

WAR ON TERRORISM

A-10s being deployed to Middle East to take on the Islamic State

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HAPPY Thanksgiving

NFL

Success of Cowboys' Murray no surprise to rushing champ McCoy

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Vietnam at 50: The lingering stigma of the 'troubled veteran' » Page 12

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Missouri National Guard members watch outside a Walgreen store on Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo.

DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

KEEPING WATCH OVER FERGUSON

National Guard reinforcements contain the damage » Page 8

Servicemembers in Japan see easing of some liberty restrictions

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. Forces Japan revised its liberty policy Wednesday, allowing servicemembers to stay out a little later starting next month.

The current policy requires servicemembers E-5 and below to be back on base or in a private residence or hotel room between midnight and 5 a.m. It is unpopular but credited with cutting off-base incidents after two visiting U.S. sailors raped an Okinawa woman in October 2012.

‘Authorized commanders may grant individual ... exceptions of limited duration to the liberty buddy and curfew provisions for specific circumstances.’

Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman
U.S. Forces Japan spokesman

The updated policy, signed Wednesday by USFJ commander Lt. Gen. Sam Angele-

lla and effective Dec. 9, will allow troops to stay out as late as 1 a.m., although all personnel, regardless of rank, are still banned

from drinking in public off base between midnight and 5 a.m.

The change also removes stricter rules for troops on Okinawa, where military personnel have been banned from drinking at off-base bars and limited to two alcoholic drinks with meals at local restaurants.

In addition, lower-ranked personnel on temporary duty here for less than 150 days, who had been required to have a “liberty buddy” while travelling off base after 7 p.m., will only need one after 10 p.m.

SEE LIBERTY ON PAGE 5

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“That is the kind of man Nick was, one that would instill in his wife the faith in his abilities and in his bad-assery.”

— Tasha Sprovtsoff, wife of Staff Sgt. Nicholas Sprovtsoff, an explosive ordnance disposal technician who was killed while investigating an IED

See story on Page 3

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1. New bill would allow the VA to recommend medical marijuana for patients
2. US Forces Japan revises liberty policy; curfew reduced by hour
3. China, North Korea criticize US over Ferguson situation
4. 2ID seeks bar owners' help in curbing troop misbehavior
5. Ebola isolation at US base 'pretty much vacation'

COMING TOMORROW

Music

Wilco releasing 4-disc collection



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MILITARY

Bill would relax VA rules on medical pot

By Emily Wax-Thibodeaux
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON —Arguing that medical marijuana may help wounded warriors with anxiety and stress disorders to “survive and thrive,” Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., have introduced legislation that would allow Department of Veterans Affairs’ doctors to recommend the drug for some patients.

The Veterans Equal Access Act would challenge the VA’s policy that forbids doctors from consulting about medical pot use.

“We should be allowing these wounded warriors access to the medicine that will help them survive and thrive, including medical marijuana, not treating them like criminals and forcing them into the shadows,” said Blumenauer in a statement.

The federal government classifies marijuana as a Schedule I drug, the same as heroin and LSD, deeming that it has no accepted medical use and a high potential for abuse. That means that VA, which runs the largest network of hospitals and health clinics in the country, cannot prescribe pot as a treatment, even for veterans who live in a state where medical marijuana is legal. VA says that its physicians and chronic-pain specialists “are prohibited from recommending and prescribing medical marijuana for PTSD or other pain-related issues.”

Medical staff are also prohibited from completing paperwork required to enroll in state marijuana programs because they are “federal employees who must comply with federal law,” said Gina Jackson, a VA spokeswoman.

Over 20 percent of the 2.8 million American veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and depression, according to the Blumenauer statement. In addition, a recent study found that of the nearly 1 million veterans who receive opioids to treat painful conditions, more than half continue to consume chronically or beyond 90 days, their statement said.

Another study found that the death rate from opiate overdoses among VA patients is nearly double the national average.

“In states where patients can legally access medical marijuana for painful conditions, often as a less-addictive alternative, the hands of VA physicians should not be tied,” the statement said.

Researchers in the United States and several other countries have found evidence that cannabis can help treat PTSD and pain, although studies — such as those looking into the best strains and proper dosages — remain in the early stages.

Though pot is still illegal in the eyes of the federal government, 23 states permit medical marijuana use, including Oregon and California.

Correction

Because of a production error, the incorrect solution to the Nov. 20 crossword puzzle appeared in Friday’s edition. The correct solution appears at right.

Clarification

A Nov. 25 story about the Japanese government purchasing three Global Hawks drones inadvertently left off the rank of U.S. Forces Japan spokesman Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman.

Answer to 11/20 Puzzle

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



Kent Harris/Stars and Stripes

Potato prep

Jen Cline distributes canned sweet potatoes into a tray at La Bella Vista Club, Aviano Air Base, Italy on Wednesday. The club expects to feed at least 220 people for a Thanksgiving lunch on Thursday. As it does every year, the military also has special meals prepared for those serving in downrange locations where cooking really isn't an option.

Kadena airman killed in cycle crash ID'd

Kadena Air Base officials have identified the serviceman killed in a motorcycle accident as Airman 1st Class Quincy Jackson, 21, of Greensburg, Pa.

Base officials said Jackson was taken Monday to the U.S. Navy Hospital Okinawa at Camp Foster where he was pronounced dead at 5:53 p.m.

He was assigned to the Okinawa base's 718th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, officials said in a statement.

Jackson is survived by his mother, Lavina Payne, also of Greensburg, and his father, Roland Jackson, Jr., of Uniontown, Pa.

From staff reports

- Associate of Science
 - Business
 - Computer Science
 - General Education
- Bachelor of Science
 - Business Administration
 - Computer Science
 - Criminal Justice
 - Management
 - Political Science
 - Psychology
 - Social Science
 - Sport and Fitness Management
- Bachelor of Applied Science in Resources and Technology Management
- Master of Business Administration
- Executive Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science in Post Secondary Education
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Science
 - Criminal Justice
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WAR/MILITARY



JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Gen. Joseph Osterman, commander of Marine Special Operations Command, presents a Navy Cross to Chief Petty Officer Justin Wilson on Tuesday at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Corpsman gets Navy Cross

Sailor attached to Marine special ops is first U.S. distinction

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — There have been times Chief Petty Officer Justin Wilson just wanted to forget Sept. 28, 2011.

He was in Helmand province, Afghan police had told coalition forces they believed improvised explosive devices were hidden at the local police checkpoint, and then-Petty Officer 1st Class Wilson and Staff Sgt. Nicholas Sprovtsoff went in to investigate.

Sprovtsoff, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, tried to get rid of the IEDs with some explosives of his own, but when that didn't work, he went into the area again and stepped on a pressure-plate bomb.

Wilson, a corpsman, and two other Americans, Marine Staff Sgt. Christopher Diaz and Army Spc. James Butz, ran to help. When the team was moving Sprovtsoff to safety, another IED exploded, throwing Wilson against a barrier and severely wounding the other three men.

Wilson had taken shrapnel in his face and chest, he focused on trying to help the other men, members of Marine Special Operations Team 8113. He dragged one out of the area and looked for the other two. Only after he had confirmed that all three were dead did he allow anyone to treat his wounds.

"Words can't explain what those guys meant to me, and there's times when I want to shut out the world, act like this whole day never happened," he said Tuesday at a Camp Pendleton ceremony in which he

received the Navy Cross. "But I've learned that if you do that, you don't remember. And without remembrance, there is no honor."

Wilson is the first sailor in the eight-year history of Marine Special Operations Command to receive a Navy Cross. Diaz and Sprovtsoff were awarded Bronze Stars with V for combat valor at the Tuesday ceremony; Butz had already been awarded the Bronze Star with V.

Wilson's actions illustrate what the Marines call "corpsman up," said Maj. Gen. Joseph Osterman, commander of MARSOC.

"A Marine in trouble always looks for that corpsman," he said. "Chief Wilson today epitomizes that heroism and true selflessness that we all depend on as Marines, to save our lives."

Tasha Sprovtsoff said that for more than a year after the explosions, she chose not to know the exact details of her husband's death. But when she learned, she said, she surprised herself by smiling.

"I thought, it would take two bombs to get rid of Nick Sprovtsoff," she said. "That is the kind of man that Nick was, one that would instill in his wife a faith in his abilities and in his bad-assery, and I feel like if he were here today, that's what he would say. He would say, 'Yep, I'm a bad ass.'"

Salvador Diaz said his son never cared much about medals and accolades. But medals and memories are now all his family has left, Diaz said.

"It's not going to replace our son — nothing will — but it's something we can hold on to," Diaz said.



Diaz



Sprovtsoff

had put Dino in a vehicle in the air conditioning because it was hot, Salvador Diaz said, so the dog was not injured in the explosions.

Wilson downplayed his own actions, saying that Diaz and Dino had saved thousands of lives, and that Sprovtsoff's actions likely saved 120 lives that day alone.

"Some people tell me I'm lucky to be alive, to walk out of that," he said. "I'll tell you, I'm lucky to have served with them. They made me a better person."

This Thanksgiving, Wilson told the Marines and families gathered for the ceremony, "Laugh a lot, love hard, and don't forget what these guys did."

Hlad.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter:@jhlad

"We are still processing a complicated array of emotions. Among them: grief, a sense of emptiness, but also a sense of pride."

A few months ago, the Diaz family was able to adopt Dino, the Belgian Malinois that Staff Sgt. Diaz was working with at the time of his death.

Diaz, a military working dog handler, had put Dino in a vehicle in the air conditioning because it was hot, Salvador Diaz said, so the dog was not injured in the explosions.

Wilson downplayed his own actions, saying that Diaz and Dino had saved thousands of lives, and that Sprovtsoff's actions likely saved 120 lives that day alone.

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Official: Afghan president orders review of military

By LYNNE O'DONNELL
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — President Ashraf Ghani has ordered a top-to-bottom review of the operations of Afghanistan's defense forces, including discussing the resumption of controversial night raids banned by his predecessor.

The move appears aimed at revamping the military for the fight against the Taliban amid new indications that U.S. and international forces will play a greater role than initially envisaged after the 13-year U.S.-led combat mission formally ends next month.

The wholesale review is already underway.

presidential spokesman Nafizullah Salazarai told The Associated Press, saying Ghani had instructed the National Security Council to "work out" a set of guidelines and standards for military operations.

Under new guidelines quietly approved by President Barack Obama, U.S. troops may once again engage Taliban fighters, not just in Qaida territory. U.S. administration officials confirmed last week. Until Obama broadened the guidelines, U.S. forces were to have limited Afghanistan operations to counterterrorism missions against al-Qaida after this year, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss Obama's decisions by name.

The emerging reconsiderations in both Kabul and the U.S. appears linked, at least in part, to this year's successes by jihadi radicals in Syria and especially Iraq — which have made the December 2011 pullout from Iraq seem less successful and forced a re-engagement there by the West.

Salazarai would not give precise details of what military procedure would be under review, though he said the discussions include a possible lifting of the ban on night raids. First Deputy President Abdul Rashid Dostum said the raids might resume early next year.

Both underlined that the ban has not yet been lifted. "This is being worked on and is not yet final," Salazarai said.

Resuming night raids would be a significant shift. The raids were highly unpopular with the Afghan

public, with many people viewing them as a violation of privacy and of the traditional sequestering of women. The military, however, regarded them as essential to the anti-Taliban fight, and has been lobbying to resume them ever since.

Salazarai gave no timetable for the review, saying only that Ghani "will personally look at that manual to ensure it will not cause any risk to Afghan civilians or security forces."

The overhaul appears to include every aspect of the way the Afghan military operates, from training to staffing issues to battlefield tactics. The military has faced a host of issues even as it has won some praise after taking the lead in fighting the Taliban over the past year.

Among its many problems are a high attrition rate, low literacy rates, controversies over pay and increased casualties. Moreover, stung by an attack by the Taliban on the capital, Kabul, in recent weeks have raised questions over how they were able to breach security multiple times, amid concerns about intelligence failures and collusion with militants within the forces.

The review is an indication that Ghani will take a hands-on approach to defense against the intensifying insurgency. Currently, the Afghan National Security Forces are thinly spread across the country, as the Taliban has sought to extend its influence beyond its traditional southern and eastern strongholds, to areas in the north and northwest where they have put government forces under extreme pressure.

As a result, Afghan forces have suffered recent — and according to the second-ranking American commander in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, unsustainable — losses since taking the lead in the anti-insurgent fight from international forces in the middle of last year.

If the ban on night raids is lifted, observers assess that the U.S. would have a role in the operations. That would go beyond what was outlined in the security pact ratified by Ghani after the Afghan parliament.

Analyst Javed Kohistani said insurgents had benefited from the night raid ban, knowing that their movements would not be tracked. "Night operations are very effective as they are conducted on the basis of strong intelligence, deploy high technology, have fewer or even no civilian casualties, and prevent a wide range of enemy activities, such as planting roadside bombs," he said.

UN appeals for \$405M for Afghan aid in 2015

KABUL, Afghanistan — The United Nations has appealed for \$405 million to cover the humanitarian needs of the people in Afghanistan in 2015.

U.N. humanitarian coordinator Mark Bowden launched the appeal on Wednesday.

He says that almost 8,000 civil-

ians have been killed or injured in the war with Taliban-led insurgents this year, and more than 100,000 have been forced from their homes.

As the conflict expands in the coming year, more help will be needed, he says.

Last year, the U.N. appealed for \$406 million in Afghanistan, but received \$237 million.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY

Top prosecutor leaves AF to reform military justice

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

One of the military's most highly regarded prosecutors is leaving the justice system he's served for more than two decades to work for a group devoted to reforming it.

Col. Don Christensen, formerly the Air Force's chief prosecutor, is retiring from the service in December and will become the president of Protect Our Defenders, an influential nonprofit that advocates for and supports military sexual assault victims and lobbies for military justice reform.

Changes are overdue to a system Christensen says enables perpetrators and punishes victims.

"I've seen how people in units rally around the accused," he said. "These are the future convening authorities."

"We need to professionalize the justice system. Make it similar to what the rest of the world does."

Christensen became well-acquainted with the advocacy group, also known as POD, after he won a conviction two years ago against Lt. Col. James Wilkerson on charges the F-16 pilot and 31st Fighter Wing inspector general at Aviano Air Base, Italy, had sexually assaulted a sleeping house guest. Then-Third Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin subsequently dismissed the case

and reinstated Wilkerson into the force.

Franklin's action — reversing the verdict and sentence of a five-colonel jury — shocked and angered numerous victims' groups and U.S. lawmakers, who said it illustrated the bias confronting military victims of sexual crimes. The case led to a host of legislative changes to the military justice system, including the end of commanders' unfettered discretion to dismiss verdicts and reduce sentences.

Those moves were initially opposed by military officials, and they remain unpopular with some. On Monday, the Pentagon is due to report to President Barack Obama on progress the military has made since then to address sexual assault in the military.

"I feel like military justice has been hijacked by a number of female senators and congresswomen," said defense lawyer Frank Spinner, who represented Wilkerson.

But for many advocates for sexual assault victims, whose ranks now include Christensen, the changes haven't gone far enough.

After more than two decades working inside the system — as a defense lawyer, judge and prosecutor — Christensen says it remains deeply flawed.

"We need to bring balance to the

system," he said. "We've shoveled all these rights onto the accused that don't appear anywhere else."

Under the military justice system, for instance, alleged victims can be ordered to give repeated interviews and depositions to the defense before trial. And unlike in the civilian court system, defendants can call supporters to provide "good character evidence" during the trial, which by itself can raise "reasonable doubt" for an acquittal.

Christensen said he'd decided to work for Protect Our Defenders because he considers the group focused and savvy. "When they advocate changes, they've actually thought through how the changes will affect the criminal justice system," he said. "I also know they're pro-military."

Still, he said, he expected his new career choice would be controversial. "I'll lose friends," he said. There are some people who are so hostile to anything anti-military justice, they'll think I'm selling out."

Nancy Parrish, POD founder and former president, said she was "honored and humbled" that Christensen was coming on board.

"Col. Christensen knows the ins and outs of our military justice system," she said. "He has seen, up close and personal, the lack of justice victims too often receive in

the military justice system, which puts a victim's fate in the hands of the rapist's boss rather than professional, legally trained experts."

