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HAGEL: TIME FOR NEXT-GENERATION

BOMBER



Outgoing secretary of defense backs plans for long-range stealth plane

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on Tuesday made a final pitch for developing a new Air Force bomber, while questions linger about its affordability.

The Air Force long-range bomber fleet consists of 76 B-52 Stratofortresses, 63 B-1 Lancers and 20 B-2 Spirits, all of which were developed decades ago. Anti-aircraft systems have improved and proliferated since then, and officials and experts expect that trend to continue.

"As potential adversaries acquire 21st century defense systems ... the ability of these Cold War-era

bombers to get close enough to their targets to be effective will continue to deteriorate," defense analyst Jeremiah Gertler warned in a Congressional Research Service report last year.

To deal with emerging threats, Pentagon officials want Congress to fund a new long-range stealth plane, with the aim of achieving initial operating capability by 2025.

During what will likely be his last trip as secretary of defense, Hagel flew to Whiteman Air Force Base to make his most forceful argument yet for the new bomber. Whiteman, home to the 509th Bomb Wing, is where all of the nation's B-2s are based.

SEE BOMBER ON PAGE 2

A B-2, B-52 and B-1 fly in formation over Shreveport, La. Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

German police call into question validity of USAREUR license

By JENNIFER SVAN,
MARCUS KLOECKNER
AND JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Some German police say they will not recognize military-issued driver's licenses if the bearer doesn't also possess a valid stateside license, a situation that raises concerns about whether many U.S. troops and civilians could face penalties for driving illegally.

U.S. Army Europe said Wednesday that the issue was "in dispute" and cau-

tioned that there was misinformation circulating through the U.S. military community in Germany.

However, German police officials said that the regulations are clear, that anyone driving without a valid stateside license would be violating the law, and that the USAREUR license alone is not valid.

Across the U.S. military community in Germany, there was a sense of panic on social media forums about the apparent new German policy.

It could cause problems for many active-duty and civilian personnel whose licenses

“All of us were pretty much unaware of this. My chain of command, my co-workers, nobody was aware of this.”

Barry Henderson
civilian employee at Ramstein Air Base

have expired while they have been overseas. Historically, a military license has been considered sufficient to drive in Germany.

"There is a great deal of misinformation circulating around U.S. military installations in Germany regarding driving privileges," USAREUR spokeswoman Hilde Patton said.

"Among others, the following statement has been disseminated: 'Under the SOFA, USAREUR driver's licenses are only valid if accompanied by a current U.S. State Driver's License.' This statement is not correct because the matter is in dispute."

SEE LICENSES ON PAGE 6

NFL PLAYOFFS

2012 draft class turning Seahawks into powerhouse

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PACIFIC

Produce, dairy items being flown in to ease commissary shortages

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MILITARY

Obama, GOP may find common ground on Islamic State fight

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Faces: Katy Perry says she's ideal Super Bowl performer >> Page 17

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's the original American art form. We think that ... as part of our heritage, it's really important to reinforce the learning of jazz."

— Hope Matthews, Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe line arts coordinator, on the annual student DODDS-Europe Honor Jazz Seminar in Germany
See story on Page 14

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Ebola tests negative for Fort Hood soldier found dead at home
2. Talk of Petraeus indictment raises legal questions for ex-paramour Broadwell
3. Obama to offer proposal for war on Islamic State, senators say
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5. First female officer reports to submarine USS Minnesota

MILITARY



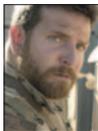
JOHN SLEEZER, THE KANSAS CITY (Mo.) STAR/AP

Above and below: Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks to airmen during a visit to Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Mo., on Tuesday.

COMING SOON

Movies

'American Sniper' a tribute to warrior, a lament over war



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Bomber: Modernization needed to counter new defenses

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The B-2 is a tremendous, tremendous platform," Hagel told airmen during a troop talk. "But the modernization [that other countries are undertaking] continues to push us out where we need more capability [and] we need it faster."

He told reporters traveling with him that the new bomber is "absolutely essential to keep our deterrent edge," and he warned of dire consequences of waiting to develop it.

"When your sons and daughters come into this business, we will have failed them terribly, dangerously so, if we don't make the investment now and start building out," he told the airmen.

Loren Thompson, a defense analyst with the Arlington, Va.-based Lexington Institute, also believes a new bomber is needed to counter emerging threats.

"The greatest immediate concern of the Air Force is the growing sophistication of Chinese air defenses," he said. Other countries are also improving their defense systems.

The B-2 is now the only bomber in the current arsenal that is truly stealthy, according to Thompson, and that capability won't last indefinitely.



Plans to build 80 to 100 stealthy, nuclear-capable Long-Range Strike Bombers will be costly, with an estimated price tag of \$80 billion. The Air Force proposal comes at a time when the Defense Department is about to get hit with massive budget cuts known as sequestration, which will eliminate tens of billions of dollars from the DOD budget each year through 2021 unless the law is changed.

The fleet will also have to compete with other nuclear modernization initiatives for

defense dollars. In a July report to lawmakers, defense experts on the congressionally chartered National Defense Panel described the Pentagon's long-term nuclear modernization plans as "unaffordable."

The authors of an Arms Control Association report published in October reached a similar conclusion.

"Current plans to modernize the [nuclear] triad are simply not sustainable in an era of budget constraints," they wrote.

They estimated that the Pentagon could save \$32 billion by postponing the development of the new long-range bomber for a decade.

Hagel told reporters traveling with him that he is prioritizing the new aircraft in the upcoming budget submission, to be unveiled next month, and he believes Congress will support the program.

However, the money might not be there over the long term, according to Thompson. "Whether it continues to be adequately funded will depend on whether the Budget Control Act lapses in 2021 and whether there's a sufficient sense of worry about overseas threats ... to keep Congress focused," he said.

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MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The first woman to serve aboard a Virginia-class fast-attack submarine reported last week to the USS Minnesota, pictured here arriving at its homeport in Groton, Conn. Six women, all officers, are joining the crews of the Minnesota and the USS Virginia in 2015.

First woman to serve on fast-attack sub reports to the USS Minnesota

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

The first woman to serve aboard a Navy fast-attack submarine has reported to the USS Minnesota. She is one of six officers expected to join fast-attack crews in the months ahead.

Two more women will report to the Minnesota by the end of January, with three more slated to join the USS Virginia in the spring, said Lt. Cmdr. Tommy Crosby, a spokesman for the Navy's Submarine Force Atlantic.

Integration of Virginia-class submarines comes three years into the Navy's effort to gradually bring female officers and enlisted into its undersea service. Female officers first came aboard Ohio-class submarines in late 2011. As of last summer, more than 60 women were serving in 14 submarines.

Submarines were one of the few remaining areas of military service off-limits to women when the Navy lifted its prohibition in 2010. Three years later, the Pen-

tagon removed the militarywide ban on women in combat units and required gender integration plans from each of the services.

The Navy's 10 Virginia-class fast-attack submarines are armed with Tomahawk cruise missiles and designed to conduct surveillance, seek out and destroy other submarines and carry Special Operations forces. They are smaller and have tighter quarters than Ohio-class submarines, the designation for ballistic-missile and guided-missile boats. Fifteen officers typically make up the wardroom in both classes.

The plan to bring the six female officers aboard Virginia-class submarines was announced in 2013 by Vice Adm. Michael Connor, commander of Navy submarine forces. Two of the women were to be supply officers, with the other four nuclear trained. Submarine officers must go through an intensive 18-month training.

The service says it will open positions for enlisted women on some Ohio-class submarines next

year and for several Virginia-class subs in 2020. All future submarines will be designed for integrated crews, the Navy has said.

The Navy's integration plans call for women to make up 20 percent of the enlisted crews on already integrated Ohio-class submarines by 2020.

The Navy has described the integration process as smooth, although a recent episode aboard the Ohio-class USS Wyoming raises questions about that. The Navy investigated 12 petty officers for sharing and watching a video of a female officer showering aboard the submarine, according to the Navy Times. One of the petty officers made the recording and passed it along, according to the report.

Connor has said two more fast-attack subs will be integrated next fiscal year, this time in the Pacific. The Minnesota and the Virginia are ported in Groton, Conn.

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DOD: Military suicides up slightly in 2014

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Suicides among members of the active-duty military rose slightly in 2014, led by increases in the number of sailors and airmen who took their own lives, new Defense Department figures show.

There were fewer suicides by Army soldiers and Marines, the two services that have seen the most combat in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last decade.

According to preliminary Pentagon data, there were 288 confirmed and suspected suicides by active-duty personnel in 2014, compared with 286 in 2013. Both totals represent a sharp drop from the 2012 number of 352. The data was obtained by The Associated Press.

Over time the numbers may change, particularly if deaths that were initially believed to be suicides are found to be otherwise.

The number of suicides by members of the active-duty National Guard and Reserve decreased a bit last year after going up slightly in 2013. Those totals are included in the overall 2014 numbers.

A year ago, officials were a bit heartened to see the number of suicides in 2013 drop by more than 15 percent from 2012, but they have consistently warned that this is a very difficult problem to address.

All of the services have beefed up programs to identify and reach out to troops who may be having problems, encouraging service-members to come forward if they need help and urging others to recognize and react to any signs of trouble in their unit colleagues.

"We are working to better understand the trends and what they mean, but it's probably too early to know exactly why the numbers

From 2013 to 2014

Navy suicides increased from 43 to 58.
Air Force suicides increased from 52 to 60.
Marine suicides declined from 45 to 35.
Army suicides decreased from 146 to 135.
SOURCE: Department of Defense

have risen," said Cmdr. Chris Servello, a Navy spokesman. "Across the force we continue to educate sailors about warning signs, when and how to intervene and that it's OK to ask for help."

Analysis by Pentagon officials has shown that more often suicides involve young, white men, usually married, using a non-military-issued gun. Many times the victims had reported family or relationship stress.

Military leaders have tried to create programs aimed at reducing stress and teaching troops about coping mechanisms and other tools to deal with daily pressures.

According to the data, the number of Navy suicides increased from 43 in 2013 to 58 in 2014; Air Force suicides increased from 52 to 60. Marine suicides declined from 45 in 2013 to 35 in 2014, and Army suicides decreased from 146 in 2013 to 135 in 2014.

According to the latest numbers available, the military suicide rate is sharply higher than the civilian rate.

The civilian rate for 2012 was almost 13 suicides per 100,000 people. The military suicide rate for 2012 was 21.8 per 100,000. Military suicides hit a record high in 2012, at 352, but had begun a somewhat steady rise in 2006.

Army: No signs of Ebola in soldier found dead in front of Texas home

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Two Ebola screening tests for a Fort Hood soldier found dead Tuesday morning after recently returning from West Africa were negative, Army officials said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention requires both tests to determine whether a patient is Ebola-free.

The soldier had recently returned from West Africa to Fort Hood, Texas, and was at his off-post home on emergency leave, according to an Army news release.

He had been following guidelines that call for twice-daily self-monitoring and reporting his status to medical officials and had shown no signs of Ebola, officials said.

The 24-year-old soldier was found lying face down in front of his home about 3 miles from Fort Hood when Killeen police officers arrived Tuesday morning, according to a police spokesman.

He was declared dead at 8:26 a.m., and authorities ordered an autopsy, police said.

After police learned the soldier had recently returned from West Africa, they

called the Killeen hazmat team and had the soldier's body sent to Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center at Fort Hood for Ebola testing.

The dead soldier was among about 80 soldiers with the 36th Engineer Brigade who returned to Fort Hood on Jan. 7 from Liberia.

At the time of the return, officials said the soldiers would remain secluded at Fort Hood for 21 days.

However, this soldier was allowed to visit his family under an emergency leave exception, the San Antonio Express-News

reported.

The soldiers spent about three months in Liberia building Ebola treatment centers, but Col. Heath Roscoe, the brigade commander, told the Austin American-Statesman that they were not in contact with any infected patients and avoided local food and shaking hands with local soldiers to prevent infection.

In November, an Air Force major who was flown to Fort Bliss after falling sick in West Africa tested negative for the virus.

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PACIFIC

Cabinet OKs Japan's largest defense budget

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

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan approved its largest defense budget Wednesday as it tries to take a greater role in its own security with an eye toward a resurgent China.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet approved a 96.34-trillion-yen (\$828 billion) budget for fiscal 2015 with 4.9 trillion yen (\$42.1 billion) for defense, a 2 percent increase from last year, officials said.

The budget will be forwarded to the Diet for final approval, which is seen as a formality as Abe's Liberal Democratic Party controls more than two-thirds of Japan's legislature.

Budget purchases for improved air, land and sea capabilities will bolster the Self-Defense Forces' state of readiness at a time when China is building island bases in the South China Sea and confrontations near Japan's southern island chain appear more and more frequent.

The budget calls for \$3 billion for 20 P-1 fixed-wing patrol aircraft, \$887.5 billion for six F-35A fighter jets, \$132.4 million for the Global Hawk drone system, \$443.7 million for five V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft and \$154 million to stand up an amphibious unit.



EUGENE HOSHINO/AP

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center, attends the annual Self-Defense Forces Commencement of Air Review at Hyakuri Air Base in October. Japan's Cabinet approved the country's largest-ever defense budget on Wednesday.

There also were considerable allocations for the U.S.-Japan alliance and the realignment of American forces in the region: \$14.6 million for the shift of U.S. Marines to Guam, \$10.3 million for a training facility in the Northern Marianas and \$878 million to move carrier-based aircraft from Atsugi to Iwakuni, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

The Cabinet also directed a sharp increase in funding for the move of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab in Okinawa's north, something that had been planned, at \$1.5 billion. The relocation has generated protests on the island that is home to the majority of American forces

in Japan.

Another \$76.5 million was allocated for expenses in closing military installations south of Kadena Air Base on Okinawa.

At a news conference, Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga denied that cuts in Okinawa's development budget, which surged under pro-relocation Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima, were aimed at punishing incoming Gov. Takeshi Onaga, who has vowed to block the already underway project. Suga said funds were left unspent last year.

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DeCA flies in food items stores lacked

Officials also consider local-source options

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An emergency fly-in of fresh dairy products, produce and meats will be welcome news at U.S. bases in the Pacific.

The Defense Commissary Agency is airlifting the chilled products to alleviate ongoing shortages at stores in Korea, mainland Japan and Okinawa, according to a DeCA news release.

The stores have been experiencing shortages due to a labor dispute on West Coast docks that has delayed orders from the U.S. by 10 to 15 days, according to DeCA officials.

The yogurt refrigerators at the Yokota Commissary were almost bare earlier this week. The fresh produce was also sparse before a load of supplies arrived last week. Customers quickly snatched up new bags of salads and other items, leaving the shelves empty again.

A commercial contracted aircraft will transport the chilled

items for delivery to commissaries by Friday and Saturday. Other chilled items will continue to be transported by ship, DeCA's statement said.

"For the time being, contingency airlifts of critical short shelf life items to Korea, mainland Japan and Okinawa is one part of the solution we're working to improve the timely delivery of products to all our stores in the Pacific," Agency Director and CEO Joseph H. Jeu said in a statement.

"We're also ramping up reorder and looking at more local source options. And we also want our patrons to know that there will be no change in price for the airlifted products," he said.

With shipments scheduled to arrive weekly, DeCA officials are asking customers to check store signs for updates. In addition, DeCA is advising customers to contact local store management about a product's availability if it's not on the shelf.

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FAIR WINDS PRESENTS
FEB 2, MON

Bar open at 6:00 a.m.
Game Start at 8:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST BUFFET
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. \$8.50 / person
(Includes coffee and juice)

AFTERNOON SHOW
Pre-game show (taped)
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Game 6:25 p.m.

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FEB 13, FRI
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After Feb 6 \$89 per person

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R.S.V.P by Feb 7 \$84 per person,
After Feb 7 \$89 per person

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TWO DAY SPECIAL EVENT
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ENJOY JAPANESE CULTURE BY EXPERIENCING ITS FOOD AND BEVERAGES

The Package will include a Tasting Event on Friday Night and a 5 Course Dinner on Saturday Night

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Mid Grade	\$215	\$227	\$261
Senior Grade	\$235	\$245	\$277
	Double Occupancy	Single Double	King
Junior Grade	\$310	\$322	\$362
Mid Grade	\$330	\$342	\$376
Senior Grade	\$350	\$360	\$392

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Saturday Morning

Includes Transportation, Sake Tour, Sake Tasting and Lunch \$35 per PERSON

EVENTS TIMELINE

- Friday Night Food and Beverage Tasting 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
- Saturday Night Dinner 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
- Saturday Sake Brewing Tour
Bus 1 (8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Bus 2 (9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.)
Bus 3 (10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

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THE NEW ANNO

EUROPE

US helps patrol area around Scotland base

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy contributed maritime patrol aircraft for operations with the Royal Navy off Scotland's coast last month in what British and American media have described as a hunt for a foreign submarine.

Two P-3C Orion patrol aircraft were dispatched to the United Kingdom for operations between Nov. 27 and Dec. 7 and again between Dec. 31 and Jan. 8, said Cmdr. Philip Rosi, a spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. Each time, aircraft were based at RAF Lossiemouth in northern Scotland, he said. They have since returned to the U.S. naval air base at Sigonella, Sicily.

The aircraft are part of the maritime patrol squadron VP-4 out of Hawaii, which is on a routine deployment to the Sicily base, Rosi said.

Neither Rosi nor a spokesman for the British Defense Ministry would speak to the nature of the operations. Citing unnamed sources, the British newspaper The Independent reported that British and American patrols were searching for a Russian vessel last week and that Russian submarines have

been making frequent "visits" off the northern and western coasts of Scotland. Of concern is the area around Gare Loch, the newspaper said, home to the Faslane naval base and the U.K. nuclear-armed submarine force.

The magazine Aviation Week reported a month earlier that Canadian and French maritime patrol craft joined British surface ships during a search for a foreign submarine off the western coast of Scotland in late November and early December.

Ben Barry, a military analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said that a foreign submarine in the area searched would cause alarm, though he didn't know the details behind the recent patrols. "Any country that's got ballistic missile submarines that's going to operate from a specific base is going to be very sensitive to the idea that they are being (observed by) an adversary and tracked," he said.

The U.S. says the Russian military has become more provocative in foreign waters and airspace since last year's escalation of tensions with the West over the seizure of Crimea from Ukraine. Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert, the U.S. chief of naval operations, told



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A Navy P-3C Orion with Patrol Squadron 47 lands at Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. P-3C aircraft from Sigonella participated in operations off the coast of Scotland in December in what British and American media have described as a search for a foreign submarine believed to be operating in the area.

an audience last year that Russia has been just as active undersea as it has in the air.

The Swedish military searched its waters last October after purported sightings of a foreign vessel. It later produced evidence of what it said was a submarine, including photos of a periscope and undersea tracks. Although officials never publicly blamed Russia, they left little doubt where their suspicions lay.

The British government has faced local criticism over the request for allied help in the search. The U.K. military axed its maritime patrol program in 2010 after a strategic defense review aimed at paring military spending. A pro-

gram to replace the Royal Navy's patrol aircraft, the MRA4 Nimrod, was due to begin the same year. Barry said defense officials believed at the time that U.S. and NATO allies could provide a long-distance maritime patrol capability when needed.

"What was not taken into account ... was a newly modernized and aggressive Russia," he said. "And quite frankly, that's going to have to be taken into account in the next review."

The British military can deploy other anti-submarine warfare tools, Barry said, including fast-attack submarines, frigates with special sonar capabilities and a maritime patrol helicopter, the

Merlin. He said the lack of a long-distance patrol platform wouldn't be the only reason for the U.K. to call on Atlantic allies, who would have a natural interest in reports of a nearby foreign submarine.

The P-3 — a four-engine turbo-prop with a crew of 11, including pilots, flight engineers and sensor operators — can cover a radius of more than 2,700 miles.

Former British Defense Minister Philip Hammond has said a maritime patrol capability should be returned to the British military. Officials could debate the issue again later this year, when the next review is scheduled.

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Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR



Officers' Club 243-5030

Adjusted Hours of Operation
From January 2 through April 30, the Deli, Kosano Dining Room and Warehouse Restaurant will be closed due to renovations. During this time, the Kurofune Lounge, Cash Cage and Slot Machine Room will be operating on adjusted hours: Kurofune Lounge - Sunday through Thursday from 1600 to 2300 and Saturday & Sunday from 1600 to 0100. Cash Cage & Slot Machine Room - Open daily from 1000 to 2300.

CPO Club 243-5506

CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!
Breakfast A la Carte
Saturdays from 0900 to 1100
MLK Dinner
Sunday, January 18 from 1700 to 2000
Join us as we prepare and serve a special buffet dinner to celebrate the life and accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King. Reservations are requested.
All-You-Can-Eat Prime Rib
Tuesdays from 1700 to 2100
Treat yourself and indulge in our all-you-can eat prime rib accompanied with a wonderfully prepared buffet. Limited menu is also available. Only \$22.95

Mongolian BBQ

Wednesdays from 1700 to 2100
Grab your chop sticks and mix up your own Mongolian BBQ and feast on our huge variety of meats, vegetables, sauces and condiments, Asian soup, pancit and fried rice. 75¢ per ounce.

Club Alliance 243-3000

Fantastically Fun Fridays
Fridays at 1700 in Italian Gardens Restaurant
Enjoy the most fun dining experience in Yokosuka! Pop music videos played on large screens and your chance to spin the big wheel for a prize! No holds barred on the fun you'll have every Friday night in Italian Gardens! All Hands welcome.

Girls Night Out with Wine Tasting & Girly Games
Friday, January 23 from 1900 to 2200 in 3rd Floor Ballroom
Get your tickets early! Ladies only and all welcome. Tickets available on-site at the Cash Cage on the 2nd floor.

Super Bowl Texas Hold 'em Tournament
Saturday, January 31 at 1900 in 3rd Floor Sports Bar
\$500 Guaranteed jackpot in NEX gift card. Complimentary Happy Hour, buffet and cash bar. 15 players minimum, \$50 buy in or extra chips are allowed for the first 30 minutes only; \$25 for \$2500 in chips. House rules in place.

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For 75¢/oz., build your own bowl with a variety of meats and veggies topped off with the seasonings of your choice! Guess the price of your meal within .5¢ and your meal is FREE!!! Core menu also available.

Scrumptious Sunday Brunch
Sunday from 0900 to 1330
Try our delicious mix of breakfast and lunch selections featuring crisp salads, sweet assortment of desserts and made to order omelets. \$13.95
"I Have a Dream" Brunch
Sunday, January 18
In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Club 1 will offer some of the American Icon's southern favorites! Our menu will consist of country fried chicken, baked sweet potato fries, seasoned squash, collard greens, biscuits and gravy, and much more! \$13.95 for adults, \$5.95 for kids age 11 years and younger.

MILITARY

Obama, GOP discuss same State fight

By CHRISTI PARSONS
AND MICHAEL A. MEMOLI
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and Republican lawmakers are renewing efforts to officially authorize the fight against Islamic State terrorists, an issue that could become one of the earliest areas of cooperation between the White House and the new GOP-led Congress.

Meeting with a bipartisan group of congressional leaders at the White House on Tuesday, Obama suggested Republicans and Democrats might be able to work together on the economy and national security, and both sides were poised to work on the details of a new authorization for military force.

After months of little action, the potential step forward could ultimately end the reliance on 9/11-era laws to wage war against a new generation of militants in the Middle East. Obama welcomed lawmakers' interest, "a clear signal of support for our ongoing military operations," a White House official said Tuesday night, requesting anonymity to discuss the closed-door meeting.

The nod toward collaboration came during the first major stop-down meeting since the GOP assumed control of the House and Senate. Both sides pledged to work

together, mentioning cybersecurity as another opportunity to join forces.

Still, the room was not in lockstep. Obama asked lawmakers not to pass tough new sanctions against Iran that he believes would derail the current diplomatic talks to end the country's nuclear program. He also made a pitch for a federal investment in infrastructure to boost the economy and create jobs.

From the other side, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., expressed disappointment that Obama had already issued a veto threat on the controversial Keystone XL pipeline, but was optimistic they could work together on cybersecurity.

As lawmakers gathered around the conference table of the White House on Tuesday, the fight against Islamic State was one agenda item that appeared primed for debate.

When Obama authorized airstrikes in Iraq and Syria last year, Congress was initially reluctant to wade into a war debate. But the mood among lawmakers shifted and they began demanding a vote on the issue. Many think the administration should no longer rely on the decade-old war authorizations.

House Speaker John A. Boehner has repeatedly insisted that any effort to draft a new force resolution

must begin with the White House, saying such measures historically have come from the executive branch. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, took a different view, saying in December that he would prefer the White House take the lead but that "we're not going to wait forever."

