coincided with the three-year anniversary of the 2011 great east Japan earthquake. The participants held a moment of silence to honor the victims before signing the documents.

Chatan and Ginowan cities are both densely populated, high-risk areas for tsunamis.

Chatan Mayor Masahau Noguni said earthquakes and tsunamis are a significant local concern.

"The evacuation measures have been much improved here," Noguni said. "Chatan will continue its preparations against natural disasters and never forget the memory of the great east Japan earthquake."

Chatan also produced bilingual signs to post should a disaster strike, which would guide residents to the evacuation route through Camp Foster.

"Should a tsunami or similar event happen in Okinawa, the mission for the Marines would be different [than the aid after the great east Japan earthquake]," Estes said. "We would not be here to recover lost lives, like we did in 2011, but rather to save lives to prevent them from being lost in the first place."

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Above: Camp Foster and the city of Chatan will use bilingual signs to guide citizens along an evacuation route through the Okinawa base in the event of a natural disaster.

Left: Col. Katherine Estes, Camp Butler commander, and Masahau Noguni, mayor of Chatan, sign an evacuation route agreement Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY LISA TOURTELOT
Stars and Stripes

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MILITARY



TOM TINGLE, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

F-35s en route to Ariz. air base

Air Force Col. Roderick Cregier waves after opening the cockpit of his F-35 upon landing at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Ariz., on Monday. The aircraft is the first of 144 F-35s that will be based at Luke, signaling the beginning of a new mission at the base to train fighter pilots in the F-35.

'War hero' admits lying to get government benefits

By SUSAN JACOBSON
Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

Walter Eatman, of St. Cloud, Fla., claimed that he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after being haunted by memories of combat in Vietnam, where he was awarded a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star.

The trouble is, none of the claims was true, federal prosecutors said.

Eatman, 68, last month pleaded guilty to theft of government funds and making false statements. Prosecutors said he stole about \$106,000 in government money and benefits, including mental health counseling and medication, by lying about his service.

Eatman, whose nickname is "Sandman," is a former Marine but he did not serve in Vietnam from August 1965 to August 1967 as he claimed.

Eatman came to the attention of prosecutors after he tried to have his Veterans Affairs benefits increased in September 2010 by claiming he was suffering from PTSD.

He originally filed for the benefits in July 2008, claiming he also had combat-related hearing loss and ringing in his ears. He altered his military discharge papers to reflect the bogus history, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

Eatman even tricked a Veterans Affairs psychologist into believing his story and obtained a letter supporting his claim that he could not work, prosecutors said.

Eatman, a longtime American Legion member who has held leadership positions in the state organization and in Post 80 in St. Cloud, faces up to 15 years in prison when he is sentenced May 16.

In 1988, Eatman was fired from his job as an auxiliary Osceola County deputy sheriff and resigned from his position as an assistant bank vice president in Kissimmee, Fla., after he admitted that he tried to start a prostitution ring to act out a fantasy, Orlando Sentinel archives show.

Eatman, who was active in civic groups and a member of two city advisory committees at the time, was not prosecuted in that case.

Some RAF Lakenheath homes lose gas supply

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Engineers were working Tuesday to restore the gas supply to some residences on RAF Lakenheath, which was cut earlier because of a reported leak.

The base announced on Facebook that work to restore the gas supply to Liberty Village would take from 17 to 21 hours.

Officials isolated the gas supply Monday morning after an odor was reported near the village's gas tanks, according to the post. That caused the system's pressure to drop and forced contractors to cut gas flow to individual

housing units later in the day. A base spokesman described the leak as minor. Residents with questions should call 01638-52-2064.

OHA survey on German utility costs available

An annual survey used by military officials to gauge utility expenses in Germany can be filled out by servicemembers until March 31, according to U.S. Army Europe.

The annual Overseas Housing Allowance expenses survey is intended for all military personnel regardless of service affiliation who live off post in privately

leased or rental housing.

The survey is available on the USAREUR homepage under the "Hot Topic" section or at <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/oha-util-mar.cfm>.

Every year, the Defense Travel Management Office conducts a poll to identify how much servicemembers spent during the previous year for utilities. The data are used to determine utility allowances, which are part of the Overseas Housing Allowance. Collection of rental data is not part of the survey.

Spouses are authorized to take the survey if the sponsor is deployed or unavailable.

From staff reports

Md. man to plead guilty in guardsman job scam

By RICH LORDB
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

A former Air National Guard contractor charged with involvement in crimes that prosecutors said may have cost the government \$300,000 has agreed to plead guilty at a hearing set for April 14, according to court filings Thursday.

Robert St. Clair, 50, of Bel Air, Md., is charged with 10 counts of conspiracy, false claims and theft of government property.

According to prosecutors, St. Clair conspired with Col. Gerard Mangis, 59, of Shaler, Pa., who was comptroller of the 171st Air Refueling Wing at Pittsburgh International Airport. Mangis was indicted on 110 counts of conspiracy, honest service wire fraud, false claims and theft of government property.

St. Clair was a National Guard Bureau civilian financial analyst at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, in charge of parceling out paid "workdays," according to prosecutors.

Financial problems, including a three-year bankruptcy case that ended in 2005, threatened his security clearance, and therefore his job.

St. Clair's friend, Mangis, gave him a paid, no-show reservist post at the 171st, and concealed it from others in the Guard, according to the charges.

Prosecutors accused Mangis of causing the falsification of St. Clair's fitness examinations and 633 duty rosters.

St. Clair in turn allowed Mangis to receive double pay for a day's work, and to be paid for days on which he did not work, prosecutors said.

U.S. District Judge Arthur J. Schwab set the hearing date in a notice indicating that the prosecution and defense have entered into a plea agreement.

St. Clair has no current connection with the 171st and had resigned from his civilian job, according to prosecutors.

Mangis is inactive with the Air National Guard.

DODEA names new director

Stars and Stripes

Department of Defense Education Activity has named a new director, with oversight of all 191 DOD-run schools in the U.S. and overseas, DODEA announced Monday.

Thomas M. Brady, a retired Army colonel, will take over as DODEA director from Adrian B. Talley, who has been serving as acting director since November of last year, DODEA said in a news release.

Talley will return to his position as DODEA's principal deputy director, and associate director for education. He took over from Marilee Fitzgerald, who retired from government service in August 2013. Fitzgerald was in the position since November 2011, after replacing disgraced former director Shirley Miles, whom defense officials removed following misconduct allegations.

Brady previously served as a superintendent of Providence, R.I., public schools and chief executive officer for the Philadelphia school district, as well as chief operating officer for the District of Columbia public schools and Fairfax County, Va., public schools, DODEA said. "Mr. Brady brings to DODEA valuable experience and skills in successfully leading some of this

country's largest school districts through difficult challenges," said Frederick E. Vollrath, assistant secretary of defense for readiness and force management, according to the news release.

DODEA's largest teachers' union said it looked forward to working with Brady.

"Mr. Brady has a reputation for working with educators, not against them, to foster student achievement and we look forward to having a productive and respectful working relationship with him," Federal Education Association President Chuck McCarter said in a statement. "DODEA schools have a long record of excellence and we are confident that under Mr. Brady's leadership, that reputation will reach new heights."

In addition to his career in education, Brady served for 25 years as a commissioned officer in the Army, DODEA said. He was the commanding officer of Fort Belvoir, Va., and a battalion commander at Fort Benning, Ga., among other military career highlights, according to DODEA.

"As the new DODEA Director, I plan to be visible, responsive and accountable to all of our stakeholders," Brady said, according to the news release.

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NATION



A federal judge on Monday stopped the destruction of millions of telephone records collected by the National Security Agency more than five years ago.

Judge halts NSA records purging

By JEFFREY WHITE
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge in San Francisco stopped the destruction Monday of millions of telephone records collected by the National Security Agency more than five years ago.

U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White, who is overseeing an invasion-of-privacy lawsuit against the agency, issued a nationwide order Monday to safeguard evidence until March 19, when he will hold a hearing on extending the deadline further.

The secret federal court that approved the agency's surveillance has required that documents be purged after five years for privacy reasons. On Fri-

day, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court denied the federal government's request to keep the records for the sake of pending lawsuits.

The NSA, which has acknowledged obtaining phone numbers and other information on all U.S. calls, was prepared on Tuesday to destroy all records collected more than five years ago, according to court documents.

White said he was enforcing an order he had issued in an earlier NSA surveillance case that halted evidence from being destroyed.

He wrote that "the Court would be unable to afford effective relief once the records are destroyed" and before he decided if their collection was legal.

Sequester hit paychecks, public services

By ERIC YODER
The Washington Post

The impact of sequestration budgetary limits imposed last year may never be fully known, a new study says, but one effect on federal employees is clear: It cost nearly 800,000 of them upward of \$1.4 billion total in lost salary.

A Government Accountability Office report released Thursday examined the impact both inside and outside the government of the more than \$80 billion in reductions imposed last spring to meet budgetary targets.

Agencies were able to soften the

impact by moving money within or between certain accounts and by spending funds carried forward from prior years, but sequestration still "reduced or delayed some public services and disrupted some operations," GAO said. "For example, sequestration reduced the size and number of grants, vouchers, and other forms of assistance provided to states and localities, nonprofits, and other partner entities that assist in carrying out federal missions."

For the budget, sequestration affected beneficiaries of emergency unemployment compensation benefits, children's nutrition pro-

grams, low-income housing vouchers, Head Start school readiness programs, as well as biomedical, emerging technology and cybersecurity research, GAO said.

Sequestration also worsened problems with backlogs of Social Security disability and federal retirement applications and hampered oversight of numerous programs, leaving them more vulnerable to fraud and waste, it said. The Treasury Department told GAO that the reductions to the IRS budget "will likely result in billions of dollars in lost revenue due to fewer tax return reviews and diminished fraud detection."

Report: EPA misused federal charge cards

By JOSH HICKS
The Washington Post

Lax oversight at the Environmental Protection Agency allowed the organization's employees to misuse federal charge cards to buy items such as gym memberships, meals and gift cards, according to

a recent watchdog report. The EPA inspector general's office found nearly 52 percent of the purchases in a sampling of 80 "high-risk" transactions were inappropriate and that EPA offices skipped a mandatory biennial review of its payment system.

The review covered fiscal 2012 charges totaling \$152,600, find-

ing that \$79,300 in payments were "prohibited, improper and erroneous." The abuses ranged from buying restricted items to purchasing goods without proper approval.

Auditors faulted the agency's cardholders and its approving officials for not following EPA and federal guidelines.

'You can't get any more evil'

Sandy Hook shooter's father speaks out about son's relationship, mental issues

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In his first public comments about the 2012 Connecticut school massacre, the father of gunman Adam Lanza describes his anguished struggle to comprehend what his son did — an act that "couldn't get any more evil" — and how he has come to wish that his son had never been born.

Peter Lanza also told The New Yorker magazine in a series of interviews last fall that he believes Adam would have killed him, too, if he had the chance. And he often contemplates what he could have done differently in his relationship with Adam, although he believes the killings couldn't have been predicted.

"Any variation on what I did and how my relationship was had to be good, because no outcome could be worse," Peter Lanza told the magazine in an article dated March 17. "You can't get any more evil. ... How much do I beat up on myself about the fact that he's my son? A lot."

He said he hadn't seen his son in two years when Adam killed 20 first-graders and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown in December 2012. Adam killed himself as police arrived. He also fatally shot his mother, Nancy, in their Newtown home before going to the school.

Peter and Nancy Lanza separated in 2001 and divorced in 2009. He last saw Adam in October 2010 and wanted to maintain contact with him. His mother, Nancy Lanza, wrote him an email saying Adam didn't want to see him, despite her efforts to reason with him. Several plans to meet with his son fell through. Peter Lanza said he felt frustrated and even considered hiring a private investigator to find out what his son was doing "So I could bump into him." He said he felt that showing up unannounced at his son's home would only make things worse.

Peter Lanza said Adam was 13 when a psychiatrist diagnosed him with Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism not associated

with violence. But he believes the syndrome "veiled a contaminant" that wasn't Asperger's.

"I was thinking it could mask schizophrenia," said Peter Lanza, who lives in Fairfield County, Conn., and is vice president for taxes at a General Electric subsidiary, GE Energy Financial Services.

A spokesman for Peter Lanza said Monday that Lanza would not be commenting further.

Peter Lanza told the magazine that his son was a young child "just a normal little weird kid" who used to spend hours building Lego towns with his father.

But as he grew older, Adam's mental health problems worsened, according to Connecticut State Police documents. A Yale University professor diagnosed Lanza in 2006 with profound autism spectrum disorder, "with rigidity, isolation, and a lack of social interaction and communications," while also displaying symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder, the documents show.

After the killings, police investigators discovered that Adam Lanza had written violent stories as a child and later became interested in mass murders.

Peter Lanza believes his son had no affection for him at the time of the shootings.

"With hindsight, I know Adam would have killed me in a heartbeat, if he'd had the chance. I don't question that for a minute," he told the magazine.

'With hindsight, I know Adam would have killed me in a heartbeat, if he'd had the chance. I don't question that for a minute.'

Peter Lanza on his son Adam Lanza

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NATION

Colo. collects \$2M in recreational pot taxes

\$14M

By KRISTEN WYATT
The Associated Press

DENVER — Colorado made roughly \$2 million in marijuana taxes in January, state revenue officials reported Monday in the world's first accounting of the recreational pot business.

Other countries are watching Colorado, which has the world's first fully regulated recreational marijuana market. The Netherlands has legal sales of pot but does not allow growing or distribution. Uruguay's marijuana program is

still under development. Colorado legalized pot in 2012, but the commercial sale of marijuana didn't begin until January. Washington state sales began in coming months.

The tax total reported by the state Department of Revenue indicates \$14.02 million worth of recreational pot was sold from 59 businesses. The state collected roughly \$2.01 million in taxes.

The pot taxes come from 12.9 percent sales taxes and 15 percent excise taxes. Including licensing

The value of the recreational pot sold from 59 Colorado businesses in January.

fees and taxes from Colorado's pre-existing medical marijuana industry, the state collected about \$3.5 million from the marijuana industry in January.

By comparison, Colorado made

about \$2.7 million in liquor excise taxes in January of last year. Statewide liquor receipts for January 2014 were not yet available Monday.

Colorado tax officials say the January marijuana reports were in line with expectations.

Monday's tax release intensified lobbying over how Colorado should spend its pot money. Budget-writers expect the nascent marijuana industry to be extremely volatile for several years, making lawmakers nervous about where to

direct the funds.

Gov. John Hickenlooper already has sent the Legislature a detailed \$134 million proposal for spending recreational and medical marijuana money, including new spending on anti-drug messaging to kids and more advertising discouraging driving while high.

State police chiefs have asked for more money, too.

Almost the entire haul from recreational pot came from Denver County, where the industry is concentrated.

Need illegal drugs or a fake ID? Try YouTube

By HAYLEY TSUKAYAMA
The Washington Post

Just how easy is it to get illegal drugs online? Sometimes as easy as searching for them on YouTube.

A study from the Digital Citizens Alliance, a nonprofit that has targeted Google and YouTube in the past for hosting this kind of content, has found that there's been a resurgence of videos that instruct users on how to buy prescription drugs and steroids online without prescriptions, as well as other items such as fake driver's licenses.

The new study released Monday is a follow-up to a similar summation of such content on YouTube that the group released last year, as state attorneys general also raised questions about how the tech giant was addressing the problem of content promoting illegal activity cropping up on its popular video site.

That, in turn, prompted Google to write an official blog post explaining how it combats rogue pharmacies, and explaining that its community guidelines on YouTube prohibit much of that activity. The company also deleted several videos that told viewers how to obtain drugs illegally.

A year later, the Digital Citizens Alliance says, the videos are back.

"We have to point out these problems, and hopefully they'll get solved," said Tom Galvin, executive director of the Digital Citizens Alliance. "We don't expect anyone to be perfect from the get-go, but we have to get beyond this game of whack-a-mole."

Galvin also raised questions about how much advertising revenue

Google may be making off YouTube ads on the videos.

The problem is not Google's alone. Queries such as "buy percoet without a prescription" turned up similar results on Bing — Google's main competitor — as

did other searches for illegal substances and for instructions on how to get fake passports.

Just last week, Facebook released new guidelines explaining how it will crack down on gun sales on its social network, explicitly.

'Google deserves credit for what they do ... but they seem to want no blame for what they don't do.'

Tom Galvin
Digital Citizens Alliance

In a statement, a YouTube spokeswoman pointed to the site's community guidelines, which prohibit videos promoting illegal content. Google's procedures are set up to respond to posts that users flag for promoting illegal content and also to identify when content may not be appropriate for advertisements — to ensure that companies don't have their brand names show up next to something they don't support.