At POD, Christensen will "fight to improve the military that he loves," Parrish said.

One of the first matters of business will be making another attempt to have career prosecutors, instead of commanders, decide how sexual assault cases are handled.

"I don't want the commander making decisions about what kind of surgery I get or if I get surgery. It's the same with this," Christensen said. "It's outside their lane."

Until the Wilkerson case, Christensen, a 53-year-old South Dakotan and military history buff, had no imminent plans to retire from the service.

But after winning what turned out to be his biggest case, his career began to lose its luster. Franklin's decision to dismiss the Wilkerson case — because he believed Wilkerson's accuser had lied, the judge had made bad rulings, and Christensen had persuaded gullible jurors to the wrong verdict — was uniformly backed by top Air Force officers.

Gen. Philip Breedlove, for instance, commander of U.S. European Command, but then-commander of U.S. Air Forces in

Europe and thus Franklin's boss, told some 500 majors at an Air Force school that Franklin was beyond reproach and his decision should not be questioned.

But Christensen wouldn't go along.

When senators interested in the case asked to meet with him, he agreed, and spoke candidly. When the woman at the center of the case, a 49-year-old physician assistant named Kim Hanks, went on NBC to tell her story, Christensen vouched for her, telling the network that Hanks was among the most credible witnesses he'd ever encountered.

"I spoke to Congress, I spoke to the media, and I didn't toe the company line that generals are infallible," he said.

When Christensen came under attack from Wilkerson supporters in the fighter pilot community, he was accused of prosecutorial misconduct and subjected to inspector general inquiries, he weathered it alone. No misconduct was ever found.

"There was zero pushback," he said. "I have never, ever been publicly defended."

Christensen said his evaluations, which had previously been superlative, turned mediocre and an assignment he was offered was less desirable.

SEE PROSECUTOR ON PAGE 5

THANKSGIVING Buffet

November 27, Thursday
Serving from 11:00 - 19:00

Adults: \$29.95
Children: \$14.95 (4-12)

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

December 25, Thursday
Serving from 11:00 - 19:00

Adults: \$29.95
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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Prosecutor: Colonel named president of Protect Our Defenders

FROM PAGE 4

He saw little reason to remain in the Air Force. "I couldn't even advocate anymore internally for reform," he said.

A number of Air Force lawyers called Christensen's retirement a loss to the service. "He is a phenomenal boss, takes care of his litigators better than anyone in the Air Force," said Maj. Ben Bellis, who worked with Christensen on the Wilkerson case. "He's the best litigator in the Air Force, and they are letting him go without even a struggle."

Col. Pat Dolan spent three years as a senior defense counsel and was many times Christensen's courtroom adversary. But he said he counts Christensen as a friend and mentor.

"He's probably the finest Air Force trial advocate I've ever seen," Dolan said. "It was taking blows repeatedly to my body, but you have this admiration. It was tough to take the blows, but he made me a better advocate."

Dolan said Christensen was very compassionate and had possessed a deeper and earlier understanding of the dynamics of sexual assault than almost anyone in the Air Force.

"I know he's going to work for POD. I think there's no one more qualified to do it. He has a very intimate view of what victims go through."

"I think he has a very strong

sense of justice," Dolan said. "The truth matters to him."

Christensen could have used his retirement to make a fortune doing defense work.

"He's the first person I'd hire. He's top notch," said former Army lawyer Kyle Fischer, a defense lawyer who is personally unacquainted with Christensen.

Spinner, Wilkerson's defense attorney, said he'd objected to some prosecution moves during the Wilkerson court-martial, particularly Christensen's cross-examination of Wilkerson's wife, Beth. Because her husband did not testify, she was the chief defense witness. Spinner said he'd found Christensen's cross-examinations "domineering."

"But I can step outside the courtroom and respect his ability," Spinner said. "I wish him well. He's a very capable advocate."

Dolan agreed that Christensen's cross-examinations could be "brutal" to watch.

"Yeah, he's aggressive in court," Dolan said. "But it's not inappropriate. That's the whole point: Somehow the truth is supposed to come out."

As much as he loves being in the courtroom, Christensen said, he is unsuited to defense work.

"I just can't do it. I can't cross victims anymore and say the things I'd need to say about them in arguments," he said. "I know they're all the same always telling the truth."

The idea that women "cry rape"

for revenge or regret and that their lives are enhanced by pursuing false allegations through the justice system is an absurd belief held by "misogynists," Christensen said. "But really, it's a horrific process," he said.

In overturning Wilkerson's conviction, Franklin said he'd been persuaded by scores of letters from Wilkerson supporters. Those letters depicted the colonel-select as an upstanding officer and family man married to a woman who would not abide consensual infidelity, let alone sexual assault.

Months later, it was revealed that Wilkerson had had an extramarital affair years earlier on a temporary duty assignment that produced a child. He was subsequently forced to retire as a major.

In January, after questions arose about the prosecutor's decision to tell the general what he thought about his fateful decision. "Hey, Sir, you blew it," Christensen said, recounting the conversation.

"You affected a lot of people's lives," Christensen continued, to which he said Franklin responded that his life had also changed: "I lost a star."

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Liberty: Incidents of misconduct have dropped since policy started, officials say

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Authorized commanders may grant individual, event-by-event exceptions of limited duration to the liberty buddy and curfew provisions for specific circumstances," USFJ spokesman Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman said.

Commanders can also impose more restrictive provisions or additional measures as necessary due to mission requirements, he said.

The changes come after what Hoffman described as "a careful and thorough review across all the services and commands in Japan on what constitutes an appropriate baseline liberty policy for U.S. military members serving here."

Before any military members are granted liberty, they must undergo training in sexual assault response and in Japanese cultural, he said. "Commanders will ensure their servicemembers are educated on responsible drinking practices," he said.

Since the liberty policy was imposed, there has been a substantial drop in the number of incidents of misconduct, he said.

Statistics released by the military and the Japanese government earlier this year showed

‘We have been working with the government of Japan and local authorities ... They are in agreement with our efforts and fully support what we are doing.’

Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman
U.S. Forces Japan spokesman

that 32 off-base crimes were committed by U.S. personnel — including dependents and civilian workers — on Okinawa in 2013, a drop from the average of 56 annually over the past decade.

The highest priority of the liberty policy is safeguarding host-nation relations while maximizing quality of life for servicemembers and their families, Hoffman said.

"We have been working with the government of Japan and local authorities throughout this process and have consulted them many times," he said. "They are in agreement with our efforts and fully support what we are doing."

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Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR

Officers' Club 243-5030

Thanksgiving Day Feast
Thursday, November 27 from 1100 to 1900 in Kosano Dining Room
We offer an abundant Thanksgiving Day Feast with all the traditional fare to include Roasted Turkey, Honey Glazed Ham and much, much more! Call 243-5030 and make your reservations today. Adults \$20.95 / Kids 8-11 \$10.95 / 4-7 \$8.95 Open to All Hands!

The O'Club Deli
Mondays - Fridays from 0700 to 1800
Saturdays & Sundays from 0900 to 1800
Quality take away at the best deli on base! Fresh made breakfast and a variety of lunch items featuring our famous fried chicken, Hawaiian lunches, sandwiches, Artisan breads and more! Open to all hands.

CPO Club 243-5506

CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!
Celebrate Thanksgiving at the CPO Club
Thursday, November 27 from 1100 to 1700
Bring your family and friends and indulge in mouth-watering turkey and pumpkin pie at the CPO Club's traditional Thanksgiving buffet. Make your reservations today. Call 243-5506 for details. \$19.95 Adults • \$7.95 Kids 4-7

All You Can Eat Prime Rib
Tuesdays from 1700 to 2100
Prime rib lovers rejoice! Enjoy our all you can eat prime rib with a wonderful variety of buffet items we have prepared for you. Limited menu is also available.

Club Alliance 243-3000

Thanksgiving Dinner
Thursday, November 27 in 1400 to 2000 in Italian Gardens Restaurant
Prepaid tickets available at the cash cage on Saturday November 1. Enjoy a 5-course, home cooked Thanksgiving dinner with your friends and family in cozy Italian Gardens. With our friendly service and familiar favorites like turkey, ham, sweet potatoes and more, you'll feel like you're back at home! Only \$24.95 (Adult) and \$12.95 (Child 11 & under) Seating is limited, so buy your tickets early!

All Hands' Weekly Texas Hold 'em Tournament
Saturdays at 1800 in 3rd Floor Sports Bar
Play to win! First place receives 60% of the pot via NEX Gift Card. Second place receives a free buy in for the next week's tournament, and third place receives a great prize from Club A. \$30 buy-in for \$3,000 in chips. Re-buys or extra chips are available for the first 30-minutes for an additional \$1,500 in chips for \$15. Sign up at the 2nd floor cash cage of 3rd Floor Sports Bar. Must be 18 or older to play

Club Takemiya 246-8077

Thanksgiving Day Buffet
Thursday, November 27 from 1100 to 1800
Enjoy a traditional All-American Thanksgiving meal accompanied with a your favorite sides, salads and desserts.

Scrumptious Sunday Brunch
Sundays 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.

Negishi Club 242-4151

Thanksgiving Day Buffet
Thursday, November 27 from 1100 to 1800
Enjoy your Thanksgiving Day ... let us do the cooking and the cleaning! This year we will feature a traditional All-American Thanksgiving meal accompanied with your favorite sides, salads and desserts!

Fisherman's Friday
Fridays from 1700 to 2100
Each Fisherman's Friday will feature a variety of seafood entrees to include Atlantic Salmon, sea scallops and more! Regular menu is also available. \$12.95

MILITARY

A system disabled?

Disability program for vets strays far from its official purpose

By ALAN ZAREMBO
Los Angeles Times

The room fell silent for seven minutes as Illinois Rep. Tammy Duckworth upbraided a government contractor.

"Shame on you," the congresswoman said after learning that a disability rating would give his technology company preferential standing for federal contracts.

Castillo had filed a claim with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs after learning that a disability rating would give his technology company preferential standing for federal contracts.

His disability: A foot injury suffered playing football at the U.S. Military Preparatory Academy in 1984.

Though the injury didn't prevent him from going on to play quarterback at the University of San Diego, the VA rated him 30 percent disabled — good for \$450 a month, tax-free.

Duckworth, an Army veteran who lost both legs in Iraq in 2004 when her helicopter was shot down, noted that her severely damaged right arm was rated only 20 percent.

"You, who never picked up a weapon in defense of this great nation, were cynically taking advantage of the system," she said. "You broke the faith with this nation."

Duckworth directed her ire at Castillo, but the real culprit was the broad eligibility criteria of the disability system itself. The contract was played by rules favoring benefits and, as many Washington lawmakers know, those benefits cover ailments from sports injuries to bullet wounds, resulting in disability payouts that totaled \$58 billion this fiscal year, up from \$49 billion last year.

Routinely criticized in government reviews as out of touch with modern concepts of disability, the system has strayed far from its official purpose of compensating veterans for their lost earning capacity.

Lawmakers are unwilling to support reforms — or even to criticize the system publicly.

"If Social Security is the third rail of American politics, then the VA disability system is the fourth, nuclear rail," said Michael Moffatt, a top VA policy official until 2006.

Duckworth, a Democrat, declined to be interviewed about the disability system. So did Repub-

licans who have led attempts to end unnecessary federal spending, including Arizona Sen. John McCain, Reps. Darrell Issa, of California, and Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, as well as Florida Republican Jeff Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs who has aggressively investigated the VA for mistreatment of veterans.

"I defy you to find another side to the discussion about vets," said Bill Brew, a Vietnam veteran who spent 25 years on staff of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs before retiring in 2011. "It doesn't exist."

As the number of U.S. veterans has declined from 26.4 million to 22 million over the last 14 years and military service has fallen to a small number of volunteers, "What do you get for service?" has become a national meme as the political parties compete to stand up for them.

The arcane rules of the disability system are protected by what Brew and others on staff came to refer to as "the iron triangle": The VA, veterans groups and lawmakers.

"The easy course is to spew the rhetoric that is wildly supportive of veterans," Brew said.

Beyond wheelchairs

Anybody who spends significant time in the military stands a high chance of becoming a disabled veteran.

"It's not like the common perception," said Daniel Gade, a public policy professor at the U.S. Military Academy who lost his right leg in a 2005 IED attack in Iraq. "Americans are prohibited veterans, because they think of veterans in wheelchairs who lost limbs. That's a tiny percentage."

Still an Army officer, Gade won't collect disability pay until he retires.

Amputees account for roughly 2,000 of the 904,839 Afghanistan and Iraq veterans on the disability rolls as of May. Though the VA did not provide figures on how many combat veterans are among the 3.9 million total beneficiaries, officials said they are a small minority. More than 680,000 veterans in the system served during peacetime before 1991.

The system pays monthly for nearly any medical condition that can be tied to the time a veteran was enlisted. Once benefits are

awarded, they are usually for life, even in extreme circumstances. Castillo, for example, was charged this April with murdering his wife. If convicted, VA rules stipulate that his disability rating would drop to 10 percent, or about \$130 a month, while he is in prison.

Many of the most common conditions in the system are relatively minor ailments such as joint and muscle pain and tinnitus.

A woman who had a hysterectomy in the military can receive \$900 a month for life. Delivering a baby by cesarean section is worth \$130 a month — if the surgical scar is tender.

Payments for sleep apnea, which is most often caused by weight gain and is usually manageable, top \$1.5 billion a year.

Ratings system

Over the last decade, government studies have described the system as badly antiquated and ill-defined in its purpose.

It was created nearly a century ago to rate the severity of new disabilities have been added, the basic philosophy remains. Each condition carries a rating that is supposed to reflect how much, on average, it cuts into a veteran's earning capacity.

The calculation was easier when most jobs required physical labor and medicine offered fewer interventions. But today, the ratings often seem arbitrary.

Why is the removal of three ribs a 30 percent disability when losing a pinkie is 20 percent? Why is losing sense of smell a 10 percent disability when high blood pressure is as much as 60 percent?

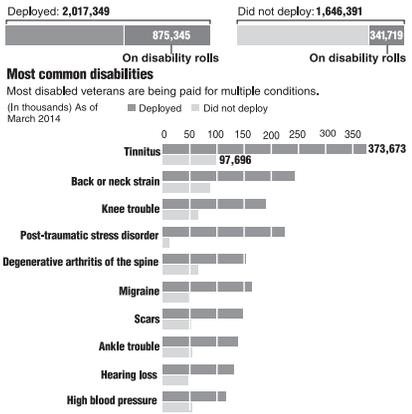
Monthly compensation is determined using a formula that combines a veteran's conditions into a single rating of up to 100 percent.

The Government Accountability Office, the Institute of Medicine, a presidential commission and other groups have suggested reforms to give veterans disability ratings based on how they function rather than the severity of their medical conditions. Recommendations have included one-time payments for certain ailments, quality-of-life payments and incentives for disability recipients to seek treatment and vocational rehabilitation.

But one of the most Whappens, according to Brad Florb, the VA's senior advisor for compensation. Benefit reductions are rarely proposed, he said. "That's never

Disabled post-9/11 veterans

Among veterans who served in the era of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, many on the disability rolls never deployed to those conflicts. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs does not track how many disabled veterans experienced combat.



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Alan Zarembo, Lorena Iniguez Elebe, Los Angeles Times/Tribune News Service

very popular — not among our stakeholders, not among members of Congress."

Looking for more

Air Force veteran Roland Griggs dislocated his left shoulder in basic training in 1965. Stationed in California and Turkey during Vietnam, he was eventually deemed 10 percent disabled.

His right shoulder, which he favored because of his disability, eventually required surgery. He said years of taking ibuprofen had caused acid reflux, which he believed led to cancer of the esophagus. Now he wants to boost his disability rating.

"I'm hoping for as much as I can get — 60 percent or 100 percent," said Griggs, a retired IRS agent.

For help, last month he went to the American Legion.

Verna Jones, head of the Legion office in Washington, D.C., said assistance with claims was an important part of drawing in new members as the older generation disappears.

The Legion and other major veterans organizations, which hold power of attorney for hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans, are fervent defenders of the system. A 2012 GAO review found that veterans groups generally regard the current rating scheme as an equitable

way to determine disability pay. Veterans organizations have tremendous lobbying power in Congress and the VA.