Obama has long said he would work with lawmakers to refine and repeal the 2001 authorization for use of military force, passed to fight al-Qaida, and another in 2002 to combat Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, but his team's interactions with Congress produced little. The president declared his support for repeal of the 2001 authorization in May 2013 and the White House confirmed its backing for repeal of the 2002 law a year ago. But the statement came with little action, leaving critics skeptical of the president's commitment to curbing his own powers.

As the fight against Islamic State ramped up, the White House maintained that the use of force was authorized by the 2001 law, a position some outsiders disputed. Still, Obama has said he believes it is good policy to rewrite the law to meet the current conflict. In November, he told reporters he planned to seek a new use of force authorization.

"The idea is to right-size and update whatever authorization Congress provides to suit the current

fight, rather than previous fights," Obama said. With Congress' to-do list already full at the end of last year, Obama acknowledged the process would carry over into the new year.

After Tuesday's meeting, Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., suggested the president had signaled a greater willingness to work with Boehner.

The speaker brought up the question, Hoyer said, and the president "indicated he thought that the AUMF was appropriate and important and that they were working on perhaps making some suggestions along that line."

The authorization for military force was also the crux of a conversation between Obama and Sen. Bob Corker, the new Republican chairman of the chamber's Foreign Relations Committee, on a trip to the senator's home state of Tennessee on Friday.

If the administration sends a resolution to the Hill, Corker said,

his committee would hold hearings "to really understand their plausible way forward, especially in Syria."

"It's obviously a front-burner issue," Corker said.

Obama pledged to listen to lawmakers' concerns and called for collaboration.

"I'm hopeful that in the spirit of cooperation and putting America first, we can be in position where, at the end of this year, we'll be able to look back and say we're that much better off than we were when we started the year," Obama said.

Still, there were indications that the president and the GOP expect a year of combat.

Before traveling to the White House, Boehner told reporters he intended to "make it clear to the president that we're listening to the American people," and said he hoped that Obama will "start to listen too."

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House considering bill to reclaim implicated VA managers' bonuses

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Department of Veterans Affairs executive bonuses are once more in the cross-hairs on Capitol Hill.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., introduced a bill this week that would allow the VA secretary to take back performance pay from managers implicated in last year's wait-time scandal and other wrongdoing — with no chance for an appeal.

The VA regularly paid out the bonuses to senior executives, and hundreds received them in 2012 and 2013, just before a series of revelations beginning in April showed veterans hospitals and clinics across the country were manipulating patient scheduling records to hide long and sometimes dangerous waits for health care. The falsely reported wait times led to higher annual bonus payments, which had ranged between about \$6,000 and \$12,000 for 292 senior executives, according to a VA inspector general's audit department data for fiscal year 2013 released

by the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Before resigning in disgrace in May, former VA Secretary Eric Shinseki suspended all future bonuses for fiscal year 2014, which runs through this fall.

"Ideally, VA employees and executives who collected bonuses under false pretenses should be subject to prosecution when warranted, but at a minimum their bonuses should be paid back in full," Miller said in a statement released Tuesday.

Department managers were rewarded if they kept veteran wait times under 14 days, and 70 percent of VA hospitals and clinics used inappropriate wait lists to doctor the figures, according to the inspector general.

In June, an audit revealed that 57,000 vets had been waiting longer than 90 days for health care.

Miller said the top employees "who presided over mismanagement and negligence" were more likely to get bonuses than punishment.

In one example, former VA employee Rebecca Wiley received nearly \$18,000 in bonuses while she served as the director of the Augusta and Columbia VA medical centers in Georgia from 2007 to 2013. During that time, mismanagement delayed 8,500 gastrointestinal appointments and nine veterans died while awaiting

treatment, according to the Augusta Chronicle.

The bill — the first Miller has filed as primary sponsor in the new Congress — calls for employees to first be notified and allowed a hearing with the VA secretary.

Any executive who felt the VA unfairly or wrongly recouped their bonus would have no way to appeal if the bill becomes law.

"The decision of the secretary regarding a repayment by an employee ... is final and may not be reviewed by any other agency or any court," according to a copy of the text provided by Miller's office.

The VA said it was not ready to comment on the legislation Tuesday.

"VA is reviewing the legislation and will provide formal views to the Congress following completion of our standard process," the department said in a written statement to Stars and Stripes.

The bill will now go before the Veterans Affairs Committee for debate.

A Bonuses debate on Capitol Hill last summer led to Congress passing a cap on the payments as part of a massive \$16.3 billion overhaul of the VA. It limits bonuses to \$360 million per year for a decade, an annual reduction of about \$40 million.

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NATION

Confident GOP takes aim at immigration

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Republicans in the House of Representatives are taking broad steps to overturn President Barack Obama's immigration policies and remove protections for immigrants brought illegally to America as kids.

It's a move by Republicans who are emboldened after capturing full control of Congress and infuriated by Obama's executive actions on immigration, relations with Cuba and environmental regulations. Republicans say Obama's moves amounted to an unconstitutional overreach that must be stopped.

Votes were set Wednesday on legislation worth nearly \$40 billion to finance the Homeland Security Department through the rest of the budget year. But some Republicans acknowledged that the Senate was likely to reject their approach, perhaps forcing them in the end to pass a bill stripped of controversial provisions on immigration. Even if it passes through Congress, Obama

has threatened to veto it.

Obama has also threatened to veto a bill that would roll back regulations on financial institutions put in place after the near-collapse of the U.S. economy in 2008. A House vote was also expected Wednesday on the bill that would alter sections of the 2010 Dodd-Frank financial overhaul.

Republicans have been eager to take up immigration since Obama announced major changes in November. The actions enraged Republicans because they had just won control of the Senate and increased their majority in the House.

House members were voting Wednesday on one amendment to undo executive actions that provided temporary deportation relief to some 4 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally. Another amendment would delete Obama's 2012 policy that granted work permits and stays of deportation to more than 600,000 immigrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as youths.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., a leading advocate in the House for comprehensive immigration reform, is joined by Rep. Jan Vargas, D-Calif., left, and Rep. Luis Guterrez, D-Ill., on Tuesday at a news conference on Capitol Hill on President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration reform.

That amendment would ultimately expose those young people known as "dreamers" to deportation.

It was demanded by conservative House members but has imperiled the bill's prospects in the

Senate, where even some Republicans have expressed unease.

Republicans remain six votes shy of the 60-vote super-majority needed to advance most legislation in the Senate.

The upper chamber would be reluctant to let immigration poli-

tics undermine funding of the Homeland Security Department, which has taken on renewed importance after the Paris terrorist attacks.

Homeland Security money expires at the end of February.

Democrats try to figure out how to reverse election-loss trends

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Congressional Democrats are in retreat in more ways than one this week.

As Democratic senators gather in Baltimore to talk strategy and lick election wounds, their party faces diminished powers in Congress, GOP dominance in many states and a shrinking pool of potential candidates for future elections.

In the November elections, Democrats lost their eight-year Senate majority and saw their House numbers fall to the lowest level in seven decades.

In the states, Republicans will hold 31 governorships and more state legislative seats than they've had since 1928. It espe-

cially vexes Democrats to see Republicans dominate the U.S. House delegations and the state governments in several states that President Barack Obama won, including huge legislative majorities in Florida, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"I think there's a lot of frustration," said Rep. John Yarmuth, D-Ky., who said the party has "failed to do something that I think represents an opportunity for us. We really haven't talked to the American people about what government does for them."

The big gap between Democratic success at the presidential level and elsewhere "is a real dilemma, I think, for democracy really, not just the Democratic Party," said Rep. David Price, of North Carolina, a 14-term congressman and former Duke University

political scientist. He said Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Virginia display the "most egregious" examples of gerrymandered districts for congressional and state legislative races.

This long-practiced brand of partisan map-making, Price said, helps Republicans control the legislatures of states that vote Democratic for president. But in a sign of local Democrats' struggles to change voters' minds, Price said the best prospect for reversing the trend — in the South, at least — is in lawsuits that allege racial bias in the way Republicans draw district boundaries.

Obama's veto power, plus Democratic senators' ability to block some bills with filibusters, will limit GOP success in Congress over the next two years. Meanwhile,

congressional Democrats are limiting their ambitions and hoping for at least a partial thaw in partisan gridlock.

Democratic Sen. Mark Warner, of Virginia, said he hopes both parties will move beyond campaign rhetoric. Congressional Republicans will naturally take credit for any legislative achievements, Warner said. However, he said, "a functioning government, when you've got a Democratic president, actually still helps Democrats."

Many Democrats say the party needs to sharpen its messaging. They note that voters in several states last fall approved referendums to raise the minimum wage and simultaneously ousted Democratic senators who backed the proposals.



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NATION

Cybersecurity bill gets reboot as White House updates 2011 proposal

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — In the wake of the hack at Sony Pictures Entertainment and other prominent data breaches, the White House tried Tuesday to jump-start the effort to pass cybersecurity legislation by unveiling an updated proposal aimed at ironing out major sticking points in a long-stalled effort.

The push is part of a week of White House announcements highlighting new technology and security policy initiatives for the new year. With announcements on data security, information sharing and broadband access, President Barack Obama is trying to strike some contrast with the new Republican leadership on Capitol Hill — while also suggesting a few areas of compromise.

“Cyberthreats are an urgent and growing danger,” Obama said Tuesday in remarks in suburban Washington at the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, which helps coordinate electronic communications among the government, the intelligence community and law enforcement.

He said that the move toward putting the nation’s infrastructure online makes the issue of cybersecurity “a growing public safety and public health” concern.

White House officials have mentioned cybersecurity as one of the most promising areas for common ground with Republicans. Passage of a series of bills in late December gave the issue

momentum in Congress, they say. Meanwhile, very public hacks, such as the major attack on Sony and the embarrassing breach of Pentagon social media accounts this week, are providing political pressure for more action.

Obama cited both examples when he met with congressional leaders earlier Tuesday for their first formal meeting of the new Congress to map out top legislative priorities. The president said cybersecurity was near the top of the list.

Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said he welcomed Obama’s interest in the issue, while suggesting that the president was a latecomer. In a statement, Thune said he hoped “the president’s actions on this critical subject match his rhetoric about working with Congress.”

The proposal Obama outlined Tuesday was a version of a 2011 administration plan, updated to accommodate concerns from the private sector and to reflect lessons learned from recent attacks. The proposal would encourage companies to share key information about a potential hack quickly with the government. In return, the government would limit those companies’ legal liability, if they removed certain personal data, a White House official said.

The proposal would also limit law enforcement’s use of that information to stopping cybercrimes, major threats to minors or threats to bodily harm, the official said, adding that the information could not be used for regulation.

Senior federal execs got less in bonuses in 2013

By JOSH HICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration scaled back its bonuses for senior government executives in 2013 as overall performance levels dropped for top managers compared with the previous year.

The Office of Personnel Management said in a recent report that federal agencies handed out smaller awards and fewer of them in 2013, staying well below the cap that Congress set in 2010. That means the government could have awarded more bonuses but didn’t.

OPM said federal agencies granted 13 percent fewer bonuses to career executives in 2013 and that the average cash amount for an award shrank by \$523.

At the same time, the percentage of career executives who achieved the highest performance rating fell by 2 points to 45 percent, according to the data.

Overall, about 56 percent of career senior executives received performance awards in 2013, representing a 13 percentage point decline compared with 2012.

The Senior Executives Association suggested Monday that the Obama administration has either become stingy or changed its standards for awarding bonuses, noting that the 2 percent drop in performance ratings was disproportionate to the 13 percent decrease in bonuses.

SEA president Carol Bonosoro

said in an email that the government’s pay-for-performance system is broken, saying it is “not perceived as fair, or necessarily transparent, but rather seems to be driven by fiscal concerns, as well as optics.”

Bonuses overall amounted to 3.4 percent of senior executive pay, representing a drop of 1 percentage point compared with fiscal 2012. Congress limited the awards to 5 percent of combined senior executive pay in 2010.

The falling numbers bode poorly for agencies that experienced turmoil in 2014, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Various government reviews last year found that VA clinics nationwide had falsified patient wait-time data, which was used to determine bonuses at VA medical clinics. The scandal, which was the biggest in VA history, prompted the department to halt its performance awards for 2014. It also led to the resignation of former VA Secretary Erik Shinseki.

According to the OPM report, about 22 percent of the VA’s career executives earned the highest performance rating in 2013, representing a drop of 2.5 percentage points compared with the previous year.

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Bartender indicted, said to be threat to Boehner

CINCINNATI — An Ohio bartender with a history of psychiatric illness was indicted on a charge of threatening to murder House Speaker John Boehner, possibly by poisoning his drink at a country club or shooting him, according to court documents.

A grand jury indictment filed in U.S. District Court in Ohio on Jan. 7 identified the accused man as Cincinnati resident Michael Hoyt.

R. Hoyt, said the records made available Tuesday.

A separate criminal complaint said Hoyt was fired last fall from his job at a country club in West Chester, Ohio, where he served drinks to Boehner, who is a member. The complaint says Hoyt told a police officer that before leaving the country club, he “did not have time to put something in John Boehner’s drink.”

Hoyt, 44, is currently being held under a court order for mental evaluation and treatment.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

Judge refuses to delay Tsarnaev trial over Paris attacks

By DENISE LAVOIE
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Jury selection will continue in Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's trial after a federal judge on Wednesday rejected the Boston Marathon bombing suspect's bid to suspend it because of the Paris terror attacks.

Individual questioning of prospective jurors begins Thursday. Tsarnaev's lawyers argued in a motion filed Tuesday that the French terror attacks had placed the marathon bombings "at the center of a grim global drama."

They said delaying jury selection would allow some time "for the extraordinary prejudice flowing from these events — and the comparison of those events to those at issue in this case — to diminish."

They said potential jurors have been instructed to avoid media reports about Tsarnaev's case, but were exposed to reports about the French attacks. Jury selection began last week in Boston. More than 1,350 prospective jurors have been called in to federal court to fill out lengthy juror questionnaires.

The judge is scheduled to begin questioning individual jurors Thursday.

Almost immediately after the attacks, the press, politicians, and commentators drew parallels between the French attacks and the Boston Marathon bombing," the

lawyers wrote.

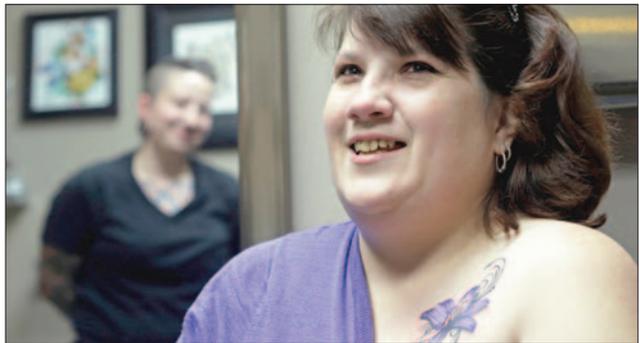
Judge George O'Toole Jr. denied the motion Wednesday, writing that his review of jury questionnaires filled out last week "has so far confirmed, rather than undermined, my judgment that a fair and impartial jury can and will be chosen to determine the issues in this case."

Jury selection began last week with more than 1,350 prospective jurors being asked to fill out lengthy questionnaires.

The Paris attacks began Jan. 7, the third day of jury selection in Tsarnaev's trial, when two brothers burst into the offices of the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and shot 12 people to death. A total of 17 people, including four hostages, were killed over three days. The brothers, Cherif and Said Kouachi, and a third gunman were killed by police.

In the marathon case, authorities say Tsarnaev and his older brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, planned and carried out the attack as retaliation for U.S. wars in Muslim countries. Three people were killed and more than 260 were wounded when twin bombs exploded at the finish line April 15, 2013.

Tamerlan was killed in a shootout with police days after the bombings. Dzhokhar, 21, could face the death penalty if convicted.



MORRY GASH/AP

Tattoo artist Ashley Neumann, left, watches as breast cancer survivor Mari Jankowski smiles as she talks about her new tattoo on Dec. 17 in West Allis, Wis.

Helping cancer survivors get tattoos

The Associated Press

WEST ALLIS, Wis. — For women who have survived breast cancer, breast or nipple reconstruction can be a first step toward looking like their old selves. A Colorado organization is helping some of those women, and others who don't choose reconstruction, in their emotional healing — through tattoos to help conceal their scars.

Pink is a Boulder-based group that helps connect survivors with tattoo artists. Its first annual Pink Day was in 2013, when it raised money and funded tattoos for 10 women in a single day in Brooklyn, New York. In 2014, the event expanded and featured all-volunteer artists in 12 cities in the U.S. and Canada who helped 38 women.

"I think a lot of survivors see

'I didn't see my scar anymore, and it was the biggest surprise and biggest gift in going through this process.'

Diane de Jesus
breast cancer survivor

this as their opportunity to define what breast cancer looks like on them, and that is the ultimate in personal empowerment we are shooting for here," said Noel Franus, who launched Pink with the help of others at the CP+B advertising agency, where he works.

Franus got the idea after his sister-in-law, Molly Ortwein, underwent a double mastectomy and wanted something more than reconstruction or tattooed nipples. She went to the family for ideas on a tattoo and got a pernambuco

tree blossom one in 2013.

Diane de Jesus was among the women tattooed in Brooklyn at the first Pink event. The 34-year-old dietician said she requested a dove on her reconstructed left breast because she dreamed about the birds while going through treatment. She said getting her tattoo gave her a feeling of taking back control.

"I didn't see my scar anymore, and it was the biggest surprise and biggest gift in going through this process," she said.

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WORLD

France combats pro-terrorism talk

54 arrests cited; Charlie Hebdo offers new issue

By LORI HINNANT
The Associated Press

PARIS — France ordered prosecutors around the country to crack down on hate speech, anti-Semitism and glorifying terrorism and announced Wednesday it was sending an aircraft carrier to the Mideast to work more closely with the U.S.-led coalition fighting Islamic State militants.

Authorities said 54 people had been arrested for hate speech and defending terrorism in the last week. The crackdown came as Charlie Hebdo's defiant new issue sold out before dawn around Paris, with scuffles at kiosks over dwindling copies of the satirical weekly that fronted the Prophet Muhammad anew on its cover.

After terror attacks killed 20 people in Paris last week, including three gunmen, President Francois Hollande said the situation "justifies the presence of our aircraft carrier." One of the gunmen claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group.

France is already carrying out airstrikes against the extremist group in Iraq. Hollande spoke aboard the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier to members of France's military.

Since the attacks, France has deployed 10,000 troops and 120,000 security forces in an area the size of Texas to protect sensitive sites, including Jewish schools and synagogues, mosques and travel hubs.

France has been tightening security and searching for accomplices since the terror attacks began, but none of the 54 people mentioned Wednesday have been linked to the attacks. That's raising questions about whether Hollande's Socialist government is impinging on the very freedom of speech that it so vigorously defends when it comes to Charlie Hebdo.

Among those detained was Dieudonne, a popular and controversial comic who has repeated convictions for racism and anti-Semitism.

Like many European countries, France has strong laws against hate speech, especially anti-Semitism in the wake of the Holocaust.

In a message distributed to all French prosecutors and judges,



People line up to buy the new issue of Charlie Hebdo at a newsstand in Paris on Wednesday. The defiant new issue sold out before dawn around Paris.

the Justice Ministry laid out the legal basis for rounding up those who defend the Paris terror attacks as well as those responsible for racist or anti-Semitic words or acts. The order did not mention Islam.

Also Wednesday, a top leader of Yemen's al-Qaida branch claimed responsibility for the Charlie Hebdo attack, saying in a video the massacre came in "vengeance for the prophet." The newspaper had received repeated threats previously for posting caricatures of Muhammad.

The core of the irreverent newspaper's staff died a week ago when gunmen stormed its offices, killing 12 people and igniting three days of bloodshed around Paris that left 17 victims dead. The attacks ended Friday when security forces killed both gunmen and an accomplice who separately seized hostages at a kosher grocery.

Working out of borrowed offices, Charlie Hebdo employees who survived put out the issue that appeared Wednesday with a print run of 3 million — more than 50 times the paper's usual circulation. After the weekly sold out, kiosk operators told people to return Thursday for a second run.

French police say as many as six members of the terror cell may still be at large, including a man seen driving a car registered to the widow of one of the gunmen. Officials say the widow is

now in Syria. There has been no word on the whereabouts of the driver or the car.

The Justice Ministry said the 54 people included four minors and several had already been convicted under special measures for immediate sentencing. Inciting terrorism can bring a 5-year prison term — or up to 7 years for inciting terrorism online.

In its message to prosecutors and judges, the ministry said it was issuing the order to protect freedom of expression from comments that could incite violence or hatred. It said no one should be allowed to use their religion to justify hate speech.

"We have all heard 'Yes, I support Charlie, but,' the double standards, the 'Why defend liberty of expression here and not there?'" #8221; Education Minister Najat Vallaud Belkacem said. "These questions are intolerable above all when we hear them

at school, which has the duty to teach our values."

The government order warned authorities to be particularly attentive to any incidents that could lead to urban unrest or violence against police. That suggested the government fears new riots like the wave that swept through France's neglected housing projects and immigrant communities a decade ago.

The government is writing broader new laws on phone-tapping and other intelligence to fight terrorism, spokesman Stephane Le Foll said. It also is launching a deeper project to rethink France's education system, urban policies and integration model, in an apparent recognition that last week's attacks exposed deeper problems about inequality in France, especially at its housing projects.

Singapore's navy finds AirAsia fuselage

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — A Singaporean navy ship has found the crashed AirAsia plane's fuselage, a 30-yard-long section with a wing attached, in the Java Sea, authorities said Wednesday.

Images taken by a remote-controlled vehicle from the ship showed parts of the plane's wing and words on the fuselage, Singapore Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen said on his Facebook page. He said Indonesian search officials have been notified so they can begin recovery operations.

The fuselage section that was found is 30 yards long and 10 yards wide with a height of 3 yards, Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency chief, Henry Bambang Soelistyo, said.

"The fuselage with a wing still attached on it was found in the priority search area and has been confirmed as part of [the] AirAsia plane," Soelistyo said.

He added it was some 1.8 miles from the tail, which was found earlier, and 2,625 feet from the black boxes, at a depth of about 92 feet.

President Joko Widodo expressed happiness for the discovery, saying that divers would examine the fuselage Thursday.

The plane carrying 162 people disappeared from radar on Dec. 28 less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya, Indonesia, to Singapore. Many of the victims are believed to be entombed in the main section of the aircraft's cabin.

Also Wednesday, fishermen found two bodies along with plane seats and debris off the coast of South Kalimantan, bringing to 50 the total of bodies recovered so far.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

World Bank cuts global economy forecast

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The World Bank, citing stagnation in Europe and Japan and a slowdown in China, downgraded its forecast for the global economy this year. It also reported that world economic growth came in below expectations in 2014.

The bank predicts the world economy will expand 3 percent this year, up from 2.6 percent in 2014. Last June, World Bank economists had forecast 3.4 percent global economic growth this year and 2.8 percent last year.

“The recovery has been sputtering in the Euro Area and Japan as legacies of the financial crisis linger — China, meanwhile, is undergoing a carefully managed slowdown,” the bank said Tuesday in the first of its twice-yearly Global Economic Prospects reports for 2015.

Plunging oil prices and stronger growth in the United States are expected to help boost global growth in 2015.

The bank expects the U.S. economy to grow 3.2 percent this

year, up from 2.4 percent in 2014. Growth among the 19 countries that use the euro currency is expected to pick up modestly — to 1.1 percent in 2015 from 0.8 percent last year. Likewise, the Japanese economy is expected to rebound to 1.2 percent growth this year from 0.2 percent in 2014.

The bank expects China's economy to expand 7.1 percent this year, down from 7.4 percent in 2014. The slowdown reflects in part the Chinese government's effort to rein in excessive lending and wasteful investment.

Overall, the bank expects high-income countries to grow 2.2 percent this year, up from 1.8 percent in 2014. Developing countries will grow 4.8 percent, an improvement from 4.4 percent in 2014.

The bank sees risks that could spoil its forecast. There's potential for a financial crisis if investors pull money out of emerging markets to take advantage of rising interest rates and improving economic prospects in the United States, and that could cause emerg-



A man walks past an electronic stock indicator in Tokyo on Tuesday.