But Galvin said Google could do more, including flagging key search terms such as "buy prescription drugs without a prescription" for closer review. "Google deserves credit for what they do ... but they seem to want no blame for what they don't do," he said.



Participants in the march to the Capitol of Florida on Monday included, from left, Lucia McBeth, mother of Jordan Davis; Sybrina Fulton, mother of Trayvon Martin; the Rev. Al Sharpton, president of National Action Network; and Phyllis Giles, mother of Michael Giles. They were rallying against the state's "stand your ground" laws.

Fla. Senate panel OKs controversial gun bill

By KATHLEEN MCGRODY AND MICHAEL VAN SICKLER
The Miami Herald

TALLAHASSEE — State lawmakers have a plan to keep kids safe at school: Allow teachers to pack heat.

The controversial proposal won the support of a Senate panel on Monday despite strong opposition from parent groups, school boards and the statewide teachers union.

It is one of several high-profile gun bills gaining traction in the Florida Legislature this year — and a sign that the National Rifle Association is once again flexing its muscle in Tallahassee.

Other NRA priorities are to extend "stand your ground" protection

to people who fire a warning shot; let tax collectors accept applications for concealed-weapon permits; and protect a child's right to chew pastries into the shape of pretend pistols.

There will be some resistance to the pro-guns agenda.

On Monday, the Rev. Al Sharpton and several hundred supporters marched to the Florida Capitol, calling for the repeal of the stand your ground self-defense law.

Sharpton said the protest marked the beginning of a "spring and summer offensive" that would take place both at the Capitol and in legislative districts.

"We can't talk about making guns more available. We ought to be talking about making them

less available," Sharpton said. "The legislation they're doing, I think, is deadly."

The NRA has long been a powerful force in Tallahassee, partly because of its ability to mobilize voters at election time. But in the aftermath of the 2012 school shootings in Newtown, Conn., the association pursued a more modest legislative agenda.

The NRA has re-emerged in time for the 2014 elections, putting its considerable heft behind an array of new gun-related proposals.

"There are a number of bills that we support," said veteran NRA lobbyist Marion Hammer. "But just because we support it doesn't mean that it was our idea."

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NATION

Something to

squawk

Shelter provides sanctuary for parrots in Ohio

about

By KELLY BYER

The (Canton, Ohio) Repository

A EAST CANTON, Ohio deafening screech can be heard in every room at the Bird Nerds Rescue and Sanctuary. "They're going to do that," director Connie Custer said. "They're going to want attention."

Like with children, Custer said it's sometimes better not to give the parrots what they want. It prevents them from developing "bad bird habits."

The noise is one factor that can wear on unprepared bird owners. Custer said the average bird is re-homed as many as two to eight times in its life. Bird Nerds has attempted to end that cycle by housing and caring for neglected, unwanted and abused parrots. They also offer sanctuary services for people who cannot care for the birds in their home.

"If you honestly want to do right by your bird, then you've got to start out with your research," Custer said.

The rescue took in 526 parrots in 2013 and 366 in 2012. Birds such as Mac, who has laid claim to an armchair in the rescue's front room; Apollo, who grips cage bars with his feet and beak to turn upside down and right-side up; and Sammy, who broke a \$25 lock to escape from his cage.

Then there are birds like Frank, a green quaker who plucked himself because of neglect and a poor diet. The feathers, pulled out at the follicle, will not grow back on his bare, goose-bump skin.

Rittman resident Kristine Fincham was in the process of adopting 18-year-old Sassy, a citron-crested cockatoo who is similarly plucked. Scarlet, a red Eclectus she previously adopted, climbed from her arms to her



PHOTOS BY STAN MYERS, THE (CANTON, OHIO) REPOSITORY/AP

Above: Kristine Fincham kisses parrot Scarlet at the Bird Nerds Rescue and Sanctuary in Canton, Ohio. Scarlet, a red Eclectus that Fincham previously adopted, greets her when she visits.

Below: Mac the parrot rests upon a perch at Bird Nerds Rescue and Sanctuary, the organization, which rescues, rehabilitates and readies a variety of birds for adoption, took in 526 parrots in 2013 and 366 in 2012.



shoulder as she visited the rescue.

"I snatched her up, and I love her to pieces," she said.

Fincham also has Cody, a severe macaw who came to the rescue with a broken wing, foot and heel bone because his owner threw him against a wall.

Custer said about 1,400 birds have found a permanent home in the rescue's eight years. It began under the direction of Jennifer Yost at an Akron home, taking in about 40 birds a year. Bird Nerds moved to East Canton three years ago and can now accommodate up to 200 birds. Adoption fees help pay for business operations, and all employees are volunteers.

"We do it because we want to do it," Custer said.

Because many birds have mental or physical issues, potential adopters must spend at least 15 hours with their parrot before taking it home. The bird has to like its new owner as well, and Custer said they watch for signs in the dilation of the eyes or puffing of feathers. It often takes time for the birds to warm up to new owners because of their past, so Custer said people shouldn't expect "instant gratification."

The adoptions are closed, but Custer contacts both parties every few months to check in. If a bird is being abused or used for breeding in its new home, she said the rescue will take action to regain ownership. Volunteers help educate the owners about bird care during the process to prevent parrots from being surrendered or neglected.

"The more people are educated on exotics, then maybe, hopefully, that will cut down on so many of them being bred," she said. "People don't realize how much time and effort it takes to own a bird."

The rescue also helps people who need to complete community service and in fall 2013, the staff started a high school program in which students can volunteer in exchange for donated formal wear.

WORLD

Crimea to seek autonomy

Legislature adopts conditional 'declaration of independence'

By MARIA DANILOVA
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The Crimean parliament on Tuesday said it would declare itself independent if its residents approve a referendum to split off from Ukraine — an ambitious legal maneuver that could offer a way of de-escalating the standoff between Russia and the West.

The referendum called for on Sunday proposes seceding from Ukraine and becoming part of Russia. But the Crimean parliament's declaration could put the bid to join Russia on hold, depending on the outcome of Russian President Vladimir Putin's bargaining with the West.

The dispute between Moscow and the West over Crimea is one of the most severe geopolitical crises in Europe since the end of the Cold War. Russian forces have secured control over the peninsula, but Western nations have denounced

the referendum as illegitimate and strongly warned Russia against trying to annex Crimea.

Crimea, where Russia maintains its Black Sea Fleet base, became the epicenter of tensions in Ukraine after President Viktor Yanukovich fled last month in the wake of months of protests and bloodshed.

The Crimean parliament's move is "a message to the West that there is no talk about Russia incorporating Crimea," said Kiev-based po-

litical analyst Vadim Karasyov. "It's a tranquilizer for everybody — for the West and for many in Ukraine who are panicking."

Karasyov speculated that Crimea could exist as a "quasi-legitimate" state while Russia and the West negotiate.

After a brief war between Russia and Georgia in 2008, some leaders in Georgia's breakaway provinces of Abkhazia and South Ossetia lobbied to join Russia, but their request was never granted.

Putin's "task now is to get a stake in the shareholding company" called "Ukraine," Karasyov told The Associated Press. "He believes that the West now has the majority stake, and he doesn't even have a blocking package. So Crimea is an attempt to get a blocking package."

Sergei Zheleznyak, a deputy speaker of the lower house of the Russian parliament, rejected proposals to draft new legislation to facilitate Crimea's accession into

'It's a tranquilizer for everybody — for the West and for many in the Ukraine who are panicking.'

Vadim Karasyov
political analyst



Cossack guards stand in front of Crimea's regional parliament building in Simferopol, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

VADIM GHIRBA/AP

Russia. Zheleznyak wouldn't elaborate, and it wasn't clear whether his statement signaled the Kremlin's willingness to relax tensions or was part of legal maneuvering over the annexation plans.

If Putin can't negotiate a solution to the crisis with the West, the Crimean parliament's move could also facilitate accession into Russia. Under current law, Russia needs to reach agreement with a foreign state to incorporate part of it. Crimea's declaration of independence could clear that, though the West made it clear it would not recognize the annexation.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's acting president on Tuesday signed for

the formation of a national guard and for the mobilization of reserves and volunteers into the country's armed forces.

At the same time, Ukraine's active defense minister, Ihor Tenyukh, admitted that Ukrainian armed forces and equipment were significantly outnumbered by the Russian army and exhorted wealthy Ukrainians to donate money to equip the nation's army.

Later in the day, parliament passed a resolution calling on the U.S. and Britain to "use all possible diplomatic, political, economic and military measures for an immediate stopping of aggression."

Hunt for missing plane widens to distant waters

By CHRIS BRUMMITT
AND TRAN VAN MINH
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Authorities are expanding their search for a missing Malaysia Airlines plane to the Malacca Strait, far from its last confirmed location, the airline said Tuesday, injecting new mystery into an investigation that so far has failed to come up with any answers.

More than three days after the Boeing 777 disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, no trace of the plane has been found in waters between Malaysia and Vietnam that have been scoured by more than 40 planes and ships from at least 10 nations.

The plane, carrying 239 people, dropped off radar less than an hour into the flight without sending out a distress signal. Authorities have said it may have attempted to turn back to Kuala Lumpur, but they expressed surprise that it would do so without informing ground control.

Malaysia Airlines said in a statement the plane would have crash-landed in the Malacca Strait between Malaysia's western coast and Indonesia's Sumatra island — the opposite side of Malaysia from the plane's last known location.

To reach the strait, a busy shipping lane, the plane would have had to cross over the country, presumably within the range of radar.

An earlier statement said the western coast of Malaysia was "now the focus," but the airline subsequently said that phrase was an oversight. It didn't elaborate.

Civil aviation chief Azharuddin



COURTESY OF INTERPOL/AP

Left: Interpol has identified two Iranians as the passengers who boarded the missing Malaysia Airlines jet with stolen passports. They are Pouriya Nourmohammadi, left, and Seyed Mohammed Reza Delavar. Right: Chinese relatives of passengers aboard the missing plane arrive at a hotel in Cyberjaya, Malaysia, on Tuesday.

Abdul Rahman said the search remained "on both sides" of the country.

Also Tuesday, authorities said two people who boarded the flight using stolen passports were Iranians who had purchased tickets to Europe. Their appearance on the flight had raised speculation of a possible terrorist link.

Malaysian police Chief Khalid Abu Bakar said investigators had determined one was Pouriya Nourmohammadi, 19, and that it seemed likely he was planning to migrate to Germany.

"We believe he is not likely to be a member of any terrorist group," Khalid said.

Interpol identified the second man as Seyed Mohammed Reza Delavar, 29, and released an image of the two boarding a plane at the same time. Interpol Secretary General Ronald K. Noble said the two men traveled to Malaysia on their Iranian passports, then apparently switched to their stolen Austrian and Ital-



AP

ian documents.

He said speculation of terrorism appeared to be dying down "as the belief becomes more certain that these two individuals were probably not terrorists." He appealed to the public for more information about the two.

Malaysia Airlines, meanwhile, said it is investigating an Australian television report that the co-pilot on the missing plane had invited two women into the cock-

pit during a flight two years ago.

Jonti Roos described the encounter on Australia's "A Current Affair." The airline said it wouldn't comment until its investigation is complete.

Roos said she and her friend were allowed to stay in the cockpit during the entire one-hour flight on Dec. 14, 2011, from Phuket, Thailand, to Kuala Lumpur. She said the arrangement did not seem unusual to the plane's crew.

Spain recalls bombings on 10th anniversary

MADRID — Spanish King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy joined families of victims of the Madrid train bombings for a 10th anniversary mass on Tuesday in memory of Europe's worst Islamic terrorist attack.

The ceremony in Madrid's Almudena Cathedral was one of several events held around the city in homage to the 191 people killed and nearly 2,000 injured in the attacks.

Elsewhere, people laid flowers and lit candles at the train stations and sites of the bombings.

The attackers targeted four commuter trains with 10 shrapnel-filled bombs concealed in backpacks during morning rush hour on March 11, 2004. Twenty-eight people, mainly from North Africa, went on trial in 2007, and 18 were convicted of taking part in the attacks.

The seven alleged ringleaders of the attacks blew themselves up three weeks after the bombings as police closed in on their apartment hideout in a Madrid suburb.

"It was so traumatic all that happened, I think that you remember it every day," said Maria Blanco, 45, a cleaner.

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

Japan's jingoism won't help quake region

By WILLIAM PESEK
Bloomberg News

Does Shinzo Abe love soldiers who died during World War II more than Japanese living today?

The question might sound disrespectful. But I can't help asking it as I survey the placards at anti-government rallies commemorating the third anniversary of the Fukushima earthquake and tsunami, which left almost 20,000 people dead or missing and erased entire towns. "Abe is AWOL," says one. Another: "Nationalism Doesn't Create Jobs!" The one that moved me most was carried by a 30-something mother wearing a "No Nukes" T-shirt: "My Kids Still Can't Play Outside."

After 1.095 days, untold billions of dollars of public expenditures and countless pledges to accelerate rebuilding efforts, radiation is still leaking at Fukushima. Only 3.4 percent of planned public-housing projects are close to being completed. A whole generation of kids in the northeast Tohoku region are tested regularly for thyroid cancer. They can barely remember anything but temporary housing, and must wnder if outdoor playgrounds really exist.

If Prime Minister Abe spent even a fraction of his time helping tsunami-devastated towns and Fukushima's nuclear refugees instead of fighting with Japan's neighbors over history, Tohoku citizens would be much better off. Unfair criticism? Abe's image-makers certainly think so; they play up his 13 visits to Tohoku since December 2012.

Face it: These obligatory jaunts up north are nothing more than disaster porn. This has become an unfortunate part of the global news playbook. Celebrity journalists parachute into danger zones, stand amid rubble and corpses, and repeat the words "unspeakable tragedy" in an endless 24-hour loop. Politicians are hardly less cynical. Photo ops with local government officials, displaced families and children grieving for lost classmates may score big points down in Tokyo. But they do nothing on the ground.

The official reason for the glacial pace of reconstruction is a shortage of labor, building materials and bids from the construction industry. The real problem is that the



Kroov News/AP

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe samples local seafood in Iwaki, Japan, on Saturday. Japan on Tuesday marked the third anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters known as "3/11," Iwaki, in Northern Japan, is part of the area affected by 3/11.

Tokyo political establishment has largely forgotten about Tohoku.

Although Abe inherited this problem, his blinders seem to be growing in size with each passing month. His direct predecessor, Yoshihiko Noda, also made frequent visits to Tohoku, as did Naoto Kan before him. How is it that a nation known for hypercivility, one that surged from the ashes of World War II to threaten U.S. economic dominance for a time, could fail at so obvious a task? Chronic inattention.

Daunting as it is, the scale of the problem is no longer an acceptable excuse for abandoning 100,000 people in temporary accommodations that are cold, spartan and devoid of privacy. Let's take the government at its word that it's having difficulty attracting builders — just offer them more money. Abe's team claims there's a labor shortage, something they should've considered before lobbying for the 2020 Olympics. Why not import 10,000 construction

workers from elsewhere in Asia? The ends would justify the means in a nation that suffers from a shrinking workforce. And the jolt provided by big new projects could give the economy a welcome boost.

Yes, Japan is bureaucratic, and these things take time. But Abe, who enjoys a majority in both houses of parliament, had 66 weeks to get his Cabinet members, lawmakers and reconstruction officials into a room together to cut red tape and demand action: 440 days to ease the pain of those still reeling from what Japanese call "3/11": 10,560 hours to demand that the Liberal Democratic Party's construction industry cronies, who have made huge profits clearing away debris, do more to rebuild and decontaminate areas around Fukushima to acceptable levels.

Abe had enough time to visit Buenos Aires to reassure the International Olympic Committee that Fukushima's radiation was "under control." His schedule has included trips to Turkey and India to sell nuclear technology on behalf of Japan Inc. The prime minister's itinerary takes him to places as diverse as Ireland, Malaysia, Mozambique, Oman and even Wall Street to convey that "Japan is back" and ready to be assumed a renewed leadership role by the U.S.

But the government's inability to handle its crisis at home belies its global ambitions. Time that should be allotted to sorting out Tohoku is squandered debating World War II atrocities, teaching "patriotism" to school kids, staffing national broadcaster NHK with like-minded conservatives and defending a prime ministerial visit to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where the souls of 14 Class-A war criminals are enshrined among other war dead. Abe seems to believe Japan has been victimized by history. So why is he ignoring Japan's current victims?