Sen. Richard Burr, of North Carolina, saw the influence in 2008 after sponsoring a bill to give veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression or anxiety a financial incentive to get before signing them up for a lifetime of disability pay. They would receive \$11,000 if they attend treatment and wait at least a year to apply for compensation for those conditions.

But veterans groups said they could not support any measure that restricted disability claims.

Not even Burr's fellow Republicans on the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs were willing to co-sponsor the bill.

Burr reintroduced the bill last year as payments for PTSD soared and more VA mental health providers expressed concern that the financial incentives of the disability system were undermining their ability to assess and treat patients.

An official from Disabled American Veterans told the committee that the group supports stipends to promote treatment and early intervention. "However, DAV strongly opposes any provision that attempts to link wellness stipend payments to a veteran's right to file a disability claim," he testified.

The bill has gone nowhere.

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MILITARY

Hagel's successor faces tough task in Mideast

By **MYSS RYAN**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When Chuck Hagel took charge at the Pentagon in early 2013, Syria's civil war looked like a poisonous morass: 60,000 people had died, an array of armed factions was doing battle on the ground, and widening instability had U.S. officials scrambling to avoid being dragged into another war in the Middle East.

As Hagel prepares to step down under pressure almost two years later, the picture is largely the same — except that 200,000 Syrians have now died and the United States is in the thick of an expanding military campaign in both Syria and neighboring Iraq.

White House officials, making the former Nebraska senator's hastily arranged resignation announcement Monday, did not publicly fault Hagel for his management of the military response to a security crisis now consuming the Middle East. But they did acknowledge that Hagel, selected in part for his experience as an infantryman in Vietnam, was not the wartime secretary they required.

Since this summer, when Islamic State fighters conquered a full third of Syria and Iraq, U.S. warplanes have conducted nearly 870 strikes on militant targets in those countries. President Barack Obama, who in 2011 hailed an end to the last U.S. war in Iraq, has reluctantly sent hundreds of

servicemembers back to Iraq to help the country shake the militant threat.

The White House has not settled on a candidate to replace Hagel, and one of the leading contenders for the job, Michele Flournoy, who served as undersecretary of defense for policy earlier in the Obama administration, indicated Monday that she is not interested in being considered. Several other top contenders, including former official Ashton Carter, have deep experience at the Pentagon.

No matter whom Obama selects as Hagel's successor, the next defense secretary is likely to struggle, as Hagel did, to contain the instability rippling across the Middle East, given the potency of the Islamic State, the weakness of U.S. partners on the ground and the limits White House policymakers have imposed on U.S. involvement.

"The challenges don't change because the secretary of defense has changed," said Robert Ford, the last U.S. ambassador to Syria. Ford said the Obama administration would need to ensure that Iraq's fragile coalition government builds lasting inroads with Sunni Muslims, some of whom are now supporting the Islamic State, even while it seeks to rebuild a broken, undermined military.

In Syria, he said, officials must find a way to reconcile the White House's goal of weakening the brutal Islamist movement with its aversion to taking direct action

In Syria, U.S. bombs have taken a toll on the Islamic State but Assad remains comfortably in power. There are few signs the White House will soon alter its approach to the conflict.

against Syrian President Bashar Assad, whose war with rebel fighters gave rise to the group.

Despite months of U.S. and allied airstrikes, Iraqi forces and Shiite militiamen have not been able to dislodge the well-armed Islamist fighters from most of the areas they control across the country's north and west.

In Syria, U.S. bombs have taken a toll on the Islamic State but Assad remains comfortably in power. There are few signs the White House will soon alter its approach to the conflict.

"We don't foresee any major changes in the strategy against ISIL as a result of the secretary's resignation," said a senior U.S. defense official, using an alternative name for the Islamic State. "He helped craft it. He's been in on the decisions. That said, that doesn't mean the strategy won't change over time," he said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss policy deliberations.

While the day-to-day military operations are managed by U.S. Central Command, a new secretary might reclaim some of the

military voice that an introverted Hagel, known for rarely speaking up in meetings among senior Obama advisers, ceded to Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dempsey, despite Obama's insistence that U.S. troops will not return to combat in Iraq, has indicated that U.S. troops may eventually need to get closer to the front lines to help Iraqi forces repel the Islamic State.

The next defense secretary will also have to contend with a sometimes-tense relationship with the White House. Both of Hagel's predecessors, Leon Panetta and Robert Gates, have criticized Obama's handling of national security matters since leaving office and have complained of White House micromanagement of the military.

"Whoever the new secretary of defense is, they're probably going to want to discuss with the leadership of the National Security Council the scope of freedom for decision-making at the Pentagon," a former U.S. official said, referring to what he described as the White House's desire to tightly

control national security policy. "Pentagon and State have to adjust to that," the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration dynamics. "If you can't adjust, you leave."

The next Pentagon boss will also have to find a way to build support among Americans for a campaign that U.S. commanders are warning will last for years and that may not make concrete progress unless Iraqis can set sectarian politics aside and Syria's quarrelsome political opposition can come together.

"That's a strategy that doesn't work in American public debate, because it has words like 'containment,' 'patience' and 'long-term,'" said Jeremy Shapiro, a former State Department official who worked on Middle East policy. "It's a strategy that can work, but it's not a strategy of victory, if you know what I mean."

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Flournoy not interested in DOD job

By **GREG JAFFE**
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A former Pentagon official who was widely thought to be among President Barack Obama's top candidates to be the next secretary of defense has indicated that she's not interested in the job.

Michelle Flournoy, who co-founded the Center for a New American Security and currently serves as its chief executive officer, wrote in a letter to her board of directors that the needs of her family prevented her from taking the job, according to a person who received the letter.

Within minutes of the news Monday that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel planned

to resign, Flournoy was touted as the front-runner for the job.

Flournoy had served as the undersecretary of defense for policy in the first years of the Obama presidency and played a key role in developing the strategy for the U.S. surge of troops into

Afghanistan in 2009. During her years in the Pentagon, she was a trusted interlocutor with the White House and was widely respected by the U.S. military as well as Republicans in Congress. She left her post at the Pentagon because she said she wanted to devote more time to her family.

Her withdrawal from consideration likely will complicate the White House's search for a replacement for Hagel. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., who is close to Obama and who is frequently mentioned as a possible defense secretary, said on Monday that he was not interested.



Flournoy

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NATION

Guard, police curb unrest in Ferguson

Troops watch over neighborhoods, businesses

The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — National Guard reinforcements helped contain the latest protests in Ferguson, preventing a second night of the chaos that led to arson and looting after a grand jury decided not to indict the white police officer who killed Michael Brown.

Demonstrators returned Tuesday to the riot-scarred streets. But with hundreds of additional troops standing watch over neighborhoods and businesses, the protests had far less destructive power than the previous night. However, officers still used some tear gas and pepper spray, and demonstrators set a squad car on fire and broke windows at City Hall.

Since the grand jury's decision, protesters in cities throughout the country have rallied behind the refrain "hands up, don't shoot," and drawn attention to other police killings.

The toll from Monday's protests — 12 commercial buildings burned to the ground, plus eight other blazes and a dozen vehicles torched — prompted Missouri governor Jay Nixon to send a large contingent of extra National Guard troops.

The governor ordered the initial force of 700 to be increased to 2,200 in the hopes that their presence would help local law enforcement keep order in the St. Louis suburb.

"Lives and property must be protected," Nixon said. "This community deserves to have peace."

Guard units protected the Ferguson Police Department and left crowd control, arrests and use of tear gas to local officers. In one commercial area Wednesday morning, a soldier was stationed at every few storefronts, and some were on rooftops.

Forty-five people were arrested, most for failure to disperse. Outside police headquarters, one woman was taken into custody after protesters hurled what appeared to be smoke bombs, flares and frozen water bottles at a line of officers. Several other protesters were arrested after defying police instructions to get out of the street or out of the way of police vehicles.

Protesters threw rocks, tent poles, and bottles — some con-

taining urine — at officers. As the crowd dispersed early Wednesday, some threw rocks through the windows of a muffler shop and a used-car dealership near a painted mural that read "Peace for Ferguson."

'Lives and property must be protected. This community deserves to have peace.'

Jay Nixon
Missouri governor

Some streets that had been overrun the previous night were deserted, except for the occasional police cruiser or National Guard vehicle. Some Guard crews monitored empty parking lots. Large demonstrations were held throughout the country for a second day Tuesday. Some were peaceful, such as in New York, where Union Square was the jumping-off point for a large protest that splintered into smaller groups that walked to places like Times Square and the entrances of the Williamsburg and Manhattan bridges. Hundreds of Seattle high school students walked out of classes, and several hundred people marched down a Cleveland freeway ramp to block rush-hour traffic.

Other events weren't as calm. In Oakland, Calif., a crowd of protesters smashed windows at car dealerships, restaurants and convenience stores. A rally that drew thousands in Minneapolis took a turn when a car struck a protester and drove through a pack of others. And in Portland, Ore., police used pepper spray and made arrests after about 300 people disrupted bus and light rail traffic by walking across a Willamette River bridge.

During an interview with ABC News, police officer Darren Wilson said he has a clean conscience because "I know I did my job right."

Wilson, 28, had been with the Ferguson police force for less than three years before the Aug. 9 shooting. He told ABC that Brown's shooting was the first time he fired his gun on the job.



CHARLIE REEDL/AP

Members of the National Guard stand near the Ferguson, Mo., Police Department on Tuesday.

way if Brown had been white, Wilson said yes. Attorneys for the Brown family vowed to push for federal charges against Wilson and said the grand jury process was rigged from the start to clear Wilson.

"We said from the very beginning that the decision of this grand jury was going to be the direct reflection of the presenta-

tion of the evidence by the prosecutor's office," attorney Anthony Gray said. He suggested the office of the county's top prosecutor, Bob McCulloch, presented certain testimony to discredit the process, including from witnesses who did not see the shooting.

Brown's parents made public calls for peace in the run-up to Monday's announcement, and on

Tuesday, their representatives again stressed that the people setting fires were not on Michael Brown's side.

Videos that were widely circulated on Tuesday showed Brown's mother, Lesley McSpadden, standing atop a car and breaking down as the announcement of the grand jury decision blares over the stereo.

STARS AND STRIPES

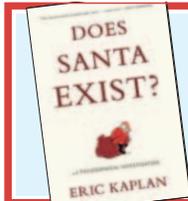
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NATION

Ferguson officer: 'I know I did my job right'

Darren Wilson defends actions in confrontation with unarmed teen that sparked riots

By NICHOLAS J.C. PISTOR
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson told ABC News in an exclusive interview Tuesday that "all I wanted to do is live" in the moments before he shot unarmed teenager Michael Brown.

The interview, with "Good Morning America" co-host George Stephanopoulos, aired less than 24 hours after St. Louis County Prosecutor Bob McCulloch announced that Wilson would not face criminal charges for the shooting death of Brown, setting off unrest throughout the St. Louis area.

Wilson told his version of the events of Aug. 9. The officer recounted stopping his vehicle on Canfield Drive to talk to Wilson, who was walking on the street.

Wilson said he opened his car door, and Brown "slammed my door shut on me."

Then, Wilson said, "all of a sudden, punches start flying."

"He threw the first one, and it hit me in the left side of my face," Wilson told Stephanopoulos. "I didn't know if I'd be able to withstand another hit like that."

Wilson's interview largely matched the testimony he gave to the St. Louis County grand jury.

Wilson said Brown reached into his car and grabbed at his gun.



Wilson

"I just felt the immense power that he had. And the way I've described it is it was like a 5-year-old holding onto Hulk Hogan. That's just how big this man was," Wilson said.

Wilson said Brown tried to get Wilson's gun. Wilson pulled the trigger twice, he said, but it failed to fire. When he pulled the trigger again, Wilson said, the pistol went off.

Brown ran away and Wilson followed, he said.

"My job isn't to just sit and wait," Wilson said.

After a short chase, Brown stopped, turned and began coming for Wilson, the officer said.

Wilson denied some witness claims that Brown had his hands up. "That would be incorrect," Wilson said.

As Brown approached, Wilson said he warned him to stop. When he didn't stop, Wilson fired his handgun.

"I had to. If I don't, he will kill me if he gets to me," Wilson said.

Brown, who had been hit, continued to come toward Wilson, the officer said. Wilson fired again

and began backing away.

"He gets to about 8 or 10 feet, and as he does that he kind of starts to lean forward, like he's going to tackle me. And I look down the barrel of my gun and I fired and what I saw was his head, and that's where (the bullet went.)"

Wilson said he isn't haunted by the incident. He said he can think of nothing he could have done to avoid shooting Brown.

"The reason I have a clean conscience is because I know I did my job right," he said.

The interview was the first time Wilson spoke publicly to a news organization about the Brown shooting.

Ruling leads N. Korea, China to blast US

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

North Korea and China criticized the United States' human rights record after a grand jury decided not to press charges against a police officer who fatally shot an unarmed 18-year-old in Ferguson, Mo.

While China veiled its criticism Tuesday, North Korea — which is believed to run a vast network of concentration camps housing political prisoners — called the U.S. a "graveyard of human rights."

A post on North Korea's official news website called the U.S. a country "wantonily violating the human rights where people are subject to discrimination and humiliation due to their races and they are seized with such horror that they do not know when they are shot to death."

China Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying initially declined to comment on the U.S. "internal matter" during a regular news conference in Beijing,

then commented anyway.

"However, the incident you brought up is a case in point showing that when it comes to human rights record, there is no such a thing as perfection," Hua told a reporter, according to an official transcript. "On human rights issues, all countries should engage in dialogue, communication and cooperation, and learn from each other to improve human rights record altogether, rather than pointing fingers at each other."

Both North Korea and China have been severely criticized by human rights organizations and countries all over the world. The 2013 State Department report on human rights in China cited executions without a judicial process; enforced disappearances; torture and detention of journalists, lawyers, bloggers and political dissidents; discrimination against women and minorities, and a host of other allegations.

This week, Chinese police began spraying a liquid equiva-

lent of tear gas on pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong, according to several media and social media reports.

Last year, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously established a commission to determine whether North Korean human rights abuses constituted "crimes against humanity."

U.S. and South Korean officials estimate North Korea keeps 80,000 to 120,000 people in forced labor camps for political prisoners, including children and the elderly, according to Human Rights Watch.

Freedom of movement, speech and assembly are all controlled by the government. The practice of religion is a crime, as is attempting to leave the country without official permission.

Last week, North Korea threatened nuclear tests in response to the U.N. human rights probe.

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NATION

Firms unhappy with immigration moves

By ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's executive actions on immigration left out some of the business community's top priorities, disappointing business leaders who might have stepped up to defend his policies in the face of Republican attacks.

Months of lobbying by high-tech businesses failed to persuade the administration to make allotted but unused green cards available for foreign workers — probably the top item on the executive action agenda for business.

And the administration only partially answered pleas to increase the length of time foreign students can stay in the U.S. before or after graduating to work in their fields. The administration announced plans to expand the program at some point in the future, but it offered no details on timing or scope.

Business lobbyists contended that these and other "asks" were fairly modest to begin with, since all acknowledged that the big-ticket items on their agenda — such as increasing the number of high-tech visas available for foreign workers — could only be done by Congress. Even so, they were deflated to find their priorities overlooked as Obama announced plans to curb deportations for 4.5

million people in the country illegally and make them eligible for work permits.

"We didn't ask for the moon to begin with. There's just not an opportunity for the administration to deliver the moon for us — that's a congressional action," said Scott Corley, executive director of Compete America, which represents high-tech companies including Google, Intel and Microsoft. "But we asked for some terrestrial things, things within reach, and we didn't see the detail we hoped for."

A White House spokesman didn't respond to requests for comment. Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., who represents the Silicon Valley, said Obama was constrained by the legal advice he received.

"There's what you want and what's possible to do, and people do understand that what you might want him to do is constrained by the law," Lofgren said.

Lofgren had been among those saying Obama could take executive action to allow businesses to "recapture" permanent resident green cards that had been authorized by Congress but never issued. Obama can't issue green cards on his own, but business officials say that more than 200,000 that have already been authorized by Congress never have been distributed, and the administration



President Barack Obama tries to quiet the second of three hecklers Tuesday after meeting with community leaders in Chicago about the executive actions he is taking on immigration.

could redistribute them.