MARKET WATCH	
Jan. 13, 2015	
Dow Jones Industrials	-27.16
	17,613.68
Nasdaq composite	-3.21
	4,661.50
Standard & Poor's 500	-5.23
	2,023.03
Russell 2000	0.54
	1,180.64

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (costs (Jan. 15))	\$1,2124
Dollar buys (Jan. 15)	€0.8248
British pound (Jan. 15)	\$1.56
Japanese yen (Jan. 15)	¥115.00
South Korean won (Jan. 15)	₩1,095.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1,5207
Canada (dollar)	1.1944
China (Yuan)	6.1968
Denmark (Krone)	6.3141
Egypt (Pound)	7.1501
Euro	\$1,1781/0.8488
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.7538
Hungary (Forint)	241.93
Israel (Shekel)	3.9076
Japan (Yen)	116.73
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2939
Norway (Krone)	1.6676
Philippines (Peso)	44.62
Poland (Zloty)	3.54
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7534
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3342
South Korea (Won)	1,092.38
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0194
Thailand (Baht)	32.77
Turkey (Lira)	2.2809

(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., non-U.S. British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies in U.S. dollars, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.50

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC

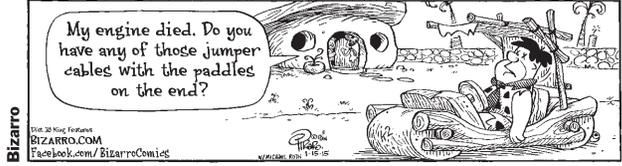
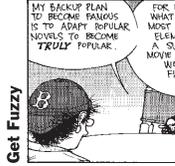
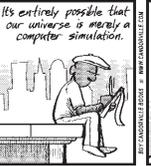
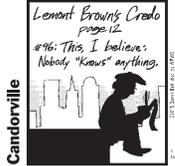
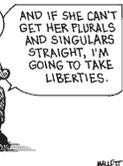


The weather is provided by the American Forces Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	56	32	Clr	Chatanooga	46	27	Clr	Fort Wayne	27	17	Clr
Akron, Ohio	28	20	Pcldy	Chicago	30	19	Clr	Fresno	62	39	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	46	16	Clr	Cincinnati	35	24	Pcldy	Grand Junction	38	15	Clr
Albuquerque	48	28	Clr	Cleveland	27	21	Clr	Grand Rapids	28	20	Clr
Allentown, Pa.	32	20	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	51	25	Clr	Great Falls	43	33	Clr
Amarillo	57	27	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	49	33	Clr	Green Bay	30	11	Clr
Anchorage	37	33	Clr	Columbus, Ga.	50	32	Clr	Greensboro, N.C.	46	31	Clr
Ashville	46	26	Clr	Columbus, Ohio	29	19	Pcldy	Hartford	30	18	Clr
Atlanta	48	31	Clr	Concord, N.H.	28	11	Pcldy	Hartford Springf.	30	18	Clr
Atlantic City	38	25	Clr	Corpus Christi	53	40	Clr	Helena	32	21	Clr
Atlanta	43	33	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	53	33	Pcldy	Honolulu	81	67	Clr
Baltimore	38	26	Pcldy	Dayton	29	20	Pcldy	Houston	53	36	Clr
Baton Rouge	48	33	Rain	Daytona Beach	66	48	Clr	Huntsville	45	27	Clr
Bilings	48	31	Clr	Denver	55	28	Clr	Indianapolis	31	20	Clr
Birmingham	46	29	Clr	Des Moines	37	22	Clr	Jackson, Miss.	44	28	Clr
Bismarck	33	14	Pcldy	Detroit	25	19	Snow	Jacksonville	59	41	Clr
Boise	34	28	Clr	Duluth	30	5	Clr	Juneau	41	36	Rain
Boston	31	23	Clr	El Paso	52	31	Clr	Kansas City	42	25	Clr
Bridgeport	32	23	Clr	Elkins	38	22	Clr	Key West	67	57	Clr
Brownsville	53	43	Clr	Erie	27	23	Clr	Knoxville	45	28	Clr
Buffalo	27	20	Clr	Eugene	51	43	Clr	Lake Charles	51	36	Clr
Butte	48	26	Pcldy	Evansville	38	27	Pcldy	Lansing	47	19	Clr
Caribou, Maine	18	8	Clr	Fargo	29	12	Clr	Las Vegas	60	41	Clr
Casper, Wyo.	35	26	Clr	Fayetteville	43	34	Clr	Lexington	33	24	Clr
Charleston, S.C.	53	39	Clr	Flagstaff	43	18	Clr	Lincoln	45	23	Clr
Charleston, W.Va.	41	26	Clr	Flint	26	17	Snow	Little Rock	47	29	Pcldy
Charlotte, N.C.	48	31	Clr	Fort Smith	48	26	Clr	Los Angeles	75	49	Clr
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Louisville	35	27	Clr	Louisville	35	27	Clr	Pocatello	36	21	Clr
Lubbock	56	28	Clr	Lubbock	56	28	Clr	Portland, Maine	28	17	Clr
Macon	51	33	Clr	Macon	51	33	Clr	Portland, Ore.	48	41	Rain
Madison	31	16	Clr	Madison	31	16	Clr	Providence	33	23	Clr
Medford	53	44	Clr	Medford	53	44	Clr	Pueblo	57	18	Clr
Memphis	46	30	Clr	Memphis	46	30	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	47	32	Clr
Miami Beach	78	64	Clr	Miami Beach	78	64	Clr	Rapid City	68	24	Clr
Midland-Odessa	54	30	Clr	Midland-Odessa	54	30	Clr	Reno	52	28	Clr
Milwaukee	30	19	Clr	Milwaukee	30	19	Clr	Richmond	42	30	Clr
Miss-St. Paul	32	13	Pcldy	Miss-St. Paul	32	13	Pcldy	Roanoke	45	30	Clr
Missoula	26	25	Clr	Missoula	26	25	Clr	Rochester	27	20	Clr
Mobile	82	68	Rain	Mobile	82	68	Rain	Rockford	30	16	Clr
Montgomery	50	30	Rain	Montgomery	50	30	Rain	Sacramento	62	44	Pcldy
Nashville	38	25	Clr	Nashville	38	25	Clr	St. Louis	41	27	Clr
Nearctic	31	16	Clr	Nearctic	31	16	Clr	St. Petersburg	68	24	Clr
New York City	35	24	Clr	New York City	35	24	Clr	St. Thomas	85	75	Clr
Newark	36	24	Clr	Newark	36	24	Clr	Salem, Ore.	51	39	Clr
Norfolk, Va.	41	32	Clr	Norfolk, Va.	41	32	Clr	Salt Lake City	39	25	Clr
North Platte	47	17	Clr	North Platte	47	17	Clr	San Angelo	57	29	Clr
Oklaahoma City	42	23	Clr	Oklaahoma City	42	23	Clr	San Antonio	66	35	Pcldy
Omaha	42	23	Clr	Omaha	42	23	Clr	San Diego	72	51	Clr
Orlando	68	50	Clr	Orlando	68	50	Clr	San Francisco	61	49	Clr
Paducah	41	27	Clr	Paducah	41	27	Clr	San Jose	64	45	Pcldy
Pendleton	41	39	Clr	Pendleton	41	39	Clr	San Juan, P.R.	81	69	Pcldy
Peoria	32	24	Clr	Peoria	32	24	Clr	Santa Fe	44	22	Clr
Philadelphia	37	26	Pcldy	Philadelphia	37	26	Pcldy	St. Marie	27	2	Clr
Phoenix	72	49	Clr	Phoenix	72	49	Clr	St. Savannah	54	38	Clr
Pittsburgh	30	20	Clr	Pittsburgh	30	20	Clr	Seattle	51	46	Rain
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Shreveport	52	34	Pcldy	Shreveport	52	34	Pcldy	Sioux City	36	18	Clr
Sioux Falls	35	17	Clr	Sioux Falls	35	17	Clr	Slous River Falls	35	17	Clr
South Bend	19	10	Rain	South Bend	19	10	Rain	Spokane	35	32	Clr
Springfield, Ill.	35	21	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	35	21	Clr	Springfield, Mo.	43	25	Clr
Syracuse	24	18	Clr	Syracuse	24	18	Clr	Tampa	68	52	Clr
Tallahassee	43	25	Rain	Tallahassee	43	25	Rain	Toledo	25	19	Clr
Tampa	68	52	Clr	Tampa	68	52	Clr	Toledo	25	19	Clr
Teledo	25	19	Clr	Teledo	25	19	Clr	Tucson	67	42	Clr
Texas City	42	26	Clr	Texas City	42	26	Clr	Tulsa	49	27	Clr
Tucson	67	42	Clr	Tucson	67	42	Clr	Union	42	26	Clr
Tulsa	49	27	Clr	Tulsa	49	27	Clr	Waco	53	27	Pcldy
Union	42	26	Clr	Union	42	26	Clr	Wichita Falls	55	28	Clr
Waco	53	27	Pcldy	Waco	53	27	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	37	25	Clr
Wichita Falls	55	28	Clr	Wichita Falls	55	28	Clr	Youngstown	27	20	Clr
Wilmington, Del.	37	25	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	37	25	Clr				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 84, Naples, Fla.
Lo: Tue., -35, Cotton, Minn.



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	47	48							49			50				
51								52			53				54	55
56									57						58	
59									60						61	

ACROSS

- 1 Homer's cry
- 4 Knocks
- 8 Warp crosser
- 12 Actress Gardner
- 13 Wrinkled fruit
- 14 Bread spread
- 15 Henry Hudson's ship
- 17 Addict
- 18 Dandy
- 19 Use up
- 21 Talk nonsense
- 24 Marry
- 25 Altar constellation
- 26 Wapiti
- 28 Bonfire residue
- 32 "Casablanca" role
- 34 A mere handful
- 36 Recording
- 37 Snatches
- 39 Talk

DOWN

- 1 Doo follower
- 2 Eventual aves
- 3 Gridiron position
- 4 Make unkempt
- 5 Past
- 6 Trudge
- 7 Tendon
- 8 Relative of "dost"
- 9 Differently
- 10 Pentameter parts
- 11 Rent
- 16 "Gift of the Magi" gift
- 20 Shell game need
- 21 Olympic gymnast
- 22 Met melody
- 23 Will Ferrell movie
- 27 Frat party item
- 29 Break in the game
- 30 Duel tool
- 31 Burn somewhat
- 33 High-tech type of car entry
- 35 Existed
- 38 Old French coin
- 40 Polished
- 43 Leading man?
- 45 Wardrobe malfunction
- 46 Penicillin base
- 47 Do what you're told
- 48 Come in second
- 49 Hardy cabbage
- 53 Whopper
- 54 Zero
- 55 Highland hat

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-15

CRYPTOQUIP

O G I P T R C - S M W Z C I P S H
 W L M Y M S I H G M O H , R R Y Z C R P I
 S G I R L K B S H Y R C G S S U W R K Z X X U

T I K R L K B H S I P S G H .
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MOST HIGH-QUALITY COAL PIT'S EMIT AN EQUALLY ROTTEN STENCH. APPARENTLY GREAT MINES STINK ALIKE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals C

EUROPE



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: Tenor saxophonist Joshua Steiner, of Naples, Italy, solos during rehearsals at the DODDS-Europe Honor Jazz Seminar in Ramstein, Germany, on Tuesday.

Left: Alex Cavoli, of Vilseck, Germany, plays the drums during rehearsal.

DODDS students bring talent — and all that jazz

Young musicians show their chops at honors seminar

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — When the final school bell rang at Ramstein High School on Tuesday afternoon and kids swarmed toward the exits, the eight students exercising their vocal chords in the music room didn't budge.

Their day wouldn't end for about two more hours.

On the second day of the DODDS-Europe Honor Jazz Seminar, there was still much tweaking to be done before Thursday evening's concert in Landstuhl, Germany, the culminating event.

The annual workshop aims to bring together the most talented student musicians in Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe and give them the opportunity "to show their chops and play with other students from other schools," said Hope Matthews, DODDS-Europe fine arts coordinator.

Why jazz?

"It's the original American art form," she said. "We think that ... as part of our heritage, it's really important to reinforce the learning of jazz."

This year, 190 students from throughout Europe tried out, a process that involves a blind audition and the submission of an instrumental or vocal recording. Students can try out for both categories and for more than one instrument, though instrumentalists are selected for only one instrument.

Thirty-three students made the final cut, most composing the band.

Ivy Griffin, a senior trumpet player from Kaiserslautern, Germany, was back for her third year. "It's just exciting to be around people that share the same pas-

sion for music, and they're all so very talented," she said. "I mean, at lunch, everyone was just jamming, and some of them, that wasn't even the instrument they were" picked for. "It's really exciting to have that energy."

Vicenza, Italy, senior Diego Nacionales was selected for bass guitar, but the first-time seminar attendee clearly had talent on the keyboard, which he displayed in one of those spontaneous jam sessions Griffin mentioned.

Nacionales casually revealed he plays six or seven instruments, from the trombone to the ukulele.

"Piano is my favorite," he said. "I tried out for that, but I didn't feel right doing all the jazz progressions, so I also tried out for the bass guitar."

Vicenza has a jazz band, so Nacionales has played jazz before, "but not at this caliber," he said.

Marcelus Harris, a Kaiserslautern senior who's one of two tenors in the vocal ensemble, said he's learned a lot about jazz in just two days.

"I hadn't really sung that much jazz before," he said. "I'm seeing all the ways you can do different stuff, how fun it is, how laid back it can be."

In four short days, the students had to master a range of big band tunes, from the likes of George and Ira Gershwin, Bernie Miller, Thad Jones and Charles Calhoun, while the vocalists have five songs to master.

The teenagers are unabashedly enthusiastic about the music genre.

"Oh, man, I love jazz music," said Ramstein junior Emanuel DeGuzman, a bartitone saxophonist who is participating in the jazz seminar for a second time.

He was introduced to jazz through Ramstein's jazz program. "I just wanted to move up in band



Above: The big band rehearses a number at the jazz seminar on Tuesday.

Left: Mikayla Maiava, of Vilseck, Germany, watches conductor Darmon Meader as she and other vocalists run through a song.



and get better," he said.

The students are supposed to know the material before the seminar, which focuses on bringing the notes on the page to life.

Darmon Meader, a vocalist and instrumentalist with the jazz quartet New York Voices, is this year's seminar clinician.

The challenge of playing jazz, he said, "has to do with stylistically understanding how to lift it off the page and actually make it swing, make it dance, make it do whatever it's supposed to do that makes it have that life that we all love when we hear really good jazz." Meader said he gladly agreed to come

Watch the DODDS-Europe Honor Jazz Seminar in action stripes.com/go/jazz



back for a second year to lead the seminar.

"We remember the important teachers we had when we were the age of these students and how those teachers are really the reason why we decided to go into music," he said of himself and fellow New York Voices members.

"We know that not all of these students are going to go on and have careers in music ... but we know how important it is for music to help shape them as well-rounded people."

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NATION



They don't belong in

captivity

Bottlenose dolphin Maia swims with her calf, Angel, at Gulf World in Panama City Beach, Fla., on Monday.

PATTI BLAKE, NAPLES (FLA.) DAILY NEWS/AP

Activist sees public shift on dolphin confinement

By JENNIFER KAY
The Associated Press

SOUTH MIAMI, Fla. — Ric O'Barry feels the tide turning in his long quest to change the public's mind about dolphins in captivity.

He went from being a dolphin trainer on the beloved "Flipper" TV series in the 1960s to an activist featured in the 2009 documentary "The Cove," which shows the killing of dolphins in Japan. His methods and protests against keeping dolphins on display often have been unwelcome as dolphin shows are popular and lucrative.

But in the wake of "The Cove" and the documentary "Blackfish," it seems O'Barry's desire to see all dolphins swimming free may have gained mainstream traction.

The National Aquarium in Baltimore announced last year that it was exploring the feasibility of an ocean-side sanctuary where its eight dolphins could retire.

Elected officials nationwide also have taken up the issue of marine mammals, including dolphins. In November, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a nonbinding resolution stating that whales and dolphins have the right to be free from life in captivity, and the city council of Malibu, Calif., issued a proclamation in February proclaiming that all whales and dolphins swimming offshore have the "right to their own freedom and lives."

"Validation! I was right! I feel great about that," O'Barry, 75, said recently at his South Miami bun-

galow. "Yeah, finally! It only took 50 years but they finally get it. They don't belong in captivity, they're admitting that."

O'Barry's still considered an extremist in an industry that questions why healthy dolphins with trainers who care for them would need sanctuary.

"I'm not sure when someone says a dolphin should retire that you're taking care of their mental and physical needs," said Rita Irwin, president-elect of the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks & Aquariums, which includes more than 60 marine parks, zoos and aquariums worldwide.

Irwin also is the CEO of the Florida Keys-based Dolphin Research Center, which in the 1990s took custody of a dolphin O'Barry released into the wild. The center said the dolphin was malnourished, while O'Barry maintained that the dolphin's health was good.

Irwin and O'Barry do agree that many dolphins in captivity generally are not good candidates for release because of the amount of time they've spent under human care.

O'Barry didn't always advocate to free dolphins. He once helped capture and train them for the Miami Seaquarium, where "Flipper" was filmed. He had a change of heart after the series ended and one of the dolphins, ailing in a steel tank, died in his arms. Decades of civil disobedience, media campaigns and advocacy followed through his independent organization, DolphinProject.net.

O'Barry argues that dolphins in captivity have no



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Ric O'Barry, who trained dolphins on the "Flipper" TV series in the 1960s, became an activist and was featured in the 2009 documentary "The Cove," which shows the killing of dolphins in Japan.

educational value because their activities bear no resemblance to what they do in the ocean. Visitors only see dolphins appearing to play without understanding the damage caused by confining animals that rely on sonar to experience their environment, he says.

He wants to see dolphins that can survive in the wild released, and those that can't be retired to open water sea pens where they would be protected from predators and kept from breeding so more dolphins won't be born in captivity. He's cheered by news that some institutions with captive dolphins now may be seeing his way of thinking.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gets 30-60 years in student's murder

PA PITTSBURGH — A man has been sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison in the death of a western Pennsylvania art student who authorities said was killed in an apparent drug deal that involved trading an iPad for heroin.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reported that Shilee Dixon, 21, of McKees Rocks, was sentenced Monday in Allegheny County Court. Dixon was convicted in a nonjury trial in October of second-degree murder, robbery, conspiracy and possession of a firearm by a minor in the May 2011 shooting death of Malachi Urbini, 20, an Art Institute student.

Taivon Cunningham, 23, is still awaiting trial in the case.

Boy found in car after answering mom's phone

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Authorities say they found a 3-year-old boy sitting in a car stolen outside a Utah day care Tuesday after he answered his mother's cellphone and honked the horn to draw their attention.

The boy's mother, Elizabeth Barrios, left the car running on a snowy morning as she dropped off another child at the day care around 7 a.m. in Ogden, about 40 miles north of Salt Lake City, police said. When she walked out, she saw someone driving her car away with her son, Aiden, inside.

Police arrived and called her cellphone, which was in the car, hoping to reach the thief and negotiate the boy's release. Lt. Tim Scott said. The boy answered the phone. He told his mother a stranger had driven away with her car and was going through her purse.

When the man was gone, officers told the boy to honk the horn and followed the sound to the car abandoned three blocks away.

Police officer stands trial in bean-bag death

IL MARKHAM — A suburban Chicago police officer had better and safer options than to fire beanbags to subdue a confused, knife-wielding 95-year-old World War II veteran, a prosecutor told the officer Tuesday at the outset of the officer's trial on a felony reckless conduct charge in the man's death.

With all of their police equipment, training and "common sense," Craig Taylor and the other Park Forest officers didn't have to storm into John Wrana's room at an assisted living center on July 26, 2013, Cook County State's Attorney Lynn McCarthy said during her opening statements.

They did so, though, and Taylor ended up firing five beanbags at Wrana, including the fatal one that struck his abdomen and caused internal bleeding, she said.

Worm farm could turn scraps into compost

NE LINCOLN — The Nebraska Farmers Union is seeking a grant for a worm farm that would turn Lincoln school food scraps into compost. The Lincoln Journal Star said



SUE OROCK/AP

Welcome, Achara

A baby Asian elephant walks with her mother, Asha, at the Oklahoma City Zoo in Oklahoma City. The baby elephant, born at the zoo on Dec. 22, was named Achara after that name received about 13,000 votes on the zoo's website.

the goals are to reduce waste that goes into the city landfill and create a soil product for community and school gardens. Jeremiah Picard said he's applied for a grant of more than \$169,000 from the Nebraska Environmental Trust to fund the project.

Food scraps would be taken to the future worm farm and ground up by machinery and heated by air forced through it. The resulting material would be fed to red wiggler worms. The worms excrete undigested material, soil and bacteria, creating a prized fertilizer.

Parent complains about school survey question

NC CANDLER — A parent is questioning a survey

used as a fundraiser at a western North Carolina high school.

The parent was upset about one of the questions on a "matchmaker" fundraising survey at Enka High School that included a question on sexual orientation.

The school's Junior Civitan Club passed out the survey. A company comes up with matches, and students could buy the results the week of Valentine's Day.

Club adviser Laura Roberts said most of the questions were about fun things, such as a student's favorite pet.

Roberts said she learned Monday that a parent had complained about the sexual orientation question, which asked if students were attracted to the opposite sex, same sex, both or were uncertain.

Roberts is meeting with the

principal to decide whether to cancel the fundraiser.

Damages reduced for teacher who was fired

IN FORT WAYNE — A federal judge has significantly reduced the nearly \$2 million in damages awarded to a former teacher fired by a Roman Catholic diocese for trying to get pregnant through in vitro fertilization.

The Journal Gazette reported that Monday's decision decreased Emily Herx's \$1.9 million judgment in her civil rights lawsuit to just less than \$544,000.

Herx taught at a diocese school. A federal jury in Fort Wayne found last month that diocese of-

THE CENSUS

89 The number of fires reportedly set during post-game revelry after the Ohio State Buckeyes won the first national title game in college football's playoffs. The fires were reported near the campus Tuesday morning, the Columbus Fire Department said. They involved trash bins, dumpsters and couches. No injuries were reported, according to Battalion Chief Tracy Smith. She said the 89 reports started coming in just before 1 a.m., with the last reported about 4:45 a.m.



officials discriminated against her when they declined to renew her contract in 2011 because she had undergone IVF.

Pet wallaby missing from kangaroo farm

WA ARLINGTON — The operators of Outback Kangaroo Farm near Arlington are hoping someone sees a pet wallaby that escaped Friday as it was being moved.

Joey Strom, who owns the farm with her husband, Ray Strom, said they're worried the tame animal could become prey for a cougar or bear.

The Daily Herald reported that the lost wallaby is a pet named Bella owned by Gayle Van Alstyne, of Maple Valley. She was moving Bella at the farm Friday when it broke away. Feet and tail impressions were tracked to the banks of the Stillaguamish River.

Principal: Arm kids with cans against intruders

AL VALLEY — A middle school principal in eastern Alabama wants to stockpile cans of food such as corn and peas in classrooms so students could hurl them as weapons in a last-resort confrontation with a school intruder.

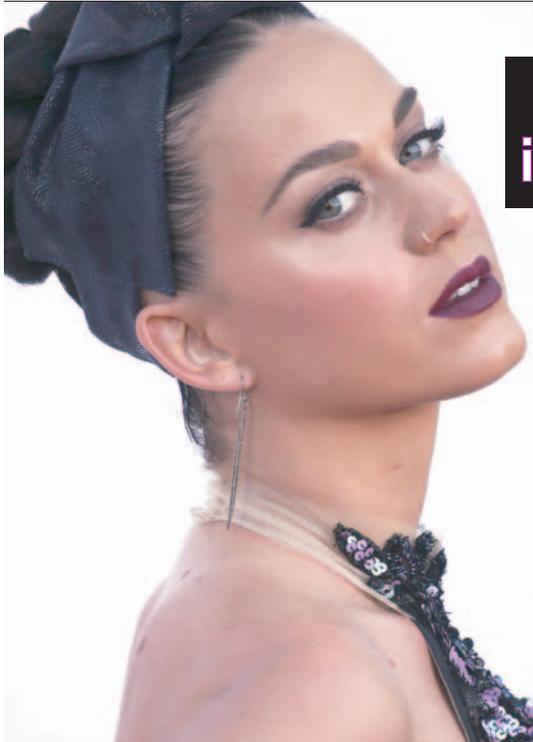
In a letter Friday, W.F. Burns Middle School Principal Priscella Holley asked parents to have each student bring an 8-ounce canned item. "We realize at first this may seem odd; however, it is a practice that would catch an intruder off guard," she wrote in the letter.

"The canned food item could stun the intruder or even knock him out until the police arrive," Holley wrote. "The canned food items will give the students a sense of empowerment to protect themselves and will make them feel secure in case an intruder enters their classroom."