For a leader who cloaks his most controversial policies in an aura of patriotism, Abe has a strange way of showing his love for Japan. An area that's home to more than 9 million Japanese could use more affection — and attention — from Tokyo. Like myself, Tohoku residents could be excused for wondering why a bunch of dead soldiers appear to hold more fascination for Abe than they do.

William Pesek is a Bloomberg View columnist.

NSA debate goes in many directions at SXSW

Bloomberg News editorial

Call Edward Snowden what you will: traitor, hero or simply a naive young man. Maybe all three. At the South by Southwest Interactive conference Monday he was both subject and object, clarifying some of the defining public policy challenges of the digital age even as he illustrated the difficulty of resolving them.

Snowden, a fugitive who began leaking documents about the National Security Agency's surveillance operations last year, spoke via video feed before a large and largely sympathetic crowd in Austin, Texas. He exhorted technology companies to better protect their users, called for more oversight of the NSA and inveighed against bulk surveillance.

Nothing new there. But he also conveyed two deeper lessons — one wittingly and one not.

The first is that security is often illusory on the Internet. Cybercriminals can exploit and create security flaws as fast as the private sector can close them — and so

can the NSA itself. As Snowden noted, even as the NSA was trying to protect Americans from online threats, it was working to introduce weaknesses into security tools such as encryption.

It may well be that the nature and architecture of the digital economy will permanently redefine notions of privacy and security. It's also undeniable that Internet companies have some responsibility for protecting their users from unwarranted snooping, as Snowden says. But the kind of information the NSA has been collecting is much the same as what consumers voluntarily divulge to technology companies every day. And it's the same information those companies routinely sell to advertisers. That won't change anytime soon.

The second lesson stems from Snowden's mere presence — or, rather, lack thereof, as his comments were beamed to the audience from a site in Russia. For all the NSA's legendary reputation for secrecy, all it took, in the end, was a young security contractor with an overdeveloped sense of indignation and some technological know-

how to expose its methods to the world. Hardening cyberdefenses and using tools such as encryption are well and good — but such systems are only as trustworthy as the people who use them.

If Snowden deserves credit for anything — and it will be easier to apportion if he returns to the United States to make his case in a court of law — it's for starting a debate about surveillance that even President Barack Obama has said is important. Technology changes the details of this debate in ways that are parameters. If Americans, as citizens, want the NSA to curtail its mass surveillance, they can demand that change from Congress. And if Americans, as consumers, want to stop digital enterprises from collecting and selling so much of their data, they can demand that change in the marketplace.

As always in an age of technological flux, such change will bring plenty of unforeseen consequences. It will also carry costs as well as benefits. The challenge lies not so much in identifying them as in striking the balance.

OPINION

Ukraine challenges ‘retrencher’ approach

By DOYLE McMANUS
Los Angeles Times

When Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, one of his selling points was the promise of a more modest foreign policy than that of his predecessor. When Obama won re-election 16 months ago, he renewed that pledge. Drone strikes against al-Qaida would continue, and Navy visits to the South China Sea would increase, but the U.S. presence around the world was being resolutely downsized.

Mitt Romney warned at the time that Obama wasn't being tough enough on Vladimir Putin, but the president scoffed at the idea that Russia was a serious geopolitical threat.

It's not quite fair to accuse Obama of direct responsibility for Putin's occupation of Crimea, as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and other hawkish critics have. After all, Putin invaded Georgia in 2008, when George W. Bush was president, and no one accused Bush of excessive diffidence in defending American interests.

But it's still worth asking: Has Obama's downsizing of U.S. foreign policy gone too far?

Stephen Sestanovich, a former State Department official under both Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton, has addressed the issue in a useful new book called "Maximalist: America in the World from Truman to Obama."

On foreign policy, Sestanovich writes, the United States tends to swing between two kinds of presidents, "maximalists" and "retrenchers."

The maximalists — think Reagan and George W. Bush — use U.S. power, in-

cluding military power, assertively. They invade other countries. They go on the offensive against those they see as adversaries. But along the way, they inevitably make mistakes, and often leave the public financially exhausted and war-weary.

That opens the way for the election of a retrencher (think Dwight D. Eisenhower after Harry Truman or George H.W. Bush after Reagan). They seek fewer and more limited military adventures. They cut defense budgets. They talk about engagement and diplomacy, not confrontation.

Like all broad categorizations, of course, there are exceptions. For one thing, minimalist presidents aren't necessarily pacifists. George H.W. Bush fought a land war against Iraq's Saddam Hussein (although he stopped short of marching to Baghdad, as his maximalist son did). Obama bombed Libya and escalated the U.S. drone war against al-Qaida and its allies, even as he has stuck to his deadlines for withdrawing troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some presidents straddle both camps. Clinton began as a minimalist, backing away from entanglement in Bosnia and elsewhere. But he soon discovered that U.S. airstrikes could accomplish what persuasion could not, and he became a proponent of what he called "diplomacy backed by force."

The problem with retrenchers, Sestanovich writes, is that like maximalists, they sometimes overdo it. They back away from confrontation one time too many. They talk so much about reducing the U.S. presence around the world that allies worry about abandonment and enemies may be emboldened. As former CIA Director George Tenet once said, for every action in Washington "there is an unequal and opposite



VADIM GHIRDA/AP

People walk by banners placed on a tree by pro-Russian activists outside the Parliament in the Crimean city of Simferopol, Ukraine, on Friday.

overreaction."

Obama has that problem in the Middle East, where his fervor to disengage from Iraq and Afghanistan and to deal with Iran through diplomacy has led leaders in Saudi Arabia and Israel to near-panic. Obama has steadfastly stuck to his intention to end old wars and avoid new ones, and to find cheaper ways to pursue U.S. interests abroad. "I refuse to set goals that go beyond our responsibility, our means or our interests," he said in his 2009 speech announcing a timetable for withdrawing from Afghanistan. "We must rebuild our strength here at home."

But all that minimalism creates a prob-

lem, Sestanovich warns. A policy based on self-restraint and fewer troops overseas can make it harder to fashion a quick, effective response when something goes wrong. "Obama's challenge was the same faced by any president who presides over the pullback of American power: how to downsize foreign policy while retaining the ability to act decisively," he writes.

That's part of Obama's challenge in Ukraine and beyond, Sestanovich told me last week.

It's "the predicament of a retrencher," he said, "You want to do less after a period of over-investment, but you don't know how little will be enough to defend a scaled-back conception of American interests. The result can be brief efforts to assert American power but without much behind them, least of all a new strategy."

Putin's grab for Crimea would present challenges to maximalist presidents and retrenchers alike. Russia considers the territory its own and has wanted it back since the Soviet Union collapsed. European countries are hesitant to move too fast because sanctions could hurt them as well as Russia. And there's no military option, something even Obama's most hawkish critics concede.

For all those reasons, Ukraine is not the ideal place for Obama to begin connecting what he says is the mistaken idea that the U.S. is withdrawing from the world. But he doesn't have much choice. If the president wants to avoid cementing the image of the United States as a weakened superpower, he needs to push back there. To paraphrase his former chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, this is a crisis that should not go to waste.

Doyle McManus is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

Bad things happen when US backs off global crises

By CONDOLEZZA RICE

“Meet Viktor Yanukovich, who is running for the presidency of Ukraine.” Vladimir Putin and I were standing in his office at the presidential dacha in late 2004 when Yanukovich suddenly appeared from a back room. Putin wanted me to get the point. He's my man, Ukraine is ours — and don't forget it.

The “Ukrainian problem” has been brewing for some time between the West and Russia. Since Ukraine's Orange Revolution, the United States and Europe have tried to convince Russia that the vast territory should not be a pawn in a great-power conflict but rather an independent nation that could chart its own course. Putin has never seen it that way. For him, Kiev's movement toward the West is an affront to Russia in a zero-sum game for the loyalty of former territories of the empire. The invasion and possible annexation of Crimea on trumped-up concerns for its Russian-speaking population is his answer to us.

The immediate concern must be to show Russia that further moves will not be tolerated and that Ukraine's territorial integrity is sacrosanct. Diplomatic isolation, asset freezes and travel bans against oligarchs are appropriate. The announcement of air defense exercises with the Baltic states and the movement of a U.S. destroyer to the Black Sea bolster our allies, as does economic help for Ukraine's embattled leaders, who must put aside their internal divisions and govern their country.

The longer-term task is to answer Putin's statement about Europe's post-Cold War future. He is saying that Ukraine will

never be free to make its own choices — a message meant to reverberate in Eastern Europe and the Baltic states — and that Russia has special interests it will pursue at all costs. For Putin, the Cold War ended “tragically.” He will turn the clock back as far as intimidation through military power, economic leverage and Western influence will allow.

After Russia invaded Georgia in 2008, the United States sent ships into the Black Sea, airlifted Georgian military forces from Iraq back to their home bases and sent humanitarian aid. Russia was denied its ultimate goal of overthrowing the democratically elected government, an admission made to me by the Russian foreign minister. The United States and Europe could agree on only a few actions to isolate Russia politically.

But even those modest steps did not hold. Despite Russia's continued occupation of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the diplomatic isolation waned and then the Obama administration's “reset” led to an abrupt revision of plans to deploy missile defense components in the Czech Republic and Poland. Talk of Ukraine and Georgia's future in NATO ceased. Moscow cheered.

This time has to be different. Putin is playing for the long haul, cleverly exploiting every opening he sees. So must we, practicing strategic patience if he is to be stopped. Moscow is not immune from pressure. This is not 1968, and Russia is not the Soviet Union. The Russians need foreign investment; oligarchs like traveling to Paris and London, and there are plenty of ill-gotten gains in bank accounts abroad; the syndicate that runs Russia can-

not tolerate lower oil prices; neither can the Kremlin's budget, which sustains subsidies toward constituencies that support Putin. Soon, North America's bounty of oil and gas will swamp Moscow's capacity. Authorizing the Keystone XL pipeline and championing natural gas exports would signal that we intend to do precisely that. And Europe should finally diversify its energy supply and develop pipelines that do not run through Russia.

Many of Russia's most productive people, particularly its well-educated youth, are alienated from the Kremlin. They know that their country should not be only an extractive industries giant. They want political and economic freedoms and the ability to innovate and create in today's knowledge-based economy. We should reach out to Russian youth, especially students and young professionals, many of whom are studying in U.S. universities and working in Western firms. Democratic forces in Russia need to hear American support for their ambitions. They, not Putin, are Russia's future.

Most important, the United States must restore its standing in the international community, which has been eroded by too many extended hands of friendship to our adversaries, sometimes at the expense of our friends. Continued inaction in Syria, which has strengthened Moscow's hand in the Middle East, and a sign that we are desperate for a nuclear agreement with Iran cannot be separated from Putin's recent actions. Radically declining U.S. defense budgets signal that we no longer have the will or the intention to sustain a global order, as does talk of withdrawal from Afghanistan

whether the security situation warrants it or not. We must not fail, as we did in Iraq, to leave behind a residual presence. Anything less than the American military's requirement for 100,000 troops will say that we are not serious about helping to stabilize that country.

The notion that the United States could step back, lower its voice about democracy and human rights and let others lead as usual that the space we abandoned would be filled by democratic allies, friendly states and the amorphous “norms of the international community.” Instead, we have seen the vacuum being filled by extremists such as al-Qaida reborn in Iraq and Syria; by dictators like Bashar Assad, who, with the support of Iran and Russia, murders his own people; by nationalist rhetoric and actions by Beijing that have prompted nationalist responses from our ally Japan; and by the likes of Vladimir Putin, who understands that hard power still matters.

These global developments have not happened in response to a muscular U.S. foreign policy. Countries are not trying to “balance” American power. They have come due to signals that we are exhausted and disinterested. The events in Ukraine should be a wake-up call to those on both sides of the aisle who believe that the United States should eschew the responsibilities of leadership. If it is not heeded, dictators and extremists across the globe will be emboldened. And we will pay a price as our interests and our values are trampled in their wake.

Condoleezza Rice was secretary of state from 2005 to 2009. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

WIRED WORLD



PHOTOS BY BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

Part-time Lyft driver Brittany Cameron drives her own vehicle as she gives a ride to Jennie Morris in downtown Denver in February.

Fare share

Taxi, limo services decry lax regulation of tech-based competition

By **IVAN MORENO**
AND **RAY HENRY**
The Associated Press

DENVER — Frustrated and angry, more than 100 cabbies pulled up outside the Colorado Statehouse early this legislative session to protest tech startups known as ridesharing services.

The taxi drivers say the emerging firms, which allow passengers to hail rides with the swipe of a smartphone, are avoiding costly requirements that they and other commercial drivers are forced to follow.

Ridesharing company officials say they're open to regulation and point to self-imposed controls such as criminal background checks as proof of their willingness to cooperate. They're also saying critics and protesters are only trying to suppress competition and legislate them out of business.

The dispute in Denver mirrors similar

fighting playing out across the nation as state lawmakers and city government officials consider how to regulate emerging Web-based businesses that provide a service similar to that offered by traditional cab and limo companies, but under a distinctly different model.

"You know, change isn't easy," said Colorado Democratic Rep. Cheri Jahn. "But sometimes it's time to move forward."

The companies use mobile apps that connect passengers to drivers, often everyday people seeking extra income by picking up fares as they commute or run errands. Passengers pay through the app and can even tip electronically.

One well-known firm, Uber, operates in more than 70 cities around the world, offering everything from quick rides to luxury service.

Another, Lyft, has become known for pink mustaches on front bumpers and does business in

more than 20 U.S. cities.

Neither has publicly released financial figures or user statistics. But their entry into the market has been disruptive, according to traditional cab and limo services that have raised the loudest opposition.

"There's all kinds of ways to avoid costs, which goes to the corporate bottom line," said Al LaGasse, CEO of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association. "But is that really in the public's interest?"

The ridesharing companies say they welcome regulation, but not thinly veiled attempts to shut them out.

"We're open to having a conversation on how to create a permanent home in the regulatory scheme," said Uber spokeswoman Nairi Hourdajian. But proposed bills that have "the clear intent of eliminating choice for consumers and opportunities for drivers are not the way to go about this."

Public officials have to sort out several topics, including insurance, background checks and price structure. Also at issue is the definition of "ridesharing service."

They realize something has to be done; otherwise, cab and limo companies could simply say they're in the ridesharing business and avoid expenses such as painting vehicles, installing meters, obtaining permits and



A Lyft bingo card is available for riders to play inside a private car driven by a part-time Lyft driver in Denver. Lyft's mobile-phone app facilitates peer-to-peer ridesharing.

Maryland all have had legislation pending this year, Shinkle said. No proposals has passed.

In unregulated markets, Uber and Lyft internally require checks on drivers. For instance, ridesharing drivers use personal policies when they don't have passengers. When they have a fares in the vehicles, they use corporate policies.

Another point of conflict has been the pricing system. Uber, which offers services that include professional drivers, sets rates using a combination of minimum charges, time and mileage. But prices increase during heavy demand. Lyft also uses flexible rates, asking users to pay an amount based on time and mileage.

Jennie Morris, 37, a Denver resident, said she uses Lyft about twice per week and enjoys chatting with drivers. "It's just like if I would meet someone on the street and have a nice conversation with them, but instead they're giving me a ride," she said.

Gary DiGiorgio, 59, from suburban Denver, became an Uber driver to supplement his income during slow months in his real estate business. For him, the issue of regulation comes down to economic concerns. "We, as Americans, need to go ahead and respect freedom of business," he said.

For cabbies, the issue is one of fairness.

"We're not afraid of competition," said Mohamed Abdi, 32, a Yellow Cab driver in Denver. But "we all have to play by the same rules."

keeping mandated maintenance schedules.

"So why would you stay a cab company?" Doug Dean, the head of Colorado's Public Utilities Commission, asked at a hearing last month.

It's difficult to determine the exact scope of efforts to regulate ridesharing companies, said Douglas Shinkle, of the National Council of State Legislatures, a Washington, D.C.-based nonpartisan nonprofit that monitors and researches state governments. Some proposals have come from state lawmakers, some from city councils and others, such as California, from state agencies, he said.

Arizona, Colorado, Georgia and



Cameron sits on the hood of her vehicle, adorned with Lyft's trademark pink mustache, in downtown Denver.

WORLD



By **STUART LEAVENWORTH**
McClatchy Tribune News Service

In frozen Harbin, China, a festival of

HARBIN, China — For 30 years Harbin, in the far northeastern corner of China, has hosted an increasingly famous winter extravaganza — the Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival. Each November, workers start hauling massive blocks of ice out of the frozen Songhua River. Using cranes, chain saws, picks, lasers and LED lights, they use the blocks to construct a colorful fantasy land that becomes more astonishing each year.