With congressional Republicans vowing to try to overturn Obama's executive actions, full-throated backing from the business com-

munity could have provided some insulation for the administration. But instead, a number of business leaders were lukewarm in their public remarks.

EPA seeks to lower ozone standards

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration took steps Wednesday to cut levels of smog-forming pollution linked to asthma, lung damage and other health problems, making good on one of President Barack Obama's original campaign promises while setting up a fresh confrontation with Republicans and the energy industry.

In a long-awaited announcement, the Environmental Protection Agency said it prefers a new, lower threshold for ozone pollution of 65 to 70 parts per billion, but said it would take public comments on an even lower standard of 60 parts per billion sought by environmental groups. The current standard is 75 parts per billion, put in place by President George W. Bush in 2008.

Pushing back on criticism that new regulations will damage the economy, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said lower ozone standards would actually spur more businesses, investment and jobs by making communities healthier. She said states would be given time to carefully design plans to meet the new standard over the coming decades.

"Critics play a dangerous game when they denounce the science and law EPA has used to defend clean air for more than 40 years," McCarthy wrote in an op-ed for CNN's website. "The American people know better."

But business groups like the National Association of Manufacturers painted the government's move as a roadblock that threatens to jeopardize manufacturing's comeback in the U.S. They accused the administration of moving the goalposts, since states are still working to implement the previous standard put in place in 2008.

"Lightening these standards could be the most expensive regulation ever imposed on the American public, with potentially enormous costs to the economy, jobs, and consumers," said Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute.

Under the Obama administration, the EPA has issued or proposed the first regulations to control heat-trapping carbon dioxide, mercury and air toxins from power plants. The administration also has doubled fuel-efficiency standards for cars and trucks, and clamped down on industrial pollution that blows downwind and contaminates other states.

Hillary Clinton quiet on major issues

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton offered praise for President Barack Obama's executive actions to stave off deportation for millions of immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. But the Democrats' favored presidential hopeful has been less forthcoming on other issues in these early days of the 2016 contest.

Clinton is not, so far, a candidate, and she's limiting her commentary about the daily news cycle confronting Obama — a strategy that could keep down chatter about where she and the unpopular president agree and where they diverge.

The former secretary of state, U.S. senator and first lady is not talking about the Keystone XL pipeline, rejected by one vote in the final weeks of the Democrat-led Senate. She has yet to speak publicly about a sweeping climate change agreement between the U.S. and China, an extension of talks over Iran's nuclear program or the Senate's move to block a bill

to end bulk collection of Americans' phone records by the National Security Agency.

When Obama announced his moves to prevent the deportations for nearly 5 million immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, Clinton quickly embraced the decision on Twitter. The president, she wrote, was "taking action on immigration in the face of inaction" in Congress. In doing so, she signaled that as a candidate, she would run against the Republican-led House and Senate that convenes next year. Clinton also drew a distinction from her would-be Republican opponents who have spoken of immigration reform in large part as a border security problem.

On other weighty policy matters, however, Clinton is mum.

"You've got to make choices if you're not a candidate," said Lanny Davis, a White House special counsel during the Clinton administration who attended law school with Bill and Hillary Clinton. "She is not a candidate for president. When she becomes a candidate, she

has to start answering questions."

Clinton is expected to make her political intentions known in the coming weeks, likely in early 2015. Her speeches are closely watched for signs of how she might offer a rationale for her candidacy.

Clinton has stayed close to Obama on immigration, releasing a statement that noted that previous presidents of both parties had taken similar steps.

The following night, in an interview at a New York Historical Society event, Clinton reiterated the need for Congress to act on a comprehensive immigration bill. She also put the issue in the context of families, saying the decision probably affected wait staff who were serving the dinner.

"There is probably no more pressing issue at this time than to fix this immigration system," said Alex Padilla, California's secretary of state-elect. "As a leader, it was right for her to speak up. A lot of people wanted to know what she thought."

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WAR ON TERRORISM



RAKQA IS BEING SLAUGHTERED SILENTLY/AP

At least 95 killed in Syrian airstrikes

Damaged buildings ring charred cars on the street Tuesday after Syrian government airstrikes hit a popular market near a museum and an industrial neighborhood in Raqqa, in northern Syria. The death toll from a series of Syrian airstrikes on the Islamic State group's stronghold in northeastern Syria has risen to at least 95, making it one of the deadliest attacks on the city of Raqqa in the past three years. The photo has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting.

A-10s arrive for duty in Mideast

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An attack aircraft that the Pentagon is trying to get rid of has been deployed to the Middle East to take on the Islamic State.

A squadron-sized element of A-10 Thunderbolts arrived in the region during the week of Nov. 17-21, according to the Air Force. The aircraft were previously being used in Afghanistan.

The move marks the first time the ugly but battle-proven jet, also known as the "Warthog," has been thrown into the fight against Islamic State, which controls much of Iraq and Syria. The A-10 is a slow, low-flying plane that can unleash massive amounts of firepower against enemy ground forces while conducting close-air-support missions.

"They're going over there because there's a need ... to be postured for a combat rescue mission," said Jennifer Cassidy,

an Air Force spokeswoman.

However, the attack aircraft will likely be sent out to bomb Islamic State targets as part of the Pentagon's larger air campaign. "While they're there we will maximize their use," Cassidy said.

U.S. and partner nations have continued to strike Islamic State units and assets since the A-10 arrived in the region, but Cassidy said she did not know whether the Warthogs participated in any of those attacks.

The Air Force declined to provide the number of A-10s that are being deployed, other than to say that it is an "expeditionary squadron-sized element" of personnel and aircraft.

The planes are with the 163rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. The unit, also known as the "Blacksnakes," is part of the Air National Guard's 122nd Fighter Wing, based at Fort Wayne, Ind. The squadron is a component of the newly reactivated 332nd Air

Expeditionary Group, its heritage tied to the famous 332nd Fighter Group led by the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. The group was reactivated on Nov. 16 to participate in Operation Inherent Resolve.

The service would not say where in the region the A-10s are deployed. The U.S. military uses a number of large air bases throughout the Middle East, and often declines to identify the host nations of particular combat aircraft due to political sensitivities.

There is a good deal of controversy surrounding the A-10. The Air Force is trying to retire the fleet to save money as the Pentagon faces large budget cuts. Service leaders argue that other aircraft can perform close air support missions.

But supporters of the A-10 in Congress and elsewhere argue that no jet in the inventory can fully replace the Warthog.

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Islamic State makes big gains in Ramadi

McClatchy Foreign Staff

IRBIL Iraq — Islamic State fighters on Tuesday penetrated to the core of Ramadi, the provincial capital of Iraq's largest province, prompting local security officials to warn that the city was on the verge of falling to the extremists. Such a gain would be the Islamic State's most significant victory in months.

"The governorate building has been nearly cut off," said a Baghdad security official in direct contact with the operations command for Anbar, the province where Ramadi lies. The official said that Islamic State forces cut roads to the Iraqi Army's 8th Division base to the west and to Habbaniyah air base to the east. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Islamic State fighters launched their push to capture the long-contested town on Friday and have been battling government-aligned troops for control since. Ramadi is one of the last pockets of government control in Anbar, the province that abuts Baghdad on the west and the scene of some of the bloodiest battles waged by American troops during the U.S. occupa-

tion of Iraq from 2003-11.

Consolidated control of Anbar would open up Islamic State supply routes to Syria and would position the group for an advance on the Iraqi capital.

Local forces and tribesmen initially succeeded in resisting the Islamic State's newest advance, but commanders on the ground say a lack of continuous air support and reinforcements has made it impossible to hold that territory.

Ahmed Mishan al Dulaimi, a Ramadi police lieutenant, said that coalition airstrikes had been critical to stopping the initial assault but that the strikes had stopped.

"If the coalition doesn't continue targeting the nests of Daash, everything that we're doing now will just be in vain," he said, using an Arabic term for the Islamic State.

U.S. Central Command said Monday that coalition aircraft conducted 15 strikes in Iraq between Friday and Monday, two of which targeted Islamic State vehicles in the Ramadi area. Separately, Central Command reported an additional strike was carried out near Ramadi on Tuesday, destroying an Islamic State checkpoint.

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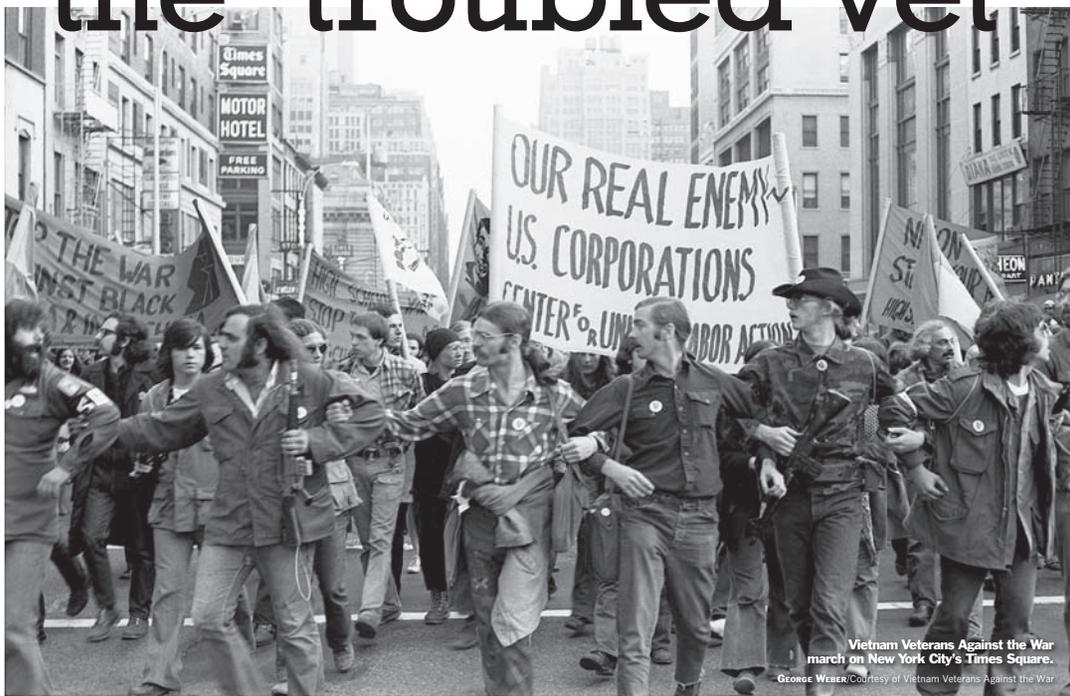
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The lingering stigma of the 'troubled vet'



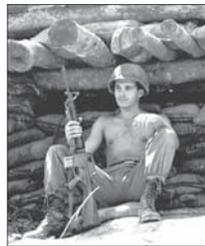
Vietnam Veterans Against the War march on New York City's Times Square.
 GEORGE WEBER/Courtesy of Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Troops returning from Vietnam struggled to shake stereotypes in attempts to re-assimilate

By MARTIN KUZ
Stars and Stripes

They came home without leaving Vietnam, angry and depressed, retreating from the world and burdened by memories of the dead. They came home intent on resuming their lives, changed but resilient, returning to work or school and driven by ambitions for the future. The first category describes most Vietnam veterans as held in the country's imagination and depicted in Hollywood films of the era. The second describes the ordinary reality most of them lived. Yet the "troubled vet" stereotype, while rooted in truth, shadowed that silent majority of returning troops as they again donned civilian clothes. The stubborn perception colored how others treated them and complicated their recovery from psy-

chic wounds that, if not so severe as to push them to homelessness or suicide, still needed to mend. "So often, people reacted to them as broken," said Philip Napoli, author of "Bringing It All Back Home: An Oral History of New York City's Vietnam Veterans," published last year. Napoli interviewed hundreds of former servicemembers who told stories of employers, friends and family members pulling back from them as they tried to re-assimilate. Taking into account that some of the men and women struggled with addiction and mental trauma, he found that many had felt stigmatized by their service. "The myth that all of them are damaged is, in fact, the defining aspect of their generation of veterans," he said, referring to the more than 3.4 million troops who served in Southeast Asia. "They had to live inside that myth. It



Wayne Abunassar, of Boston, relaxes in front of a bunker in South Vietnam's Central Highlands on Oct. 17, 1967.

shaped the trajectory of their whole life."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13



Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Vietnam Veterans Against the War hold a Veterans Day march in New York City in 1975.

FROM PAGE 12

Public opposition swelled as the conflict in Southeast Asia dragged on, and returning troops encountered a country mired in a culture war.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War staged a protest in 1971 in which more than 800 former military members hurled their service medals onto the steps of the U.S. Capitol. The surging peace movement, with actress Jane Fonda in a leading role, attracted several prominent veterans, including future U.S. Sen. John Kerry and Ron Kovic, author of “Born on the Fourth of July.”

Other veterans chose to conceal their military past, trading buzz cuts and uniforms for the campus camouflage of long hair and jeans.

“I tried to blend in the best I could,” Karl Marlantes said. The former Marine is the author of a meditative memoir, “What It Is Like to Go to War,” and the acclaimed novel “Matterhorn.” The books mine his experiences in and after Vietnam, where he earned the Navy Cross and Bronze Star. For years after his tour ended in 1969, he kept his medals stashed in a drawer and seldom mentioned he had served, the lingering effects of an incident not long before his discharge.

During a short administrative posting in Washington, he happened upon a small antiwar rally near the White House. A group of protesters standing across the street noticed his uniform and shouted obscenities at him. He had returned to an America that seemed as far away as when he landed in Vietnam.

“It didn’t make me angry, it hurt,” said Marlantes, who had left Oxford to volunteer for the Marines. “The world didn’t have a clue as to what you’d been through and what you had to carry. And at the same time, you had this atti-

“Everyone says ‘Support the troops’ because of what went on during Vietnam. But we’ve seen how long it’s taken those veterans to heal — and that a lot of them didn’t — and if we don’t want a repeat of that, we have to do more than say thanks.”

Fred Gusman
Department of Veterans Affairs
social worker

tude of, ‘You don’t know anything’ — a superiority complex — that further alienated you.”

Stories circulated of demonstrators spitting on troops back from the war and calling them “baby killers.” The veracity of such claims remains disputed. In “The Spitting Image: Myth, Memory, and the Legacy of Vietnam,” Jerry Lembcke investigated hundreds of media reports of protesters spitting on veterans and uncovered no supporting evidence.

He argues that President Richard Nixon’s administration concocted the narrative as part of its effort to weaken the peace movement, and likewise sought to trivialize antiwar veterans by dismissing their accounts of U.S. atrocities and failed military strategies.

“The veterans who spoke out were pathologized as ‘damaged’ as a way to discredit them,” said

Lembcke, who deployed to Vietnam with the Army as a chaplain’s assistant. “And so some of them muted their voices.”

Movies released late in the war and soon afterward reinforced the image of the broken veteran. “Coming Home,” “The Deer Hunter” and “Taxi Driver,” among other films, branded returning troops as psychological casualties of war.

After feeling ignored and sometimes demonized, veterans saw Hollywood recast them as victims unable to reintegrate and apt to detonate. The portrayal deepened their reluctance to talk about Vietnam and what they endured.

“Most of us weren’t homeless or shooting from bell towers,” Marlantes said. “Most of the struggles happened quietly as you went about your life.” In his case, he married, helped raise four children and ran a consulting business while coping with anger, anxiety, flashbacks and nightmares. His condition strained his marriage until it collapsed. He later realized he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder.

PTSD was recognized as a clinical diagnosis by the American Psychiatric Association in 1980, five years after the last U.S. troops left Vietnam. The designa-



GERARD FORKEN/Stars and Stripes

James Beideck emerges from a tunnel found at a Viet Cong regimental base camp in February 1967 that was overrun by 26th Infantry soldiers during Operation Junction City.

tion reflected an emerging awareness among behavioral health providers of the mental trauma of combat veterans.