The letter was sent after school employees received training from Auburn University's Department of Public Safety, Chambers County Schools Superintendent Kelli Hodge said.

From wire reports

FACES



Perry: My songs make me ideal Super Bowl performer

By RYAN PEARSON
The Associated Press

Katy Perry says her female empowerment anthems make her the ideal Super Bowl halftime performer after an NFL season shadowed by highly publicized domestic violence cases involving players.

Perry was in discussions with the league last year as it faced scrutiny over its handling of incidents including Baltimore Ravens star Ray Rice's elevator assault of his then-fiancee.

"It wasn't an image problem, it was a problem," Perry said in an interview last week. "We were all watching and asking ourselves questions about what this year would mean. But I think that the problem that the NFL is dealing with is a global problem ... we need to work out — or educate people on."

"I'm all about female empowerment and uplifting people's spirits, and people finding their own voice with songs like 'Roar' and 'Firework,' so maybe there is no better person" for the show, Perry added. "Hopefully I can bring that incredible strength and empowerment to people through the performance." Perry promised a 12-minute mash-up of

her hits, humor, multiple costume changes, at least two distinct "worlds" and special guests including Lenny Kravitz. She wouldn't comment on reports that she would perform an unreleased song.

The Super Bowl's massive TV audience — more than 110 million people last year — makes the halftime show a much sought-after gig for musicians. So much so that the NFL reportedly asked Perry and other finalists to pay for the privilege of performing Feb. 1 at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz.

Perry adamantly didn't agree to that. "I put my feet down very early in the courtship. I said, 'Look guys, here's where I draw a line in the sand,'" she said. "I want to be invited on my own merits and not with some fine print. I stuck to my position ... I don't even care if my contract leaks. ... I have nothing to hide, basically."

The broadcast has led to controversy in the past. Perry, 30, said she isn't about to risk anything with her biggest single audience ever. "Everything I've done in my career hasn't been blatant this or that. It's always with a wink. It's a soft-serve sexiness," Perry said. "My intention is that everyone talks about the music and nothing else ... Sometimes you can't control other people. But I will control myself."

"My intention is that everyone talks about the music and nothing else," says Katy Perry about her upcoming Super Bowl halftime performance.

AP

'Transformers' sequel leads Razzies worst-of list

From wire services

"Transformers: Age of Extinction" is rolling out with the most nominations at this year's Golden Raspberry Awards.

The action sequel starring Mark Wahlberg alongside morphing robots led all films Tuesday with seven nominations, including worst picture, worst sequel, worst screenplay and worst screen combo.

"Transformers" is also up for worst director for Michael Bay, worst supporting actress for Nicola Peltz, and worst supporting actor for Kelsey Grammer, who was also recognized for his supporting parts in "The Expendables 3," "Legends of Oz" and "Think Like a Man Too."

The nominations were released to The Associated Press on Tuesday ahead of an official announcement on Wednesday.

This year's other worst picture nominees are "Kirk Cameron's Saving Christmas," "Left Behind," "The Legend of Hercules" and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles."

The faith-based comedy "Saving Christmas" and the Kellan Lutz action flick "Legend of Hercules" both collected six nominations, including worst actor for Cameron and Lutz.

The nominees for worst screen combo are Cameron and his ego in "Saving Christmas"; Seth MacFarlane and Charlize Theron in "A Million Years to Die in the West"; any two robots, actors (or robotic actors) in "Transformers"; Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel in "Sex Tape"; and Lutz and either his abs, pecs or glutes in "Legend of Hercules."

The Razzies, which launched in 1980

as a spoof of Hollywood's awards season, added a new category this year called the redeemer award that lauds past Razzie honorees. The inaugural redeemer award nominees are: Ben Affleck for "Argo" and "Gone Girl" after winning the worst actor trophy in 2004 for "Gigli," "Daredevil" and "Paycheck"; Jennifer Aniston for her Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for "Cake" following four Razzie nods; Mike Myers for earning acclaim as the director of the documentary "Supermensch" after winning three Razzies for "Love Guru" in 2008; six-time Razzie nominee Keanu Reeves for rebounding with "John Wick"; and "Twilight" star and former Razzie recipient Kristen Stewart for earning rave reviews for the indie film "Camp X-Ray."

The winners of the 35th annual Razzies are selected by online votes from the organization's 757 members. They will be announced Feb. 21.

'Avatar' sequel delayed

Director James Cameron says the next "Avatar" movie has been delayed by one year and will now be released in late 2017.

Cameron is working on three sequels to "Avatar," which he plans to release over consecutive years. The first had been due in late 2016. But he says the writing process has been "very involved" and that the initial target date was probably too ambitious.

Cameron spoke Wednesday in New Zealand, where he was helping promote the local film industry with other directors

including Peter Jackson. Cameron shot the original movie in New Zealand and is planning to shoot the sequels there.

Eastwood, Linklater nominated

Wes Anderson, Clint Eastwood, Alejandro G. Inarritu, Richard Linklater and Morten Tyldum earned nominations Tuesday for the Directors Guild of America Award for outstanding directorial achievement in feature film.

The DGA Award is a key hint of directors' and films' Oscar odds. Anderson was nominated for "The Grand Budapest Hotel," Eastwood for "American Sniper," Inarritu for "Birdman," Linklater for "Boyhood" and Tyldum for "The Imitation Game."

Notably missing from the list of DGA nominees was Ava DuVernay, who directed the acclaimed "Selma," and David Fincher's "The Girl on the Train."

Linklater's nomination for his ambitious coming-of-age drama further solidifies his status as a front-runner in the Oscar derby. The first-time-DGA nominee, 54, won the Golden Globe for film direction Sunday.

The winner will be announced at the 67th DGA Awards dinner Feb. 7 in Los Angeles.

Other news

■ One of comedian Bill Cosby's upcoming Massachusetts shows has been canceled. Officials at the Hanover Theatre in Worcester say the promoter of the stand-up comedy show scheduled for Feb. 6 came to



PARAMOUNT PICTURES

"Transformers Age of Extinction" has the distinction of earning the most Golden Raspberry Awards nominations this year.

an agreement with Cosby's agent to cancel. Also, Ticketmaster is offering refunds for two Cosby shows scheduled in Denver for Saturday, but organizers say the performances will go on.

■ NBC News correspondent and anchor Ann Curry is leaving her full-time job with the network. But she will still be seen on NBC platforms, the company said Tuesday in announcing a partnership with her and the media venture she will launch to be "scooped" by NBCUniversal. Curry, 58, had been with NBC since 1990, joining as a Chicago-based correspondent.

■ Amazon Studios is delivering Woody Allen as creator of his first-ever TV series. The veteran filmmaker will write and direct all of the episodes of the half-hour series. A full season has been ordered for Amazon's Prime Instant Video, the company announced Tuesday. The series is expected to premiere in 2016.

NATION

Arizona scrapheap holds pieces of history

Planes stored in desert boneyard

By KEVIN BAXTER
Los Angeles Times

The first thing you notice about Pinal Airpark is the noise: There isn't any.

More than 120 massive airplanes — most outfitted with engines that, when revved, could make your teeth ache from half a mile away — are splayed on both sides of the airport's 6,800-foot runway. Yet the place is so quiet you could hear a rattlesnake approach.

The shah of Iran's private jet spent its last days here, parked next to aircraft the CIA used for covert missions in Southeast Asia and Central America.

Hulking jumbo jets that once ferried the rich and famous around the world in luxury now sit alongside tiny two-engine planes that were barely airworthy on their final flights for bankrupt Third World carriers.

They are all equal in death, however. And most of these planes have come to the desert outside Tucson to die.

"A lot of these, they'll never fly again," said Jim Petty, a pilot as well as the airport's economic development director.

Pinal Airpark is a boneyard for civilian aircraft, one of several scattered across the arid Southwest, where the dry climate prevents corrosion. That allows planes stored for years to be returned to service should a need arise.

Not that it arises often. More commonly the aircraft are salvaged for spare parts, perhaps stabilizer flaps and landing gear. The big money, though, will continue to come from storing, then destroying, the old airplanes Petty has grown to love.

With aircraft construction moving from aluminum to carbon fiber, which is lighter and stronger, the planes from the 1960s, '70s and '80s that cover the airfield are anachronisms, like typewriters in the computer age. But because 90 percent of an airplane is recyclable, they are valuable as scrap.

Once the planes have been stripped, a backhoe outfitted with a clawlike device rips the fuselage apart. A plane that took months to build can be shredded in hours, its aluminum then trucked into town to be recycled.

Some amount of planes that are going to be taken out of service and recycled is more than it's probably ever been before in the history of aviation," Petty said.

Many of the abandoned aircraft — Airbus A300s, Boeing 747s and 767s — are from airlines that still carry the distinctive paint schemes of the companies that flew them — Mexicana and China Southern, TWA and DHL. Across the taxiway are detritus from smaller airlines, such as Balkan Airlines, Turkmenistan Airlines and Air Madagascar.



Above: A jumbo jet's engine awaits resale, possibly in pieces, at Pinal Air Park in Marana, Ariz. **Left:** The landing gear from this relatively sound jumbo jet could be put to use again. The landing gear is one of the most desired parts of an old plane.

PHOTOS BY KEVIN BAXTER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Opened in 1943 as Marana Army Air Field, the airport was used as a training base during World War II. When the government began giving away its military airfields after the war, it decided the property to Pinal County, which in turn leased the facilities and most of the airport's operations to various tenants, including the CIA.

Here Petty's voice dropped to a whisper as he recounted rumors of a front company used to disguise black-ops missions into Vietnam, Tibet and Bangladesh in the 1950s and '60s and a daring mission to retrieve two agents from an abandoned Soviet base in the Arctic.

Reminders of the facility's secret past are everywhere, beginning with the abandoned guard shack at the end of the narrow two-lane road leading into the air park. Weathered signs still shout "No admittance" and "Authorized personnel only."

The site hasn't completely abandoned its military past. Just past the north end of the runway the Army National Guard has a train-

ing site, principally to teach pilots how to operate the Apache attack helicopter. It is also home to the U.S. Special Operations Command's parachute training facility, which plays host to elite units such as the Navy's SEAL Team 6.

But, Petty said, most of that happens on the other side of the fence now.

For Pinal County, which took over day-to-day operations of the air park last January, the focus is on improving the facility and making it an economic engine that provides jobs and revenue for the area.

"It's in pretty rough shape," Petty said of the airport. "And it hasn't been cared for too well lately. So we're hoping to turn that around."

The airport still handles civilian air traffic, although the runway needs repaving, a project scheduled to begin shortly. And some of the lightning equipment, which dates to the 1950s, must be replaced.

Petty hopes to fund some of that work by opening the air park to moviemakers and aviation buffs. One guy spent more than \$6,000 to rip out 38 seats and buy a few drink carts to decorate his factory.

But Petty the pilot admits he, too, pays a price for each of those sales.

"It makes me sad to see these planes all broken down like this," he said.

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OPINION

Many gun owners put children at risk

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
 Bloomberg News

The Children's Hour has come to the gunfight. Social media is giving disparate stories of children killed by, or killing with, guns a currency, coherence and reach that they lacked in the analog age.

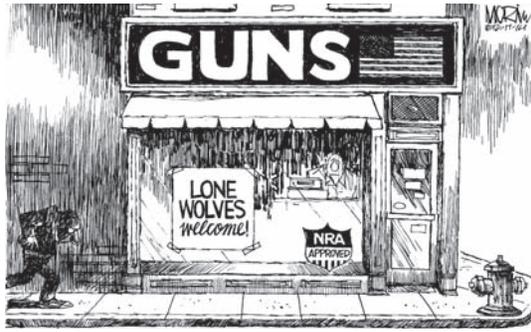
The anecdotes stack up like subjects in a morgue. A child grabbed a loaded handgun off his grandmother's dresser and shot himself. A 3-year-old shot and killed a man. Teenage boys played with a shotgun until one of them died. Another teen shot himself dead. In Idaho, a toddler shot his mother dead at Walmart. And, of course, there's the recent video of a baby playing with a (presumably unloaded, but realistically who knows?) handgun.

According to Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America (both supported by Michael Bloomberg, the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent of Bloomberg News), from December 2012 to December 2013, at least 100 children died in unintentional shootings.

Does it matter? Two years ago children were massacred in their classrooms in Newtown, Conn. Congress heard their parents' anguished cries and did nothing. Sen. filibustered comprehensive background-checks legislation, a policy backed by overwhelming public support and ironclad logic. (If it makes sense to restrict gun purchases by criminals and lunatics at retail outlets, then it makes sense to restrict them online and at gun shows.)

According to a Pew Research Center survey of 3,243 adults, about a third of Americans with children younger than 18 at home have a gun in their household, including 34 percent of families with kids under 12.

Many of those adults are responsible gun owners who keep their weapons safely beyond the reach of children. Others are the reckless products of a gun culture that encourages everyone — no matter how irresponsible, impaired or unhinged — to own guns and have them loaded and at the ready. After all, how else could these vulnerable, isolated individuals, abandoned by their government, fend off the murderous waves of "terrorists, home invaders, drug cartels, carjackers, "knockout" gam-



ers, rappers, hackers, campus killers, airport killers, shooting mall killers."

Responsible people rarely attract attention. But shocking ones do. And every time a young child dies because a "good guy with a gun" turns out to be a dangerous fool, it ripples. Social media is helping drive home just how many U.S. children live in shocking proximity to loaded firearms (and fools).

While kids have been killing themselves and others, the gun movement has been working to expand gun culture in public schools. The National Rifle Association has long had its Eddie Eagle program, educating the very young in gun safety (and, not incidentally, gun familiarity). After the Newtown massacre, NRA leader Wayne LaPierre characteristically demanded guns in schools.

Legislators in South Carolina are now looking to instill gun-movement ideology in the classroom. According to the Christian Science Monitor, State Rep. Alan ready to be insured. But what about the veterans who are not covered by either of these programs, as many are not, or the regular employees who do not receive special consideration?

Vets not focus of Hire More Heroes Act

By DANIEL FLATLEY
 Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times

The nation's veterans are once again cynically being used as a political cudgel. The U.S. House Senator Republican, James Van Hollen, announced last week for what is being called the Hire More Heroes Act, a bill that, in truly Orwellian terms, does something entirely different from what its title would have you believe.

On the surface, the Hire More Heroes Act sounds like a well-intentioned piece of legislation. It is purported to provide more jobs to America's veterans. And, after all, who can argue with that?

But in reality, it is simply another backdoor attack on the Affordable Care Act. And it once again patronizes veterans by excluding them from the uniform without addressing the bigger issues of why, or how, they serve.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Hire More Heroes Act would amend a section of IRS code to exclude employees receiving medical coverage through the military's health insurance, Tri-care, or certain programs administered by

the Department of Veterans Affairs from the employer mandate, which requires companies with more than 50 employees to either provide health insurance or pay a fine. Excluding veterans receiving health coverage from Tricare or the VA makes some sense, as they would, in theory, already be insured. But what about the veterans who are not covered by either of these programs, as many are not, or the regular employees who do not receive special consideration?

The success of the ACA relies on the idea that as many people as possible will enroll in the program, thus bringing down the cost for everyone. Whether this idea is ultimately sustainable is up for debate and there are serious questions about the viability of the ACA. But to exclude veterans from the employer mandate eats away at an important part of the law without truly examining its foundation. And it puts veterans in a very awkward position.

By virtue of their service, this country's veterans have proven time and again that they do not want to be left out of a fight. Either the ACA will work or it won't. But to exclude veterans from that debate, to give them a pass, is wrong.

While guns remain a largely unregulated free-for-all — remember the tragedy involving the Crickett rifle designed for kids? — all 50 states require child-safety seats for young children in automobiles. Adopting a similarly rudimentary level of safety for guns will require not only a legal evolution but also a cultural one. LaPierre has worked vigorously to set cultural norms for guns so distant from reality that they are beyond the reach of earthly common sense. On Planet NRA, the only means to keep children from an impending holocaust are lots and lots and lots of guns. "How many more copycats are waiting in the wings," LaPierre asked after Newtown. "A dozen more killers? A hundred? More?"

LaPierre is a cheerleader for dystopia because scaring people out of their wits is the essence of his job. Yet the armies of Adam-Lanza-like zombie killers have failed to materialize. Instead, we have only a relentless series of stupid gun deaths, many due to people who were too reckless to be responsible gun owners in the first place. The federal government has no comprehensive tally. But if you follow Twitter feeds such as that of Moms Demand Action founder Shannon Watts, you can watch the fatalities mount.

Francis Wilkinson writes editorials on politics and domestic policy for Bloomberg View.

We live in an age where less than 1 percent of the population actually serves or has actually served in the military. Terms like "hero" only serve to widen the civil/military divide, labeling veterans as a sacred "other," separate and distinct from the culture at large, to be seen and not heard.

To borrow a metaphor from sports, veterans have skin in the game when it comes to the ACA and all other pieces of legislation enacted by Congress. They served not only to protect and provide for themselves but to help protect and provide for others. Legislation (like the Post-9/11 GI Bill) that helps veterans gain education and new skills for the workforce offers good programs. They include veterans in the conversation. Legislation like the Hire More Heroes Act serves only to exclude and deepen the divide.

We should have a robust debate about the ACA. Arguments for and against it should be presented and carefully considered on their own merits, not undermined by feel-good legislation like the Hire More Heroes Act.

Daniel Flatley is a Watertown Daily Times staff writer covering politics and a former Marine. He writes an op-ed column once a week.

OPINION

Obama skipped rally but he's in big picture

By KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON

If we can be serious for a moment: President Barack Obama made an error in judgment by not sending someone with a higher profile than our ambassador to join world leaders Sunday at a solidarity rally in Paris.

The White House has admitted the error.

This more or less sums up the news of the past two days, but you wouldn't guess it from the coverage and commentary. Based on the nearly 24-hour rehashing of the administration's failure to assume a more important role at the rally, you'd think the U.S. had dropped out of NATO.

I'm not usually mistaken for an Obama advocate, but I'm finding it difficult to embrace the driftness of his uncharacteristic disobedience to stagecraft. The lead headline in the New York Daily News on Monday instructed the president: "You let the world down."

Really? The United States has been leading the world in the fight against terrorism for well over a decade, and the president let down the world by not appearing at a rally?

Don't get me wrong. The rally was important. Beautiful and profound, it was a consummate expression of the modern world's commitment to end the madness of terrorism. I loved every moment of it and, as both a reporter and a member of the human race, which are not always mutually exclusive, I longed to be there.

I also would have enjoyed seeing our president among the other 44 leaders who attended. But who really doubts America's commitment to fighting terrorism or supporting the French in this moment of crisis? Certainly not the French. Not the

terrorists. And certainly not our military men and women who have sacrificed blood and limb in the fight.

Thus, it seems we might reserve our high dudgeon for the murderous actors rather than the administration's decision to send only U.S. Ambassador Jane Hartley. Poor Hartley. She has been so minimized by Obama's critics that chopped liver sneers with contempt.

Realistically, it is entirely possible that Obama's advisers considered the terrorist threat in France sufficient to keep him away—not out of fear or lack of courage, as some commenters have suggested, but out of an abundance of caution. As important as all leaders are in the conduct of man's moment on the planet, none is as important to the enemies of freedom as the president of the United States.

Obama the man may not be able to alter the position of stars or rewind the tides, but Obama the president can move crowds—or inspire havoc. All it takes is just one of the thousands of jihadists believed to be living in France to pull a stunt with the U.S. president in attendance and the world teeters.

Moreover, anyone who has traveled with a president knows that preparations are elaborate and time-intensive. Dozens upon dozens of people work weeks or months in advance to plan and arrange such an expedition, coordinating security in the host country, mapping routes and timing details to the minute.

One reporter in Monday's White House news briefing pointed out that Obama was able to get to Nelson Mandela's memorial service on short notice. Why not Paris? Press secretary Josh Earnest responded that the Mandela memorial plans had been in the works for years. Spoiler alert: Re-



porters write important people's obituaries long before those people die, as well.

More to the point, South Africa hadn't just suffered a terrorist attack. In fact, it was such a relaxed occasion that one would have been comfortable taking selfies in the middle of the ceremony.

In the grand scheme of things, Obama's calculation may be unpopular but was probably the right one. No disrespect to France's ability to handle security around an enormous crowd while still reeling from a terrorist attack, but Obama's presence unquestionably would have added several more layers of concern, logistical headaches and, not inconceivably, imposed greater risk for the through.

Attorney General Eric Holder, who was in Paris at the time, would not have been so problematic. In hindsight, he should have filled the void. But beyond the historic optics, there was no rational reason to expect the president to be there. In fact, one could reasonably argue that his going would have been a dereliction of duty given the potential risks.

What France and other nations need from us is support, sympathy and, most of all, intelligence. Symbolic gestures have their place in diplomacy and war, but sometimes the wiser act is playing it safe.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Only inanities flow from Democrats on Keystone

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

Not since the multiplication of the loaves and fishes near the Sea of Galilee has there been creativity as miraculous as that of the Keystone XL pipeline. It has not yet been built but already is perhaps the most constructive infrastructure project since the Interstate Highway System, as has accomplished an astonishing trifecta.

It has made mincemeat of Barack Obama's pose of thoughtfulness. It has demonstrated that he lacks even a rudimentary understanding of the most basic economic realities. It has dramatized environmentalism's descent into infantism.

Obama entered the presidency trailing clouds of intellectual self-regard. His carefully cultivated persona was of a uniquely thoughtful, judicious, deliberative, evidence-driven man comfortable with complexity. The protracted consideration of Keystone supposedly displayed these virtues. Now, however, it is clear that his mind has always been as closed as an unshucked oyster.

America built the Empire State Building, then the world's tallest office building, in 410 days during the Depression. We built the Pentagon, still the world's largest low-rise office building, in 16 months while waging a war across two oceans. Keystone has been studied for more than six years. And Obama considers this insufficient?

Actually, there no longer is any reason to think he has ever reasoned about this. He said he would not make up his mind until



Sharon Garlena participates in a rally outside the White House on Saturday in support of President Barack Obama's pledge to veto any legislation approving the Keystone XL pipeline.

the Nebraska court ruled. If ruled to permit construction, so he promptly vowed to veto authorization of construction.

The more he has talked about Keystone, the less economic understanding he has demonstrated. On Nov. 14, he said Keystone is merely about "providing the ability of Canada to pump their oil, send it through our land, down to the Gulf, where it will be sold everywhere else. That doesn't have an impact on U.S. gas prices." By Dec. 19, someone with remarkable patience had ex-

plained to him that there is a world market price for oil, so he said, correctly, that Keystone would have a "nominal" impact on oil prices, but then went on to disparage job creation by Keystone. He said it would create "a couple thousand" jobs (the State Department study says approximately 42,100 "direct, indirect, and induced") and said, unintelligibly, "those are temporary jobs until the construction actually happens."

Well. Obama revealed his economic sophistication years ago when he said that ATMs and airport ticket kiosks cost jobs. He does not understand that, outside of government, which is all that he knows or respects, all jobs are "temporary."

John Tammy, editor of RealClearMarkets and an editor of Forbes, notes that Borders had 10,700 employees and 399 bookstores until it had none of either, thanks in part to Amazon, whose 150,000 employees have probably participated in enough creative destruction to know that permanence is a chimera. Blockbuster — remember that? — had 60,000 employees and more than 9,000 stores until rivals such as Netflix appeared.

To oppose the pipeline is to favor more oil being transported by trains, which have significant carbon footprints, and accidents. To do this in the name of environmental fastidiousness is hilarious. America has more than 2 million miles of natural gas pipelines and approximately 175,000 miles of pipelines carrying hazardous liquids, yet we are exhorted to be frightened about 1,179 miles of Keystone?

Or about the oil itself? Appearing on "Fox News Sunday," Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., objected that if Congress authorizes construction of Keystone this "would take consideration out of the hands of the administration," and "out of the current administration process."

Leave aside the question of how much of this process—that proceeds—nowhere Coons considers enough. And ignore the peculiarity of a legislator dismayed that the legislative branch might actually set national policy. But note the following, not because Coons is eccentric but because he is representative of Democratic reasoning: "Keystone means unlocking the Canadian tar sands, some of the dirtiest sources of energy on the planet, and allowing those tar sands to go across our American Midwest and then reach the international economy and our environment."

No jury would convict Coons of sincerity. Anyone intelligent enough to express that nonsense is too intelligent to believe it. Coons cannot believe that, absent Keystone, Canada will leave vast wealth — the world's third-largest proven crude oil reserve, larger than Iran's — untapped. The Canadian oil is going into the international market, and much of it into internal combustion engines around the world, even if this displeases Democratic senators who have demonstrated a willingness to look ludicrous rather than deviate from an especially silly component of today's environmental catchism.