An estimated 1 million people visit the festival each winter, but all those bodies do little to warm up Harbin. The average winter temperature in Harbin is less than 2F, and can drop as low as -10F.

The buildings and figurines at the lit-up Ice and Snow World change each winter depending on the artists' whims. This year's display includes pagodas, bridges and the Roman Colosseum.

The tallest structure at this year's festival is a replica of Iceland's Hallgrímskirkja Church. Many of the structures have sponsors, hence the logo for government-controlled ICBC, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the largest bank in the world based on assets and market valuation, on the church.

Some 10,000 workers were involved in extracting, hauling, assembling and carving the ice and snow this year, according to festival organizers. But aside from the

ICE

muscle power required to haul 590,000 square feet of ice, the sculptures require a delicate touch, as seen on an ice statue that commemorates the Year of the Horse.

Not far from the Ice and Snow World

are the snow sculptures at Harbin's Sun Island Park, where visitors can gawk at massive figurines that in daytime are slightly less frosty than at night.

About 492,000 square feet of snow is

needed to make all the snow sculptures in Harbin. In recent years, festival organizers have had to manufacture the fluffy stuff to deal with uneven and decreasing snowfalls, which some attribute to global climate change. For a low-carbon mode of transportation, the festival offers dog sled rides.

To entertain tourists, the winter swim club in Harbin carves a pool out of the frozen ice of the Songhua River, and members of the club jump in to demonstrate the health benefits of swimming in near-freezing water. First, some swimmers pose for photographers. Tourists are also invited to join in the therapeutic exercise.

Harbin's attractions aren't limited to ice sculptures and daredevil swimmers. The city is known worldwide for its Russian architecture, the product of Russian control of the area during construction of the Trans-Manchurian Railroad to Vladivostok. Many of these buildings were destroyed during China's Cultural Revolution. Several remain, most notably the Church of St. Sophia, preserved as a museum space in the heart of the city.

Harbin, a city of roughly 6 million, is fairly easy to reach by air and a cold blast to explore in winter, enjoyed best with the right clothing and, most importantly, the warmest winter boots. The festival starts each year on Jan. 5 and ends when the sculptures melt.



The Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival in China starts on Jan. 5 every year. This year's display includes a replica of Iceland's Hallgrímskirkja Church and the Roman Colosseum. The winter swim club in Harbin also keeps tourists entertained with a plunge into the icy Songhua River.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Preparing to perform

Students from Rebecca McCarthy School of Dance prepare for their performance before the quarterfinals of the Big East women's basketball tournament in Rosemont, Ill., on Sunday. The students performed at halftime.

'We Be Sober' taxi hit by suspected drunk

CA FRESNO — A suspected drunken driver was arrested after colliding with a taxi with a mission to drive home people who have been drinking in the Fresno region.

The Fresno Bee reported Sunday that police arrested Jorge Rosales, 38, on suspicion of drunken driving. Rosales is accused of colliding with a "We Be Sober" taxi on the way to pick up a fare in the early hours of Saturday morning. Two men in the taxi were injured and taken to the hospital. One was treated and released. The other sustained moderate injuries to his wrist and knee. The men in the taxi weren't identified.

Woman's finger almost bitten off over parking

NJ CHERRY HILL — Police said a dispute over a parking spot at a southern New Jersey mall ended when a woman bit and almost severed the finger of another driver.

The fight at the Cherry Hill Mall involved three women and occurred around 4:30 p.m. Saturday outside Nordstrom's. Details about the dispute were not disclosed, but authorities said it began as a verbal argument before it turned physical.

The Courier-Post reported that the injured woman was a 42-year-old Philadelphia resident. She was in stable condition at a hospital.

Police are searching for the biter and say she could face aggravated assault charges.

Pastor apologizes for blackface skit at church

KY LEXINGTON — A Lexington pastor apologized

THE CENSUS

\$1.1M

ogized Saturday to people who were offended by a white man performing in blackface as part of a skit at the church.

Pastor Jeff Fugate, of Clays Mill Road Baptist Church, said he'd gotten at least a dozen messages from people upset by the performance.

The skits were part of the National Young Fundamentalists Conference held at the church Wednesday through Friday. The conference had about 1,000 attendees from a dozen states.

Fugate said he did not know in advance that his personal assistant, Joseph Picketts, would perform in blackface.

"I wouldn't offend a black person for the world," Fugate said. "I sure am sorry."

Council member sued for social media post

VA COLONIAL HEIGHTS — A former candidate for Hopewell sheriff has filed a lawsuit against a member of the city council claiming she defamed her by linking her to a hate group.

The Progress-Index reported that Cathie Mitchell is seeking \$2.35 million for the social media comments posted by Brenda Pelham.

In the posting, Pelham wrote that Mitchell and Hopewell's commonwealth attorney were "part of the Klan" that attempted to remove a black police chief

from office.

Pelham said her posting was meant to refer to a group of people, or clan, rather than the Ku Klux Klan.

Church creates website for servers to sound off

TN KINGSPORT — An east Tennessee pastor has created a website where restaurant servers are encouraged to sound off about waiting on church crowds.

Preaching Christ Church in Kingsport kicked off its "Sundays are the Worst" campaign on March 3, and it runs through Easter Sunday.

Lead Pastor Chad Roberts told the Kingsport Times-News that he and a couple of staff members got the idea after hearing complaints about rude church crowds who didn't tip well. He said identifying information, including names of servers, customers or restaurants will be removed from any posts.

He said servers who contribute their stories at sunday-saretheworst.com will get written apologies emailed to them.

One server posted that she was thinking about visiting a church but decided not to after waiting on some parishioners who were mean and didn't leave a tip.

Husband shot after argument over trip

NV MINDEN — A Zephyr Cove woman argued

with her husband over a trip she wanted to take to Southern California to visit her daughter before he was shot and killed, according to court documents.

Tatiana Leibell, 50, was being held in the Douglas County Jail on a charge of open murder in the Feb. 23 shooting of her husband, Harold Leibell, 64.

The self-employed computer saleswoman phoned dispatchers to say her husband had shot himself twice at their home.

Investigators said he was shot in the torso and a hand, and a cocked rifle found in the house helped implicate her as a suspect.

Gardnerville's Record-Courier reported that at a hearing March 4 in Tahoe Justice Court, the Ukraine native was ordered to surrender any passports, and her bail was slashed to \$500,000 from \$1 million.

Police seize nearly 800 bags of heroin

NY GENESESE — Authorities said they've seized nearly 800 bags of heroin during two separate traffic stops and a house search last week in a rural western New York county.

The Livingston County Sheriff's Office told local media that a total of 430 bags of heroin were discovered during separate traffic stops on Interstate 390.

Officials said another 350 bags were found during a search of the Mount Morris home of one of the

people pulled over last week along rural stretches of I-390 south of Rochester.

Four men have been charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance.

Officials said the other three suspects are from Olean. Police said two of the suspects told police they had purchased the drugs in Rochester.

Man admits trading nightclub for cocaine

MS GULFPORT — A Gulfport man has pleaded guilty to a drug distribution charge involving his agreement to trade a nightclub for 12 kilos of cocaine.

The Sun Herald reported that Victor Darnell Williams, 33, faces 10 years to life in prison when he is sentenced June 5 in U.S. District Court.

Williams pleaded guilty Thursday to a charge of attempt to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute. Judge Sul Ozderden ordered Williams held for federal marshals. He had been free on a \$25,000 bond.

Federal drug agents arrested Williams after he signed papers Aug. 30 to transfer ownership of a building to a person identified only as a confidential source. The deal reportedly was worth about \$336,000 in cocaine.

From wire reports

FACES



MIAMI BEACH POLICE DEPT./AP

Justin Bieber faces charges of DUI, resisting arrest and possessing an invalid driver's license in Miami Beach, Fla.

Bieber gets trial date

The Associated Press

A May 5 trial date was set Tuesday for Justin Bieber in the Florida case charging him with driving under the influence, resisting arrest and possessing an invalid driver's license.

Prosecutor Daniel Diaz-Balart said that no plea offer has been made for the pop singer, who has pleaded not guilty. First offenders in most similar cases are offered a plea to avoid potential jail time.

"All we're going to say is, we're going to prepare for a trial and that Mr. Bieber has pleaded not guilty," Bieber's attorney, Roy Black, said.

The initial March trial date was postponed while attorneys for news organizations and Bieber wrestled with release of police videos of him giving a urine sample for a drug test. Those videos were made public last week with sensitive segments blacked out.

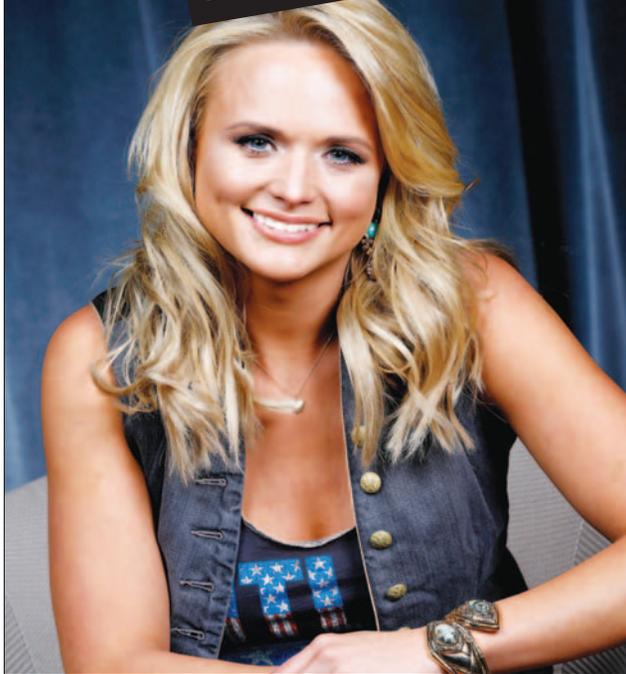
Bieber, 20, and R&B singer Khalil Amir Shariff were arrested Jan. 23 in Miami Beach after what police called an illegal drag race. Breath tests showed Bieber's blood-alcohol content was below the 0.02 limit for underage drivers. Other tests detected marijuana and Xanax.

Miami-Dade County Judge William Altfield said Shariff has an April 7 trial date on a DUI charge. He has pleaded not guilty.

In other Bieber news: ■ The singer surprised a small crowd at Banger's Sausage House & Beer Garden in Austin, Texas, on Sunday night, playing two songs and providing an unofficial kickoff for the music portion of the South by Southwest festival.

■ Federal prosecutors say a Norwegian man, 22-year-old Wahleed Ahmed, has been sentenced in Los Angeles to 11 years in prison and ordered to pay restitution for a scheme in which he convinced an investor to give \$1 million toward phony Bieber concerts in Scandinavia.

READY TO ROCK



DONN JONES, INVISION/AP

Miranda Lambert's fifth album, "Platinum," reflects the country singer's life as she reaches 30.

Lambert preps new album for June 3 release

By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press



he good news? Miranda Lambert has completed her much anticipated, though somewhat overdue, fifth album. The bad news? You have to wait until June 3 for "Platinum," a full two years for and eight months since her last LP.

Why the wait? Lambert released an album with her Pistol Annies trio in 2013. She also decided she was at a place in her career where she'd earned the time to fulfill her entire creative vision, and it simply took time.

"From the day you kinda go I need to start looking for songs and writing songs, it feels like no matter how much time you have, you're rushed," Lambert said. "And so I didn't want to rush it at all. To me it's all about timing and making sure that you can feel like you can finally sit there and go, OK, the album's done, and never have a moment where you go, I wish we could change that or I wish we had a

different song."

An early listen reveals the singer's most ambitious album yet. At 16 songs, "Platinum" sprawls across genre and style and expands on her already adventurous sense of song choice. She says everyone urged her to trim a few songs and conform to the usual country conventions.

"Now when you listen to it as a whole, what do you take off?" she asked.

The album paints a picture of Lambert's life as she reaches 30. She wrote or co-wrote eight songs and chose the others based on how they reflected her personality or world view.

The first single, "Automatic," suggests returning to a slower time and way of thinking. She contemplates her self-image in "Bathroom Mirror," takes on tabloid scrutiny in "Pricilla" and teams up with several guests on songs that underscore her range and willingness to experiment.

The collaboration with Carrie Underwood on "Something Bad" brings together two of country's most popular stars.

"We're really rocking in country music and we're coming together as a force," Lambert said. "To me, like, if you're sitting on the front row, you might want to scoot back. It's a force. It just feels exciting to me. I'm ready to rock."



Matthew McConaughey

Ratings high for 'True Detective' season finale

An average of 3.5 million viewers tuned in for Sunday's season finale of "True Detective," the HBO crime anthology starring Matthew McConaughey and Woody Harrelson, according to Nielsen.

That's the biggest audience ever for the 9 p.m. ET cable drama and 50 percent higher than the 2.3 million who watched the show's premiere.

The episode faced heavy competition on cable and broadcast networks, including the premieres of ABC's "Resurrection" and Fox's "Cosmos," along with an episode of the AMC hit "The Walking Dead."

McConaughey and Harrelson play investigators hunting for a serial killer in Louisiana.

A total of 11 million people have watched the series, which marks the highest gross viewership for a first-season HBO series since "Six Feet Under" hooked 11.4 million in 2001.

Not everyone trying to watch Sunday night's finale was enjoying their experience.

Most fans who tried to log on to the "HBO GO" stream weren't able to do so because the service crashed. HBO said Monday the service interruption was due to "an excessive amount of traffic" soon after the 9 p.m. Eastern start of the episode. Many viewers saw a spinning circle indicating the show was loading, but it didn't.

HBO had similar issues with its service last year surrounding episodes of "Game of Thrones."

Company spokesman Jeff Cusson said Monday the service is now working.

From wire reports

Anne Rice to release new vampire book

Anne Rice's first Vampire Chronicles book since 2003, "Prince Lestat," is scheduled to come out Oct. 28, publisher Alfred A. Knopf said Monday.

Rice also offered details recently on "The Dinner Party Show," an Internet program co-hosted by her son, Christopher Rice. She said the new book will bring Lestat de Lioncourt's story up to date and was completed last summer.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Regulators under fire for GM inaction

By MICHAEL A. FLETCHER
The Washington Post

Federal auto safety regulators were under fire Monday for failing to act quickly on evidence that faulty ignition switches in some General Motors cars were killing the engine and preventing air bags from inflating in accidents, contributing to 13 deaths.

Consumer advocates — including Joan B. Claybrook, a former administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration — called on NHTSA to investigate why it did not demand that GM recall affected models after learning as early as 2007 that an ignition defect could inordinately stall a car, disabling its air bags.

“While GM bears complete responsibility for failing to recall these vehicles by 2005, when it knew what the defect was and how to fix it, NHTSA has responsibility for failing to order a recall by early 2007, when it knew what

the effect was and how to fix it,” Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Center for Auto Safety, wrote in a letter to NHTSA seeking an independent probe of the agency’s response.

Rep. Fred Upton, R-Mich., said late Monday that the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which he chairs, will investigate whether GM or NHTSA missed “something that could have flagged these problems sooner. If the answer is yes, we must learn how and why this happened.”

NHTSA officials defended the agency’s actions, saying they have long been concerned about the potential stalling problem. The agency launched probes of suspicious crashes caused by the faulty switches, but investigators struggled to pinpoint the exact cause of the accidents amid a fog of complaints and complications, including the introduction of a new type of air bag around the time of the earliest incidents.

“NHTSA receives and screens

more than 40,000 consumer complaints each year and pursues investigations and recalls wherever our data justifies doing so,” the agency said in a statement.

“As a data-driven organization, NHTSA is constantly looking for ways to improve our process so we can better identify serious safety defects in the nation’s vehicle fleet and ensure that those defects are remedied.”

GM on Monday named a former federal prosecutor to head its inquiry into why the automaker waited more than a decade to recall vehicles equipped with the problematic ignition switches, which now number more than 1.6 million.

Anton “Tony” Valukas, chairman of the law firm Jenner & Block, will work with GM’s general counsel, Michael Milkin, on the probe.

In addition, attorneys from the law firm King & Spalding will help conduct the investigation into the chain of events leading

up to GM’s announcement last month that the vehicles would be recalled.

GM CEO Mary Barra said she has demanded an “unvarnished” picture of GM’s handling of the ignition problem.