In 1978, Fred Gusman, a social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Menlo Park, Calif., had developed the country’s first residential therapy program for troops back from Vietnam. He had learned that they favored alcohol and drugs to tame their rage, depression and insomnia. He persuaded a group of them to try another approach, gathering them once a week to discuss the unseen wounds of combat.

The VA created variations of Gusman’s program across the country over the ensuing decades. But the expansion of behavioral health services has failed to erase the lingering stigma of the “troubled vet.” “People have to realize that the majority of veterans with PTSD manage it,” he said. “Asking for help is OK. Asking for help doesn’t mean you’re forever broken.”

Gusman departed the VA in 2007 to establish The Pathway Home in Napa, Calif. The nonprofit residential treatment program works with Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. He fears that, beyond the “thank you for your service” refrain that Americans offer to returning troops, the country has forgotten the lessons of Vietnam and, in turn, a new generation of veterans.

“Everyone says ‘Support the troops’ because of what went on during Vietnam,” Gusman said. “But we’ve seen how long it’s taken those veterans to heal — and that a lot of them didn’t — and if we don’t want a repeat of that, we have to do more than say thanks.”

Nixon withdrew most of the remaining U.S. troops from Southeast Asia in 1973, and Saigon fell to North Vietnamese forces two years later. For the U.S., the war marked a military defeat, a political humiliation and a national tragedy.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, a divisive project for a divisive war. Critics derided artist Maya Lin’s design as “a black gash of shame.” Their scorn faded to silence as visitors flowed to the memorial, beckoned by its minimalist grace and subtle, unrelenting power.

Etched into the black, wedge-shaped wall are the names of 58,300 U.S. troops killed in the war. People standing before the wall can see their own reflection, a cue to remember living veterans while honoring the fallen.

“The memorial has helped close wounds and open conversations for the Vietnam generation,” Gusman said. “It’s been a place of healing.”

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WORLD

Hong Kong police arrest protesters, clear site

By **KELVIN CHAN**
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Police arrested five student leaders of Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests on Wednesday as they cleared barricades in one volatile district, throwing into doubt the future of a 2-month-old movement seeking free elections in the former British colony.

On the second day of the operation to clear one of three protest zones, police in helmets swiftly removed metal barricades, tents,

canopies and other obstructions in Mong Kok, a crowded, blue-collar neighborhood that has been the flash point of earlier clashes.

The two remaining protest zones are the sprawling main camp next to government headquarters on the edge of the financial district, and a smaller one in the Causeway Bay shopping district.

Many protesters scattered during the police clearance Wednesday, but a handful faced off briefly against dozens of officers on a side street, determined to await supporters that they expected

would join them in the evening after getting off school or work.

Mong Kok has been home to a more raucous and aggressive group of protesters than at the two other sites. Previous efforts to clear the area have backfired, sending more people into the streets in the evening to confront police.

Police spokesman Steve Hui said a total of 148 people were arrested, including 55 for contempt of court and obstructing officers carrying out the court-ordered barricade removals over two

days. In chaotic pepper spray-fueled clashes that ensued after Tuesday's barricade removal, police arrested 93 more for resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly and possessing offensive weapons.

Among those arrested Wednesday were protest leaders Joshua Wong, 18, the head of the Scholarism group, and Lester Shum, deputy secretary general of the Hong Kong Federation of Students.

"After the clearance operation we don't have a leader," said protester Ken Lee, 19, who quit

his job at a restaurant in October after the protests erupted and spent his days in Mong Kok. "We need to wait until tonight, it all depends on what happens tonight, if the majority of the people want to reoccupy the area or go to another location."

The protesters are demanding that Hong Kong's government scrap a plan mandated by China's Communist leaders to use a panel of Beijing-friendly elites to screen candidates for the territory's top leader in inaugural 2017 elections.

Greek frigate towing migrant ship to safety

By **NICHOLAS PAHPHITS**
The Associated Press

IERAPETRA, Greece — Local authorities and Red Cross volunteers on Crete were racing Wednesday to prepare shelter and food for hundreds of immigrants on a crippled freighter being slowly towed to safety by a Greek navy frigate, a rescue effort hampered by gale-force winds and high waves.

A day after it suffered engine failure in international waters, the 250-foot Boris cargo ship carrying some 700 men, women and children trying to enter Europe clandestinely — one of the largest boatloads of the kind in recent years — was being towed at a speed of about three knots.

By midday Wednesday it had covered about a third of the way, and was expected to arrive well after nightfall at the port town of Ierapetra in southern Crete.

The coast guard said initial indications suggested passengers included Syrians and Afghans heading for Italy. It was unclear where the Kiribati-flagged ship had set sail from, or when.

About 80 percent of immigrants arriving by sea at Greece's eastern Aegean Sea islands are Syrians fleeing the country's civil war, according to the Doctors Without Borders humanitarian organization of Greek risk.

Tens of thousands of people risk the haz-



Greek Red Cross volunteers set up a tent which will be used to receive and offer initial care to hundreds of immigrants on a crippled freighter being towed to the southern Cretan port town of Ierapetra, Greece, on Wednesday.

ardous journey every year, paying smuggling gangs to carry them over in usually unseaworthy craft ranging from toy dinghies to aging rust-buckets. Most end up in Italy.

According to Amnesty International data, since the start of 2014 more than 2,500 people have drowned or gone missing — about 1.7 percent of the estimated 150,000 who made it across.

Ierapetra local authorities and volunteer groups were preparing an indoor basketball stadium to provide temporary shelter for the migrants, and were collecting food, blankets,

mattresses and toiletries. "Our main concern is to offer them preliminary care, to register them and to find, as soon as possible, somewhere for them to stay under the best conditions possible," said Red Cross volunteer organizer Nikos Nestorakis.

Just days before the freighter ran into trouble, 228 Syrian refugees heading for Italy were rescued from a crippled ship off Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean.

EU regulations stipulate that refugees seeking asylum must apply in the first EU country they arrive at.

Passengers free stuck Russian airliner

MOSCOW — In other countries, you may be asked to give a push to a car stuck in the mud. In Russia, passengers in the Arctic came out of an airliner to the bitter cold to help it move to the runway.

A Russian-made Tu-134 with 74 oil workers and seven crew members onboard was due to fly from the town of Igarka on Tuesday to Krasnoyarsk 800 miles to the south when the plane's chassis brakes froze to the ground. It was minus 61 outside. Several dozen men were seen in an amateur video pushing the plane by leaning on both wings.

Russian authorities, however, weren't amused, and prosecutors launched an investigation into a possible breach of safety regulations.

7 killed in attack on tribal palace in Yemen

SANAA, Yemen — Yemeni Shiite rebels attacked and occupied the seat of power of an influential tribe in the capital Wednesday, following clashes that killed six of the guards and one fighter, security officials said.

The rebels blamed the guards of al-Ahmar tribe for the clashes. Al-Masira TV station said the tribal fighters attacked a checkpoint erected by the rebels, setting off the clashes.

Residents said the clashes shook the neighborhood before daybreak. Pockmarks were visible on the gates of al-Ahmar palace. Glass from windows of the palace's facade littered the road.

Gunmen kill 4 polio workers in Pakistan

QUETTA, Pakistan — Gunmen attacked a polio vaccination team Wednesday, killing four health workers, while a suspected U.S. drone strike killed four alleged militants in Pakistan, officials said.

The attack on the health workers took place in the southwestern city of Quetta, while the drone strike targeted a militant hideout in the North Waziristan tribal region in northwest Pakistan.

The vaccination team of three women and three men was waiting for a police escort when two gunmen opened fire on them, police said.

Ebola not stopping senate campaigns in Liberia

By **JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH**
The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Campaigning is underway for Senate elections in Liberia, another sign that Ebola is loosening its deadly grip on the West African country even as it hits the capital of neighboring Sierra Leone with increasing force.

Senate candidate Robert Sirleaf, son of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, expressed delight at how many supporters turned out at a recent campaign rally.

"They told me that there would only be 50 people but I see four or five thousand people," he said. "That gives me spirit."

Police last week said gatherings were still banned, including

on beaches where people tend to flock on a holiday this Saturday, but political rallies were exempt from the ban.

The Senate election was supposed to have been held on Oct. 16, but that was when hundreds of new Ebola cases were being reported each week. The vote was delayed for two months. The rate of infection nationally is now lower than 100 cases weekly, and the green light remains on for the Dec. 16 vote. Polling places are supposed to provide buckets of chlorinated water for hand-washing and a clean pen for each voter to fill out his or her ballot.

Some Liberians are concerned that it might still be too soon for electioneering.

"Even if Liberia was declared

free of Ebola today, there would still be no need to... celebrate until Guinea and Sierra Leone are also declared free," said Jerry Jilka, 19, underscoring that the deadly disease can easily cross borders. There have been 15,351 reported Ebola cases in the current outbreak — by far the world's worst — with 5,459 reported deaths, the World Health Organization reported on Friday. Hardest hit have been Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Authorities have warned that cases could still surge again in Liberia, as they are in neighboring Sierra Leone, which on Tuesday reported 83 confirmed cases in just one day including 31 in the capital, Freetown.

Timothy Boama, 22, a newspa-

per seller in Liberia's capital of Monrovia, said that while most people are abiding by a general ban on gatherings in public places, the election rallies send a mixed message.

"What are they saying to people going to nightclubs?" he asked.

In Liberia's Montserrado County, home to the capital, Robert Sirleaf is running against soccer legend George Weah.

The New Democrat newspaper quoted Sirleaf in its Tuesday's edition as calling on citizens of Montserrado County "to get ready to rumble; the die is cast; a debate must take place to identify who is better able to move the county and the nation forward into the future."



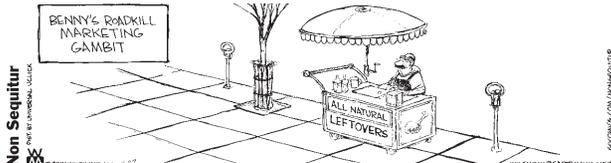
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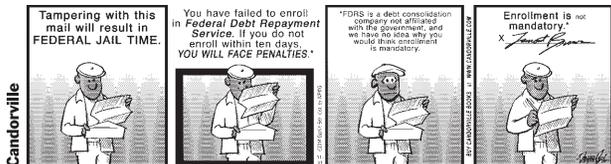
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Countdown
- 5 Welded a trowel
- 8 Leading man?
- 12 Admission to Nanette
- 13 Bobby of hockey lore
- 14 Gaucho's larlat
- 15 Swearword
- 16 Wildebeest
- 17 Wildly excited
- 18 Door decoration
- 20 Isolated hills
- 22 Court
- 23 Last letter
- 24 At one's — and call
- 27 Without thinking
- 32 Bonfire residue
- 33 Vast expanse
- 34 Pirouette pivot
- 35 Crucial experiment
- 38 — and whereof
- 39 Cariof of Broadway
- 40 Vegas-based TV drama
- 42 Proclamations
- 45 Boss
- 49 Last few notes
- 50 Cushion
- 52 Go sightseeing
- 53 Cross
- 54 Earlier
- 55 Fuel tool

DOWN

- 1 February forecast
- 2 Frost
- 3 Initial stake
- 4 Punk rocker's hairdo, often
- 5 Place for Fido
- 6 Coffeehouse vessel
- 7 Comestibles
- 8 Lessons
- 9 Canines' canines
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Periodicals, for short
- 19 Gift-tag word
- 21 Submachine gun
- 24 Sheepish remark
- 25 Computer key
- 26 Frank and beans together?
- 28 Nintendo Super —
- 29 Living burglar alarm?
- 30 Powell co-star
- 31 Of course
- 36 Ten-year period
- 37 Stick with a kick
- 38 Cold season
- 41 Therefore
- 42 Beige
- 43 Entrance
- 44 Unwanted email
- 46 Manage
- 47 Colored
- 48 Raw minerals
- 51 Time of your life?

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

11-27 CRYPTOQUIP

G AVGBJ AVGF JGRKZSFS GF

XBMTDDTBKQ KGHVA GB

MTKTN, FT G'D YNTZSZKQ

RSAGBH YSKGFV FSXFSHR.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: THAT FELLOW FROM SCANDINAVIA IS LEAVING US ANY DAY NOW. OH WELL. NO MORE MR. NORSE GUY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals I

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Family, police search for stolen Sasquatch

OH CINCINNATI — A southwest Ohio family is searching for Sasquatch.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported the Spence family in Delhi Township, west of Cincinnati, said their 400-pound cement statue of the mythical beast was stolen Saturday.

Ralph Spence, 61, said his two sons bought the statue for him several years ago. They affectionately call it "Squashy."

Though it started out as a practical joke, the statue became part of the family. They even dress it up for holidays.

Delhi Township police are assisting in the search. Lt. Joseph Macaluso said he's seen his share of thefts, but nothing like this.

Spence said he doesn't want to file charges against whoever took the statue, he just wants it back.

Police: Man annoyed by noise threw table at car

ME FARMINGTON — Police said a Maine man upset by the sound of a passing car's exhaust threw a table at the vehicle and then punched its teenage driver.

Police told the Kennebec Journal that Charles Hubbard, 57, is charged with assault, terrorizing and criminal mischief. He's due in court Jan. 6.

Police said a 16-year-old Chesterville boy was driving on Sunday afternoon when a man threw a table into the road at his car, damaging it. The teenager stopped and got out. Police said Hubbard then punched the teen's face and threatened him.

Officers said Hubbard told them he threw the table because he was upset by the sound of the vehicle's exhaust.

Cold weather brings out car thieves

AR LITTLE ROCK — Little Rock police say a number of people have reported cars being stolen after they were started and left to warm up in cold weather.

Police Lt. Scott Timmons told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in a story published Tuesday that some cars were stashed at an apartment complex and used later in other crimes.

At least nine vehicles were stolen while being left to warm up in the last two weeks. Police notified several neighborhood associations to warn them about the thefts.

Timmons said that once the first car is stolen, groups of thieves drive around looking for other cars to take.

Police say one boy has been charged with theft by receiving.

Yard sale shooting brings 7-year sentence

OR EUGENE — An Oregon man has been sentenced to more than seven years in prison for shooting and wounding a customer at a yard sale who tried to intervene in a domestic

THE CENSUS

40

The number of pit bulls who with their owners paraded to celebrate their legal victory that overturned a decadelong ban on pit bulls in Pawtucket, R.I., on Sunday. Ann Clark of Pit Bulls for PTSD, which organized the parade, said it was a celebration that "all dogs are free in Pawtucket." Pawtucket Police Chief Paul Kelly said the city imposed the ban in 2004 to try to curtail the number of pit bull attacks. At the time, Kelly said, local drug dealers were using pit bulls to prevent police from house raids. The state last year barred cities from banning specific breeds, and a Superior Court judge overturned Pawtucket's ban on Nov. 18.



MIKE STAUGATIS, THE (SHAMOKIN, PA.) NEWS-ITEM/AP

Gobbling it up

Masen Wary, a pre-kindergarten student, takes a taste of whipped cream, as Shamokin Area Elementary School in Shamokin, Pa., celebrated Thanksgiving on Monday. The students helped to prepare their meal of English muffin pizza, biscuits, homemade butter, grape jelly and apple sauce and pumpkin pie. The students also read the story "Turkey Trouble" about a turkey who doesn't want to be eaten, so he disguises himself as other animals on the farm.

dispute. Phillip Bregg, 34, pleaded guilty Monday to charges of attempted murder and assault in an agreement with prosecutors, but told a judge he didn't clearly recall the family fight last September that led to the shooting.

"I don't have a coherent memory of the incident," he said of the Sept. 7 attack at his Springfield home.

Prosecutor Rebecca Ivanoff said that while the customer was browsing the yard sale, Bregg punched his wife and kicked her and two other female relatives down a staircase, the Eugene Register-Guard reported.

The customer noticed a woman with a bloody mouth crying outside the house and tried to intervene. Bregg slammed a door in the customer's face, re-emerged to

argue with the man and then went back inside and threw items from a second-story window, police said. Bregg then fetched a .22-caliber rifle and began firing from the window, police said. The victim was hit in the shoulder and a leg.

Recipient of double arm transplant happy to hug

MA BOSTON — A former college professor who underwent a double arm transplant last month at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston said Tuesday that the best thing about the operation is that he's able to hug his loved ones again.