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

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• Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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Table with 2 columns: EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, PACIFIC. Includes contact info for Kathryn Peterson, Van Rowell, and Robert Reismann.

Table with 2 columns: EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, PACIFIC. Includes contact info for Yoko Saito, Mari Matsumoto, and others.

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SCAM FADS Individuals claiming classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. No all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale.

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. No all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale.

Autos for Sale -Germany 142

Ford Mustang Shelby GT-500 2012, Opel Astra G 2007, Jeep Grand Cherokee Overland Summit 4x4 2012, Mercedes-Benz C-Class W204 2010.

Autos for Sale -Germany 142

Mercedes CLK 230 Coupe, Opel Astra G 2007, Mini Cooper S 2D Hatchback, Toyota Matrix XR Sport Package.

Autos for Sale -Belux 150

FORD Focus SE 2006, Renault Clio 2007, Volkswagen Golf 2007, Opel Astra G 2007.

Books 250

Current UMJC Books for sale \$40.00 Introduction to Public Speaking, Current UMJC Books for sale \$40.00 Introduction to Public Speaking.

Collectibles 350

50th Anniversary 2014 Hess Truck \$150.00 Mint condition in original package.

Home Electronics 570

Vocal 20-L Language Translator \$25.00 Price is in Euros, For more details, please call or email.

Automotive 140

MOOG Control arm, BMW-T 4270, 1995 \$60.00, Original MOOG control arm right lower from Touring (Stallone), etc.

Autos for Sale -Germany 142

Auto-SPEC Pre-owned US-Quality Vehicles, Chevrolet Corvete 206, 2001, Honda Civic 2000, 2002.

Autos for Sale -Germany 142

Land Rover Freelander 2013, Mercedes-Benz C-Class W204 2010, Opel Astra G 2007.

Autos for Sale -Belux 150

Audi A4 Station wagon, 1997, Opel Astra G 2007, Renault Clio 2007.

Books 250

Out of Kalambookos, Current UMJC Books for sale \$80.00 Concepts & Applications in Information Technology.

Cellular Phones 280

Emporia Talk Basic Cell Phone, Motorola Dely Mini Smart Phone \$60.00 Price is in Euros.

Antiques 512

Antique Sewing Machine \$150.00 For pictures email \$pendoo@gmail.com

Home Electronics 570

400P LG HPEC04 Media Player, Motorola Dely Mini Smart Phone \$60.00 Price is in Euros.

Autos for Sale -Japan 146

Toyota Fun Cargo, 2000, \$1450.00 Green, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Autos for Sale -Korea 148

Seavoyce Museo, 2001, \$300.00 Best condition, 4x4, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Furniture 510

China Cabinet \$350.00, American Size with Headboard, Queen Bed \$900.00, Reclying Chairs (2) \$250.00.

Furniture 510

Double Bed \$350.00, American Size with Headboard, Queen Bed \$900.00, Reclying Chairs (2) \$250.00.

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Queen Bed \$900.00, Reclying Chairs (2) \$250.00, American Size with Headboard.

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Autos for Sale -Japan 146

Toyota Fun Cargo, 2000, \$1450.00 Green, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Autos for Sale -Korea 148

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SCOREBOARD

Sports

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

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card playoffs
Carolina 20, Arizona 16
Baltimore 30, Pittsburgh 17
Indianapolis 24, Denver 13

Divisional playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 20
New England 35, Baltimore 31
Seattle 31, Carolina 13

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 25
Green Bay 26, Dallas 21
Indianapolis 24, Denver 13

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 1
AFC champion vs. NFC champion

NFL Draft early entries

Jay Aiyil, Jr., Boise State
Sammie Coates, yr, Auburn
Trey Coleman, Jr., Indiana
Landon Collins, s, Alabama
Amani Cooper, yr, Alabama
Donald Darby, cb, Florida State
Mike Davis, rb, South Carolina
Aidan Hardy, jr., Florida State
Derek Eskridge, s, Syracuse
Ereck Flowers, o, Miami
Devin Funchess, yr, Michigan
Melvin Gordon, rb, Wisconsin
Dorial Green-Perkins, yr, Alabama
Brandon Gregory, de, Nebraska
Drew Gordon, rb, Georgia Tech
El Hilo, de, Virginia
Chris Harper, yr, California
Drew Harris, jr., Oregon
Nigel King, yr, Kansas
Tyler Kraft, te, Rutgers
Benardrick McKinney, lb, Mississippi State

NFL calendar

Jan. 18 - Conference championships, Dallas vs. New England, Ariz. vs. Seattle
Jan. 19 - Super Bowl, Glendale, Ariz.
Feb. 1 - First day for teams to designate transfer or transition players.
Feb. 17-23 - NFL combine, Indianapolis

March 2 - Final day to designate transfer or transition players.
March 10 - All teams must be under the cap for 2014 player contracts; expiring free agency begins.
March 19 - Trading period for 2015 begins.

March 22-25 - Annual league meeting in Las Vegas.
April 6 - Teams with new head coach begin offseason workouts.
April 20 - Teams with returning head coach can begin offseason workouts.

College hockey

Tuesday's score

EAST
New Hampshire 2, Providence 1

AP spotlight

Jan. 15 - Joe Frazier knocks out Terry Daniels in the fourth round at New Orleans to retain the world heavyweight title.
1978 - The Dallas Cowboys take advantage of early Denver turnover to improve to a 27-10 victory over the Broncos in the AFC title game.

1990 - Golden State coach Don Nelson became the second coach to be named to appear in 1,000 games as a player and coach as the Warriors dropped a 144-105 loss to the Indiana Pacers. Lenny Wilkens was the first to accomplish the feat.

College basketball

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST
American International 79, Stonehill 70

Bluemeyer 77, Dominican (NY) 76
77, Seton Hall 75, 75 OT
Lazarene 62, Westwood 57
104, Fairfield 58
LeMay 77, Assumption 72
Mass.-Lowell 62, Maine 59
Middlebury 104, Tufts 59
New England 60, W. New England 58
New Haven 69, St. Michael's 58
Penn 67, Niagara 56
Post (Conn.) 95, Concordia (N.Y.) 70
S. Connecticut 120, Anselm 100
S. Hampshire 65, Pace 59
Syracuse 86, Wake Forest 83, 2OT
Urusruc 83, Washington (Md.) 68
VCLJ 69, Rhode Island 60

SOUTH
Ableson Christian 95, Northwestern St. 81

Ally Lloyd 90, Crown (Tenn.) 48
Ashby 82, Brescia 70
Kentucky 86, Missouri 37
Lipscomb 69, SC-Upstate 58
Middle Tennessee 77, Virginia Tech 59
New York 106, Duke 74
North Carolina A.T. 101, Houston Baptist 57
Pfeiffer 82, Barton 68

North Carolina 61, Wisconsin 59
61, Tennessee 74, Arkansas 69
Virginia 65, Clemson 59

MIDWEST
Concordia (Wis.) 65, Marian (Wis.) 48
Edgewood 93, DePaul 77
Georgetown 78, DePaul 77
Indiana 79, Penn St. 70
Lawrence 71, Minnesota 75
Purdue 67, Oklahoma State 57
Towson 69, Carroll (Wis.) 62
Milwaukee Engineering 68, Wis. Lutheran 63
LNU 63, Bradley 52
Rice 64, Michigan 52
Ripon 106, Lake Forest 103, 2OT
St. Norbert 73, Beloit 53

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST
CNYN 58, St. Joseph's (LI) 40
Dominican (NY) 56, Bloomfield 50
Marshall 60, St. Joseph's (Pa.) 50
Le Moyne 69, Assumption 58
S. Michigan 65, Williams 59
New England 52, W. New England 47
New Haven 77, St. Michael's 52
Penn 65, W. Hampshire 64, Pace 63
Stonohill 69, American International 49

Urusruc 69, Washington (Md.) 49
W. Michigan 62, Buffalo 59
Yale 53, Colby 45

SOUTH
Barton 66, Pfeiffer 49
Brescia 80, Ableson Christian 49
Cambridge 45, Gardner-Webb 74
Coastal Carolina 71, Charleston Southern 62

Connonite 70, Washington & Lee 58
Emory & Henry 72, Hollins 48
High Point 67, UNC-Charlotte 50
Liberty 70, Longwood 48
Lynchburg 69, Roanoke 51
Marshall 76, Virginia Tech 59
New York 92, Alice Lloyd 52
North Carolina 77, Wake Forest 57
Tulane 71, UCF 70

MIDWEST
Carroll (Wis.) 58, Lawrence 34
Lake Forest 71, Ripon 57
St. Norbert 64, Michigan 52
Wis.-River Falls 79, St. Scholastica 58

Baylor 79, Iowa St. 47
Lamar 82, Cent. Arkansas 46

AP International

Tuesday
At Olympic Park Tennis Centre
Sydney

Purse: Men, \$491,000 (W7250); Women, \$291,000 (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
First Round
Jeremy Chardy (F), France, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 6-4, 6-4
Viktor Troicki, Serbia, def. Martin Klizanec, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-4
Bernard Tomic, Australia, def. Igor Siyanev, Bulgaria, 6-3, 6-4
Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, def. Stanislav Golubev, Russia, 6-3, 6-4
Pablo Andujar, Spain, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 6-2, 6-2
Juan Martin del Potro, Argentina, def. Greg Stakhovych, Ukraine, 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-3
Vasek Pospisil, Canada, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 6-3, 7-6 (4)

Women
Second Round
Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Ekaterina Makarova (R), Russia, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4
Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Madison Keys, United States, 4-6, 4-1, 6-2
Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, def. Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, Spain, 6-0, 6-3
Barbora Zlahova, Slovakia, Czech Rep., def. Sam Stosur, Australia, 7-6 (1), 6-2
Garbine Muguruza, Spain, def. Agnieszka Radwanska, Poland, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2
Denisa Istomir, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-1 (1), 6-3
Polina Kvitkova (T), Czech Republic, def. Peng Shuai, China, 6-1, 7-5
Lucy Konecny, Canada, def. Maria Garcia Garrigosa, Russia, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (2), 6-3

AT ASB Bank Tennis Centre
Hobart, Australia
Purse: \$250,000 (Intl)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Second Round
Kurumi Nara, Japan, def. Johanna Konta, Great Britain, 6-0, 6-0
Heather Watson, Britain, def. Sloane Stephens (5), United States, 6-3, 6-1
Roberta Vinci (9), Italy, def. Annika Beck, Germany, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3

Double
First Round
Vitalia Diachenko, Russia, and Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Cara Black, Zimbabwe, and Zheng Saisai (1), China, 6-1, 6-0
Alexandra Nancarrow and Storm Sanders, Australia, def. Mirjana Murugus, Croatia, and Lisa Raymond, United States, 6-3, 6-3

Quarterfinals
Alia Tomljanovic, Croatia, and Heather Watson, Britain, def. Mirjana Murugus and Taylor Townsend, United States, walkover

Heineken Open

Tuesday
At ASB Bank Tennis Centre
Auckland, New Zealand
Purse: \$150,000
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
First Round
Kenny De Scheppe, France, def. Santiago Gonzalez (6), Russia, 6-2, 6-3
Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Thomas Fabbiani, Italy, 6-4, 6-3
Alejandro Falla, Colombia, def. Jose Statham, Australia, 6-3, 6-3
Pablo Carrero Busta, Spain, def. Borca Coric, Croatia, 6-4, 6-3
Nicola Pietrangeli, Argentina, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (7), Spain, 6-2, 6-0

Donald Young, United States, def. Go Soeda, Japan, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-3
Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (4), def. Alejandro Gonzalez, Colombia, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (1)

Albert Ramos-Violas, Spain, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-4, 6-3
Yen-Hsun Lu (9), Taiwan, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-2, 6-1

First Round
Andre Begeny, Romania, and Rob-Haase, Netherlands, def. Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 11-9
Dominic Ingil, Britain, and Florin Mergea, Romania, def. Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, and Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-3, 7-6 (1)

Pro baseball

Double
First Round
Julien Bannetteau and Edouard Roggevaert (1), France, def. Julian Knowle and Philipp Davatz, Austria, 6-4, 6-2
Josh-Julia Reiss and Andre Koenig, and Horja Tucek (2), Romania, def. James Duckworth and Chris Cueva, Australia, 2-7, 6-6
Rohan Bopanna, India, and Daniel Nestor, Canada, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, 6-7 (5), 6-4
Benjamin Becker, Germany, and Nicholas Monroe, United States, def. Marin Korjanev, and Jiri Vesely, Czech Rep., Finland, 4-6, 7-6 (3)

National Basketball Association
NBA - Suspended Brooklyn R Kevin Durant for 15 games for an altercation with Houston C Dwight Howard, who was fined \$150,000.

National Football League
NFL - Suspended Oakland A's signed OT Marcel Jones, RB Quinton Pontier, FB Kiko Elms, DE Zachary Tabor, TE Keith Wenning and TE Allen Reiser and Konrad Reuland to future contracts.

Baseball
Cleveland Indians terminated the contract of defensive coordinator Jim Schaefer, named Greg Romo offensive coordinator.

Baseball
Cincinnati Reds - Announced director of pro personnel Kevin Turkis is no longer with the team.

Baseball
Los Angeles Angels - Signed LB Mister Alexander and RB Ryan Williams to physical therapist and clinical coordinator.

Baseball
Denver Broncos - Signed QB Bryn Renner, RB Kapri Bibbs, C Matt Paradis, DE Gerald Rivers and WR Isaiah Bruce, Bennie Fowler and WR Nathan Palmer to future contracts.

Baseball
New York Giants - Signed RB Devin Williams, RB Chris Anderson, TE Kyle Richardson and WR Nathaniel Adams to future contracts.

Baseball
New York Jets - Named Mike Macdonald as offensive coordinator.

Baseball
Pittsburgh Steelers - Promoted line coach Mike Tomlin to defensive coordinator.

Baseball
Washington Redskins - Placed WR Paul Richardson on injured reserve. Signed QB B.J. Daniels from the practice squad.

Hockey
National Hockey League
Arizona Coyotes - Recalled D Phil Kessel from AHL to AHL to future contracts.

Hockey
Montreal Canadiens - Recalled F Stefan Fournier from Wheeling (ECHL) to AHL to future contracts.

Hockey
New Jersey Devils - Assigned D Justin Smith to AHL to AHL to future contracts. F Joe Whitney from Albany.

Hockey
Washington Capitals - Recalled D Steve Olesky from Hershey (AHL) to AHL to future contracts.

Olympic Sports
International Olympic Association - Named Brock McAffee vice president and chief financial officer.

Soccer
Major League Soccer
MLS - Signed D Aidan Adubal-Salaam, FS Akeli Barrett and Andy Craven and M. J. Robinson to future contracts.

Baseball
New York City FC - Signed M Mix Dierckx to future contracts.

Baseball
Seattle Sounders - Acquired G Terry Perkins.

College
American Football Coaches Association - Named Mike Maczeta a national coach of the year.

Baseball
Los Angeles Dodgers - Recalled R Matt Kemp from AAA to AAA to future contracts.

Baseball
Los Angeles Dodgers - Agreed to terms with C.A.J. Ellis on a one-year contract.

Baseball
Miami Marlins - Agreed to terms with pitcher Matt Moore to a one-year contract.

Baseball
Arizona Brewers - Named Gary Lucas pitching coach, Liu Rodriguez hitting coach and Mike Greening conditioning specialist. Steve Timmers of Wisconsin (MW) and Jose Ramos pitching coach to the Texas Rangers. Lenny Wilkens was the first to accomplish the feat.

Boxing

Fight schedule

Jan. 16
At Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, N.J., Willie Monroe Jr. vs. Bryan Reynolds, 10, 10, 10
At MGM CityCenter, Las Vegas, Bernabe Stiverne vs. Deontay Wilder, 12, for Stiverne's WBC World heavyweight title;

da Bencic, Switzerland, and Lucie Savoia, Czech Republic, 6-0, 7-6 (3).
At Madison Square Garden, Flavia Pennetta (2), Italy, def. Julia Goerges and Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, 6-0, 6-2.

At Madison Square Garden, Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez Navarro (3), Spain, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
At Madison Square Garden, Kiki Kravtchik, Netherlands, and Barbora Zlahova, Slovakia, Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-3, 10-4.

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Tuesday
At ASB Bank Tennis Centre
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Purse: \$250,000 (Intl)
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Second Round
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Los Angeles Angels - Signed LB Mister Alexander and RB Ryan Williams to physical therapist and clinical coordinator.

Baseball
Denver Broncos - Signed QB Bryn Renner, RB Kapri Bibbs, C Matt Paradis, DE Gerald Rivers and WR Isaiah Bruce, Bennie Fowler and WR Nathan Palmer to future contracts.

Baseball
New York Giants - Signed RB Devin Williams, RB Chris Anderson, TE Kyle Richardson and WR Nathaniel Adams to future contracts.

Baseball
New York Jets - Named Mike Macdonald as offensive coordinator.

Baseball
Pittsburgh Steelers - Promoted line coach Mike Tomlin to defensive coordinator.

Baseball
Washington Redskins - Placed WR Paul Richardson on injured reserve. Signed QB B.J. Daniels from the practice squad.

Hockey
National Hockey League
Arizona Coyotes - Recalled D Phil Kessel from AHL to AHL to future contracts.

Hockey
Montreal Canadiens - Recalled F Stefan Fournier from Wheeling (ECHL) to AHL to future contracts.

Hockey
New Jersey Devils - Assigned D Justin Smith to AHL to AHL to future contracts. F Joe Whitney from Albany.

Hockey
Washington Capitals - Recalled D Steve Olesky from Hershey (AHL) to AHL to future contracts.

Olympic Sports
International Olympic Association - Named Brock McAffee vice president and chief financial officer.

Soccer
Major League Soccer
MLS - Signed D Aidan Adubal-Salaam, FS Akeli Barrett and Andy Craven and M. J. Robinson to future contracts.

Baseball
New York City FC - Signed M Mix Dierckx to future contracts.

Baseball
Seattle Sounders - Acquired G Terry Perkins.

College
American Football Coaches Association - Named Mike Maczeta a national coach of the year.

Baseball
Los Angeles Dodgers - Recalled R Matt Kemp from AAA to AAA to future contracts.

Baseball
Los Angeles Dodgers - Agreed to terms with C.A.J. Ellis on a one-year contract.

Baseball
Miami Marlins - Agreed to terms with pitcher Matt Moore to a one-year contract.

Baseball
Arizona Brewers - Named Gary Lucas pitching coach, Liu Rodriguez hitting coach and Mike Greening conditioning specialist. Steve Timmers of Wisconsin (MW) and Jose Ramos pitching coach to the Texas Rangers. Lenny Wilkens was the first to accomplish the feat.

Boxing

Jan. 16
At Turning Stone Resort & Casino, Verona, N.J., Willie Monroe Jr. vs. Bryan Reynolds, 10, 10, 10
At MGM CityCenter, Las Vegas, Bernabe Stiverne vs. Deontay Wilder, 12, for Stiverne's WBC World heavyweight title;

da Bencic, Switzerland, and Lucie Savoia, Czech Republic, 6-0, 7-6 (3).
At Madison Square Garden, Flavia Pennetta (2), Italy, def. Julia Goerges and Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, 6-0, 6-2.

At Madison Square Garden, Garbine Muguruza and Carla Suarez Navarro (3), Spain, def. Timea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.
At Madison Square Garden, Kiki Kravtchik, Netherlands, and Barbora Zlahova, Slovakia, Czech Republic, 4-6, 6-3, 10-4.

Hobart International

Tuesday
At ASB Bank Tennis Centre
Hobart, Australia
Purse: \$250,000 (Intl)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Second Round
Kurumi Nara, Japan, def. Johanna Konta, Great Britain, 6-0, 6-0
Heather Watson, Britain, def. Sloane Stephens (5), United States, 6-3, 6-1
Roberta Vinci (9), Italy, def. Annika Beck, Germany, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3

Double
First Round
Vitalia Diachenko, Russia, and Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Cara Black, Zimbabwe, and Zheng Saisai (1), China, 6-1, 6-0
Alexandra Nancarrow and Storm Sanders, Australia, def. Mirjana Murugus, Croatia, and Lisa Raymond, United States, 6-3, 6-3

Quarterfinals
Alia Tomljanovic, Croatia, and Heather Watson, Britain, def. Mirjana Murugus and Taylor Townsend, United States, walkover

Heineken Open

Tuesday
At ASB Bank Tennis Centre
Auckland, New Zealand
Purse: \$150,000
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
First Round
Kenny De Scheppe, France, def. Santiago Gonzalez (6), Russia, 6-2, 6-3
Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Thomas Fabbiani, Italy, 6-4, 6-3
Alejandro Falla, Colombia, def. Jose Statham, Australia, 6-3, 6-3
Pablo Carrero Busta, Spain, def. Borca Coric, Croatia, 6-4, 6-3
Nicola Pietrangeli, Argentina, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (7), Spain, 6-2, 6-0

Donald Young, United States, def. Go Soeda, Japan, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 6-3
Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-4, 7-6 (4), def. Alejandro Gonzalez, Colombia, 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (1)

Albert Ramos-Violas, Spain, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-4, 6-3
Yen-Hsun Lu (9), Taiwan, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-2, 6-1

First Round
Andre Begeny, Romania, and Rob-Haase, Netherlands, def. Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 11-9
Dominic Ingil, Britain, and Florin Mergea, Romania, def. Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, and Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-3, 7-6 (1)

Pro baseball

Double
First Round
Julien Bannetteau and Edouard Roggevaert (1), France, def. Julian Knowle and Philipp Davatz, Austria, 6-4, 6-2
Josh-Julia Reiss and Andre Koenig, and Horja Tucek (2), Romania, def. James Duckworth and Chris Cueva, Australia, 2-7, 6-6
Rohan Bopanna, India, and Daniel Nestor, Canada, def. Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and David Marrero, Spain, 6-7 (5), 6-4
Benjamin Becker, Germany, and Nicholas Monroe, United States, def. Marin Korjanev, and Jiri Vesely, Czech Rep., Finland, 4-6, 7-6 (3)

National Basketball Association
NBA - Suspended Brooklyn R Kevin Durant for 15 games for an altercation with Houston C Dwight Howard, who was fined \$150,000.

National Football League
NFL - Suspended Oakland A's signed OT Marcel Jones, RB Quinton Pontier, FB Kiko Elms, DE Zachary Tabor, TE Keith Wenning and TE Allen Reiser and Konrad Reuland to future contracts.

Baseball
Cleveland Indians terminated the contract of defensive coordinator Jim Schaefer, named Greg Romo offensive coordinator.

Baseball
Cincinnati Reds - Announced director of pro personnel Kevin Turkis is no longer with the team.

Baseball
Los Angeles Angels - Signed LB Mister Alexander and RB Ryan Williams to physical therapist and clinical coordinator.

Baseball
Denver Broncos - Signed QB Bryn Renner, RB Kapri Bibbs,

NHL



TREVOR HAGAN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Jets' Mathieu Perreault, right, is stopped by Panthers goaltender Al Montoya, left, with Erik Gudbranson in front of the net during Tuesday's game in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Perreault netted four goals in Winnipeg's 8-2 rout of Florida.

Roundup

Perreault powers Jets past Panthers

The Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — Mathieu Perreault scored four goals as the Winnipeg Jets cruised to an 8-2 victory over the Florida Panthers on Tuesday night.

Dustin Byuglien added two goals and an assist and Jay Harrison and Evander Kane also scored for the Jets, who gave coach Paul Maurice his 500th win as a head coach. The eight-goal output was a season high for the Jets, one short of the franchise record.

Perreault scored four goals for the first time in his career and tied the franchise record for most goals in a game. Ilya Kovalchuk was the last to do it for the Thrashers in 2005 and Pascal Rheaume in the first one.

Dave Bolland and Brad Boyes scored for Florida, which finished 4-2-0 on a six-game trip.

Perreault, who had his first career hat trick on Jan. 24, 2012, against Boston, now has 15 goals and 14 assists in 43 games this season.

Michael Hutchinson made 25 saves for the win.

Islanders 3, Rangers 0: Frans Nielsen's short-handed tally capped his team's three-goal second period. Jaroslav Halak made 27 saves in his fourth shutout of the season, and Long Island's team cooled off the host Rangers.

Sharks 3, Coyotes 2: Brenden Dillon scored his first goal of the season in the third period and Antti Niemi stopped 27 shots to lead San Jose past host Arizona.

Stars 5, Senators 4: John Klingberg scored two goals in

a four-goal second period when host Dallas rallied from two down and beat Ottawa.