The automaker, which has been enjoying a resurgence following its descent into bankruptcy in 2009, issued the recall last month to fix the faulty switches, which sometimes cause cars to turn themselves off.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	\$1.4221
Dollar buys (March 12)	€0.7023
British pound (March 12)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (March 12)	100.00
South Korean won (March 12)	1,037.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$0.6771
British pound	\$1.6323
Canada (dollar)	1.1100
China (Yuan)	6.1400
Denmark (Krone)	5.3862
Egypt (Pound)	8.9627
Euro	\$1.3857/7.217
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7618
Hungary (Forint)	225.87
Israel (Shekel)	3.4698
Japan (Yen)	109.26
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.8256
Norway (Krone)	5.9525
Philippines (Peso)	44.48
Poland (Zloty)	3.404
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.06582
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2670
South Korea (Won)	1,037.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8789
Thailand (Baht)	32.28
Turkey (Lira)	1.2269

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

MARKET WATCH

March 10, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-34.04	16,418.68
Nasdaq composite	-1.77	4,334.45
Standard & Poor's 500	-0.87	1,877.17
Russell 2000	-2.78	1,200.54

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month T-bill	0.04
1-year bond	3.72

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	63	58	Rain	Fort Wayne	29	27	Snow	Louisville	47	45	Rain	Pocatello	50	23	Cir	Sioux City	40	25	Cldy	
Abilene, Texas	48	42	Cir	Cheyenne	45	18	Cir	Fresno	73	47	Snow	Lubbock	54	32	Cir	Portland, Maine	36	27	Snow	Sioux Falls	25	23	Cldy	
Akron, Ohio	35	34	Snow	Chicago	26	23	Cldy	Goodland	50	26	Cir	Macon	71	61	Rain	Portland, Ore.	62	36	Cir	South Bend	26	24	Snow	
Albany, N.Y.	35	30	Snow	Cincinnati	41	40	Rain	Grand Junction	49	26	Cir	Madison	25	21	Cldy	Providence	48	36	Cir	Rain	Spokane	53	27	Cir
Albuquerque	51	34	Snow	Cleveland	32	31	Rain	Grand Rapids	28	21	Cldy	Medford	67	33	Cir	Pueblo	47	19	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	38	33	Cldy	
Allentown, Pa.	52	37	Rain	Colorado Springs	45	16	Cir	Great Falls	50	26	Cir	Memphis	55	50	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	68	53	Cldy	Rain	Springfield, Mo.	45	33	Pcldy
Amarillo	51	24	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	73	59	Rain	Green Bay	48	21	Pcldy	Miami Beach	84	71	Cldy	Rapid City	51	25	Cir	Syracuse	34	29	Snow	
Anchorage	32	28	Snow	Columbus, Ga.	71	60	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	67	52	Rain	Midland-Odessa	56	36	Pcldy	Reno	56	29	Cir	Tallahassee	78	59	Rain	
Asheville	64	49	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	38	37	Snow	Harrisburg	52	41	Rain	Milwaukee	22	20	Cir	Richmond	72	50	Rain	Tampa	78	64	Rain	
Atlanta	63	59	Rain	Concord, N.H.	37	26	Snow	Hartford-Springfield	41	34	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	27	17	Cldy	Rochester	64	48	Cir	Tucson	68	48	Snow	
Atlantic City	58	39	Rain	Corpus Christi	65	55	Cir	Helena	47	23	Cir	Missoula	47	21	Pcldy	Rochester	31	30	Snow	Topeka	49	31	Pcldy	
Austin	62	50	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	56	41	Cir	Honolulu	81	67	Cir	Mobile	70	57	Cldy	Rockford	27	23	Cir	Tucson	79	48	Cir	
Baltimore	64	44	Rain	Dayton	36	34	Snow	Houston	62	54	Cir	Montgomery	43	38	Cir	St. Louis	43	34	Cir	Tulsa	85	38	Cir	
Baton Rouge	67	57	Cir	Daytona Beach	81	62	Cldy	Huntsville	61	57	Rain	Nashville	56	54	Cir	St. Louis	41	34	Cir	Tulsa	58	56	Cir	
Birmingham	63	58	Pcldy	Denver	49	17	Cir	Indianapolis	32	21	Snow	New Orleans	70	59	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	78	66	Cir	Tulsa	78	59	Cir	
Bismarck	51	22	Pcldy	Detroit	26	26	Snow	Jackson, Miss.	63	55	Pcldy	New York City	52	43	Rain	St. Thomas	84	74	Pcldy	Washington	67	49	Rain	
Boise	56	31	Cir	Duluth	45	26	Snow	Jacksonville	80	56	Cir	Newark	51	42	Rain	Salem, Ore.	63	36	Cir	W. Palm Beach	84	68	Cir	
Boston	44	34	Rain	El Paso	56	47	Cir	Kansas City	45	29	Pcldy	New York	61	50	Rain	Salt Lake City	51	31	Cir	Wichita	52	32	Cir	
Bridgport	31	35	Rain	Elkins	51	45	Rain	Key West	82	73	Cir	Oklahoma City	50	24	Cir	San Antonio	65	52	Cir	Wichita Falls	56	37	Cir	
Brownsville	73	58	Cir	Erie	32	31	Snow	Knoxville	62	55	Rain	Omaha	43	26	Pcldy	San Diego	74	56	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	63	42	Rain	
Buffalo	31	29	Snow	Eugene	63	33	Cir	Lake Charles	65	57	Pcldy	Orlando	82	63	Cldy	San Francisco	70	48	Cir	Yakima	59	31	Cir	
Burlington, Vt.	45	29	Snow	Evansville	45	42	Cldy	Lansing	24	22	Snow	Paducah	46	36	Cir	San Jose	74	46	Cir	Youngstown	52	34	Snow	
Caribou, Maine	22	19	Snow	Fairbanks	26	19	Cldy	Las Vegas	69	47	Cir	Pendleton	59	32	Cir	Santa Fe	74	24	Pcldy	Yakima	59	31	Cir	
Casper	45	20	Cir	Fargo	29	11	Cldy	Lexington	54	49	Rain	Peoria	32	29	Cldy	St. Ste Marie	41	2	Cir	Wikes-Barre	52	35	Snow	
Charleston, S.C.	75	58	Rain	Flagstaff	50	26	Pcldy	Lincoln	27	26	Pcldy	Philadelphia	61	43	Rain	Savannah	75	58	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	63	42	Rain	
Charleston, W.Va.	51	47	Rain	Flint	23	23	Snow	Little Rock	56	48	Cir	Phoenix	80	55	Cir	Seattle	59	40	Pcldy	Yakima	59	31	Cir	
Charlotte, N.C.	71	57	Rain	Fort Smith	56	44	Cir	Los Angeles	80	54	Cir	Pittsburgh	39	19	Snow	Shreveport	62	50	Pcldy	Lo. Mon., 4.	Mount Washington, N.H.			

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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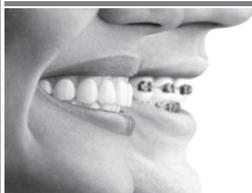
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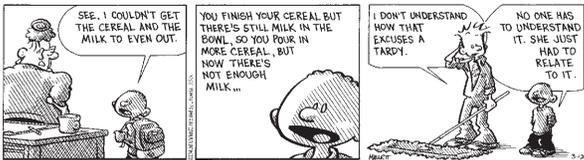
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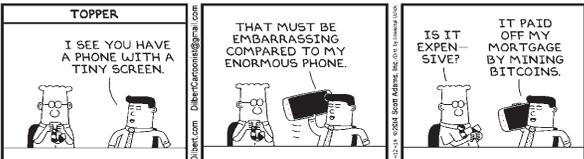
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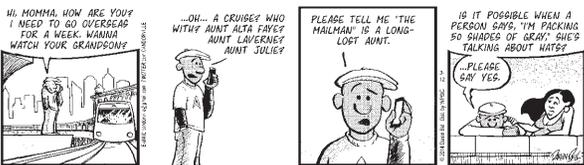
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13				14			
15			16				17			
18		19				20				
		21	22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32		
33			34				35		36	
37			38			39			40	
41			42			43				
		44				45		46		
50	51	52				53	54		55	
56						57			58	
59						60			61	

ACROSS

- 1 Mandible
- 4 Small pie
- 8 Portent
- 12 Raw rock
- 13 Erstwhile
- 14 Tarnale alternative
- 15 Third letter
- 16 Upright post
- 18 Utterly finished
- 20 Sock part
- 21 Engrossed
- 24 Trojan War king
- 28 Norm
- 32 Wise one
- 33 "Holy mackerel!"
- 34 Ram
- 36 Solidify
- 37 On
- 39 Silicon Valley school

DOWN

- 1 Athlete
- 2 Neighborhood
- 3 Cry
- 4 Deep-fried tortilla
- 5 Pismire
- 6 Zenith competitor
- 7 Camp shelter
- 8 Unto whom to do
- 9 -tai
- 10 "The Name of the Rose" writer
- 11 Negative prefix
- 12 Police officer
- 13 Grecian vessel
- 14 Curious standards
- 15 Hackneyed
- 23 "Othello" villain
- 26 Ripening additive
- 27 Pinochle play
- 28 Mop
- 29 Carry
- 30 MPs' quarry
- 31 Cherished
- 35 Attaches quickly
- 38 Galore
- 40 Winter woe
- 42 Blond shade
- 45 Price
- 47 Report card notation
- 48 Entreaty
- 49 Alluring
- 50 Blue
- 51 Dead heat
- 52 Novelist
- 53 Radcliffe
- 53 "Wham!:"
- 54 Inventor Whitney

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

3-12

CRYPTOQUIP

FM JMP YAKCN YALY ULQFWC
 HLNWB OWMOTW FM QWLTJT
 ALQF UMQN? K XPWB B

YAWQW'B CM ALQH KC YLBNKXC.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: HIS INTENSE GREED CAUSED HIM TO DO IDIOTIC THINGS. ONE MAY CONSIDER THAT CUPIDITY STUPIDITY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals T

AUTO RACING/MLB



ISAAC BREKKE/AP

Brad Keselowski drives during qualifying for last week's NASCAR Sprint Cup Series race in Las Vegas.

Drivers want dangers in new qualifying format addressed

NASCAR would be hard-pressed to find many fans who don't prefer the drama and intrigue of the new, knockout qualifying format over the old system of single-car runs.

But the rules have created a wrinkle that drivers up and down the grid say is far too dangerous.

NASCAR has now been warned — repeatedly, by some of the biggest names in the sport. And finding an immediate solution to what Brian Vickers called “the most dangerous thing I’ve ever done in racing” should be NASCAR’s only item on the agenda this week.

For two weeks in a row, drivers have complained that their engines are too hot following their qualifying runs. They can either cool the engines or gamble on not blowing the engine on the next fast lap.

Only NASCAR has prohibited teams from cooling their cars on pit road because doing so would require the use of a cooling box. Since few adjustments are allowed during qualifying rounds, the cooling box is not an option because it would require teams to open the hood of the car. Once the hoods are open, inspectors would have too difficult of a time policing pit road to make sure no adjustments are being made to the cars.

So teams figured out their own solution: Drivers are slowing their cars to a crawl and circling the track at slow speeds to cool the engines following their fast laps.

It’s going on at the same time as other drivers are speeding along, making their qualifying attempt.

“You’re going 200 mph out there, and cars that aren’t even running are running about 40,” grumbled Clint Bowyer.

Asked for his opinion, Ryan Newman simply said: “It’s not safe. That’s an easy answer. It’s not safe.”

Those were just two of the gripes that came out of Las Vegas Motor Speedway, a 1.5-mile track that has enough room on the apron to accommodate the slow cars while the cars whizzing by them making a qualifying run. But NASCAR heads to Bristol Motor Speedway this weekend and the 0.533-mile bullring is incredibly short on the real estate needed to accommodate cars driving at dramatically different speeds.

Vickers said there was a point during qualifying at Las Vegas Friday when he was riding slowly around the bottom of the track and Reed Sorenson sailed past him at a speed difference of 170 mph.

“We don’t have impact data on 170-180 mph differential impacts,” he said. “If I hit someone with those speed discrepancies, that’s going to be really bad for everyone.”

What more does NASCAR need to hear before officials figure out a solution? True, the system is only two weeks old and there’s yet to be a serious incident.

Waiting to see how it develops over the next few weeks is a reckless gamble.

After spending much of last year working on a new rules package to improve the quality of racing at superspeedways, NASCAR vice president of innovation and racing development Gene Stefa-

nyshyn warned before Sunday’s first test at Las Vegas that one race would not be a true indicator of progress. Give it time, he urged, for teams to get a handle on the rules and adjust accordingly before deciding if more work was needed.

NASCAR can have all the time it needs to figure out an aero package.

Officials don’t have the luxury of taking a wait-and-see approach on what competitors say is a major safety concern.

Do they wait for a major accident before they act? A driver injury? NASCAR clearly has something good on its hands with the new knockout format, and drivers have warned that something bad could happen unless a change is made. Why even take the chance?

Six-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson had another suggestion, too.

At the start of qualifying, cars are being parked on pit road facing in, requiring the drivers to back out when they are ready to make their lap. It makes for a lot of activity in a very short period of time.

“That initial roll-out is very sketchy and I think we’re going to start crashing cars just backing out, because you’ve got guys at various angles trying to back out and guys backing out before the clock strikes zero and the track is green,” Johnson said. “We need to clean it up a little. I think the format is awesome. It’s great for the fans, it’s great for the teams, but some of the logistics and flow on pit road could be addressed.”

You’ve been warned, NASCAR. Don’t wait to see if the drivers are crying wolf.

Doubt: On two ballots, Bonds wasn't even close

FROM BACK PAGE

PEDs. And he didn't even come close to election to the Hall in his first two turns on the ballot.

Advice for the writers who have not voted for him: “You guys are all adults. I have no advice for you.”

One topic he wouldn't discuss: Alex Rodriguez, who is serving a season-long drug suspension.

Bonds said he respects Rodriguez and will talk to him individually, “not in a press conference.” Meeting with about three dozen media for about 30 minutes on a patio overlooking the left field area at Scottsdale Stadium, Bonds wanted to put the controversial past behind him.

“It feels really good to be back,” Bonds said. “It feels good to give back to the game that I love. Hopefully, I’ll be a part of this longer. ... I’m enjoying it.”

“I am more nervous at this than I was playing, because it was only my mind and me. Hopefully I can bring good value to the ballclub. We’ll see how it works out,” he added. “I don’t even know if I’m good at it.”

Looking about 30 pounds lighter than his playing weight of 230

and considerably more affable, Bonds wore an orange-and-black Giants cap, a black windbreaker and baseball pants, ready for the first day of work in a seven-day stay in camp.

He appeared relaxed, laughing and joking more in a few minutes than he did during the years when he ruled the team’s clubhouse from his corner reclining chair.

“I’m just a different character. I was a different character playing,” he said. “Now I’ve had time to slow down, do other things. I needed that guy to play, it’s who I was at the time. I’m the same person, just a different character. ... Teammates used to say, you don’t play when you’re nice. It worked. Whatever it was, it worked.”

After meeting with the media, Bonds watched Posey and others intently in the batting cage.

“The timing was right. That’s why it’s happening now,” manager Bruce Bochy said. “It’s good for Barry to see how it’s going to work for him. To me, he is one of the greatest minds in baseball.”

Would he perhaps like to manage some day?

“I want to try and get through these seven days first,” he said with a laugh.

‘I’m the same person, just a different character. ... Teammates used to say, you don’t play when you’re nice. It worked.’

Barry Bonds

New Giants hitting instructor, on his playing days



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy, left, listens as former player Barry Bonds speaks at a news conference Monday in Scottsdale, Ariz. Bonds is the career home runs leader with 762.

In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

SPORTS BRIEFS

Nadal, Sharapova bounced at Indian Wells

The Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Defending champions Rafael Nadal and Maria Sharapova were upset in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Monday.

First, Sharapova went down to qualifier Camila Giorgi, 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, giving the young Italian her first victory over a top-five player. Then, Nadal followed on the main stadium court, losing 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5) to Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine.

Nadal staged a furious rally in the third. He won three straight games, including a break of Dolgoplov, to tie it at 5. Both players held serve to send the match into the tiebreaker.

They slugged it out from the baseline accompanied by a noisy soundtrack, with fans yelling and cheering. Los Angeles Lakers star Pau Gasol watched nervously from Nadal's box. Nadal led 4-2 before Dolgoplov won three straight points to take a 5-4 lead. The Ukrainian hit two forehand winners and came up with a big service winner.

"I had enough breaks to win the match, but I didn't play enough well from the baseline then to be solid with my serve," Nadal said. "I didn't go for the points. I played with too many mistakes."

Nadal evened it at 5-all, but he hit the ball long to set up match point. Dolgoplov served what he thought was an ace, but it was called out. He challenged the call and it showed the ball barely missed tagging the T. Dolgoplov put his second serve into play and produced a cross-court forehand that the world's top-ranked player couldn't return.