Will Lautzenheiser — with both arms still in partial casts and splints — said at a news conference he's grateful to the anonymous donor who "will always be

as close to me as my own skin." So far, he has limited mobility in his new arms, but things are improving every day, he said.

"This is about it so far, but I had nothing" he said as he moved his arms back and forth.

Lautzenheiser is a former professor of film production and screenwriting at Boston University and Montana State University who became a quadruple amputee in 2011 following a life-threatening streptococcal infection.

3 convicted in stripper plot that led to murder

CA SACRAMENTO — A Sacramento jury has convicted three men who hired a pair of female strippers to distract the man they planned to rob but ultimately killed. The Sacramento Bee reported

the jury on Monday found Patrick Joseph Godines, Jerome McPherson and Travis Mabson guilty of first-degree murder. They each face life terms in prison with no chance of parole for the 2011 shooting death of Michael Sanderson in Carmichael.

Prosecutors charged that McPherson planned the robbery after learning that Sanderson won a \$50,000 workers' compensation judgment.

McPherson was accused of hiring two strippers to distract Sanderson the night of his death. The pair, Jeanette Campbell and Aubrey Teoeds, pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter in exchange for testifying. The women are likely to receive six years in prison.

From wire reports

FACES



THE FUN STAR, AUTUMN DEWILDE/AP

Musicians Zoey Deschanel, left, and M. Ward are the duo She & Him. Their new album, "Classics," is due out Dec. 2.

Talking songs with She & Him

BY DAVID BAUDER/The Associated Press

The musical duo She & Him — that's Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward — convened a 20-piece orchestra to make "Classics," a collection of songs written between 1930 and 1974. It's an eclectic list of compositions popularized by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Herb Alpert, the Righteous Brothers and Dusty Springfield. So we thought it would be fun to talk to the artists about songs that stick out in their minds for various reasons.

A SONG YOU'D LIKE TO COVER BUT INTIMIDATES YOU

Ward's choice: "This Is Radio Clash" by the Clash. It's one of his favorite bands, but he doesn't think it's in his vocal range. "There is a certain attitude to their music, and to the Ramones' music, that I think is untouchable," he said.

Deschanel's choice: "Paris 1919" by John Cale. "I don't think I could pull it off," she said.

A SONG FROM THE PAST 20 YEARS OR SO THAT WILL SOME- BE SEEN AS A CLASSIC

Deschanel's choice: "Open up Your Door" by Richard Hawley. She also loves Hawley's "Tonight the Streets Are Ours." "I'm a huge fan," she said.

Ward's choice: "Kool Thing" by Sonic Youth. He's moved by the guitar and contribution from Public Enemy's Chuck D.

"The future of music is combining things that don't really belong together," he said. "That's what the best artists have been doing since time began."

A SONG THAT'S BEEN UNFAIRLY TRAPPED IN TIME

Ward's choice: "Lovers Rock" by Sade. "The record is pretty timeless, and I think she gets put in a bubble of '80s music because of 'Smooth Operator,'" he said.

Deschanel's choice: "I Like It" by DeBarge. "The song is really well written and versatile. I think it would actually make a great country song," she said. Honorable mention is Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You." "I would really like to hear it without those keyboards."

THE HARDEST SONG YOU'VE EVER HAD TO SING

Deschanel's choice: "Sleigh Ride," written by Leroy Anderson. (The Andrews Sisters recorded the first vocal version in 1950.) "It seems like it would be simple, but it changes keys twice in the bridge so it's quite difficult," she said. "In spite of its trickiness it's worth it because it's a fantastic song."

Ward's choice: "The Red and the

Black" by Blue Oyster Cult. He still has nightmares about the time Mike Watt invited him onstage to cover it, and it turned out to be much faster than he remembered.

FAVORITE SONG TO DO FROM THE NEW ALBUM, "CLASSICS"

Ward's choice: "Oh No, Not My Baby," written by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. "It's my favorite blend of strings and brass that I've ever produced," he said. "It reminds me of some of my favorite productions by George Martin or Phil Spector — producers whose music I could listen to forever."

Deschanel's choice: "Unchained Melody," written by Alex North and Hy Zaret. Recording vocals with the Chapin Sisters made it a treat. "We recorded it live with three microphones in the same room and did only one take," she said. "There's something very special about not just recording a song, but a single moment in time as well."

AC/DC drummer clowns around at NZ court

AC/DC drummer Phil Rudd showed up late for a New Zealand court appearance Wednesday and clowned around by jumping on the back of one of his security guards outside the courthouse.

Rudd did not enter a plea during his brief appearance. The 60-year-old is charged with threatening to kill, which comes with a maximum prison sentence of seven years, as well as possessing methamphetamine and marijuana.

Citing a lack of evidence, prosecutors earlier dropped a more serious charge that alleged Rudd tried to hire a hit-man to kill two people.

The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported that during his appearance, Rudd winked at reporters, drummed a rhythm on the dock and then sped away from the courthouse in a black sports car.

Rudd's future with the popular Australian band remains uncertain.

Rudd remains free on bail with his next court appearance scheduled for Dec. 2. That's coincidentally the same day that AC/DC's new album "Rock or Bust" is due to be released.

Rudd's lawyer could not be immediately contacted for comment Wednesday.

Other news

■ "Star Wars" director J.J. Abrams confirmed the Nov. 28 release plans for the movie's upcoming trailer on Twitter on Monday. Regal Entertainment Group, AMC Entertainment Holdings Inc., Cinemark Holdings Inc. and Carmike Cinemas Inc. are among the chains that will run a clip of Walt Disney Co.'s "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" during the long U.S. holiday weekend.

■ "Birdman," a dark comedy about show business, took flight Tuesday with a leading bid nomination for the 30th Film Independent Spirit Awards. Star Michael Keaton and director Alejandro González Iñárritu picked up nominations for the film from Fox Searchlight. Nods also went to its supporting actors Emma Stone and Edward Norton. Collecting five nominations each were the coming-of-age drama "Boyhood," the Martin Luther King Jr. biopic "Selma" and the noir thriller "Nightcrawler." Other films recognized in the best feature category included "Whiplash" and "Love Is Strange," both of which received four nominations.

■ Actor Shia LaBeouf is complying with a treatment ordered as part of a plea deal stemming from a bizarre episode during the Broadway show "Cabaret" in June. The 28-year-old appeared in a Manhattan court Tuesday to show proof that he's been at the Hills Treatment Center in Los Angeles. Attorney G. Robert Gage says his client has done a "terrific job" complying. LaBeouf is due back in court March 20.

■ Netflix has picked up two seasons of a new sitcom from Tina Fey. Titled "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," it focuses on a woman who escapes from a doomsday cult and starts life over in New York. It was co-created by Fey and Robert Carlock, who collaborated on "30 Rock." It stars Ellie Kemper of "The Office." Fey isn't scheduled to appear in the series.

■ Kurt Cobain is the focus of a new documentary that probes the life and untimely death of the Nirvana singer-guitarist. It will be released in theaters next year and air exclusively on HBO, the network said Tuesday. Co-produced by HBO Documentary Films, "Kurt Cobain: Montage of Heck" is the first documentary made with the cooperation of Cobain's family. It draws on home movies, journals and other personal archives and features Nirvana songs and performances and previously unheard Cobain originals.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Honda admits failure to report deaths

Automaker could be fined \$35 million

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Honda Motor said it failed to report more than 1,700 claims of injury or death involving its cars to U.S. regulators, a violation that would be one of the biggest in history and could lead to a fine of \$35 million.

In a synopsis of an internal review filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Honda on Monday blamed the underreporting on "inadvertent data entry or computer programming errors" that spanned 11 years. NHTSA hasn't made the audit documents public yet as it continues an investigation.

The audit identifies difficult facts which we did not meet our obligations," Rick Schostek, executive vice president of Honda North America, told reporters on

a conference call. There will be retraining and staffing changes, he said.

The number of injury-claim omissions exceeded the 1,144 reports Honda filed over the period and primarily came to light because investigations into Takata Corp. air-bag recalls cast doubt on the diligence of automakers to tell the government about potential product defects. In some cases, Honda didn't share with NHTSA information from police reports.

NHTSA is reviewing Honda's report as part of an investigation into the company's failure to report air-bag related deaths and injuries in a timely manner, said Kevin Vincent, the agency's chief counsel. There's no timetable for an agency decision, he said in a statement.

"We received Honda's response to our Special Order and will immediately begin reviewing the documents as part of our ongoing investigation," Vincent said.

Honda President Takano bu To said Tuesday the automaker didn't share the same understanding as authorities of its obligations under U.S. law. He said local management made many mistakes filing early-warning reports, which NHTSA relies on to help spot potential defects.

Japan's government is forming groups to oversee air-bag recalls tied to Takata and probe Honda's U.S. reporting errors, Transport Minister Akihiro Ohta told reporters today in Tokyo, where both the companies are based.

Honda said eight of the 1,729 cases involved Takata air-bag inflator ruptures and that NHTSA knew of those incidents.

"I think absolutely they are going to get a \$35 million fine," said John Claybrook, a former NHTSA administrator who now advocates for consumer safety. "It's quite shocking Honda would behave this way. They've put their company reputation at risk."

Automakers face fines of \$7,000

per violation per day for not abiding by the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability and Documentation Act, which requires the companies to tell regulators about customer injuries, lawsuits, warranty claims and complaints. If Honda's admitted lapses — spanning from July 1, 2003, to June 30, 2014 — average at least three days each, the automaker would actually exceed the law's \$35 million maximum civil penalty.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 28)	\$1.2816
Dollar buys (Nov. 28)	€0.7803
British pound (Nov. 28)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Nov. 28)	115.00
South Korean won (Nov. 28)	1,079.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Britain (pound)	\$1.5789
Canada (dollar)	1.1244
China (Yuan)	6.1385
Denmark (Krone)	5.9487
Egypt (Pound)	7.5138
Euro	\$1.2505/0.7996
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7541
Hungary (Forint)	245.28
Israel (Shekel)	3.78758
Japan (Yen)	117.61
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2913
Norway (Krone)	6.8222
Philippines (Peso)	44.98
Poland (Zloty)	3.34
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7206
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2934
South Korea (Won)	1,106.48
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9619
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.77
Turkey (Lira)	2.1258

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

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 25, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	-2.96 17,814.94
Nasdaq composite	3.36 4,758.25
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.38 2,067.03
Russell 2000	-0.61 1,186.33

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.01
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	2.96

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr								
Ablene, Texas	64	34	Cir	Chatanooga	49	36	Cldy	Fort Wayne	33	25	Cldy	Louisville	40	32	Cldy	Pocatello	52	31	PCldy	Sioux City	25	08	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	36	27	Cldy	Chicago	28	23	Cldy	Fresno	70	47	Cir	Lubbock	64	31	Cir	Portland, Maine	56	39	Cir	Sioux Falls	21	02	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	35	25	Cldy	Cincinnati	49	29	Cldy	Goodland	63	23	Cir	Macon	56	36	Cir	Portland, Ore.	56	48	Rain	South Bend	30	26	Snow
Albuquerque	59	36	Cir	Cleveland	36	28	Cldy	Grand Junction	24	19	PCldy	Madison	52	17	Cir	Providence	38	30	Cldy	Springfield	49	42	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	38	26	Cldy	Colorado Springs	65	33	PCldy	Grand Rapids	32	27	Snow	Medford	58	43	Cldy	Pueblo	68	28	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	32	25	Cldy
Amarillo	64	32	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	54	38	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	48	35	PCldy	Milwaukee	26	23	Cldy	Reno	65	36	PCldy	Tallahassee	63	36	Cir
Asheville	64	36	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	38	31	Cldy	Harrisburg	38	28	Cldy	Milwaukee	26	23	Cldy	Richmond	44	31	Cldy	Tampa	68	48	Cldy
Atlanta	66	36	Cir	Concord, N.H.	35	27	Cldy	Hartford	38	26	Cldy	Missoula	43	34	Cldy	Rochester	34	28	Cldy	Topeka	41	22	PCldy
Atlantic City	42	29	Cldy	Corpus Christi	71	48	Cir	Helena	49	32	Cir	Mobile	60	40	Cir	Rockford	24	20	Cldy	Tulsa	51	29	Cir
Bakersfield	68	38	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	61	38	Cir	Honolulu	85	70	PCldy	Montgomery	55	36	Cir	Sacramento	67	46	PCldy	Tulsa	51	29	Cir
Baltimore	41	32	Cldy	Dayton	37	28	Cldy	Houston	67	42	Cir	Nashville	42	34	PCldy	St. Louis	36	29	Cldy	Tupelo	48	33	Cir
Baton Rouge	63	41	Cir	Denver	67	33	PCldy	Huntsville	44	33	PCldy	New Orleans	62	47	Cir	St. Petersburg	68	54	Cir	Waco	60	39	Cir
Bilings	48	21	Cldy	Des Moines	22	14	Cldy	Indianapolis	34	25	Cldy	New York City	40	32	Cldy	St. Thomas	86	75	Cir	Washington	43	33	Cldy
Birmingham	49	36	Cir	Detroit	37	27	Cldy	Jacksonville	54	37	Cir	Newark	36	31	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	56	47	Cir	Wilmington	73	50	Cir
Bismark	17	3	Snow	Fort Worth	67	37	Cir	Jacksonville	62	39	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	44	35	Cldy	Salt Lake City	55	39	PCldy	Wichita	48	24	Cir
Boston	38	30	Cldy	El Paso	64	36	Cir	Kansas City	37	23	PCldy	North Platte	50	16	PCldy	San Diego	67	31	Cir	Wichita Falls	62	35	Cir
Bridgeport	56	39	Cir	Elkins	34	27	Snow	Key West	80	63	Cir	Omaha	30	17	Cldy	San Francisco	67	52	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	36	25	Cldy
Brownsville	74	53	Cir	Erie	36	30	Snow	Knoxville	46	34	Cldy	Omaha	30	17	Cldy	San Jose	81	56	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	40	29	Cldy
Buffalo	34	28	Cldy	Eugene	54	46	Rain	Lake Charles	62	42	PCldy	Orlando	67	43	Cir	San Jose	67	52	PCldy	Yakima	53	42	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	24	24	Snow	Evansville	38	30	Cldy	Lansing	33	25	Cldy	Paducah	40	31	PCldy	San Jose	70	46	Cir	Youngstown	35	26	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	28	24	Snow	Fairbanks	-2	-13	Cir	Las Vegas	72	49	Cir	Pendleton	60	49	Cir	Santa Fe	56	26	Cldy				
Casper	28	28	Cir	Fargo	10	-9	Cir	Lexington	39	31	Cldy	Peoria	29	22	Cldy	St. Marie	22	19	Snow				
Charleston, S.C.	58	40	Cir	Flagstaff	62	25	Cir	Lincoln	36	18	Cldy	Philadelphia	41	30	Cldy	Savannah	59	40	Cldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	42	32	Cldy	Flint	35	24	Cldy	Little Rock	50	31	Cir	Phoenix	82	52	Cir	Seattle	56	51	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	52	39	PCldy	Fort Smith	53	30	Cir	Los Angeles	83	57	Cir	Pittsburgh	35	28	Cldy	Shreveport	59	35	Cir				

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 22 Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes

Hi: Tues., 8, Puntia, Ga.	
Rain: Lo: Tues., 4, Fosston, Minn.; Gunnison, Colo., and Bigfork, Minn.	

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Ernie Gatas

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OPINION

Giving thanks for societal silliness

By GEORGE F. WILL

Before the tryptophan in the turkey induces somnolence, give thanks for living in such an entertaining country. This year, for example, we learned that California's Legislature includes 93 persons who seem never to have had sex. They enacted the "affirmative consent" law directing college administrators to tell students that sexual consent cannot be silence but must be "affirmative, conscious and voluntary agreement" and "ongoing throughout a sexual activity." Claremont McKenna College requires "all" — not "both," which would discriminate against groups — participants in a sexual engagement to understand that withdrawal of consent can be any behavior conveying "that an individual is hesitant, confused, uncertain."

■ A severely moral California high school principal prohibited the football booster club from raising money by selling donated Chick-fil-A meals because this company opposed same-sex marriage. The school superintendent approved the ban because "we value inclusivity and diversity." Up to a point. At a Washington state community college, invitations to a "happy hour" celebrating diversity and combating racism said white people were not invited.