Trevor Daley and Erik Cole also scored in the second, as Dallas turned a 3-1 deficit into a 5-3 lead.

Penguins 7, Wild 2: David Perron scored twice and added an assist to lead host Pittsburgh past reeling Minnesota.

Hurricanes 3, Avalanche 2: Sidney Crosby collected three assists for the Penguins, who had little trouble with the floundering Wild.

Red Wings 3, Sabres 1: Petr Mrazek made 25 saves in his first start in place of injured starting goalie Jimmy Howard, and visiting Detroit beat Buffalo.

Hurricanes 3, Avalanche 2 (SO): Victor Rask and Elias Lindholm scored shootout goals, while Anton Khudobin stoned both opponents' shots as host Carolina stifled Colorado's comeback.

Bruins 4, Lightning 3: Rookie David Pastrnak scored twice for the second straight game and Milan Lucic had a goal and an assist as Boston topped visiting Tampa Bay.

Brad Marchand also scored and Torey Krug and David Krejci had two assists each for Boston.

Blues 4, Oilers 2: Vladimir Tarasenko scored his 24th goal and had an assist, defenseman Barret Jackman earned his second two-point night of the season, and host St. Louis won its fifth straight.

Predators 5, Canucks 1: Colin Wilson had two goals and two assists and Craig Smith added a power-play goal to lead host Nashville past Vancouver.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		GP	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	45	27	14	4	58	145	122
Montreal	43	26	12	3	55	111	95
Boston	44	23	15	6	52	117	114
Florida	43	23	14	6	49	102	113
Toronto	43	22	18	3	47	137	132
Ottawa	44	21	17	6	44	114	116
Buffalo	44	17	23	3	31	82	150

Metropolitan Division		GP	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Islanders	43	23	13	5	59	134	116
Pittsburgh	42	26	10	6	58	129	100
Washington	43	23	11	4	52	120	107
N.Y. Rangers	40	24	12	4	52	134	98
Philadelphia	44	18	19	7	45	119	125
Columbus	40	18	19	3	39	104	131
New Jersey	44	23	14	5	38	124	121
Carolina	43	24	14	3	31	81	114

Western Conference

Central Division		GP	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	45	28	13	2	58	134	95
Chicago	43	27	13	3	57	140	107
St. Louis	42	18	17	8	52	121	111
Winnipeg	42	19	16	7	45	131	139
Dallas	44	18	19	7	45	121	127
Colorado	42	18	19	5	41	113	128

Pacific Division		GP	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	43	27	10	6	60	121	118
San Jose	44	23	15	5	51	119	120
Los Angeles	43	22	16	5	51	119	120
Vancouver	41	23	15	4	49	110	109
Calgary	43	22	16	4	47	123	114
Arizona	42	16	22	3	36	99	139
Edmonton	43	22	16	4	49	110	109

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

Monday's games
Philadelphia 7, Tampa Bay 3
Washington 2, Carolina 1
Los Angeles 2, Toronto 0

Tuesday's games
Carolina 3, Colorado 2 (SO)
Boston 4, Tampa Bay 2
Detroit 3, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
Pittsburgh 7, Minnesota 2
St. Louis 4, Edmonton 2
Nashville 5, Vancouver 1
Winnipeg 8, Florida 2
Dallas 8, Ottawa 4
San Jose 3, Arizona 2

Wednesday's games
Montreal at Columbus
Philadelphia at Washington
Toronto at Anaheim
New Jersey at Los Angeles

Thursday's games
N.Y. Rangers at Boston
Buffalo at Pittsburgh
Vancouver at Philadelphia
St. Louis at Tampa Bay
Edmonton at Tampa Bay
Colorado at Florida
Detroit at St. Louis
Winnipeg at Dallas
Detroit at St. Louis
Toronto at San Jose

Friday's games
Colorado 0, 0 2 0 2
Carolina 1, 1 1 0 0 3

Carolina won shootout 2-0
First Period—1, Carolina, Jo.Staal 1 (Marino, Lindholm), 9:23.
Second Period—2, Carolina, Dwyer 4 (Murray, Dwyer), 11:04.
Third Period—3, Colorado, Duchene 12 (Gjima, Tangway), 1:25, 4, Colorado, Mitchell 6 (0:05).

Shootout—Colorado 0 (MacKinnon No. 2), Duche 1, Carolina 2 (Rask, G.Lindholm) 6-0.

Duchene—Colorado 6-3
Goals—Colorado 1, Pickard 6-3 (46 3:25-54 saves). Carolina, Khudobin 3-8-2 (30-28, 28 saves).
A—12,965 (18,680). T—2:34.

Bruins 4, Lightning 3
Tampa Bay 1 1 1 1-3
Boston 1 2 1 4

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 2 (P.Olsson, Kuchterov), 9:23.
Second Period—2 (Soferberg, Krug), 16:42.
Third Period—1 (Patel, Netterberg), 10:55, 4, Boston, Lucic 9 (Krejci, Seidenberg), 19:06.

Goals—Boston, Pastrnak 4 (M.Krejcik), 1:26, 7, Tampa Bay, Callahan 4 (Kilborn, Barbero), 14:18.
Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 5-19, Boston 9-16-34.
Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 0 of 5; Boston 0 of 3.
Goalies—Tampa Bay, Bishop 21-7-2 (34 shots-20 saves). Boston, Rask 18:10-6 (19-16).
A—17,565 (17,565). T—2:30.

Red Wings 3, Sabres 1
Detroit 1 2 0 3
Buffalo 0 1 0 1-1

First Period—1, Detroit, Helm 8 (Quincey), 9:42 (sh).
Second Period—2, Detroit, Nyquist 16 (Abdelkader, Datsyuk), 7:24 (pp), 2, Buffalo, Weber 1 (Fyryn, Stafford), 13:24, 4, 4, Detroit, Tatar 13 (Coffey, Kuchterov), 15:09.

Shots on Goal—Detroit 11-14-5-30, Buffalo 8-10-8-26.
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 1 of 3; Sabres 0 of 3.
Goalies—Detroit, Mrazek 6-3-1 (26 3:25-54 saves). Buffalo, Khabibulin 3-21 (30-27).

Penguins 7, Wild 2
Pittsburgh 1 1 4 7
Minnesota 1 2 1 4

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Goc 2 (Sill, Adams), 6:12, 2, Pittsburgh, Perrault 7 (Ehrhoff, Crosby), 12:04.
Second Period—3, Minnesota, Brodin 2 (Prosser, Pominville), 5:12, 4, Pittsburgh, Wilson 13 (Malkin, Letang), 6:45 (pp).
Third Period—5, Pittsburgh, Bra.Sutter 3 (Perrault, Crosby), 10:55, 8, Minnesota, Fontaine 4 (Haula, Suter), 13:57, 9, Pittsburgh, Perron 8 (Knutz, Crosby), 15:29.

Shots on Goal—Minnesota 12-11-9-32.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 1; Pittsburgh 0 of 2.
Goalies—Minnesota, Backstrom 5-7-3 (35 shots-20 saves), Curry (10:56 third, 2:15-13th), Fleury 22-7-4 (32-30).
A—18,642 (18,387). T—2:24.

Blues 4, Oilers 2
Edmonton 0 0 2-2
St. Louis 2 1 1 4

First Period—1, St. Louis, Tarasenko 24 (Letcher, Jackman), 15:49, 2, Backes 15 (Lethera, Oshie), 16:41.
Second Period—4, Edmonton, Poullot 7 (Schultz, Eberle), 8:37 (pp), 5, St. Louis, Steen 13 (Backes), 16:26, 6, Edmonton, Poullot 8 (Purcell, D.Bov), 19:04.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 5-7-15, St. Louis 12-8-29.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 3; St. Louis 0 of 4.
Goalies—Edmonton, Scrivens 8-15-7 (25-13-25 saves). St. Louis, Allen 13-5-2 (15-13).
A—18,279 (19,150). T—2:18.

Predators 5, Canucks 1
Nashville 0 1 0 1-1
Vancouver 2 0 3-5

First Period—1, Nashville, Smith 13 (Wilson, Ribeiro), 4:07 (pp), 2, Nashville, Wilson 13 (Fisher, Neal), 6:22.
Second Period—3, Vancouver, Eder 5 (Taney, Veiv), 2:47.
Third Period—4, Nashville, Forsberg 15 (Ribeil, Bartley), 13:32, 5, Nashville, Fisher 8 (Neal, Wilson), 15:31, 6, Nashville, Wilson 13 (Smith, Jones), 17:29 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 9-11-11-31.
Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 2; Nashville 2 of 6.
Goalies—Vancouver, Lack 3-6-2 (30 shots-25 saves). Nashville, Rinne 29-6-2 (34-28, 28 saves).
A—15,726 (17,113). T—2:27.

Islanders 3, Rangers 0

N.Y. Islanders 0 3 0-3
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 0-0

Second Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Lee 11 (De Haan, Hamonic), 8:49, 2, N.Y. Islanders, Kulemin 8, 16:31, 3, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 9 (Gowich), 18:13 (sh).
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 13-19-12.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 0 of 1; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 1.
Goalies—N.Y. Islanders, Halk 23-8-0 (27 shots-27 saves), N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 20-9-3 (22-29), Talbot (0:00 third, 12:12).
A—18,006 (18,006). T—2:30.

Penguins 7, Wild 2

Minnesota 2 1 4-7
Pittsburgh 2 1 4-7

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Goc 2 (Sill, Adams), 6:12, 2, Pittsburgh, Perrault 7 (Ehrhoff, Crosby), 12:04.
Second Period—3, Minnesota, Brodin 2 (Prosser, Pominville), 5:12, 4, Pittsburgh, Wilson 13 (Malkin, Letang), 6:45 (pp).
Third Period—5, Pittsburgh, Bra.Sutter 3 (Perrault, Crosby), 10:55, 8, Minnesota, Fontaine 4 (Haula, Suter), 13:57, 9, Pittsburgh, Perron 8 (Knutz, Crosby), 15:29.
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 12-11-9-32.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 1; Pittsburgh 0 of 2.
Goalies—Minnesota, Backstrom 5-7-3 (35 shots-20 saves), Curry (10:56 third, 2:15-13th), Fleury 22-7-4 (32-30).
A—18,642 (18,387). T—2:24.

Blues 4, Oilers 2

Edmonton 0 0 2-2
St. Louis 2 1 1 4

First Period—1, St. Louis, Tarasenko 24 (Letcher, Jackman), 15:49, 2, Backes 15 (Lethera, Oshie), 16:41.
Second Period—4, Edmonton, Poullot 7 (Schultz, Eberle), 8:37 (pp), 5, St. Louis, Steen 13 (Backes), 16:26, 6, Edmonton, Poullot 8 (Purcell, D.Bov), 19:04.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 5-7-15, St. Louis 12-8-29.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 3; St. Louis 0 of 4.
Goalies—Edmonton, Scrivens 8-15-7 (25-13-25 saves). St. Louis, Allen 13-5-2 (15-13).
A—18,279 (19,150). T—2:18.

Predators 5, Canucks 1

Nashville 0 1 0 1-1
Vancouver 2 0 3-5

First Period—1, Nashville, Smith 13 (Wilson, Ribeiro), 4:07 (pp), 2, Nashville, Wilson 13 (Fisher, Neal), 6:22.
Second Period—3, Vancouver, Eder 5 (Taney, Veiv), 2:47.
Third Period—4, Nashville, Forsberg 15 (Ribeil, Bartley), 13:32, 5, Nashville, Fisher 8 (Neal, Wilson), 15:31, 6, Nashville, Wilson 13 (Smith, Jones), 17:29 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 9-11-11-31.
Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 2; Nashville 2 of 6.
Goalies—Vancouver, Lack 3-6-2 (30 shots-25 saves). Nashville, Rinne 29-6-2 (34-28, 28 saves).
A—15,726 (17,113). T—2:27.

Jets 8, Panthers 2

Florida 0 1 1-2
Winnipeg 2 2 4-8

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Perreault 13 (Lefchie, Byuglien), 11:24 (pp).
Second Period—3, Winnipeg, Byuglien 10 (Schiefte, Chiarot), 3:35, 4, Florida, Selanne 6 (Winnipeg, O.Denis), 5:15, 5, Winnipeg, Byuglien 11 (Ladd, Slater), 6:22, 6, Winnipeg, Perreault 14 (Enstrom, Scheifele), 15:23, 7, Winnipeg, Perreault 15 (Frolik), 16:32.
Third Period—8, Winnipeg, Harrison 3 (Stuart, Slater), 4:26, 9, Florida, Boyes 9 (Hussein, Barzov), 5:39, 10, Winnipeg, Kane 8 (Enstrom, Lowry), 13:47 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Florida 10-10-7-27, Winnipeg 12-18-35.
Power-play opportunities—Florida 0 of 3; Winnipeg 2 of 5.
Goalies—Florida, Luongo 17-8-7 (20 shots-16 saves), Montoya (6:37 second, 15:11), Winnipeg, Hutchinson 12-2-2 (27-25).
A—15,016 (15,004). T—2:27.

Stars 5, Senators 4

Ottawa 3 0 1-4
Dallas 1 4 0-4

First Period—1, Ottawa, Hoffman 15 (Ryan), 4:57, 2, Ottawa, MacArthur 13 (Levasse, Slavin), 10:20 (pp), 2, Dallas, Hensky 7 (Goligoski, Lindback), 16:08, 4, Dallas, Cowen 3 (Stono), 17:55.
Second Period—5, Dallas, Daley 10 (Moen, Horvath), 8:12, 7, Dallas, Cole 10 (Goligoski, Demers), 17:49, 8, Dallas, Klingberg 6 (Hensky, Cole), 19:50.
Third Period—9, Ottawa, Michalek 5 (Crutcher, Ryan), 6:00 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 11-14-16-41, Dallas 9-15-29.
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 2 of 3; Dallas 1 of 2.
Goalies—Ottawa, Lehner 6-7-2 (29 shots-24 saves), Dallas, Lehtonen (6-3), Lindback 2-6 (10-30 first, 38-34).

Sharks 3, Coyotes 2

San Jose 0 2 1-3
Arizona 1 1 0-2

First Period—1, Arizona, Booder 13 (Ekman-Larsson, Chlupchar), 14:19.
Second Period—2, San Jose, Pavelski 22 (Thorton, Chlupchar), 2:00 (pp), 3, San Jose, Herti 8 (Burns, Vlasic), 1:33, 4, Arizona, Doan 10 (Vermette, Crab), 11:00.
Third Period—5, San Jose, Dillon 1 (Couture, Brown), 5:15.
Shots on Goal—San Jose 8-9-25, Arizona 11-8-10-25.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 1 of 3; Arizona 0 of 3.
Goalies—San Jose, Niemi 17-11-4 (29 shots-16 saves), Arizona, Dubynsk 9-5-2 (25-23).
A—10,631 (17,125). T—2:28.

Scoring leaders

Through Jan. 13	GP	G	A	Pts
Jakub Vranek, PHI	42	17	17	34
Evan Malkin, PIT	42	19	30	49
Yegor Seguin, DAL	42	26	22	48
Claude Giroux, PHI	42	34	43	67
Patrick Kane, CHI	43	20	27	47
Sidney Crosby, PIT	42	12	35	47
Vladimir Tarasenko, STL	43	24	22	46
Ryan Johnson, TB	41	27	26	46
Ryan Getzlaf, ANH	42	13	45	43
Steven Stamkos, TB	42	15	43	43
2 tied with 42 pts.	43	19	24	43



Bruins left wing David Pastrnak gives his stick to a young fan as he was named "No. 1 star of the game" after Boston's 4-3 victory over Tampa Bay on Tuesday in Boston. Pastrnak scored two goals for the second straight game.

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

SPORTS BRIEFS/AUTO RACING

Briefly

Sources: Jets hire Bowles

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Jets are close to an agreement with Arizona Cardinals defensive coordinator Todd Bowles to make him their head coach, according to two people with knowledge of the negotiations.

Bowles told ESPN in a text that he was taking the job, but the people told The Associated Press that no agreement had been completed as of late Tuesday.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been finalized.

"It's heading there," one of the people said, and it could be completed soon.

A few hours after hiring Mike Maccagnan as their general manager, the Jets were closing in on signing the 51-year-old Bowles to replace Rex Ryan, who was fired, along with GM John Idzik, on Dec. 29 after six seasons.

Bowles, a highly sought candidate after leading Arizona's defense for the past two seasons, had a second interview Tuesday with owner Woody Johnson and consultants Charley Casserly and Ron Wolf, along with Maccagnan.

The team canceled a scheduled interview with Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott that was set for Wednesday. Bowles also called off a second meeting with the Atlanta Falcons for their head coaching vacancy.

In other NFL news:

■ Dallas coach Jason Garrett has a new five-year contract, and defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli is also coming back on a three-year deal, a person with knowledge of both agreements told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity. Garrett will make about \$6 million annually.

Serena, Djokovic top seeds for first major

MELBOURNE, Australia — Two-time champion Victoria Azarenka faces the prospect of



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Arizona Cardinals defensive coordinator Todd Bowles is close to a deal to become head coach of the New York Jets, according to two people with knowledge of the negotiations.

drawing a top player in the first round at the Australian Open after missing out on a seeding Wednesday.

Last year was one to forget for Azarenka — injuries to her left foot, then right knee and right foot restricted her to just 24 matches last year and her WTA ranking has dropped to 41. The top 32 players are seeded.

No. 1 Serena Williams and No. 2 Maria Sharapova will be on opposite sides of the draw.

China's Li Na has retired and won't be defending her Australian title. Dominika Cibulkova, the losing finalist last year at Melbourne Park, is seeded No. 11. Eugenie Bouchard, the 20-year-old Canadian who last year reached the semifinals at the Australian and French Opens before making the Wimbledon final, is seeded No. 7.

On the men's side, Nos. 1-3 Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are all seeded ahead of defending men's champion Stan Wawrinka, who No. 4.

U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori of Japan was seeded fifth, one spot ahead of three-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray.

Judge dismisses Solo's assault charges

KIRKLAND, Wash. — U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo had domestic violence assault charges against her dismissed Tuesday,

ending what she called "one of the most difficult and emotionally draining times of my life."

Now, she can turn her attention fully to World Cup preparations.

The U.S. Soccer Federation had resisted pressure from some to suspend Solo after she was charged with two misdemeanor counts of fourth-degree assault stemming from an altercation with her half-sister and 17-year-old nephew at a party in June. The case had been set for trial in a week in suburban Seattle.

"Today's decision brings closure to what has been one of the most difficult and emotionally draining times of my life," Solo said in a statement, which she posted on Facebook.

Solo, who also plays for the Seattle Reign, did not appear at Tuesday's hearing when Kirkland Municipal Court Judge Michael Lambo dismissed the charges.

Garnett suspended for head-butting

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kevin Garnett was suspended one game without pay Tuesday by the NBA for head-butting Dwight Howard, who received only a fine when the league ruled he didn't retaliate with a punch.

Howard was fined \$15,000, the league announced in saying he pushed Garnett in the neck.

NASCAR

Busch: Ex-girlfriend is trained assassin

By RANDALL CHASE
The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Kurt Busch, the NASCAR driver known as "The Outlaw," testified Tuesday that he believes his ex-girlfriend to be a trained assassin dispatched on covert missions around the world, who he once saw in a blood-splattered evening gown.

Busch, appearing in court again over Patricia Driscoll's request for a no-contact order, continued the push of his legal team to discredit his ex as a scorned woman out to destroy his career.

"Everybody on the outside can tell me I'm crazy, but I lived on the inside and saw it firsthand," Busch said when his attorney, Rusty Hardin, questioned why he still believed Patricia Driscoll is a hired killer.

Busch said Driscoll repeatedly asserted her assassin status and claimed the work took her on missions across Central and South America and Africa. He recounted a time they were in El Paso, Texas, when Driscoll left in camouflage gear only to return later wearing a trench coat over an evening gown covered with blood.

Busch said that, a day earlier, Driscoll told him she was a mercenary and had shown him pictures of bodies with gunshot wounds.

In an interview late Tuesday, Driscoll called Busch's assertion "ludicrous," saying he took it "straight from a fictional movie script" she has been working on and that he has professed.

Last month, Michael Doncheff, who served as a personal assistant to Busch and Driscoll, said an ailing Driscoll told him in September that she had been picked up by a big man and slammed to the ground while helping round up immigrants at the Mexican border.

Doncheff said Driscoll also asserted that she was a trained assassin for the U.S. government and once told him, "I take down foreign governments. I own Washington."

Driscoll dismissed Busch's assertions.

"These statements made about being a trained assassin, hired killer, are ludicrous and without basis and are an attempt to destroy my credibility," Driscoll said.

"I find it interesting that some of the outlandish claims come straight from a fictional movie script I've been working on for eight years," Driscoll added.

Busch testified Monday that he ended his relationship with Driscoll last year because she was monopolizing his schedule and he needed to focus on racing.

Driscoll said Busch assaulted her in his motorhome at Dover International Speedway a week later, grabbing her by the throat and slamming her head into a wall three times. Busch and his attorneys have denied the allegations, which are the subject of a separate criminal investigation.

Busch testified that he repeatedly told Driscoll to leave after she showed up unannounced at his motorhome, finally cupping her cheeks in his hands, looking her in the eye and telling her to go.

"He advised that her head tapped the wall as he was doing that," Detective James Wood testified Tuesday, recounting Busch's interview with Dover police in November.

Richard Andrew Sniffen, a Christian music minister who performs at NASCAR outreach events and befriended Busch and Driscoll, said Driscoll told him on the night of the alleged assault only that Busch had pushed her and that she hit her head. Sniffen said Driscoll was upset, angry and brokenhearted, but that she never said she was afraid of Busch and seemed intent on reconciling.

That attitude shifted in the weeks that followed, Sniffen said, with Driscoll going "from a broken heart looking for love and reconciliation to anger and a little bit of revenge."

"I will destroy him," Sniffen said Driscoll told him.

A court ruling on Driscoll's request for a no-contact order is expected later this month.

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Of the Season

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NBA

Williams, T-wolves top Pacers

Guard's team-record 52 helps Minnesota end 15-game skid

By JIM JOHNSON
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Mo Williams scored a career-high 52 points, most in the NBA this season, and the Minnesota Timberwolves snapped a 15-game losing streak with a 110-101 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday night.

Williams made six three-pointers, including one that gave Minnesota a 102-96 lead. Andrew Wiggin added 20 points and Gorgui Dieng had 10 for the Timberwolves (6-31), who won for the first time since beating Portland 90-82 on Dec. 10.

C.J. Miles had 22 points and C.J. Watson added 17 for the Pacers (15-25), who have lost three of four.

Wiggins scored on a put-back dunk and then converted a three-pointer to give the Timberwolves a 93-90 lead with 4:29 remaining.

But it was mostly Williams who powered the Wolves to just their third road victory. After a couple of three-pointers earlier in the fourth quarter, he tied the game at 83 on three free throws, including one for a technical call on Ian Mahinmi with 7:10 remaining.

Williams surpassed the 46 points scored this season by both Carmelo Anthony and Pau Gasol, which had been tops in the NBA.

The Pacers lost to another of the league's worst teams, having given Philadelphia just its seventh win on Saturday, 93-92.

The Pacers never led by more than eight points in the first half and were ahead 52-46 at the break.

They were still ahead 86-83 in the fourth but Williams answered every time Indiana went on a run.



R BRENT SMITH/AP

Timberwolves guard Mo Williams looks to pass around Pacers guard C.J. Watson on Tuesday in Indianapolis. Williams scored 52 points — the most in the NBA this season.

Roundup

Suns top Cavs in James' return

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — LeBron James scored 33 points in his return from a two-week layoff but it wasn't enough to prevent the Cleveland Cavaliers from slumping to their sixth straight loss, 107-100 to the Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

Markieff Morris scored a career-high 35 points on 15-for-21 shooting for the Suns, who outscored the Cavs 11-3 over the last 3:31.

The Cavaliers rallied from a 19-point, third-quarter deficit to go ahead in the fourth, the first of eight lead changes down the stretch.

J.R. Smith, who joined the Cavaliers during James' absence, scored 29, going 8-for-14 on three-pointers.

Wizards 104, Spurs 93: John Wall broke yet another personal 10-for-breaker streak, this one against an entire team, scoring 25 points with eight assists in Washington's win that gave him his first taste of success against the reigning NBA champs.

Wall had nine 0-7 against the Spurs since he was drafted No. 1 overall in 2010, and the Wizards as a whole had not beaten San Antonio since Nov. 12, 2005 — a streak of 17 games.