"It's a moment for the people to be proud a little bit for someone from their country," Dolgoplov said, referring to the political upheaval going on between Ukraine and Russia. "It's good to make some results and make the people forget a little bit and have some happy moments in the news."

Before Nadal was sent packing, Sharapova committed 58 errors in her first loss to a player ranked outside the top 30 since Wimbledon last year.

"She's someone that doesn't give you much rhythm," Sharapova said. "She's quite aggressive, but

some shots she hits incredible for a long period of time. Sometimes they go off a bit. If I'm speaking about my level, it was nowhere near where it should have been."

Ranked 79th in the world, Giorgi made it through qualifying to play Indian Wells for the first time. She improved to 3-2 against top-10 foes. The 22-year-old led 4-2 in the final set, but Sharapova broke Giorgi twice to tie it at 5.

"I was trying to just play my game, and maybe I accelerated more than the other set," Giorgi said. "I just play love aggressive."

Giorgi then broke Sharapova at love before serving out the match, overcoming her 11th double fault to set up match point. Giorgi had 48 unforced errors and 24 winners.

Awaiting Giorgi in the fourth round will be fellow Italian Flavia Pennetta, who beat No. 16 seed Sam Stosur 6-4, 3-6, 6-1. Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka routed 29th-seeded Andreas Seppi of Italy 6-0, 6-2.

Andy Murray outlasted Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic 6-7 (2), 6-4, 6-4 in his second straight three-set match, and four-time tournament champion Roger Federer defeated 27th-seeded Dmitry Tursunov of Russia 7-6 (7), 7-6 (2) with an ace on match point.

Huskers reward Pelini with 1-year extension

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska football coach Bo Pelini has received a one-year contract extension through February 2019.

Athletic department spokeswoman Chris Anderson on Friday confirmed the extension, which was first reported by CBSSports.com. Anderson said terms were not immediately available.

Pelini is 57-24 in six seasons, but there was speculation about his job status at the end of last season as the Cornhuskers' streak of no conference championships stretched to 14 years.

Minutes after Nebraska lost its last regular-season game to Iowa, Pelini defended his record and said, "If they want to fire me, go ahead." Athletic director Shawn Eichorst issued a statement of support for Pelini the next day, but as recently as Tues-



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Spainard Rafael Nadal returns a shot to Ukrainian Alexandr Dolgoplov during their third-round match at the BNP Paribas Open on Monday in Indian Wells, Calif. Dolgoplov won 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5).

day had refused to answer questions about a contract extension.

In other college football news: ■ Heisman Trophy winning running backs Rashaan Salaam of Colorado and Ricky Williams of Texas are among the stars making their first appearance on the College Football Hall of Fame ballot this year.

Some of the other notable first-timers on the ballot this year are Iowa State running back Troy Davis, a two-time Heisman finalist, Miami linebacker Ray Lewis, Southern California receiver Keshawn Johnson and Kentucky quarterback Tim Couch.

The 2014 Hall of Fame class will be announced in May and inducted in December at the National Football Foundation's awards banquet in New York.

■ Former Tennessee football star and coach Johnny Majors is in stable condition at the University of Tennessee Medical Center after a heart valve procedure.

UT Medical Center spokesman

Jim Ragonese sent an email to the Knoxville News-Sentinel on Friday saying the 78-year-old Majors had a heart valve procedure Thursday. A hospital nursing supervisor who didn't give her name told The Associated Press on Friday night that Majors was in stable condition.

MLS referees accused of unfair labor practices

NEW YORK — The organization that manages game officials for Major League Soccer has filed an unfair labor practice charge against the union it locked out, accusing the referees of attempting to intimidate replacements.

The Professional Referee Organization made the filing with the National Labor Relations Board on Monday, three days after the lockout began. The Professional Soccer Referees Association previously filed a pair of unfair labor practice charges against PRO, which also are pending.

White Plains to join D League in expansion

NEW YORK — The NBA Development League has added a team in the New York suburb of White Plains that will be owned and operated by the Knicks.

The addition of the team brings the NBA Development League to 18 teams, seven of them owned and operated by an NBA franchise.

The team will conduct a fan vote to help choose the name of the new NBADL club. It will play 24 regular-season games at the County Center.

Smoltz to call games for Fox MLB telecasts

NEW YORK — Former pitcher John Smoltz will work as an analyst for Fox's Major League Baseball telecasts.

Smoltz will be paired with broadcaster Matt Vasgerian on Fox and Fox Sports 1, the networks said Monday.

They join a group that includes Joe Buck, Harold Reynolds, Tom Verducci, Erin Andrews, Ken Rosenthal, Kenny Albert and Thom Brennaman.

An eight-time All-Star and the 1996 NL Cy Young Award winner, Smoltz will continue to work for the MLB Network.

In other baseball news: ■ Atlanta Braves pitcher Kris Medlen injured a ligament in his right elbow for the second time in less than four years and team officials said it was too early to determine the extent of the damage.

Medlen had an MRI on Monday that revealed the injury, according to general manager Frank Wren. He added Tuesday that the 28-year-old right-hander and the team will seek a second medical opinion.

■ The Arizona Diamondbacks have confirmed the signing of left-handed relief pitcher Oliver Perez to a two-year, \$4.25 million contract.

■ The Sugar Land Skeeters have invited 34-year-old Tracy McGrady to spring training, giving him a chance to earn a spot on the independent Atlantic League team. A seven-time NBA All-Star, McGrady has been training to become a pitcher with the team.

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NHL

Overtime rules, video review, shootouts on agenda for Gills

The Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. — NHL general managers spent the first day of their three-day meetings discussing overtime and shootouts, expanded video reviews and goalie interference.

The opening session Monday featured three breakout groups of 10 general managers, with each group assigned particular topics.

There appears to be some concern that too many games are being decided in shootouts instead of during the flow of play. Of the 135 of 963 games played through last Saturday, 14 percent were decided in a shootout. And 40 percent that went to overtime were decided in a shootout.

Among the suggested changes being discussed are a 3-on-3 element instead of four skaters apiece in the extra 5-minute session; extending the overtime; or requiring teams to switch ends of the ice, creating a longer change in line changes.

But there doesn't seem to be a strong consensus toward any particular direction — or even if

overtime needs to be changed.

Colin Campbell, the NHL executive vice president and director of hockey operations, viewed the overtime issue as both an official and a hockey fan.

"I think what the challenge is to maybe not have as many shootouts," Campbell said. "A lot of people in the game would rather see the game decided (not) in a skills contest."

"I would, too, but I'm the last one to leave the room when they're doing the shootout. I like watching to see what's going to happen. So I'm kind of torn in that direction."

The discussion of expanded video review seems weighted on when to start reviewing the tape and how long a review takes.

"I will say there wasn't a lot of consensus on the criteria," said Craig MacTavish, Edmonton's general manager. "There's a lot that goes into it when you're trying to evaluate the specific criteria, like how long from the incident are you going to reel it back?"

"There was no resolution in our group in terms of making many changes to video review."

The increase in activity around the net has also led to an interest in goalie interference.

"There's so much play around the net now, the way our game is moving with everybody collapsing and boxing out and blocking shots," Ottawa Senators General Manager Bryan Murray said. "All the plays now that are goals, in most cases, there's some kind of foot in the crease. I'm not interested in that. But if the goaltender is not allowed to make a play on the shot, then we should get the call as correct as we can."

Also on the agenda is kicked-in goals.

"I think there is an appetite to have directed goals be allowed," said Tim Murray, Buffalo's general manager. "I know it says distinct kicking motion, but (with) a blatant life-you-foot-of-the-ice kick type of thing not allowed."

On Tuesday, members of the breakout groups will report to the whole meeting.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division					
GP	W	L	Pts	GF/GA	
Boston	66	35	23	8	78/96
Montreal	66	29	23	7	82/86
Tampa Bay	64	34	24	6	74/183
Dallas	64	29	23	7	71/179
Ottawa	65	25	12	68	185/213
Florida	64	24	33	7	55/126
Buffalo	66	13	37	8	62/188

Metropolitan Division					
GP	W	L	Pts	GF/GA	
Pittsburgh	65	36	26	4	80/104
N.Y. Rangers	65	32	26	4	74/162
Philadelphia	65	24	26	5	77/166
Columbus	65	23	26	5	71/181
Washington	66	30	26	10	139/200
New Jersey	65	28	24	13	69/167
Carolina	64	27	28	9	65/184
N.Y. Islanders	67	25	33	9	108/228

Western Conference

Central Division					
GP	W	L	Pts	GF/GA	
St. Louis	64	44	14	9	211/145
Chicago	65	38	14	50	233/172
Colorado	65	42	18	5	189/172
Minnesota	64	34	22	5	139/157
Arizona	65	34	22	5	139/157
Winnipeg	66	30	28	8	182/192
Nashville	65	27	28	10	145/194

Pacific Division					
GP	W	L	Pts	GF/GA	
Anaheim	65	41	17	7	199/157
San Jose	65	38	22	6	162/139
Los Angeles	65	32	22	6	132/139
Vancouver	65	29	22	8	157/181
Edmonton	67	28	28	8	162/212
Vancouver	67	25	33	9	167/212

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2
Nashville 4, Ottawa 3, OT
Phoenix 4, Tampa Bay 3
Colorado 3, Winnipeg 2
N.Y. Islanders 7, Vancouver 4
Philadelphia 4, Columbus 3
Columbus at Dallas, suspended

Tuesday's games
New Jersey at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Columbus
Detroit at Columbus
Washington at Pittsburgh
Boston at Tampa Bay
Edmonton at Minnesota
Toronto at San Jose

Wednesday's Games
Boston at Montreal
Vancouver at Colorado
Chicago at Colorado
Anaheim at Calgary



DARREY DYCK, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The New York Islanders' Casey Cizikas, right, celebrates after Matt Martin scored the team's fifth goal on Vancouver Canucks goaltender Eddie Lack during a record-tying, seven-goal outburst in the third period of Monday's 7-4 victory over the Canucks in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Kings 3, Flames 2

Los Angeles 0 0 1-3
Calgary 0 0 2-2
First Period—Los Angeles, Williams 17 (Kontar, Martinez), 40:5. Los Angeles, Lewis 4 (Vovnov, Clifford), 10:00.

Third Period—Los Angeles, Kopitar 20 (Doughty, Muzzin), 7:01. 4, Calgary, Cammalleri 16 (Giordano, Backlund), 15:20 (pp). 5, Calgary, McCreath 3 (Butler, Reinhardt), 17:38.

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 7-12-4-23. Calgary 8-7-11-26.
Goals—Los Angeles, M.Jones 10-4-0 (26 shots-24 saves). Calgary, Oteri 2-3-0 (23-20).

A—19,289 (19,289). T—2:21.

Predators 4, Senators 3 (OT)

Nashville 0 3 0 1-4
Ottawa 0 2 0 1-3
Second Period—Nashville, Spaling 12 (Zetter, Wainwright), 11:27. Ottawa, C.Smith 19 (Ekholm, Jones), 10:00. 3, Nashville, Nyström 12, 17:23.

Third Period—Ottawa, Cowen 5 (Spezza, Hemsy), 7:55. 5, Ottawa, Methers 6 (Spezza, Hemsy), 10:34. 6, Ottawa, Spezza 17 (Hemsey, E.Karlsson), 18:52.

Overtime—Nashville, Jones 6 (Ellis), 3:49.
Shots on Goal—Nashville 16-11-10-52. Ottawa 7-8-13-37.

Power-play opportunities—Nashville 0-1 (1 shot-1 save). Ottawa 0-0.
Goals—Nashville, Rinne 5-7-1 (37 shots-34 saves). Ottawa, Anderson 29-20, Lehner 1-0-4 (43/10 shot/13-12).

A—19,063 (19,153). T—2:42.

Coyotes 4, Lightning 3 (SO)

Phoenix 0 1 2 0-4
Tampa Bay 0 1 0 0-3
First Period—Tampa Bay, Johnson 20 (Pat, Brewster), 11:26 (pp).

Second Period—Phoenix, McMillen 16 (Callahan, Ahoie), 19:07.
Third Period—Ottawa, Foxie 2, 21:3. Phoenix, Boecker 16 (Vermette, Mihalik), 7:48. 6, Tampa Bay, Palat 17 (Filipchuk), 11:04.

Overtime—Phoenix 1 (Boedker NG, Verbitzkiy), 1:04. Tampa Bay 0 (Palat NG, Filipulga NG, Callahan NG).

Shots on Goal—Nashville 3-9-8-20. Tampa Bay 1-1-1-12.
Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 0-0 (0 shots-0 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 29-11-6 (20-17).

A—18,167 (19,204). T—2:37.

Penguins 3, Capitals 2

Washington 2 1 0 3-5
Crosby 2 1 1 0-2
Crosby, Stempniak, 46.2, Washington, Fehr 11 (Chivers), 3:53. 3, Pittsburgh, Crosby 30 (Malkin, Mattat), 3:52 (pp).

Second Period—4, Washington, Backstrom 13 (Lach, Carlson), 8:57 (pp). 5, Pittsburgh, Kunitz 31 (Stempniak, Crosby), 12:40.

Third Period—3 on Goal—Pittsburgh 7-7-2-20. Washington 3-17-3-37.
Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 1 of 1; Washington 1 of 1.
Goals—Pittsburgh, Zatkoff 10-1-3 (23 shots-21 saves). Washington, Crosby 25-10-4 (20-17).

A—16,596 (16,596). T—2:23.

Roundup

Crosby leads Pens by Capitals

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sidney Crosby was everywhere Monday night, from start to finish.

All of 46 seconds into the Pittsburgh Penguins' 3-2 victory over Alex Ovechkin's struggling Washington Capitals, Crosby assisted on Chris Kunitz's goal.

Then, after Washington made it 1-all, Crosby drew a penalty. And 11 seconds later, on Pittsburgh's third shot of the evening, Crosby put the puck in the net himself. Later, with the score again tied, Crosby had the secondary assist on Kunitz's second goal.

And finally, when Ovechkin and the Capitals had a power play for most of the last two minutes, Crosby was on the ice, helping kill off the chance.

Crosby finished with his 30th goal and two assists to raise his NHL-leading point total to 87, matching his uniform number. The Penguins beat Washington for the seventh straight time and overtook idle Boston for the Eastern Conference's best record.

The teams play each other again Tuesday at Pittsburgh.

Islanders 7, Canucks 4: Visiting New York struck Vancouver with a seven-goal outburst, erasing a 3-0 deficit in the final frame.

Josh Bailey, Ryan Strome, Calvin de Haan, Frans Nielsen, Anders Lee and Cal Clutterbuck also scored for the Islanders, who were led by the Capitals, who scored four times in the first 6:22 of the third period.

Predators 4, Senators 3 (OT)



Nick Wass/AP

Washington Capitals right wing Eric Fehr, left, battles for the puck with Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby during the first period of Monday's game in Washington. The Penguins won 3-2.

Seth Jones scored the game winner net 3:49 of the overtime period as visiting Nashville held off the Ottawa comeback attempt.

The Senators overcame a three-goal deficit and forced overtime before taking the loss.

Coyotes 4, Lightning 3 (SO): Radin Vrba scored a shootout goal as Phoenix edged host Tampa Bay.

Vrba beat Ben Bishop with a backhand and Phoenix goalie Mike Smith stopped all three Lightning shootout shots to earn the win.

Avananche 3, Jets 2 (OT): Colorado forward Matt Duchene saw a cross-ice pass attempt carried into the net for the game-winning

goal at 2:33 into overtime.

Dustin Byfuglien scored both of Winnipeg goals.

Kings 3, Flames 2: Visiting Los Angeles scored the game's first three goals and held off a third-period Calgary rally to earn the win.

Justin Williams, Trevor Lewis and Anze Kopitar found the net for the Kings.

Maple Leafs 3, Ducks 1: Phil Kessel and Tyler Bozak each had a goal and two assists as surging Toronto beat host Anaheim.

Toronto coach Randy Carlyle returned to Anaheim for the first time since the Ducks fired the only coach to lead the franchise to a Stanley Cup title.

NHL

Game halted as Stars' Peverly collapses

Dallas forward stable at hospital after cardiac event on bench against Blue Jackets

By SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — When the pounding of their sticks on the boards didn't get the attention of the officials, Dallas Stars players jumped off the bench and onto the ice while the game was going on.

Teammate Rich Peverly had collapsed, and Stars coach Lindy Ruff was among those trying frantically to carry him into a nearby tunnel.