■ At Broward College near Miami, a conservative who was asking students if they agreed that "big government sucks" was told by a campus security guard that she must take her question to the campus "free-speech area." She got off lightly: The federal government has distributed to local police, including those of some colleges and school districts, more than 600 surplus MRAP (mine-resistant ambush-

protected) armored vehicles designed for Iraq and Afghanistan.

■ The federal government, which has Tomahawk cruise missiles and Apache and Lakota helicopters, used the code name "Geronimo" in the attack that killed Osama bin Laden but objected to the name of the Washington Redskins. The Department of Homeland Security, unsleepingly vigilant, raided a Kansas City shop to stop sales of panties emblazoned with unauthorized Royals logos.

■ A U.S. Forest Service article on safe marshmallow toasting did not neglect to nag us: It suggested fruit rather than chocolate in s'mores. The droll Orange County Register wondered, "Why not replace the marshmallow with a Brussels sprout?" The federal government's food police began cracking down on schools' fund-raising bake sales: Step away from those brownies and put your money on a fruit cup. ■ Niagara County, N.Y., spent \$700,000 of its Tobacco Master Settlement Money not on fighting smoking but on golf course equipment. In Seattle, the Freedom Socialist Party, which favors a \$20-an-hour minimum wage, advertised a job opening for a Web developer to be paid \$13 an hour.

■ Joe Biden was off by 160,839 when citing the number of people killed in the 2011 Joplin, Mo., tornado. He said 161,000. But the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee expressed optimism about "the nation of Africa." Barack Obama explained the Keystone XL pipeline: "It is 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." Someone very patient should try to explain to him that prices of petro-

leum are set by a global market.

■ Hamlet: "Do you see yonder cloud that's almost in shape of a camel?"
 Polonius: "By the mass, and 'tis like a camel, indeed."

■ Hamlet: "Methinks it is like a weasel."
 Polonius: "It is backed like a weasel."
 Hamlet: "Or like a whale?"
 Polonius: "Very like a whale."

Fortunately, Polonius was not among the Colorado Springs second-graders invited to use their imaginations in seeing shapes in clouds. Kody Smith said one looked like a gun. So, a behavior report was filed against the 8-year-old. A South Carolina high school student was arrested and suspended after having written a story about killing a dinosaur with a gun.

■ "The Great Immensity," a climate change musical financed by \$700,000 from the National Science Foundation, quickly closed. Outgoing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, perhaps planning for wars with small carbon footprints, fretted that global warming "could threaten many of our training activities." Alarmed by reports that global warming will cause a 4-foot rise in sea levels, California Gov. Jerry Brown warned that "Los Angeles' airport's going to be underwater." It is more than 120 feet above sea level. Because everything confirms the theory of impending catastrophic global warming, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina was called a harbinger of increasingly violent weather caused by ... well, you know. Today, Louisianans are thankful that this was the ninth consecutive hurricane season without a major hurricane landfall.

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

Taking politics goes well with turkey

By JOEL SILBERMAN

"Never talk about religion or politics at the dinner table," the saying goes; these conversations can ruin holidays like Thanksgiving. But while avoiding these subjects may make sense for individuals, it's terrible for the country — and when we do engage in tough topics, we commit small acts of patriotism.

No, I'm not saying that discussing politics at Thanksgiving is a service on the level of, say, troops returning from Afghanistan. But just as voting is understood by the politically informed to be a civic responsibility, so is talking about the issues on which we vote. After all, these issues are combustible because they're important, so it matters when we discuss them with people who are important to us.

Indeed, for many, Thanksgiving is one of the only times when we encounter people we care about with whom we also disagree. Throughout the rest of the year, most of us seek news from sources that affirm our worldview, read articles shared by like-minded friends that validate our perspective, and laugh (or cry) at social gatherings about how the other side has lost it. Ultimately, we end up in feedback loops, a phenomenon that political scientists call "epistemic closure," and those loops affect everyone: Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and progressives, people who agree with us and people who are insane.

When we do engage with opposing opinions, it's often through impersonal medi-

ums like Facebook or newspaper comment sections. In those anonymous forums, it's easy to forget that there are real human beings on the other side of arguments, easy to sidestep the merits of someone's point of view and simply call her a "right-wing nut job," a "left-wing socialist," a "radical," a "racist." Which, of course, isn't to say that our ideological opponents might not actually be nut jobs, socialists, radicals, racists — or whatever else.

But even so, it is valuable to engage in person with people with whom we disagree, if for no other reason than because face to face, we cannot ignore their humanity. In this way, hearing positions we oppose expressed by people who we love can even act as a kind of tether, a human face to remember when we listen to that incendiary conservative radio host or read that irritating liberal blogger.

It is valuable to engage in person with people with whom we disagree, if for no other reason than because face to face, we cannot ignore their humanity.

In that vein, I say: Progressives, engage your conservative family members. Tell them you accept their apology for endlessly pounding the drum of Benghazi when even the Republican House now admits that there was nothing scandalous there. Reassure them that the president is wholly within his authority to defer deportations on 5 million undocumented immigrants — but encourage them to demonstrate really badly against this executive action so that Democrats can win the Latino vote for a generation.

And conservatives, please, challenge your lefty family members. Boast proudly of your well-fought electoral victories this fall. Point out how, despite all its populist propaganda, the White House has still managed to deliver only full economic recovery for the country's wealthiest, while everyone else struggles. Embarrass the liberals with jokes about the administration's screw-ups on Obamacare, Iraq and the Veterans Administration. Encourage them to keep overreaching so that your party can take the White House in 2016.

Whatever side you're on, remember that if you're sitting one on one with someone you disagree with, your goal is to learn more about their point of view — but if you've got other people watching the debate, your goal is to win over people who haven't made up their minds or who have less strong opinions.

In the end, we don't need to avoid difficult conversations altogether just to avoid letting them go too far. The boundaries of tasteful dialogue aren't as hard to navigate as they might seem; just speak with respect and know when to stop, and remember that relationships are more important than righteousness. If we keep those simple guidelines in mind, we can fulfill our obligations as citizens and family members.

It might even end up being fun.

Joel Silbermann is a Los Angeles-based writer and the producer of such viral Web videos as "Legitimate Rape" Pharmaceutical Ad (TW) and "Kids Do the News." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

Iran nuclear deal negotiations at an impasse

BY DAVID IGNATIUS

WASHINGTON — The Iran nuclear talks defy easy comparison. But think of a labor negotiation where it's too costly for workers to go on strike or for management to impose a lockout, so the two sides continue without a contract while negotiations proceed. The situation appears stable, but that's partly because it's at an impasse.

This collective-bargaining analogy illustrates some dynamics of the nuclear talks between Iran and the West. Negotiators agreed Monday to extend for seven months their efforts to reach a comprehensive pact. They're still far apart on some details, but neither side wants a breakup.

Behind the standoff in Vienna is a deeper confrontation in Tehran. Hard-liners in Iran argue that the compromises necessary for a deal would undermine the radical Islamic Republic that was born in 1979. An agreement would signal that, as a recent cover headline in *The Economist* enthused (a bit prematurely): "The revolution is over."

For the West, the stakes are also huge: Agreeing to the concessions Iran wants on enrichment of uranium could open the way for proliferation of similar nuclear tech-

nology to Saudi Arabia and other regional powers, setting off a nuclear arms race that could be catastrophic.

So each side, for different reasons, seems to agree that for now, "no deal is better than a bad deal" — with the proviso that they will keep talking. This no-deal consensus includes Israel and the Arab Gulf States.

When I was in Tehran a year ago, it was obvious that the nuclear issue had become a fundamental political and economic crossroads for Iran. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Iran's foreign minister and chief negotiator, told me that a final agreement "can change the course of our relations with the West." But Hossein Shariatmadari, a hard-line ally of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, said accepting the West's terms would mean capitulation for the revolution. "The problem will be solved when one side gives up its identity, only then."

A year later, despite progress on many of the technical details that would frame an agreement, this split in Tehran still exists — hampering Zarif's ability to offer concessions the West wants in return for lifting sanctions.

A glimpse of this internal Iranian debate came in the statements following the announcement of the extension. President Hassan Rouhani gave a televised speech

Monday night that seemed designed, at once, to reassure an Iranian public that wants a deal and to lobby the hard-line faction that doesn't.

"I am certain that we will reach the final accord, if not today, then tomorrow," said an optimistic-sounding Rouhani. He claimed that "Iran's logic is one of negotiations and dialogue" and that negotiators "have had some agreements behind the scenes, but putting those on paper, we are still not there yet."

Contrast Rouhani's upbeat comments with the stern message Tuesday from Khamenei. "On the nuclear issue, the United States and European colonialist countries gathered and applied their entire efforts to bring the Islamic Republic to its knees, but they could not and they will not."

This internal Iranian debate may be as important as the nuclear talks themselves. For it marks an inflection point between Iran's revolutionary past and its post-revolutionary future. In the often-quoted formulation of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Iran must decide whether it's a nation or a cause. The "nation" represented by Rouhani wants a pragmatic deal, but Khamenei's "cause" continues to resist.

What do labor negotiators do when they reach such an impasse? One classic technique is to stress the areas of agreement that have been reached.

That's just what Secretary of State John Kerry did Monday. He said "new ideas surfaced" in the final days of negotiation that could resolve the hardest issues. U.S. negotiators are said to be working on the pieces of a deal — the number of Iranian centrifuges, the size of their stockpile, the agreement's duration, the framework for future modernization, the verification procedures — to reduce Iranian concerns while ensuring that even if they decided to cheat on the agreement, it would take them a year to build a bomb.

In labor bargaining, it's economic pressure that often compels agreement. This variable seems to be working in the West's favor. Sanctions remain in place; oil prices are low; Iranian revenues are squeezed when it's fighting proxy wars in Iraq and Syria. If economic pressure were all that mattered, Iran would make a deal.

But as Khamenei famously said: "I am not a diplomat. I am a revolutionary." That logic can lead people to walk away from agreements, even ones in their rational interest.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Breaking down the costs of fighting the Islamic State

BY WALTER PINCUS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The cost of the fight against the Islamic State continues to mount.

The departure of Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel may be one of them, but I want to focus on the dollars and sense, and by the latter I mean explaining more about what we are doing.

The Obama administration's request to Congress for an additional \$5.6 billion is needed to begin paying for operations against the Islamic State for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Approval for authorization and appropriation of that money — some of it already spent — requires congressional action. Members also have to vote on extending the funding for all Defense Department spending after Dec. 11, when the continuing resolution approved in September that finances the entire government runs out.

The estimated cost to the Pentagon of fighting the Islamic State — put at about \$8 billion a day and rising — hardly gives the full picture.

The Air Force, for example, is seeking an additional \$1 billion in fiscal 2015 to meet operations, maintenance and personnel costs, according to a 34-page Nov. 10 letter from Office of Management and Budget Director Shaun Donovan to House Speaker John A. Boehner, R-Ohio. The guided attack missiles and other bombs being used, as well as support for ground-based Iraqi forces will cost \$70 million.

The Army is also seeking another \$1 billion to pay for its added operations, maintenance and personnel costs in the fight. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said last week that the decision to reduce the number of end-of-life F-16s from 490,000 to 450,000 by 2019 needs a second look. "We made assumptions that we wouldn't go back into Iraq — and here we are back in Iraq," he said at the Defense One Summit.

The Islamic State package also includes \$464 million for added intelligence capabilities, including data from satellites and other collection activities, plus \$39



VADIM GHURDA/AP

Smoke rises from the Syrian city of Kobani, following an airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition, seen from a hilltop outside Suruc, on the Turkey-Syria border on Nov. 17.

million in equipment for the Special Operations Command, including intelligence programs.

The sum of \$544 million in added Air Force procurement is listed for "classified purposes." Whether that is pass-through money for CIA or National Security Agency intercept operations is not indicated. Director of National Intelligence James R. Clapper Jr. disclosed Friday that another \$1 billion was being added to his overseas contingency request for the current fiscal year, an indication that it, too, was to meet spending in the fight against the Islamic State.

Then there's the \$1.6 billion for the Iraq train-and-equip fund, to pay for tens of thousands of rifles, machine guns, mortars, rocket launchers, body armor and other equipment.

About \$1.2 billion will go to the Iraqi army to help train and equip nine brigades, according to a Defense Comptroller paper sent to Congress this month.

Some \$353,871,161 is destined to equip three Kurdish peshmarga brigades, while a separate \$24 million is to support Sunni tribal fighters in Anbar province battling the Islamic State.

The largest chunk of money will be \$317,570,400 to purchase more than 2,000 medium trucks that can carry 2.5 tons of materiel, but the list also includes more than 1,000 armored troop carriers.

The most costly single item to be provided to the Iraqis is the M978 fuel tanker truck that, at \$384,000 each, can carry 2,500 gallons of gasoline, diesel or jet fuel to service vehicles or aircraft. The plan is to buy 90 for the Iraqi army and 30 for the Kurds.

Another high-cost item, at \$331,680 each, will be M1089 wreckers, which can recover damaged or immobilized vehicles of up to five tons.

The United States has had problems dealing with corruption within the Iraqi

government and its security forces, including how military equipment is handled. In addition, there are questions about how qualified the Iraqis are to operate and maintain U.S.-made materiel.

While it has been announced that the train-and-equip program will entail an additional 1,500 U.S. troops, it apparently also will require additional defense contractors to train Iraqi soldiers to operate and maintain equipment.

Kurdish officials in Washington recently told reporters they were seeking heavier arms from the U.S. government. The Defense Department list for Kurdish forces includes 393 armored troop carriers and 600 medium trucks, plus 30 each of those very expensive fuel tankers and wreckers.

There are no heavy weapons on the Kurdish list, but the Iraqi army is in line to get a total of 607 mortars of three calibers, more than half of them 60 mm. The Pentagon expects the Iraqi army to share them with Kurdish forces.

The request for arms for Iraqi tribal security forces includes \$4.5 million for 5,000 AK-47 assault rifles plus ammunition. An announcement last week by the Military Sealift Command may very well refer to handling that type of shipment. The command said it was seeking to charter a ship by the end of the year to move 50 containers of ammunition to be picked up at the ports in Ploce, Croatia, and Piraeus, Greece, in mid-February for delivery to Iraq's deep-water port at Umm Qasr by the end of the month.

An unusual provision has been written into the \$1.6 billion request, indicating again that the Obama administration does not want to go to court. The proposal fences off 40 percent of the purchases — some \$640 million — saying that the Iraqis and other governments will have to pay for or contribute that amount. Perhaps the above-mentioned shipments are contributions from Greece and Croatia.

Right now, however, the whole matter, all \$5.6 billion, is up to Congress.

Pincus reports on intelligence, defense and foreign policy for *The Washington Post*.

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Announcements 040

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Some of the latest Scam fads are:
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• People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

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Subaru Impreza WRX STI 2007 \$17550
Toyota Matrix XR Sport Wag 2007 \$12000

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Mercedes Benz GLA 250 2014 \$38000
Hyundai Tucson 2007 \$17550
Subaru Impreza WRX STI 2007 \$17550
Toyota Matrix XR Sport Wag 2007 \$12000

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

VW Golf 1999 \$2999
VW Golf 1999 \$2999
VW Golf 1999 \$2999

Sport Utility Vehicle 172

Volvo XC90 2014 \$870000
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Furniture 510

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NHL



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Predators left wing James Neal skates back to the bench after scoring the winning goal during a shootout against the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday in Nashville, Tenn. Nashville won 4-3.

Roundup

Neal lifts Predators in SO

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — James Neal had to be patient while waiting for his name to be called in the shootout. Then he made his opportunity count.

Neal scored the only goal of the six-round tiebreaker to give the Nashville Predators a 4-3 win over the Los Angeles Kings on Tuesday night.

Craig Smith, Ryan Ellis and Eric Nystrom scored in regulation for Nashville, winners of four of five. In the shootout, Neal beat Martin Jones with a wrist shot between the pads.

“You just see what the goalie is doing and what the guys are doing with their first few shooters, what their moves are,” Neal said. “I think a lot of guys have a couple moves that they like to go to. For me, I go in and I think I know what I am going to do before I shoot.”