Hawks 105, 76ers 87: At Philadelphia, Al Horford had his first career triple-double, scoring 21 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists to lead Atlanta to its ninth



MATT YORK/AP

The Cavaliers' LeBron James drives to the basket Tuesday in Phoenix. The Suns won 107-100.

straight win.

Mavericks 108, Kings 104 (OT): Monta Ellis scored six of his 28 points in overtime and added 10 assists, and visiting Dallas beat Sacramento.

The Mavericks rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth

quarter to avoid their first four-game losing streak of the season.

Rajon Rondo broke out of a scoring slump with 21 points and seven assists for Dallas, which rallied from a 24-point deficit to beat the Kings on Nov. 11. Tyson Chandler had 16 points and 17 rebounds, Dirk Nowitzki scored 15 points and Chandler Parsons finished with 13.

Warriors 116, Jazz 105: Stephen Curry scored 27 points and ignited a decisive third-quarter run to lead Golden State over host Utah.

Draymond Green scored 15 points while Harrison Barnes and Klay Thompson added 12 apiece to lift the Warriors (30-5) to their franchise-best seventh consecutive victory by double figures.

Heat 78, Lakers 75: Mario Chalmers scored nine of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, Hassan Whiteside added 15 and Miami completed a Staples Center sweep.

Chris Bosh scored eight points on 4-for-17 shooting for the Heat, who followed up their surprising victory over the Clippers two days ago by winning an ugly game against the Lakers despite losing Dwyane Wade to a strained left hamstring late in the first half.

Kobe Bryant scored 12 points on 3-for-19 shooting in his return to the Lakers' lineup after missing three of the last four games to rest.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	25	11	67%	0
Brooklyn	16	22	42%	9½
Boston	13	26	33%	14½
Philadelphia	30	19	61%	0
New York	35	12	75%	21½

Southwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	30	8	79%	0
Washington	19	19	50%	6½
Miami	17	21	44%	13
Charlotte	15	24	38%	19½
Orlando	10	29	26%	24½

Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	26	16	62%	0
Milwaukee	20	19	51%	6
Cleveland	19	20	49%	7
Indiana	15	25	37%	11½
Detroit	14	26	35%	12½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	26	11	70%	0
Memphis	26	11	70%	½
Dallas	27	10	73%	0
San Antonio	23	14	62%	7
New Orleans	19	18	48%	8½

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	30	8	79%	0
Oklahoma City	18	19	49%	11½
Denver	17	21	44%	13
Utah	13	26	33%	17½
Minnesota	26	16	62%	23½

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	30	8	79%	0
L.A. Clippers	25	13	66%	6½
Phoenix	23	15	61%	10
Sacramento	16	22	42%	17
L.A. Lakers	12	27	30%	20

Monday's games

Detroit 114, Toronto 106
Houston 113, Brooklyn 99
Boston 106, New Orleans 102
Orlando 121, Chicago 114

Tuesday's games

Atlanta 105, Philadelphia 87
Washington 101, San Antonio 93
Phoenix 107, Cleveland 100
Golden State 116, Utah 105
Sacramento 110, Indiana 102
Miami 78, L.A. Lakers 75

Wednesday's games

Houston at Orlando
San Antonio at Charlotte
Philadelphia at Toronto
New Orleans at Detroit
Memphis at Brooklyn
Washington at Chicago
Atlanta at Boston
Dallas at Denver
Miami at Golden State
L.A. Clippers at Portland

Thursday's games

New York vs. Milwaukee at London, England
Oklahoma City at Houston
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers

Friday

Hawks 105, 76ers 87

Atlanta — Sefolosha 25 0-1 4, H. Schröder 8 10 5-21, Muscala 3-10 0-0 6, Horford 2-10 1-2 0-0, Wright 2-11 1-5, Scott 2-1-2, Brand 3-0 0-1 6, Bazemore 7-14 0-12, Mack 5-10 0-12, Payne 1-2 1-3, Totals 42-87 9-16 10s.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia — Covington 2-13 3-17, Mbah a Moute 1-5 4-7, Noel 1-4 0-2 2, Carter-Williams 8-13 3-20, McDaniels 5-22 1-4 5, Sims 0-4 0-4, Wroten 4-12 4-10, Grant 5-7 1-13, Thompson 3-4 0-0 2, Sampson 2-4 0-2 5, Aldemir 0-1 2-2 2, Amir 0-2 0-0 0.
--

Atlanta

Atlanta — Johnson 25 24 35-105, Philadelphia — Covington 2-13 3-17, Mbah a Moute 1-5 4-7, Noel 1-4 0-2 2, Carter-Williams 8-13 3-20, McDaniels 5-22 1-4 5, Sims 0-4 0-4, Wroten 4-12 4-10, Grant 5-7 1-13, Thompson 3-4 0-0 2, Sampson 2-4 0-2 5, Aldemir 0-1 2-2 2, Amir 0-2 0-0 0.
--

Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 12-23

(Korver 4, Bazemore 3, Schroder 2, Mack 2, Thompson 1, Sampson 1, Philadelphia 9, Atlanta 12)

Philadelphia 46, Carter-Williams 9

Philadelphia 46, Carter-Williams 9, Aspinwall 26, Joseph 10, Horford 10, Philadelphia 20 (McDaniels, Carter-Williams, Wroten 4), Total Fouls—Atlanta 17, Philadelphia 22. A—10,466 (20,318).
--

Wizards 101, Spurs 93

San Antonio — Dave 2 0-5 5, Duncan 5-14 1-2 0-0, Splitter 4-6 2-4, Parker 7-18 0-14, Green 4-16 0-10, Joseph 2-5 2-6, Ginobili 2-8 2-8, Diaw 4-8 0-1 8, Mills 4-8 0-4, Seal 4-5 1-9, Scola 0-2 0-0 0, Anderson 0-0-0 0, Totals 38-96 8-32, Wizards — Pierce 4 2-2 13, Nene 2-9 3-7, Gortat 3-6 1-2 7, Wall 9-19 3-15, Bonner 9-11, Diaz 1-11, Parker 0-2, Humphries 10-10 0, Webster 0-1 0-0, Antonio 26 5-17, Miller 1-1 0-0 0, Totals 37-75 11-24-01.

Atlanta

San Antonio 31 24 24 21 81

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 9-29

(Mills 4, Ginobili 2, Green 2, Nene 1, 1-3, Bonner 0-1, Diaz 0-1, Parker 0-2, Washington 6-12, Pierce 3-4, Wall 2-3, Butler 4-4, Seal 0-0, Antonio 1-1, Nene 0-0, Anderson 0-0, Totals 29-93)

Washington 26, Wizards 26

Washington 26, Wizards 26 (Hibbert 12, Washington 20 (Wall 8), Total Fouls—San Antonio 17, Philadelphia 22. A—18,116 (20,308).
--

Timberwolves 110, Pacers 101

MINNESOTA — Budinger 1-6 0-0 3,

Minnesota — Budinger 1-6 0-0 3, Williams 5-13 0-0 11, Dieng 3-7 4-4 0-0, Mills 13-33 8-9 0-2, Bennett 1-2 0-0 2, Hummel 3-6 0-0 7, LeVine 0-0 0-0, Daniels 2-4 0-0, Totals 41-87 13-19 0-0.

INDIANA — Hill 14 0-0 2, West 5 8-2 12,

Indiana — Hill 14 0-0 2, West 5 8-2 12, Hibbert 4-12 2-10, Watson 7-9 2-2 17, Miles 8-18 4-22, Scott 3-6 0-10 11, Stuckey 5-8 3-13, Budinger 2-9 0-0 11, Dieng 2-2, Sloan 2-3 0-2 4, Mahinmi 0-0 0-0, Condon 0-0 0-0 0-0, Totals 38-92 12-24 0-0.

Minnesota 25 21 23 41-110

Indiana 23 26 10-11

Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 10-20

(Williams 6-11, Young 1, Daniels 1-2, Hummel 1-3, Budinger 1-2, West 1-2, Rutez 2-4, Miles 2-10, Watson 1-1, Sloan 0-1, Stuckey 0-2), Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Minnesota 43 (Dieng 10), Indiana 37 (Hibbert 8), Assists—Minnesota 22 (Williams 7), Indiana 22 (Watson, Sloan 5), Total Fouls—Minnesota 23, Indiana 19, Technicals—Mahinmi, Indiana Coach V. West, Flagrant Fouls—Hibbert, Elect—Hibbert, West. A—16,281 (18,165).
--

Suns 107, Cavaliers 100

Cleveland — James 11-18 8-13 3-22, Irving 13-22 9, Mozdog 0-0 2-2, Irving 4-14 0-9, Smith 10-19 11-29, Marion 2-7 2-5 6, Thompson 2-10, Hill 1-10, Wallace 0-1 0-0 0, Miller 0-1 0-0 0, Jones 1-3 0-0 2, Totals 60-102 15-20 0-0.

PHOENIX — Tucker 2 6 4 4 10, Mark,

Phoenix — Tucker 2 6 4 4 10, Mark, Morris 15-21 3-13, Bledsoe 3-8 5-12 13, D.Gragic 8-15 1-2 18, Bledsoe 3-8 5-12 13, Thomas 1-5 3-5 6, Marc-Morris 4-9 0-0, Green 0-2 0-0 0, Wright 1-2 2 5, Plumlee 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 40-76 20-17 0-0.
--

Cleveland 21 24 24 21-81

Phoenix 23 26 22 22-107

Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 11-25

(Smith 4, James 3-8, Irving 4-9, Jones 5, Marion 0-1, Miller 0-1, Jones 0-2, Phoenix 7-20 (Clark-Morris 3, Tucker 2, Marc-Morris 1-3, Bledsoe 1-3, D.Gragic 1-4, Green 0-2 0-0, Wright 1-2 2 5, Plumlee 0-0 0-0 0), Totals 40-76 20-17 0-0.)
--

Phoenix 23 26 22 22-107

Three-Point Goals—Cleveland 11-25 (Smith 4, James 3-8, Irving 4-9, Jones 5, Marion 0-1, Miller 0-1, Jones 0-2, Phoenix 7-20 (Clark-Morris 3, Tucker 2, Marc-Morris 1-3, Bledsoe 1-3, D.Gragic 1-4, Green 0-2 0-0, Wright 1-2 2 5, Plumlee 0-0 0-0 0), Totals 40-76 20-17 0-0.)
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Warriors 116, Jazz 105

Golden State — Curry 5-8 9-10 2, Green 6-9 0-15, Bogut 4-5 1-1 9, Curry 10-16 3-7 2, Thompson 5-6 0-0 12, Lopez 1-10 1-2 10, Igouada 2-4 0-0 4, Lee 4-8 2-2 0, Barbosa 3-12 2-3 8, Holiday 3-10 2-3 10, Totals 46-91 11-13 15 115.
--

UTAH — Hayward 5-11 6-17, Favors

Utah — Hayward 5-11 6-17, Favors 12-14 0-15, Ingles 4-7 2-2 12, Millsap 2-5 2-2 3, Gobert 1-4 0-0 0, Johnson 1-4 0-0 0, Clark 1-2 0-3, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Evans 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 39-81 20-24 10-10.

Golden State 26 27 25-105

Utah 26 27 25-105

Three-Point Goals—Golden State 11-25

(Curry 4-9, Green 3-4, Thompson 2-2, Barnes 2-4, Speights 1-1, Holiday 1-3, Barbosa 0-0 0-0, Johnson 0-0 0-0, 1-1, Kanter 1-1, Millsap 1-2, Hayward 1-4, Burris 0-0 0-0 0, Foulds 0-0 0-0 0, Rebounds—Golden State 40 (Lee, Bogut 18, Thompson 13), Cleveland 37 (Hibbert 11, Asists—Golden State 32 (Curry 11), Utah 18 (Burke 5), Total Fouls—Golden State 26, Utah 26. A—19,811 (23,311).
--

Mavericks 108, Kings 104 (OT)

Dallas — Parsons 6-16 0-13, Nowitzki 5-13 4-15, Chandler 6-8 4-16, Rondo 18-30 1-10 11, Fournier 6-12 1-10 2-2 9, Jefferson 0-4 0-0 0, Smith 1-2 3, Villanueva 0-2 0-0 0, Barea 1-6 1-1 3, Totals 55-108 11-21 11 108.
--

SACRAMENTO — Gay 1-2 2-4, Thomp-

Sacramento — Gay 1-2 2-4, Thompson 18-30 1-10 11, Fournier 6-12 1-10 2-2 9, Jefferson 0-4 0-0 0, Smith 1-2 3, Villanueva 0-2 0-0 0, Barea 1-6 1-1 3, Totals 55-108 11-21 11 108.
--

Dallas 7-10 0-4, McCullum 3-8 0-6 0,

Dallas 7-10 0-4, McCullum 3-8 0-6 0, Fournier 6-12 1-10 2-2 9, Jefferson 0-4 0-0 0, Smith 1-2 3, Villanueva 0-2 0-0 0, Barea 1-6 1-1 3, Totals 55-108 11-21 11 108.

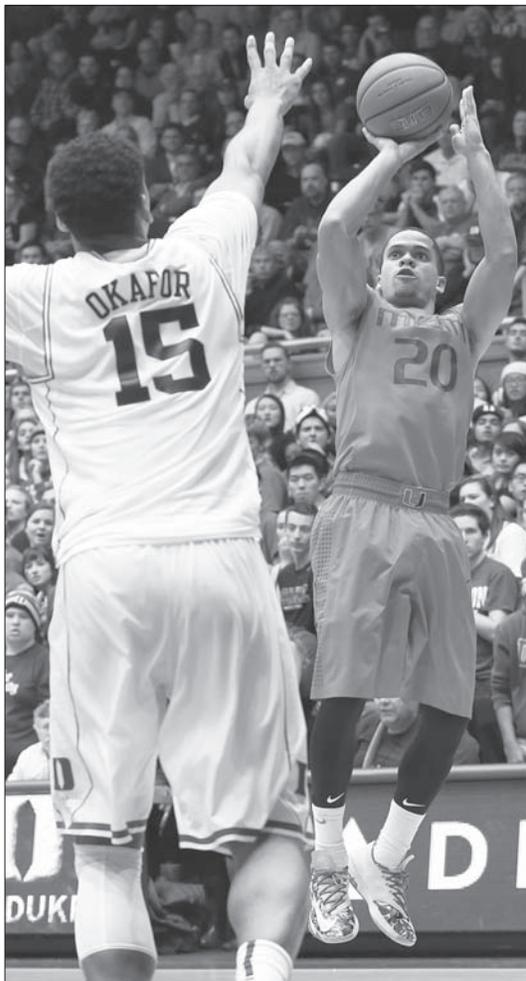
Sacramento 26 27 25-105

Golden State 26 27 25-105

Three-Point Goals—Golden State 11-25

(Curry 4-9, Green 3-4, Thompson 2-2, Barnes 2-4, Speights 1-1, Holiday 1-3, Barbosa 0-0 0-0, Johnson 0-0 0-0, 1-1, Kanter 1-1, Millsap 1-2, Hayward 1-4, Burris 0-0 0-0 0, Foulds 0-0 0-0 0, Rebounds—Golden State 40 (Lee, Bogut 18, Thompson 13), Cleveland 37 (Hibbert 11, Asists—Golden State 32 (Curry 11), Utah 18 (Burke 5), Total Fouls—Golden State 26, Utah 26. A—19,811 (23,311).
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL



ELLEN OZIER/AP

Miami's Manu Lecomte, right, shoots over Duke's Jahil Okafor during Tuesday's game in Durham, N.C. Miami ended Duke's 41-game home winning streak.

AP Top 25 roundup

Miami ends Duke's home streak at 41

The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Suddenly, fourth-ranked Duke looks a bit lost. The defense isn't there. The three-point shots aren't falling. And its Hall of Fame coach senses a lack of confidence from his freshman-led team.

Now Mike Krzyzewski will see how his Blue Devils respond to two straight losses, the second ending the program's long winning streak at its famously hostile arena.

Angel Rodriguez scored 24 points and Miami shot 67 percent after halftime to upset No. 4 Duke 90-74 on Tuesday night, snapping the Blue Devils' 41-game home winning streak and giving them consecutive regular-season losses for the first time in nearly six years.

"I just have felt since Christmas that there's something missing with our group, and I've said it," Krzyzewski said. "I've said it to the press, I've said it to my team. And when you're still winning, you don't necessarily believe it completely. But I've felt it since Christmas, and I haven't been able to figure that out, figure out how to change it.

"We're all on the same page now, after two losses and after getting our butt beat. We didn't just lose tonight. We got our butts beat tonight."

Duke (14-2, 2-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) hadn't lost at Cameron Indoor Stadium since March 2012 and hadn't lost consecutive regular-season games since February 2009. It also marked the first time that Duke has lost consecutive games by double-digit margins since March 1996, according to STATS.

It wasn't that long ago that the Blue Devils were rolling to big wins and looking every bit like the ACC favorite. They also looked like they'd be playing to give Krzyzewski his 1,000th win against Louisville and fellow Hall of Famer Rick Pitino on Saturday.

But Coach K is stuck on 997 after two surprising losses. And much like Sunday's 87-75 loss at North Carolina State, the Blue Devils were unable to slow a hot-shooting team nor keep up at their own offensive end.

Manu Lecomte added a career-high 23 points for the Hurricanes (12-4, 2-1), who trailed 35-34 at the break before shooting 18-for-27 after halftime and hitting six of

nine three-pointers.

It was a stunningly one-sided show starting a team that lost by 28 points at home to Eastern Kentucky on Dec. 19.

"We were talking from the moment we started preparing to play Duke ... about the way they play defense and the way we like to play offense," Rodriguez said. "We felt like it was a great matchup and they were going to allow us kind of to do what we wanted to do."

With Miami's guards going anywhere they wanted, the Hurricanes scored 56 second-half points.

No. 1 Kentucky 86, Missouri 37: Aaron Harrison scored 16 points, including five three-pointers, and the host Wildcats finally earned a conference victory in regulation by drilling the Tigers.

No. 2 Virginia 65, Clemson 42: Malcolm Brogdon scored 16 points, and the host Cavaliers took command with a 29-6 run to start the second half of a victory against the Tigers.

No. 6 Louisville 78, Virginia Tech 63: Chris Jones had a career-high 11 assists and Terry Rozier scored 16 points as the host Cardinals easily brushed off the Hokies.

No. 9 Kansas 67, No. 24 Oklahoma State 57: Frank Mason III had 16 points and nine rebounds, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 14 points and the host Jayhawks beat the Cowboys to remain perfect in the Big 12.

No. 16 West Virginia 86, No. 18 Oklahoma 65: Jevon Carter scored 18 points and the host Mountaineers got their strongest performance of the season from their bench to beat the Sooners.

No. 17 VCU 65, Rhode Island 60: Treveon Graham scored 16 of his 26 points in the second half and visiting Virginia Commonwealth rallied for a victory over the Rams.

Tennessee 74, No. 19 Arkansas 69: Josh Richardson scored 20 points and the host Volunteers withstood a furious comeback to hang on for a victory over the Razorbacks.

Butler 79, No. 21 Seton Hall 75 (OT): Roosevelt Jones scored a season-high 23 points, Kellen Dunham added 21 and the visiting Bulldogs knocked off the Pirates.

No. 23 Northern Iowa 63, Bradley 52: Seth Lutte scored 15 points and sank four late free throws to help the visiting Panthers beat the Braves.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Black Forest girls still in lock-down mode

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

It's said that Germany's famous Black Forest earned its name from its thick canopy of trees that seems to block out all sunlight.

The DODDS Europe girls basketball team of the same name seems to have taken that as inspiration.

Over the past two seasons, the defense of the Black Forest Academy Falcons has proven just as daunting to opposing offenses as those forbidding woods must have been to the long-ago wanderers who braved them. Like towering trees obscuring even the midday sun, BFA's tall and sturdy athletes converge on ball handlers to obstruct every available line of sight and potential passing lane.

BFA's practically impenetrable defense carried the team to last year's Division II European championship, and the Falcons

have a very good chance at repeating this winter.

'I've got girls that are intuitive. They just get to the ball and cause problems.'

Cevin Sweeney
BFA coach

"I've got girls that are intuitive," BFA coach Cevin Sweeney said. "They just get to the ball and cause problems."

That straightforward explanation belies the sophisticated system of real-time reads and reactions Sweeney's scheme asks of the Falcons.

BFA primarily deploys two zone defensive sets, which Sweeney liberally switches between to counter opponents' strengths or, in his words, "just to see what happens."

The 1-3-1 shuts down outside shooters but risks leaving space for interior passing or a strong scorer down low.

The 2-3 defense effectively snuffs out close-range opportunities but can be beaten by long-range shooters.

As reasonable as those offensive counters sound, they rarely work. Instead, they're usually nullified by BFA's true strength, and the key to its elite defense: forcing turnovers.

In either set, Sweeney frequently sends help defenders to trap the ball as the other players reflexively drop into passing lanes. If the trap works as planned — and it often does — the harassed offensive player will throw a weak, wobbly or deflected pass that an off-ball Falcon can intercept. If the pass somehow gets through cleanly, BFA



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

Bitburg's Saiirse Matthews is swarmed by Black Forest Academy's Emily Campbell, left, Katie Greathouse, center, and Olivia Speck when she drives during a winter tournament earlier this month.

snaps back into formation and tries again. "We want to disrupt the pass so that we can try to steal it," Sweeney said.

The Falcons sometimes have all five defenders on the same side of the court, but exploiting that undefended territory would require a cross-court pass over the arms of at least two Falcons.

"It's a hard pass to make," Sweeney said. "We can recover easily, because it's usually a lob."

BFA's defense doesn't diverge wildly from well-established conventions of zone defense. What makes it so effective, Sweeney said, is the Falcons personnel.

Senior forward Emily Campbell is BFA's offensive centerpiece and the lone All-Euro selection from last year's team. "We don't really have a star player," Campbell said.

Instead, the Falcons are stacked with talented and, as Campbell said, "interchangeable" athletes. Campbell, senior post Esli Emasealu and freshman Katie Greathouse hold down the long-armed frontcourt. The backcourt features quick-thinking and quick-moving guards, such as senior Hannah Harrop and junior Anna Kragt.

While Sweeney's system puts them in a position to succeed, it's this cohesive group

that handles the execution.

"Everyone is pretty good at using instincts," Campbell said. "I don't know if there's a quarterback on our team."

To her point, even the youngest Falcons are empowered with crucial and complex roles in the defense and the freedom to make split-second decisions. In the 1-3-1 set, Greathouse is the middle player of the three spread out along the free-throw line, enforcing a mandate to "make sure they don't get in the paint," she said.

In the 2-3, she's assigned a low block opposite Campbell, with Emasealu holding down the middle. That role, Campbell said, involves "mostly jumping passing lanes" and "setting traps."

Sweeney singled out Harrop as an underappreciated central figure in the defense; among her tasks is the subtle art of suggestively guiding a ball handler into a trap. Campbell, too, complimented Harrop's gift for "frazzling" opposing point guards.

These are ambitious assignments for any young athlete. Sweeney counts himself lucky to have the roster to pull it off.

"Our defense works so well because we have the right players to play the various positions and they work off of each other," Sweeney said.

The proof of the Falcons' defensive acumen can be found in their opponent's paltry scoring totals. No opponent in last year's European tournament managed more than 18 points, including AFNORTH's 13-point showing in the title game. In its only two DODDS Europe games this season, BFA held Patch to 27 and 21 points in Falcons victories, a stunning showing against a proficient Division I program that last year reached the championship game.

Hohefels coach Shawn Rodman has encountered the BFA defense in the past and is preparing for another set of games with the Falcons this weekend. He said it's very difficult to prepare for BFA since most teams, including his, can't duplicate the Falcons' size and athleticism.

Rodman's strategy is to limit turnovers, he said, and for his team to play stingy defense and make points as hard to come by for BFA as they're likely to be for Hohefels.

But just as a map can't help a hiker navigate in total darkness, those well-developed plans might not help among the Black Forest Academy trees.

"Their defense is an offensive weapon," Rodman said.

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Top performances

Girls basketball

Emma Knapp, Vicenza: The always-productive Cougar outdid herself in a weekend sweep of Sigonella. Knapp scored 39 and 30 points, respectively, on Friday and Saturday.

Alexa Landenberger, Bitburg: The Baron guard guided her team to a tidy sweep of Ansbach, with game-high totals of 18 and 21 points, respectively, on Friday and Saturday.

Treshon Jenkins, Patch: The Panthers took a gritty road win from Division I rival Kaiserslautern on Friday behind the efforts of their junior wing. Jenkins scored 13 points, grabbed nine rebounds and made seven steals in the victory.