After the game stopped and the chaotic scene played out, the 31-year-old Peverly was stabilized, transported to a hospital and in good condition Monday night.

But for several anxious minutes on the ice, the Stars stood in stunned silence, clearly in distress, unsure what had happened to a player just six months removed from undergoing a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat.

"When he dropped, it was red alert," Ruff said after the game between Dallas and Columbus was postponed with the Blue Jackets leading 1-0 in the first period. "Don't worry about the game. It was about getting the doctors. The players don't want to play, and I don't want to coach the team right now."

Stars forward Erik Cole tried to rush into the tunnel just after Peverly was carried through, only to be turned away. He then gnawed at the thumb on one of his gloves while he waited for word on what the players would do next.

Sergei Gonchar stared blankly near fellow defenseman Trevor Daley, who was hunched over on the bench, wiping his face with a towel.

"I was scared," Ruff said. Play was halted at 6:23, and the postponement was announced about 30 minutes later.

Dr. Gil Salazar of UT Southwestern Hospitals said Peverly was treated "successfully" for a cardiac event at American Airlines Center.

"We provided oxygen for him," Salazar said. "We started an IV. We did chest compressions on



SHARON ELLMAN/AP

Dallas Stars center Rich Peverly played 6:23 of the first period on Monday against Columbus before collapsing on the bench. He was stabilized and transported to a Dallas-area hospital and remains there in good condition. Peverly underwent a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat six months ago.

him and defibrillated him, provided some electricity to bring a rhythm back to his heart, and that was successful with one attempt, which is very reassuring.

"As soon as we treated him, he regained consciousness. He was able to tell me where he was."

Many in the hushed crowd lingered long after the postponement was announced "as a result of the emotional state of the players on both teams caused by the medical emergency." The NHL didn't say when the game would be rescheduled.

Peverly's wife, Nathalie, ac-

"When he dropped, it was red alert. ... It was about getting the doctors. The players don't want to play, and I don't want to coach the team right now."



Lindy Ruff

Dallas Stars head coach

companied him to a hospital, and the Stars essentially took the Blue Jackets they weren't up for finish-

ing the game. "They're shaken and they want to reschedule. We understand

that," John Davidson, the Blue Jackets president of hockey operations, told Fox Sports Ohio.

"They were shaken to the core." Peverly missed the preseason and the season opener because of a procedure to correct an irregular heartbeat, a condition diagnosed during a training camp physical.

He made his Stars debut on Oct. 5 against Washington.

"We monitor him closely for a different type of arrhythmia he has," Salazar said. "He does have a pre-existing condition, and the condition — a normal quivering of the heart that does not allow him to send blood to places where he needs to, in his brain and heart."

Peverly sat out last week's game at Columbus because of an irregular heartbeat. He had felt strange after last Monday's game and couldn't fly back home with the team.

He played in Dallas' next two games — home victories over Vancouver (6-1) and Minnesota (4-3) before Monday.

"There wasn't any concern," Ruff said. "Our doctors have done a fabulous job monitoring the situation."

In 62 games this season before Monday, Peverly had seven goals and 23 assists.

He was acquired by the Stars last July from the Boston Bruins along with forward Tyler Seguin and defenseman Ryan Button for forwards Loui Eriksson, Reilly Smith and Matt Fraser and defenseman Joe Morrow.

"The first thing (Peverly) asked me was how much time was left in the first period," Ruff said.

The Stars went to the airport after the postponement, and even had a scheduled departure for Missouri that was earlier than it would have been if the game had been completed. Dallas is scheduled to play the Blues at Scottrade Center in St. Louis on Tuesday night.

"He's going to be OK," Ruff said. "The care he's getting and the care going forward is the most important thing."

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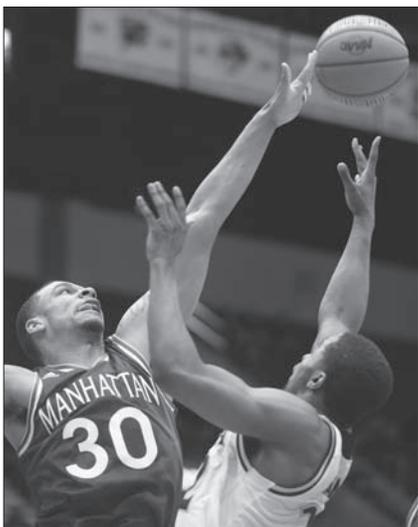


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Thursday, March 13
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 Cincinnati vs. Temple-UCF winner
 UConn vs. Memphis
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At Greensboro, N.C.
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
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 Miami vs. Virginia Tech
 Georgia Tech vs. Boston College
Second Round
Thursday, March 13
 Maryland vs. Florida State
 Pittsburgh vs. Wake Forest-Notre Dame winner
 N.C. State vs. Miami-Va. Tech winner
 Clemson vs. Georgia Tech-Boston College winner
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Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Mercer 68, Florida Gulf Coast 60
ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE
At Brooklyn, N.Y.
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 George Mason vs. Fordham
Second Round
Thursday, March 13
 La Salle vs. St. Bonaventure
 Dayton vs. G. Mason-Fordham winner
 Richmond vs. Duquesne
 UMass vs. Rhode Island
BIG EAST CONFERENCE
At New York
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Seton Hall vs. Butler
 Georgetown vs. DePaul
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13
 Villanova vs. Seton Hall-Butler winner
 Providence vs. St. John's
 Creighton vs. Georgetown-DePaul winner
 Xavier vs. Marquette
BIG TEN CONFERENCE
At Ogden, Utah
First Round
Thursday, March 13
 North Dakota vs. Sacramento State
 N. Arizona vs. Northern Colorado
 Montana vs. Portland State
BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE
Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Coastal Carolina 76, Winthrop 61
BIG TEN CONFERENCE
At Indianapolis
First Round
Thursday, March 13
 Indiana vs. Illinois
 Iowa vs. Purdue
 Minnesota vs. Northwestern
 Iowa vs. Penn State
Quarterfinals
Friday, March 14
 Michigan vs. Indiana
 Nebraska vs. Ohio St.-Purdue winner
 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota-Northwest
 Penn State
Big 12 CONFERENCE
At Kansas City, Mo.
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech
 Baylor vs. Texas Christian
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13
 Iowa State vs. Kansas
 Kansas vs. Oklahoma State
 Oklahoma vs. Baylor-TCU winner
 Texas vs. West Virginia
BIG WEST CONFERENCE
At Anaheim, Calif.
First Round
Thursday, March 13
 UC Santa Barbara vs. Poly
 Long Beach St. vs. Cal State Fullerton
 UC Riverside vs. UC Riverside
 Hawaii vs. Cal State Northridge
COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
At Baltimore
Seminifinals
Sunday, March 9
 Delaware 87, Northeastern 74
 William & Mary 75, Towson 71
Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Delaware 75, William & Mary 74
CONFERENCE USA
At El Paso, Texas
First Round
Thursday, March 13
 North Texas vs. Rice
 Florida Atlantic vs. Marshall
 East Carolina vs. Texas-San Antonio
Second Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Tulane vs. North Texas-Rice winner
 Utah State vs. Fla. Marshall winner
 UAB vs. East Carolina-UTSA winner
 Appalachian State vs. Charlotte
HORIZON LEAGUE
At Green Bay, Wis.
Seminifinals
Saturday, March 8
 Wright State 65, Cleveland State 63
 Milwaukee 73, Green Bay 66, OT
Championship
Tuesday, March 11
 Wright State vs. Milwaukee



STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

Manhattan forward Ashton Pankey blocks the shot of Iona guard Sean Armand during the first half of their MAAC conference tournament championship game Monday in Springfield, Mass. The Jaspers earned the league's NCAA bid with a 73-69 victory.

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
At Springfield, Mass.
Seminifinals
Sunday, March 9
 Iona 75, Canisius 72
 Manhattan 87, Quinnipiac 68
Championship
Monday, March 10
 Manhattan 71, Iona 69
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
At Columbus, Ohio
Monday, March 10
 Ohio 76, Ball State 64
 Miami (Ohio) 71, Kent State 64
 E. Michigan 72, C. Michigan 60
 N. Illinois 54, Bowling Green 51, OT
Second Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Ohio vs. Miami (Ohio)
 Eastern Michigan vs. Northern Illinois
Third Round
Thursday, March 13
 Akron vs. Ohio-Miami (Ohio) winner
 Buffalo vs. E. Michigan-N. Illinois winner
MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE
At Norfolk, Va.
First Round
Monday, March 10
 Norfolk State vs. Savannah State
 Norfolk State vs. Savannah State
MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE
Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Wichita State 85, Indiana State 69
MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE
At Las Vegas
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Utah State vs. Colorado State
 Fresno State vs. Air Force
 Boise State vs. San Diego State
Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13
 San Diego State vs. Utah State-Colorado State winner
 Utah State vs. Colorado State
 Fresno State vs. Air Force
 Boise State vs. San Diego State
Second Round
Friday, March 14
 Nevada vs. Boise St.-San Jose St. Force winner
NORTHEAST CONFERENCE
Seminifinals
Saturday, March 8
 Mount St. Mary's 72, Wagner 72
 Robert Morris 60, St. Francis (Pa.) 57
Championship
Tuesday, March 11
 Mount St. Mary's at Robert Morris

Select early-round games might have impact on Sunday

By JIM O'CONNELL
 The Associated Press

It's easy to skim through a list of league tournaments and skip over the opening days of the major conferences as games between teams that would be considered long shots to make the NCAA's field of 68 unless they won the whole thing.

Not so this season with two of the big conferences. The Big 12 and Pac 12 — along with the Big Ten — are expected to have the most at-large berths on Selection Sunday.

The Big 12 could have seven bids, a pretty impressive haul for a 10-team conference. The Pac-12, which lives up to its name, could match that.

Both leagues have two games in their early rounds that might not lock up a bid for the winner but almost certainly would and a chance at being one of the 36 at-large teams for the loser.

There are also some teams that face a tougher task than other at-large candidates because of where games are played. Here are a Pick Six of some games that could affect the teams as the conferences tournaments get started.

Big 12 first round

Oklahoma State vs. Texas Tech — The Cowboys put together a big close to the regular season, winning four of five after Marcus Smart returned from his three-game suspension for pushing a fan. An RPI around 40 doesn't mean a lock so the Cowboys have to watch out for the Red Raiders, who won six conference games and were in a couple of others down the stretch. A loss would make Selection Sunday seem months away.

Baylor vs. TCU — The Bears made their way back into the at-large conversation by winning seven of eight including Saturday's 76-74 victory at Kansas State. With an RPI in the mid-30s, the case would take an incredible hit if they were to lose to TCU, which didn't manage a conference win. If the bright yellow uniforms are to make an NCAA appearance, beating the Horned Frogs is a must.

Pac-12 first round

Oregon vs. Oregon State — The Ducks, who opened the regular season with a 13-game winning streak and closed it with seven straight wins including the 64-57 win over No. 4 Arizona on Saturday, have vaulted into lock status. An RPI in the mid-20s and being part of the five-way tie for third in the Pac-12 can make you feel that way. But a can't-lose game against your biggest rival seems



ERIC RISBERG/AP

Stanford guard Chasson Randle, left, is greeted by Stefan Nikolic on Saturday. A loss in the Pac-12 opener likely would kill the Cardinal's shot at an NCAA berth.

almost unfair especially when they have the league's leading scorer in Roberto Nelson.

Stanford vs. Washington State — The Cardinal are the top of the logjam for third place and with an RPI in the low 40s they can't afford to slip up against the Cougars who managed just three conferences wins and only 10 overall. Coach Johnny Dawkins will have to work his pregame speech around overconfidence as Stanford meets the conferences tournaments at two meetings with Washington State by 32 and 13 points.

Big East quarterfinals

Providence vs. St. John's — This is one of those games where the winner isn't guaranteed the bid but a loss almost certainly ends any hope. The Friars and Red Storm have resumes that are similar including RPIs in the 50s, a number that would take quite a hit with a loss in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament at Madison Square Garden. That's what makes this even tougher for the Friars, who split with the Red Storm this season, winning on each other's home court. This will give St. John's a second home game in the three meetings.

C-USA quarterfinals

Southern Mississippi vs. UTEP — The Golden Eagles were part of a four-way tie at the top of the Conference USA standings with Louisiana Tech, Middle Tennessee and Tulsa, all with 13-3 records. Southern Miss, with an RPI in the mid-30s, is the only one of the group with a legitimate shot at an at-large berth if they should lose a four-way tie at the top of the conference tournament. The quarterfinal matchup could be really hard on the Golden Eagles as they face UTEP, if the Miners win their second-round game. The tournament is being played at UTEP's Don Haskins Center, a fact that makes the Miners, who finished one game out of first, a lot tougher than the other quarterfinal opponents.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Delaware heading back to tourney

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Delaware guard Devon Saddler is headed to the NCAA tournament. A few years from now, the kid just might find himself working as a basketball coach.

Saddler showed his prowess as a strategist in the closing seconds of the Colonial Athletic Association championship Monday night, and the result was a 75-74 victory over William & Mary that thrust the Blue Hens into the NCAA tournament for the first time in 15 years.

Delaware trailed by a point when coach Marcus Ross gathered his team to draw up a play with 25 seconds left. Ross wanted to have Saddler, the Blue Hens' all-time leading scorer, take the pivotal shot.

"The first thing he said was, 'Get the ball inside to Bap,'" Ross said.

Good move. Carl Baptiste made the go-ahead layup with 10 seconds left, and not long after that the Blue Hens (25-9) were cutting down the nets at the Baltimore Arena to celebrate their fifth trip to the NCAA tournament.

"We've had a heck of a year," Ross said. "To cap it off like this is really special."

The Hens, who previously qualified in 1992, 1993, 1998 and 1999, were making their first appearance in a league championship since losing to Hofstra in the 2001 America East tournament.

"This one wasn't easy. Delaware

trailed 74-68 with 1:20 left before scoring the game's last seven points. After Saddler made two foul shots, Jarvis Threatt added a three-point play and Baptiste finished the comeback with a bullish layup.

"I tell you what, it was crowded in there when we got it to him, but he powered it into the basket," Ross said.

William & Mary had one last chance, but Marcus Thornton bounced a jumper off the rim just before the buzzer sounded. An instant later, Hens fans rushed the court to celebrate with the team.

In the end and from the outset, the 6-foot-9, 260-pound Baptiste was too much to handle for the third-seeded Tribe (20-12). He finished with a career-high 24 points, including 16 in the first half on 7-for-7 shooting. He finished 9-for-11 from the field, in addition to going 6-for-7 at the foul line and grabbing eight rebounds.

Thornton scored 22 and Tim Rusthoven had 16 for William and Mary, which trailed by 12 early in the second half.

"We fought and fought and fought until we got back in it," coach Tony Shaver said. "But they made some big plays."

Despite playing in the CAA championship game for the third time in the last seven seasons, William & Mary remains in search of its first NCAA tournament appearance. Along with Army, St. Francis (N.Y.), Northwestern and The Citadel, the Tribe are one of five original Division I members



GAIL BURTON/AP

Delaware's Carl Baptiste, facing camera, hugs Devon Saddler after defeating William & Mary 75-74 in the CAA championship game Monday in Baltimore.

never to have made the NAAs.

"We felt like we should have won the game," Thornton said. "We were in position to do it, so to lose is disappointing."

Delaware led 39-33 at halftime and went up 47-35 with 16:42 remaining before William & Mary used a 12-4 run to close to 51-46. Baptiste got his third foul with 11:37 left and was on the bench when Brandon Britt scored for the Tribe to make it 55-53.

It was 65-62 before layups by Rusthoven and Omar Prewitt gave the Tribe their first lead since 30-29. William & Mary increased its advantage to 69-65 with 3:34 to go before Darvon Usher popped a three for Delaware.

Thornton answered with a jumper and Prewitt drilled a three-pointer to make it 74-68, but the Tribe never got score again.

Jaspers get revenge, MAAC berth

By PAT EATON-ROBB
The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — Manhattan's first trip to the NCAA tournament in a decade came at the expense of rival Iona one year after the Gaels beat the Jaspers for the conference championship.

"Yep, this was one fun victory for George Beamon and the Jaspers.

Beamon scored 16 points and Manhattan beat Iona 71-68 on Monday night for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament title.

"The feeling we had last year, we weren't trying to have that," Beamon said. "I did not everything in my power and the guys did everything in their power not to let up any three's."

Beamon was one of four players to score in double figures for second-seeded Manhattan (25-7). Rhamel Brown had 15 points, Shane Richards finished with 14 and Emmy Andujar had 12.

The Jaspers have won 11 of 12, including an 80-77 overtime win over Iona at home just 10 days ago.