Boys basketball

Joey Behr, Alconbury: The senior center led the Dragons to an impressive sweep of AF-NORTH over the weekend. Behr posted consecutive double-doubles, going for 16 points and 16 rebounds Friday and 19 points and 13 rebounds Saturday.

Chris Moore, Sigonella: The Jaguars star again led the Division III team to an upset of a D-I foe. His 26 points, 10 rebounds and six steals paced an 83-59 defeat of Vicenza on Saturday.

Thomas Wray, Sigonella: A well-rounded effort from Wray helped the Jaguars put away

the Cougars. He had 22 points, including four three-pointers, seven rebounds and two steals.

Wrestling

Brandon Beaumont, Bitburg: The three-place finisher in last year's 126-pound European championship bracket continues to fare well at a higher weight class this winter. Beaumont's perfect Saturday at Hohefels pushed his season record at 132 pounds to 12-0.

Dillon Thompson, Ramstein: The Royal wrestler survived a tough round-robin bracket to take first place at 182 pounds Saturday at Ramstein. Thompson went 4-0 against two Kaiserslautern wrestlers, a Patch contender

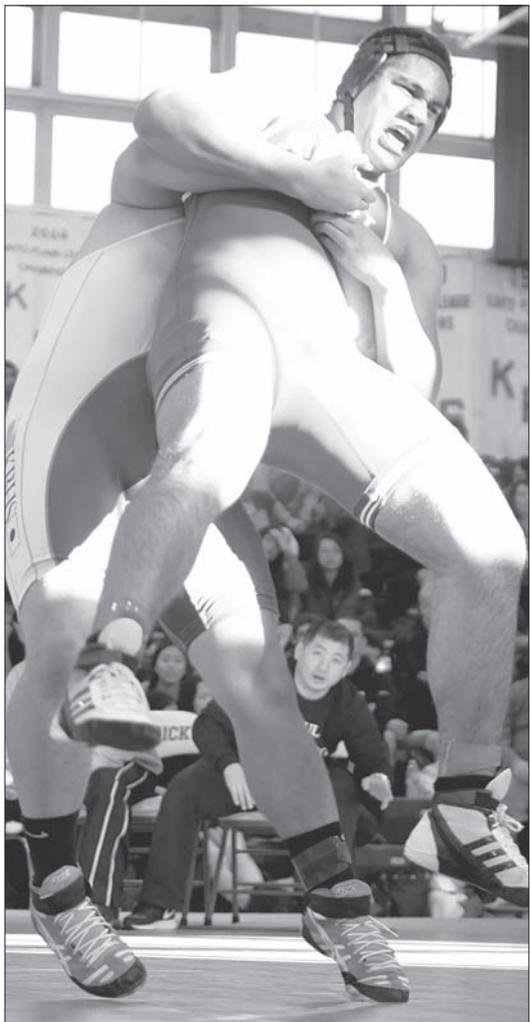
and a Ramstein teammate to earn the win.

Marksmanship

Victoria Banister, Vilesek: The Falcons held off challenges from Ansbach and Hohefels in a five-team meet Saturday. Banister led the way, finishing first overall with 280 points and posting meet-high scores from standing and kneeling position.

Rolando Ferreras, Kaiserslautern: The senior recorded a memorable moment for the first-year Raider program on Saturday. His score of 99 points from prone position tied overall winner Maggie Enhamn for the meet's high total; he finished fifth overall.

HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS PACIFIC



JAMES KIMBER/Stars and Stripes

Seoul American senior heavyweight Sani Buckingham gets lifted off the mat by reigning Far East heavyweight champion Christian Fernandez. The latter won by technical fall 11-0 in just Buckingham's second bout as a high-school wrestler.

No competition

Seoul American's Buckingham finds there's no match for him, literally

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan—All dressed up and nowhere to go. All ready to dance, but no partners available.

That's the narrative for Sani Buckingham, a 6-foot-5, 275-pound behemoth of a heavyweight wrestler for Seoul American. Some observers tap him for success on the Far East Tournament mats next month. But he'll have to overcome one big obstacle to find success.

Buckingham doesn't have a single person to wrestle in his weight class when the Korea schools gather each week. So while the first-year wrestler's desire to improve is there, the route to do so is a bit murky.

"It would be a lot easier. I'd have better practice and some good competition would be nice," Buckingham said of a lack of foes before competing at the Nile C. Kinnick Invitational "Beast of the Far East" Tournament.

Buckingham, a senior who came to Korea last year from El Paso, Texas, has concentrated on football all his life before giving wrestling a shot this season. He already should have had three DODDS-Korea in-season quad meets and as many as nine bouts before the "Beast."

But while Osan, Daegu and Humphreys provide competition at some weight classes, the overall numbers in Korea are down. And unless there's a swing in enrollments, that might continue to be the case.

Osan fields 16 wrestlers, coach Duke Allen said. That's just under 10 percent of the school's total enrollment of 176. The Cougars can cover every weight class except heavyweight.

Daegu has seven wrestlers, coach Jeremiah Lentz said; enrollment there is 173. Humphreys has 182 students, but only three on the mat, according to coach Eric Rogers.

It's not that Korea has failed to ever field tough competitors at the heavier weights. But recently the numbers have been light.

Osan last had a heavyweight in 2011-12. The Cougars' last Far East champion at that weight was two-time gold medalist Michael Gilliam (2009-10), who went on to play football at Occidental. Daegu's last Far East finalist was Daniel Sainitil at 215

in 2011. Confessing to nerves before stepping on the "Beast" mats, Buckingham pinned his first foe in 22 seconds.

But next came reigning Far East Tournament champion Christian Fernandez of Kubasaki. And the inexperience showed.

Buckingham repeatedly tried to lock in head-and-arm throws on Fernandez, who easily parried the attempts and countered with moves Buckingham hadn't seen before. Scoring two-point takedowns in the process.

The bout ended in a technical fall with Fernandez leading 11-0 in 2 minutes, 31 seconds.

"Lack of competition. Not enough matches. That's the bottom line," Seoul American coach Ben Pak said.

'I need to broaden my skills set. Try things other than throwing. It seemed like the most effective thing for me. I have to work on other things.'

Sani Buckingham
Seoul American wrestler

"I need to broaden my skills set," Buckingham said. "Try things other than throwing. It seemed like the most effective thing for me. I have to work on other things."

Buckingham went on to pin his next two opponents and captured second place in the "Beast." Fernandez and other observers see Buckingham as somebody who could do good things down the road with more preparation.

"I feel pretty bad, actually," Fernandez said. "I wish they had more schools for people like that (to wrestle), but he doesn't. So what can you do?"

Buckingham practices with heavyweight Connor Knight, a junior varsity teammate, as well as reigning Far East 215-pound champion Jack Barnes. And Pak, who has connections in town, has Buckingham work out against Korean college and club wrestlers.

"We try as a team to push him and get him to work harder and we have some volunteer coaches who come in and work with him," Pak said. "He's a smart kid, he knows what moves he can do and what moves he can't. So we try to focus on his strengths."

"Right now, it's just testing what I'm lacking and what I'm stronger at," Buckingham said.

Had the other schools had heavyweights, Pak says he feels Buckingham would be a worthy opponent for Fernandez by season's end. As things are, he said, "I expect him to go maybe the semifinals. Anything more, I'd be pleased."

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Top performances

Girls basketball

Vanessa Black, Edgren — Averaged 17.5 points in two games, helping the Eagles hand Yokota its first two losses of the season.

Rhyssa Hizon, Kinnick — Recorded 20 steals in three games, each Red Devil victories, including one that she converted into a game-winning basket.

Jasmine Rhodes, Kadena — Helped the Panthers to two victories to start the new year by averaging 26.5 points.

Tiaara Carroll, Zama — Averaged

20.7 points to help the Trojans to victories in three games over four days.

Boys basketball

Jez Harper, Seoul American — Scored 21 points each in two games for the Falcons, each victories.

Nicholas White, Osan — Scored 97 points in three games, helping the Cougars remain unbeaten with three wins.

Keanu Cruz, Zama — Hit a foul shot with 0.3 seconds left, helping the Trojans snap a five-game losing streak.

Vincent Erritano, Perry — Averaged 17 points over two games, both victories for the unbeaten Samurai.

Wrestling

Lucas Wirth, Kinnick — Won all three of his bouts by technical fall to capture the 101-pound bracket in the Kinnick Invitational "Beast of the Far East" tournament.

Jarek Bartel, Seoul American — A transfer from Patch in Germany, Bartel won three bouts by technical fall and

one by pin to win his first international freestyle tournament, taking "Beast" at 158.

Drey Taylor, Kinnick — In his first year of wrestling, the two-time Pacific football rushing leader won three bouts, two by technical fall and by pin over Brenden Miracle of Kubasaki in the 160-pound final to take "Beast."

Patrick Sledge, Edgren — Won three bouts, two by pin and one by technical fall, as the sophomore won "Beast" the title at 180.

Josiah Allen, Kubasaki — Won the "Beast" at 215 pounds by taking two bouts, each by pin.

Christian Fernandez, Kubasaki — Captured the "Beast" heavyweight title with three bout victories, two by pin including the quickest final-round outcome, a 22-second pinfall victory.

Dominic Santaneli, Kadena — Scored a pin at 180 pounds, clinching the Panthers' third dual-meet win of the season.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Pack prepared for Sherman this time

Improved offense ready to take on corner after steering clear of him in opening loss

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Seattle's Richard Sherman may have more to do this time against the Green Bay Packers.

The Packers didn't throw in the Pro Bowl cornerback's direction when the teams met in the season opener in September, a 36-16 win for the Seahawks.

The game plan for the rematch on Sunday in the NFC title game is still in flux. Still, the offense seems better equipped this time around to face Sherman and Seattle's swarming defense.

"I don't think anybody's intimidated. I mean he's a great player," tight end Andrew Quarless said this week. "Their secondary is definitely a great secondary. You've got to give them their respect. But you know the whole 'Legion of Boom' — we'll see."

More than four months have passed since that meeting. It is plenty of time for teams to shape their identities and fix flaws.

Seattle has only improved defensively since September. But the Packers have had plenty of time, too, to get their act together.

Running back Eddie Lacy's production has increased dramatically. Jordy Nelson and Randall Cobb are one of the top receiving tandems in the league. The offensive line is providing



Green Bay Packers at Seattle Seahawks
AFN-Sports
9 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

solid blocking.

And Aaron Rodgers has proven that he's better than most healthy quarterbacks in the league, even when slowed by a left calf injury.

"I don't think it's that much different except their guys are coming through," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "They've grown with their season and they're at the top of their game."

It wasn't quite that case on Sept. 4 in Seattle.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy watched video of the game on Monday morning. He liked some of what he saw. He pointed to a few pivotal plays during which the Packers could have played better.

"As far as not throwing at Richard Sherman, we have great respect for their defense, and they've earned that, and no different in Richard's individual case," McCarthy said. "But we're a no-hud-



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Whether by design or coincidence, Aaron Rodgers didn't throw in Seattle cornerback Richard Sherman's direction in the teams' first meeting this season. The Packers say their offense has improved since.

dle offense and my thought was, and I told Jordy in the game plan, 'Just line up on the left side.'"

The thinking was that Sherman would follow Nelson.

"OK. It didn't happen ... How the game sorted out and things like that, and the ball went where it went was just really how the game was played. There was never a 'Don't throw right' in the game plan," McCarthy added. "With that, I think we've played a lot differently since then. I think we've improved in a number of different areas."

The Packers have succeeded in the second half of the season in part by going after an opponent's strengths.

In a 26-21 win over New England in November, Rodgers threw

for 368 yards, including a 45-yard catch-and-run to Nelson. He had been covered by top cornerback Darrelle Revis at the time.

In the regular-season finale, Green Bay ran for 152 yards in a victory against Detroit, a season-high by a Lions opponent.

In the NFC divisional round win over Dallas, the Packers got three touchdown passes from Rodgers — though none went to Nelson or Cobb. Instead, rookie receiver Davante Adams, and tight end Andrew Quarless and Richard Rodgers, another rookie, had the scores in the big spots.

All three games were played at Lambeau Field. Still, the success will help boost confidence.

"I mean the more targets A-Rod has, the more I think it opens

up the offense," Quarless said. "It's about keeping them honest, really respecting everything that we do, and respecting all the playmakers on the field."

Adams had the biggest impact of the lesser-known Packers with seven catches for 117 yards. The production was somewhat of a surprise given Adams had a combined four catches in his previous four games combined.

As it turns out, Adams doesn't mind talking trash either, a quality that might come in handy if Sherman throws some verbal jabs.

"I like to egg it on. If you want to talk, I feel like you can use that to your advantage because guys get to talking and you make a play on them and it kind of shuts them down," Adams said.

Class: From Wilson to G Sweezy, depth is what sets 2012 group apart



RICHARD LIPSKY/AP

Seattle Seahawks linebacker Bruce Irvin is part of the 2012 Draft class given failing grades by pundits. The group that was ridiculed and also included Russell Wilson and All-Pro Bobby Wagner is about to play in its second straight NFC championship game.

FROM BACK PAGE

"We look at that type of stuff. We look at that class, we've got seven, eight guys that are key contributors right now," Irvin said. "I don't know man, I don't know who grades that type of stuff. We're just going to continue to prove everybody wrong."

Great drafts have anchored championship teams in the past. Arguably the best Draft class was the 1974 Pittsburgh Steelers with Lynn Swann, Jack Lambert, John Stallworth and Mike Webster, all Hall of Famers. The Cowboys took Mel Renfro, Bob Hayes and Roger Staubach in the 1964 Draft. More recently, Baltimore's selection of Jonathan Ogden and Ray Lewis in 1996 proved invaluable to its first title.

Seattle's roster has been built a variety of ways. First-round gems, like safety Earl Thomas and left tackle Russell Okung, both taken in 2010, are joined by late-round steals including safety Kam Chancellor, picked in the fifth round the same year. A year later linebacker K.J. Wright was a fourth-round pick, followed by All-Pro cornerback Richard Sherman in the fifth and starting cornerback Byron Maxwell in the sixth.

And there are the undrafted free agents Seattle has unearthed, most notably starting wide receivers Doug Baldwin and Jermaine Kearse.

But no group of additions to Seattle's roster has matched the importance of the 2012 Draft.

"Everyone told us we weren't going to be any good. We've heard that a lot," Wilson said. "No mat-

ter what anybody tells you, you have to be a self-motivator. That's what we have in the 2012 class of the Seattle Seahawks. They're all self-motivators. We all believe in each other, we all believe in ourselves, and we've all kind of just pushed each other. When we first got here, I know we had a 2012 meeting and kind of told the guys I want to be the best class there's ever been here. That's kind of been our mindset."

The majority of notoriety from the 2012 class has gone to Wilson and Wagner: Wilson has started every game in his three seasons and is in line for a massive payday, while Wagner has become an elite inside linebacker and was first-team All-Pro this season despite missing five games.

But the depth found in that class is what sets them apart. Irvin is Seattle's starting strongside linebacker, proving he was more than just a pass rusher. Fourth-round pick Robert Turbin is the backup to Marshawn Lynch. Sixth-round pick Jeremy Lane has been Seattle's nickel cornerback when healthy.

And the real late-round steal of the group? Guard J.R. Sweezy, a defensive tackle in college that has developed into one of Seattle's most consistent offensive linemen.

"We've always remembered the way they talked about us when we got drafted and what not," Sweezy said. "We kind of knew what we were going to do. We kept our heads down and got to work. Now we're seeing the product of all of that and it's fun to be part of it."

NFL PLAYOFFS

Belichick: Colts QB Luck is like an extra receiver

By JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press



Indianapolis Colts at New England Patriots
AFN-Sports
12:30 a.m. Monday CET
8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Bill Belichick put an extra receiver on the field to confuse the Baltimore Ravens.

Now the New England Patriots coach will find out how it feels. Defending against Colts quarterback Andrew Luck is “like a sixth receiver you have to cover,” Belichick said on Tuesday, an ironic choice of words in the wake of his innovative use of an ineligible receiver in the 35-31 victory over the Ravens.

“If (Luck) extends the play, then he has the ability to create big plays. We’ve seen him do that multiple times throughout his career already,” Belichick said. “It’s another guy you have to defend in the running game, the passing game in terms of his ability to scramble and make first-down yardage on possession-type downs. And he makes good decisions, so all those things are a problem.”

The Patriots advanced to their fourth consecutive conference title game on Saturday thanks in part to a series of plays in which they only sent four traditional offensive linemen onto the field. A skill player then declared himself ineligible — but too late for the Ravens to get the matchup they wanted.

Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said he just wanted the referee to give him time to make a substitution. But by the time he got that straightened out the



Joe MANONEY/AP

New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick says defending against Colts quarterback Andrew Luck, above, is “like a sixth receiver you have to cover.”

Patriots had marched down the field.

Now New England is facing a player who redefines his position. And it's not going to be easy, Belichick conceded.

“Look, he’s passed for a lot of yards in a lot of games,” the Patriots coach said. “The guy is a really good quarterback. He can do everything that a top quarterback needs to do,” listing all of the things Luck can do with his arm, his legs and his mind.

“He’s got good poise, good vision, handles the team well. He’s



“He does a good job of all of it. There are a lot of things about his game that are very good and hard to defend.”

Bill Belichick

Patriots head coach, on Colts QB Andrew Luck

a smart player in terms of game management and situational football,” Belichick said. “So I’d say all of those things are strengths.

They’re all assets. He does a good job of all of it. There are a lot of things about his game that are very good and hard to defend.”

Colts hope improved defense will change results

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Chuck Pagano came to Indianapolis making the case for a robust defense.

Now the Colts coach has the proof he needs to demonstrate it’s working.

The stats have improved, the game tapes look better and a suddenly stout defense is one of the major reasons the Colts are playing for their third AFC title Sunday at New England.

“We’re playing better run defense now than we ever have,” Pagano said after shutting down Denver 24-13 in an AFC divisional-round win one day earlier.

“We’ve got to prepare the same way we prepared last week. We’ve got to do a better job because if we’re not able to stop the run, we’re not going to have a chance.”

Until Pagano arrived three years ago, it was a mantra that rang hollow. But evidence shows that’s not the case anymore.

In 2013, Indianapolis allowed 125.1 yards rushing per game, 26th in the league. This season, they trimmed that number to 113.4 yards and jumped to No. 18.

In the playoffs, the Colts have been even better. Against two of the hottest backs in the league, Cincinnati’s Jeremy Hill and Denver’s C.J. Anderson, the Colts allowed a meager 198 yards rushing in two games. The per-game average of 99.0 yards is the lowest among the four teams still playing on championship weekend.

Indy’s pass defense has been even stingier.

How did the Colts make such a dramatic shift in just three years? By getting bigger



Jack DEMPSEY/AP

Colts cornerback Darius Butler, center, D’Qwell Jackson, left, and Ricky Jean Francois celebrate a defensive stop against the Denver Broncos on Sunday. Indianapolis will face the New England Patriots on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass.

and stronger up front.

In 2012, Indy started the conversion by signing free agent defensive end Cory Redding, drafting rookie defensive tackle Josh Chapman, moving Robert Mathis to outside linebacker and adding inside linebacker Jerrell Freeman from the CFL.

General manager Ryan Grigson then traded a second-round pick to Miami for cornerback Vontae Davis, who has blossomed into a Pro Bowler.

In 2013, Grigson continued to follow

the long-range plan by signing defensive tackle Ricky Jean Francois, safety LaRon Landry, cornerback Greg Toler and outside linebacker Erik Walden in free agency and taking outside linebacker Bjorn Werner in the first round of the draft. All five are starters.

Last summer, Grigson added three more starters in free agency — inside linebacker D’Qwell Jackson, defensive tackle Arthur Jones and safety Mike Adams — and found a budding pass rusher in outside lineback-

er Jonathan Newsome, a fifth-round draft pick.

Being better still might not be good enough this weekend, though.

The AFC South champs face Tom Brady on his home turf, where he is 13-3 in the postseason and 3-0 against Indy thanks in large part to a formula the Colts haven’t yet figured out.

Last year, LeGarrette Blount piled up 166 yards rushing and four touchdowns in a 43-22 divisional-round rout. In November, the Patriots got a career-high 201 yards and four more touchdowns from unheralded running back Jonas Gray in a 42-20 victory.

This time might not be the same.

“I think, like most good teams do as the season progresses, they just continue to get better,” Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said. “They’re very aggressive with, not only pressuring, but also man-to-man coverage. They’ll get up there and play tight and jam and disrupt the passing game that way. And it’s a physical group.”

The Colts, of course, will focus on stopping the run first this weekend.

That mission could be complicated by Brady’s efficiency and the matchup problem they’ll have against tight end Rob Gronkowski.

But the Colts see this game in simpler terms. One more win in a hostile venue will give them a trip to the Super Bowl.

“Stats and all the other stuff doesn’t matter,” Redding said. “The only stat that matters is a ‘W’ or an ‘L.’ So right now our main focus is to prepare the best way we know how, get the game plan and go into Foxborough (Mass.), try to execute it to a T and get the ‘W.’”

SPORTS



Busch: Ex was assassin

Driver accused of abuse says woman is hired killer » Page 25

NFL PLAYOFFS

Seattle Class of

2012



PHOTOS BY TNS AND AP

Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson (3) scrambles with protection from guard J.R. Sweezy. Opposite page, clockwise from top: linebacker Bobby Wagner (54) forces a Rams fumble; linebacker Bruce Irvin scores on an interception; Wagner celebrates; running back Robert Turbin scores a TD.

Seahawks sensed something special in draftees despite criticism

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. Within their inner circle, Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, general manager John Schneider and staff quietly speculated that their 2012 draft class would be special, despite the critics' derision.

Outsiders were dismissive of linebacker Bobby Wagner, a former two-star recruit from tiny Utah State; undersized quarterback Russell Wilson, who had to transfer from North Carolina State to start as a senior; and Bruce Irvin, a high school dropout who had bounced around junior colleges before landing at West Virginia.

"In small circles, behind closed doors, we talked about that this could be the one.

This could be the draft class that could really make the difference," Carroll said.

Sometimes that group of draftees — six of whom are on the Seattle active roster — reminisce about the failing grades their class received. The players have Super Bowl rings and are about to play in their second straight NFC championship game on Sunday when they host Green Bay.

Irvin, the first-round pick, was a stunner no one expected to get that early and many believed would never develop into an every-down player. Critics said second-round selection Wagner never faced elite competition in college.

And Wilson, Seattle's much disputed third-round pick ... well, listing all the criticism that pick received would take too long.

SEE CLASS ON PAGE 30

Best draft classes

Seattle's 2012 draft class has six key contributors on its active roster, including quarterback Russell Wilson and All-Pro linebacker Bobby Wagner. Here's 10 other draft classes that have proven valuable in the construction of contenders and champions in the past.

■ **1974 Pittsburgh Steelers:** Almost certainly the best draft class ever with Hall of Famers Lynn Swann, Jack Lambert, John Stallworth and Mike Webster.

■ **1958 Green Bay Packers:** Jim Taylor, Ray Nitschke and Jerry Kramer. Enough said.

■ **1989-1992 Dallas Cowboys:** The four-year draft run of the Cowboys laid the foundation for their title surge. The group included Troy Aikman, Daryl Johnston, Mark Stepnoski, Emmitt Smith, Russell Maryland, Alvin Harper, Leon Lett, Larry Brown and Darren Woodson.

■ **1995 Tampa Bay Buccaneers:** Hard to argue with two Hall of Famers in the first round: Warren Sapp and Derrick Brooks.

■ **1985 Buffalo Bills:** Taking Bruce Smith with the No. 1 pick and seeing him develop into a Hall of Famer was

a no-brainer. Finding Andre Reed in the fourth-round and seeing him do the same was Buffalo's steal.

■ **1996 Baltimore Ravens:** The Ravens' first draft after the team moved to Baltimore was invaluable: Jonathan Ogden and Ray Lewis in the first round.

■ **1986 San Francisco 49ers:** Tom Rathman, John Taylor and Charles Haley gave the 49ers depth they used for a title run two seasons later.

■ **1981 Washington Redskins:** Where the "Hogs" first started: Guards Mark May and Russ Grimm, tight end Clint Didier and defensive end Dexter Manley.

■ **1965 Chicago Bears:** Dick Butkus was taken by Chicago with the third overall pick. Lucky for the Bears, they had No. 4, too, and took Gale Sayers.

■ **1964 Dallas Cowboys:** Hall of Famer Mel Renfro was taken in the second round, but it was later in the draft the Cowboys cleaned up, getting Bob Hayes in the seventh round and Roger Staubach — the Heisman winner committed to a Navy tour — in the 10th round.

— The Associated Press