"This is just an amazing run," coach Steve Masiello said. "It doesn't happen. It's story-book-like. Normally you have like two or three things that are wrong. There's nothing wrong."

A.J. English had 15 points for top-seeded Iona (22-10), which had five players with at least 10 points.

The Gaels had a chance to tie it at the end but David Laury's first three-point attempt of the season hit the side of the rim at the buzzer.

"They did a good job switching out and unfortu-

nately, I had to take the shot," Laury said. "And I missed it."

Laury and Sean Armand finished with 13 points apiece. Tre Bowman scored 14 and Isaiah Williams had 10.

Manhattan led by as many as 10 points in the second half, but had to hold off a late charge by the Gaels.

English cut the deficit to two points twice down the stretch, with a layup and uncontested dunk with 18 seconds to play.

Iona then helped Donovan Kates, who made one of two free throws for his only point of the game. That set up the last try by Laury.

Iona, which averages more than 10 three-pointers per game, went 6-for-21 from long range against the Jaspers.

Manhattan led by eight early in the second half, but Iona responded by scoring the next 11 points, highlighted by Isaiah Williams' big dunk after he grabbed the rebound of a Laury miss.

Manhattan came right back. Ashton Pankey's dunk capped a 9-0 run that put the Jaspers back on top 44-38, and they never gave the lead back.

Whenever Iona would get close, Shane Richards would hit a three-pointer. His third of the half made it 59-54, and sparked an 8-0 run that put the Jaspers up by 10 points with 6 minutes to play.

Iona was looking for its third straight trip to the NCAA tournament. The Gaels, who got an at-large bid two years ago, are not expecting one this season.

Cochran, Wofford win Southern title

By STEVE REED
The Associated Press

ASHEVILLE, N.C. — Wofford guard Karl Cochran remembers waking up at 6 a.m. for preseason conditioning workouts, leaping over chairs and diving for loose balls and wondering how it was going to help him.

Now he knows. Cochran scored 23 points, and the Terriers beat Western Carolina 56-53 on Monday night to capture the Southern Conference championship and a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Cochran, the tournament's Most Outstanding Player, was 8-for-16 from the field and had five three-pointers. He made two big free throws with 5.3 seconds left to give Wofford a three-point lead.

The Catamounts had a chance to send the game to overtime but Trey Sumler's three-pointer rimmed out as time expired.

"In the preseason you're like when I am going to do this in a game?" Cochran said. "But you get here and you're like, it pays off. It certainly pays off. It's a long journey. You fight and struggle, but it pays off."

Lee Skinner had 11 points for the third-seeded Terriers (20-12), who will be making their third trip to the NCAA tournament in the last five years, but first since 2011.

Fifth-seeded Western Carolina (19-15) had another impressive comeback, but was unable to get the win this time. Brandon Boggs had 17 points, and Tawaski King added 10 points and nine rebounds.

The Catamounts made just five of 23 shots in the first half and trailed 27-20 at the break. James Sinclair then had a pair of jump shots in a 7-0 run to begin the second half.

It looked as if Western Carolina had the momentum at that point, but it couldn't grab the lead.

Instead, Wofford put together a 17-6 run to make it 44-33 with 8:33 left. Cochran, a junior guard, had eight points during that key

stretch.

Western Carolina rallied from nine points down to beat fourth-seeded Elon and overcame a 15-point deficit in the semifinals against top-seeded Davidson. Boggs tried to lead the Catamounts on one last comeback.

He scored on three straight possessions and King had a dunk to help trim Wofford's lead to 46-43 with 4:04 left.

"We've shown a million times that we don't give up," Boggs said.

Cochran and Sumler exchanged three-pointers, and Skinner and King each scored to leave Wofford in front 53-50 with 35 seconds remaining.

Western Carolina quickly fouled four times to put the Terriers into the bonus.

The strategy seemed to work when Spencer Collins missed the front end of a 1-and-1. But Skinner grabbed the rebound off the miss and was fouled. He made one of two free throws to make it a two-possession game with 28 seconds left.

The Catamounts failed to convert on their next possession and sent Skinner to the line again. This time he missed the front end and Boggs drilled a three from the left wing to make it 54-53 with 6.3 seconds left.

The Catamounts fouled Cochran on the ensuing inbounds pass and he calmly knocked down both free throws. Sumler was shadowed well on the final shot, but worked his way free to get an open look and his 20-footer hit the rim and bounced away.

Wofford coach Mike Young said he briefly contemplated having his team foul Sumler to avoid a potential tying three, but decided against it.

"We contested well and it worked out well in the end for us," Young said. "Thank goodness."

Skinner called the idea of heading to the NCAA tournament the best feeling in the world.

"It's the ultimate," he said. "Having that brotherhood around you and then with the fans and the school behind us it's incredible."



ADAM JENNINGS/AP

Wofford's Karl Cochran, left, defends Western Carolina's Trey Sumler during the Southern Conference championship game on Monday. Wofford won 56-53, and Cochran was the Most Outstanding Player.

NFL

Redskins, Cowboys out of salary cap jail

Teams back on even playing after being docked millions for violating restructuring rules

By JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the Washington Redskins were placed in salary cap jail by the NFL, Kerdric Golston had to say goodbye to his best friend on the team.

For the past two years, the Redskins and Dallas Cowboys — otherwise rivals to the bitter end in the NFC East — have been constrained by a much-disputed ruling limiting how much money they could spend on players. It's as if they were both forced to land on that "Go to Jail" space on the Monopoly board, while their opponents continued merrily down the financial money stretch buying up Park Place and Boardwalk.

"We lost some good football players," Golston said. "Obviously Lorenzo Alexander wasn't able to stay here because they didn't have the money to pay him."

Alexander was the Redskins' special teams captain. After he wasn't re-signed a year ago, Washington had one of the worst special teams seasons in recent NFL history.

The front office was able to maneuver the dollars enough to keep just about everybody else, but had no chance of adding free agents

of significance. While it's not the only reason — or even the main reason — the Redskins plummeted to 3-13, it sure didn't help.

Now Washington and Dallas are back on the same playing field as everyone else. The Redskins were docked \$18 million each of the last two years — 15 percent less to spend — while the Cowboys' hit was a more modest \$5 million for both 2012 and 2013.

Starting Tuesday, they had the same \$133 million cap as everyone else when the new NFL year officially begins with the opening of free agency.

"All's well that ends well," Golston said. "Obviously the money's there now. We weren't thinking about this two years ago, but you have a new regime who can go out and pick the players they want to pick."

Coach Mike Shanahan, who had final say over personnel matters, was fired at the end of the season. The buck now stops with general manager Bruce Allen, working with new coach Jay Gruden. Because the league-wide cap rose \$10 million, the Redskins are more than \$20 million under — even after their decision to slap an \$11.5 million franchise tag on linebacker Brian Orpik.

'All's well that ends well. Obviously the money's there now.'

Kerdric Golston
Redskins defensive lineman

They'll likely need every penny. Five defensive starters are set to become unrestricted free agents.

They could use two starting safeties, two starting linebackers and upgrades at cornerback, defensive line, offensive line and receiver. Owner Dan Snyder has been known to overpay for big names — Deion Sanders and Albert Haynesworth, just to name two — but the needs are so many that the coffers could dry up quickly if the spending gets too reckless.

The Cowboys, meanwhile, are still in a tight squeeze. They have been trying to restructure defensive end DeMarcus Ware's deal, which has a \$16 million cap hit this year, just to have a modest amount to spend in free agency.

Executive vice president Stephen Jones has said it's unlikely the club will pursue any expensive players. Receiver Miles Austin, whose six-year, \$54-million contract signed in 2010 got Dal-

las into trouble in the first place, is almost certain to be a June 1 cut that would save \$5.5 million under the cap.

Though the cap penalty has been served, the Redskins will be stewing about it for years to come. Allen called it a "travesty of fairness." Dallas owner Jerry Jones was a bit more restrained, but he also claimed his team "followed the rules" and yet was still penalized. Both teams filed a grievance and an arbitrator ruled in favor of the NFL.

The lingering debate is whether the punishment fit the crime, assuming there was a crime at all. The Redskins and Cowboys felt they were being clever when they structured contracts to load money into the 2010 year, when there was no salary cap.

But the league had warned all teams not to do that. The penalties were announced on the eve of 2012 free agency, the NFL de-

claring Dallas and Washington had "created an unacceptable risk to future competitive balance." The Redskins' free agency plans were thrown into disarray on short notice.

Allen, for his part, has never claimed the Redskins were innocent. Instead, he contended the league's warning didn't come with such a dire price tag.

"We were never warned that they were going to come back two years later and punish us," he said last year.

The players' union says the whole thing smacks of collusion and has taken the matter to court, even though the union initially signed off on the Redskins' and Cowboys' sanctions. In a legal sense, this could run for a few more years.

Meanwhile, Golston is curious to see what his team does with its newfound cap riches. His cautionary note: money isn't everything.

"Hopefully the money's going to be used on the right kind of player to help us win football games," Golston said. "For years, teams have spent tons of money and maxed out on the cap, and that doesn't mean they've had productive seasons. It's not about necessarily spending the most money."

Briefly

Vinatieri re-signs with Indy

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Adam Vinatieri had two wishes in free agency.

He wanted to win one more Super Bowl ring for his thumb, and he wanted to do it with the Colts.

Indianapolis refused to let the 41-year-old kicker slip away Tuesday, re-signing Vinatieri to a two-year contract just hours before he was to become an unrestricted free agent and after a couple of days spurring interest from other teams.

"It's always fun to have other teams calling but at the end of the day, they were all very distant competitors in this because I told my wife as long as the Colts want me around and we can get it done, I want to stay here," Vinatieri said during a conference call. "It's nice to know that you're loved but at the end of the day, being home is much more comfortable than going anywhere else."

Financial terms of the deal were not immediately available.

Vinatieri is widely considered the best clutch kicker in league



MARK ZALESKI/AP

The Colts re-signed kicker Adam Vinatieri on Tuesday, hours before he was to become an unrestricted free agent. Vinatieri is widely considered the best clutch kicker in league history.

history.

In other NFL news:

■ The New York Jets parted ways with wide receiver Antonio Holmes on Monday, cutting the talented but injury-plagued playmaker after four seasons.

The move saves the Jets \$8.25 million, which Holmes was due to make as his base salary this season. He was also scheduled to have a \$10.75 million cap number, a lofty total for a one-time Super Bowl MVP who has struggled with injuries and inconsistency the last two seasons.

■ Michael Bennett gambled last offseason that playing on a one-year deal in Seattle would

pay off in the future with the long-term contract he always wanted.

He was proven to be correct. Bennett now has a Super Bowl title and a new four-year contract that will keep him with the Seahawks.

"I don't know if there was any doubt, but there was a lot of speculation a lot of teams tried to get me to come there," Bennett said Monday after signing his new deal. "But ultimately I wanted to come back and play with these guys and win some more games."

■ The Atlanta Falcons agreed to terms on a new three-year contract with defensive tackle Jonathan Babineaux.

Dolphins owner says he'll pay for upgrades

By STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Dolphins owner Stephen Ross has offered to pay the entire tab for up to \$400 million in stadium renovations in exchange for a property tax break.

The upgrades would help keep South Florida competitive in bidding for Super Bowls and college football's championship games.

Stymied last year in his efforts to secure public money, Ross has agreed to pay for the project himself, two people familiar with the situation said Monday. Both people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the billionaire hasn't spoken publicly about his new financing plan.

Ross seeks \$2 million to \$4 million a year in property tax reductions and would continue to pay some property taxes, one of the people said. Ross has discussed his proposal with Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez, who said obstacles to a deal remain.

"We agree that unless renovations are made to Sun Life Stadium, Miami-Dade County will lose the opportunity to host another Super Bowl," Gimenez said in a statement. "Mr. Ross' proposal is better than last year's. However, there are still hurdles that the Dolphins organization must overcome before I feel comfortable

with the proposal."

Renovations would include a partial canopy to shade seats that are now exposed, installing new seats and moving others closer to the field, and upgrading the club level. Until now, Ross was unwilling to foot the entire bill, although he said improvements to the 27-year-old multipurpose stadium were badly needed to bring the Super Bowl back to Miami.

Rodney Barreto, chairman of the South Florida Super Bowl Host Committee, applauded Ross' change of heart and said the owner's request for property tax relief was reasonable.

"I'm overwhelmed," Barreto said. "It's fantastic and unprecedented. Mr. Ross is stepping up a big time. The guy is going to write a \$400 million check. This puts us back into contention, no doubt."

The NFL declined to comment.

Ross, 73, is a New York real estate developer with an estimated net worth of \$5.4 billion. But last year the Dolphins said stadium upgrades were impossible without public money, because they were heavily in debt and one of the NFL's most-leveraged teams.

When Ross sought up to \$379 million in county and state money for the project, his proposal was rejected by the Legislature. That removed South Florida from contention for the 50th Super Bowl.

SPORTS



Frantic scene

Game called off when Stars' Peverley collapses | **NHL, Page 27**

MLB

'Without a doubt'

Bonds says he deserves election to Hall of Fame

By **DON KETCHUM**
The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Barry Bonds certainly thinks he's worthy of election to the Hall of Fame.

"Without a doubt," baseball's home run king said Monday at the San Francisco Giants' spring training camp, where he will serve as a hitting instructor for a week.

The 49-year-old Bonds spent his last 15 big league seasons with San Francisco, finishing in 2007 with 762 homers.

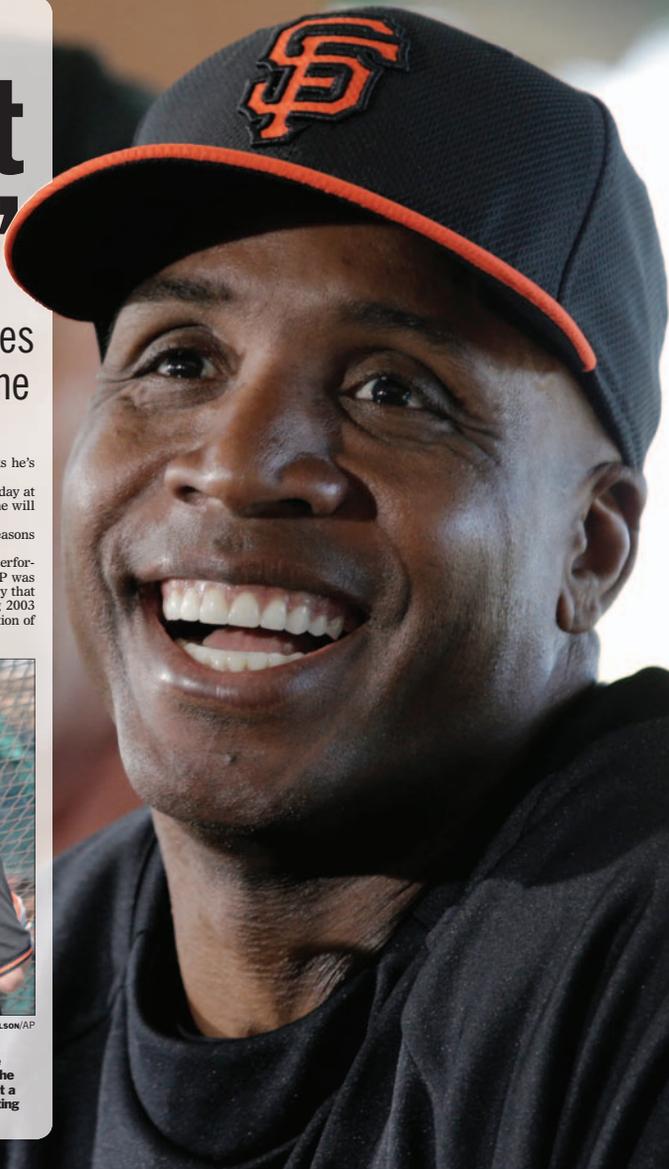
But his final years were clouded by suspicions of performance-enhancing drug use, and the seven-time NL MVP was convicted of one obstruction count in April 2011 by a jury that found an answer he gave was criminally evasive during 2003 testimony before a grand jury investigating the distribution of

SEE DOUBT ON PAGE 24



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Above: Former San Francisco player Barry Bonds chats with catcher Buster Posey during batting practice before Monday's spring training game between the Giants and the Chicago Cubs in Scottsdale, Ariz. **Right:** Bonds speaks at a news conference announcing his seven-day stint as a hitting instructor for the Giants. Bonds last played in 2007.



Three more teams earn NCAA berths
College basketball, Page 30

Griffin helps Clippers win eighth straight
NBA, Page 28