Entering Tuesday, Jones was 12-for-12 in the shootout in his career. Los Angeles shooters are 2-14 in shootouts this season. “It was a hard-fought point,” Los Angeles coach Darryl Sutter said. “We’ve got to start scoring some shootout goals. It cost us on the road.”

Pekka Rinne made 18 saves in regulation and overtime, and then denied all six Kings shooters in the tiebreaker.

“Not my strongest game, but we got it win eventually and that’s all that matters,” Rinne said. “You try to give your team a chance to win in the shootout.”

Nashville’s last two victories have come in shootouts.

“We knew it was going to be difficult to generate scoring chances, but yet I felt like we were able

to do that pretty consistently,” Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said. “They got opportunities, and when they did, they certainly made the most of them.”

Avalanche 4, Coyotes 3 (OT): Daniel Briere scored 3:16 into overtime, helping Colorado complete a comeback from three goals down to get the road win.

Briere got help from the Coyotes’ Martin Hanzal, who backhanded Briere’s pass past his own goalie, Mike Smith.

Colorado (8-9-5) won for the fourth time in five games after a goalie change in the first period. Arizona (9-11-3) absorbed another late-game home loss.

Canucks 2, Devils 0: Ryan Miller made 20 saves for his second shutout of the season, helping host Vancouver.

Alex Burrows and Shawn Matthias scored for the Canucks, who have won three of four.

Cory Schneider stopped 34 shots, but the Devils lost for the fourth time in five games.

Ducks 3, Flames 2: Corey Perry, Matt Beleskey and Kyle Palmieri staked their team to a big lead, and Anaheim held on for its 19th straight home victory against Calgary.

The Flames haven’t won in Anaheim since Jan. 19, 2004. Only three players who played for Calgary in that game are active in the NHL.

Jonas Hiller, who spent his first seven NHL seasons with Anaheim before signing with Calgary in July, stopped 29 shots in his return.

The Flames, coming off a 4-1 homestand that included shoot-out wins over the Ducks and New Jersey Devils, spoiled Frederik Andersen’s shutout bid with 8:58

remaining when T.J. Brodie beat him with a screened slap shot.

Senators 3, Blues 2 (SO): Erik Condra and Alex Chiasson scored third-period goals for Ottawa.

The visiting Senators, who had lost three of four and six of eight, trailed by two goals. They were beaten at home by the Blues on Saturday.

The Blues, who lost No. 1 goalie Brian Elliott to a lower-body injury late in the second period, had won two straight and five of seven. They entered having allowed an NHL-best 2.0 goals per game behind the goalie tandem of Elliott and Jake Allen.

Jets 4, Blue Jackets 2: Evander Kane scored two power-play goals, and Winnipeg held on for the road win.

Bryan Little and Andrew Ladd each had a goal and an assist for Winnipeg, which snapped a two-game losing streak. Blake Wheeler and Jacob Trouba added two assists apiece.

Rookie goalie Michael Hutchinson made 32 saves to improve to 4-1-1.

Stars 3, Oilers 2: Tyler Seguin scored two goals to give him an NHL-leading 17 for host Dallas, and rookie defenseman John Klingberg added a goal from center ice and an assist.

The Stars have won three in a row for the first time this season. Edmonton, last in the Western Conference, is 0-6-1 in its last seven games.

Seguin scored to break a 1-1 tie at 5:59 of the second period, backhanding a shot over the right pad of goalie Viktor Fasth. His second goal came on a slap shot from the deep slot at 17:42 of the second.

It was Seguin’s fifth multi-goal game of the season.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
Team	GP	W	L	Pts
Montreal	23	16	6	33
Tampa Bay	22	14	6	30
Detroit	21	11	8	24
Boston	23	13	9	27
Toronto	21	11	9	24
Ottawa	21	10	9	24
Florida	19	7	6	20
Buffalo	21	6	13	14

Metropolitan Division				
Team	GP	W	L	Pts
Pittsburgh	20	14	5	30
N.Y. Islanders	21	15	6	30
N.Y. Rangers	20	9	8	27
Washington	20	9	8	27
New Jersey	22	9	10	21
Philadelphia	20	8	9	20
Carolina	20	6	11	15
Columbus	21	6	13	14

Western Conference

Central Division				
Team	GP	W	L	Pts
Nashville	21	14	5	30
St. Louis	21	12	8	26
Chicago	21	12	8	26
Winnipeg	23	11	9	25
Minnesota	20	12	8	24
Dallas	22	9	9	22
Colorado	22	9	11	21

Pacific Division				
Team	GP	W	L	Pts
Anaheim	23	14	4	30
Vancouver	23	13	8	28
Calgary	21	11	8	24
San Jose	23	10	9	24
Arizona	20	8	10	20
Edmonton	22	6	14	14

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

Tuesday’s games
 Ottawa 3, St. Louis 2, SO
 Nashville 4, Los Angeles 3, SO
 Winnipeg 4, Columbus 2
 Dallas 3, Edmonton 2
 Colorado 4, Arizona 3, OT
 Vancouver 2, New Jersey 0
 Anaheim 3, Calgary 2

Wednesday’s game
 Washington at N.Y. Islanders
 Philadelphia at Detroit
 N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay
 Carolina at Florida
 Toronto at Pittsburgh
 Los Angeles at Minnesota
 Chicago at Colorado
 Calgary at San Jose

Thursday’s game
 Edmonton at Nashville

Tuesday

Ducks 3, Flames 2
 Calgary 0 0 2-2
 Anaheim 1 2 0-3
 (Clare, 4:37)
First Period—1, Anaheim, Belskey 10
 (Larhin, 1:28)
Second Period—2, Anaheim, Perry 12 (Beleskey, Beauchemin), 5:04, 3, Anaheim, Palmieri 3 (Bourque, Smith-Pelly), 17:42
Third Period—4, Calgary, Brodie 5 (Monahan, Glenrossi), 11:02, 5, Calgary, Hudler 8 (Giordano, Brodie), 19:34
Shots on Goal—Calgary 12-14—8-34, Anaheim 12-8—29-29
Power-play opportunities—Calgary 0 of 2; Anaheim 1 of 1
Goals—Calgary, Hiller 9-6-1 (29 shots saves); Anaheim, Anderson 10-2-4 (34-32)
A—17:174 (17,174), T—2:31

Avalanche 4, Coyotes 3 (OT)

Colorado 0 1 2-1-4
 Arizona 0 0 0-2-3
First Period—1, Arizona, Vermette 6 (Stone, Korpiokski), 3:36, 2, Colorado, Rieder 2 (Doan), 10:53
Second Period—Colorado, Landeskog 6 (Johnson, Iginla), 5:09
Third Period—5, Colorado, Landeskog 6 (Wilson, Smith, 12:36, 5, Nashville, Duchene 7 (O’Reilly, Barrie), 4:05, 2, Colorado, Stempniak 4, 2:16
Shots on Goal—Colorado 9-10-13-33-35, Arizona 12-11-12-33-33
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 5 of 2; Arizona 0 of 1
Goals—Colorado, Berra (8 shots 5 saves), Pickard 2-2-0 (10:53 first, 25:25), Forsberg NG, Ellis NG, Smith NG, Jost NG, Neal G
A—12:163 (17,125), T—2:34

Predators 4, Kings 3

Los Angeles 1 1 0-3
 Nashville 1 2 0-0-4
Nashville win shootout 0-0
First Period—Nashville, Smith 7 (Wilson, Voitenkov), 6:24, 2, Los Angeles, McBean 1 (Williamson, MacArthur), 11:32
Second Period—3, Los Angeles, Gaborik 4 (Carter, McNaab), 1:01, 4, Nashville, Ellis 4 (Wilson, Smith), 3:36, 5, Nashville, Nystrom 4 (Beck, Weber), 18:28
Third Period—2, Los Angeles, Dougerty 2, 3:38
Shootout—Los Angeles 0 (Carter NG, Gaborik NG, Kopitar NG, Troforn NG, Stoll NG, King NG), Nashville 1 (Roy NG, Forsberg NG, Ellis NG, Smith NG, Jost NG, Neal G)
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 7-7-6-1-21, Nashville 12-8-9-4-33
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 3; Nashville 0 of 4
Goals—Los Angeles, Mjones 1-2-1 (31 shots saves), Nashville, Rinne 14-3-1 (21-88)
A—17:181 (17,113), T—2:48



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

After being credited with scoring the game-winning goal against the Coyotes, the Avalanche’s Daniel Briere is surrounded by teammates Nick Holden, Tyson Barrie, Matt Duchene, Jarome Iginla and Gabriel Landeskog Tuesday in Glendale, Ariz. The Avalanche defeated the Coyotes 4-3 in overtime.

Canucks 2, Devils 0

New Jersey 0 0 0-0
 Vancouver 0 1 1-2
 (Bullock, Borino), 11:4
Third Period—2, Vancouver, Matthias 3 (Stanton), 16:37
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 6-6-8-20, Vancouver 17-9-10-36
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 0; Vancouver 0 of 2
Goals—New Jersey, Schneider 9-9-2 (36 shots 34 saves), Vancouver, Miller 14-3-0 (20-20)
A—18:606 (18,910), T—2:19

Stars 3, Oilers 2

Edmonton 1 0 1-2
 Dallas 1 1 0-3
First Period—1, Dallas, Klingberg 3 (Spezza), 12:49, 2, Edmonton, Gordon 4 (Petry), 15:30-31
Second Period—3, Dallas, Quinn 16 (Klingberg, Goligoski), 5:59, 4, Dallas, Seguin 1 (Ja, Benn, Eaves), 17:42
Third Period—5, Edmonton, Hall 8 (Eberle, Nugent, Robinson), 5:56
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 17-10-10-37, Dallas 15-12-34-34
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 2; Dallas 0 of 4
Goals—Edmonton, Fasth 2-5-1 (34 shots 31 saves), Dallas, Lehtonen 9-5-4 (37-35)
A—16:322 (18,532), T—2:36

Senators 3, Blues 2 (SO)

Ottawa 1 0 2-0-3
 St. Louis 1 1 0-2-3
Ottawa win shootout 1-0
First Period—1, St. Louis, Cole 1 (Reaves, Lapierre), 14:23
Second Period—2, St. Louis, Steen 5 (Gustafy, Shatterson), 12:05 (pp), 23:11
Third Period—3, Ottawa, Condra 1 (Gryba, Wiercioch), 7:55, 4, Ottawa, Chisason 6 (Hoffman, MacArthur), 12:19
Shootout—Ottawa 1 (Turris NG, Hoffman NG, Ryan G), St. Louis 0 (Oshie NG, Steen NG, Tarasenko NG)
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 9-7-15-33, St. Louis 10-14-20-34
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 2; St. Louis 0 of 2
Goals—Ottawa, Lehner 5-3-1 (29 shots 27 saves), St. Louis, Elliott (16-16), Allen 6-2-1 (35-58 seconds), 17:13
A—16:680 (19,150), T—2:51

Jets 4, Blue Jackets 2

Winnipeg 1 2 1-4
 Columbus 1 0 1-2
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Little 7 (Gardiner, Wheeler), 39, 2, Columbus, Leopold 1 (Anisimov, Savard), 3:42 (pp)
Second Period—3, Winnipeg, Kane 3 (Byfuglien, Trouba), 16:25 (pp), 4, Winnipeg, Ladd 8 (Little, Wheeler), 16:56, 2, Columbus, Johnson 2 (Polunin, Wisniewski), 9:47, 6, Winnipeg, Lehner 16 (Trouba), 15:42 (en-pp)
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 11-12-29-32, Columbus 8-14-12-34
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 2 of 4; Columbus 1 of 5
Goals—Winnipeg, Hutchinson 4-1-1 (31 shots 28 saves), Columbus, Boro-rovsky 5-7-1 (31-28)
A—13:745 (18,144), T—2:33

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Michigan is 31-19 in Brady Hoke's tenure and is 5-6 this season heading into Saturday's game.

Hoke's status main topic going into Ohio St. game

By RUSTY MILLER
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Brady Hoke refuses to contribute to the speculation about his job security.

Hoke batted aside questions about his future with the Wolverines on Monday and instead spoke mainly about his team's preparation for its upcoming annual grudge match with Ohio State.

"They can speculate and all that," Hoke said. "If I get distracted with what we're doing that's not fair to those 115 kids. I've never worried about a job."

The familiar foes meet for the 11th time on Saturday at Ohio Stadium. The No. 7 Buckeyes (10-1, 7-0 Big Ten, No. 6 CFP) had clinched a spot in the conference title game but their hopes of making the four-team national playoffs might well be affected by the battle with their chief rivals.

"People talk about the playoff system and all that," linebacker Joshua Perry said. "That'll handle itself. But we've still got



Michigan at Ohio State
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
2 a.m. Sunday JKT

to take care of what we've got to do."

The stakes are much, much different for the Wolverines.

Michigan (5-6, 3-4) needs a win just to be bowl eligible, in addition to momentarily quieting the talk about Hoke's future.

Hoke is 5-6 in his fourth season with the Wolverines, but there has been a steady decline on the field, in his record and in attendance at The Big House.

If he feels the temperature rising underneath him, he has not betrayed that to his players.

"It speaks volumes of (Hoke's) character that he comes into the building with the same passion that he's had from day one," said center Jack Miller.

Just three seasons ago, Ohio State was going through a similar situation. Luke Fickell, who was elevated from defensive coordinator when Jim Tressell stepped aside in the wake of a tattoo scandal, had his job on the line when he took the Buckeyes into the game against Michigan.

"I felt that, definitely," said Buckeyes cornerback Doran Grant. "Being a true freshman at the time a lot of the older guys kind of grabbed us by the neck that week to get us ready. They let us know how serious this game is."

Michigan won that game 40-34, and Fickell was not retained as head coach. He remains the Buckeyes' coordinator.

The Buckeyes have dominated the series lately, winning 11 of 13, with one of those victories on the field later vacated due to the scandal on Tressell's watch.

Longhorns can ruin TCU's playoff hopes

By JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas can spoil everything for TCU.

The Big 12 title talk and No. 5 TCU's playoff position won't mean much if the Longhorns, playing their best football of the season, beat the Horned Frogs (9-1, 6-1 Big 12) on Thursday night.

Texas coach Charlie Strong and his players insisted Monday they'll take the field trying to get the win just to keep momentum going after a poor start in Strong's first season. TCU's title talk isn't part of the conversation.

"We don't even talk about them. It's all about us. We need to go get another win for ourselves," Strong said.

But the rest of college football will be watching the Horned Frogs and calculating what a win or loss would mean nationally in the final push for one of four berths in the first College Football Playoff.

Under the current standings, TCU would be left out at No. 5. And struggling to beat a bad Kansas team — which gave up an NCAA-record 427 yards pushing to Oklahoma's Senge Perrine last week — has cast some doubt on whether TCU deserves a shot at the national championship.

TCU perhaps doesn't just need to win, but win impressively against Texas. The Horned Frogs close the season against Iowa State, which ranks near the bottom of the Big 12.

The Horned Frogs will catch a Texas team on the rise.

Since a 23-0 loss at Kansas State a month ago, Texas (6-5, 5-3) has won three in a row. The Longhorns' defense is arguably the best in the Big 12 and the offensive line, a patchwork unit when the season began, has been opening up huge holes for running backs Malcolm Brown and Johnathan Gray.

"This is the best football we've played in November since I've been here," wide receiver John Harris said. "Kansas State was a turning point for this team. We made up our minds we had to be better."

Harris is among a Texas senior class looking for a defining win to cap a career that has been underwhelming. Texas is 31-19 in the past four seasons, including three seasons of at least five losses. The Texas seniors haven't won a Big 12 title and withstood the early struggles of a 2-4 start under Strong.

They saw friends and teammates dismissed by Strong, who says he doesn't think his team started enjoying the season until it finally got bowl eligible two weeks ago by beating Oklahoma State.

"I would have loved to have walked in here with an undefeated team," Strong said. "I don't know if they ever had a chance to sit back and enjoy it... But they got to six (wins) and they battled through it all."



RICARDO BRAZZIELL, AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Texas has won its past four games and is arguably playing its best football this season under first-year head coach Charlie Strong.

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Top Scores for Week 12

240	Montoya's Broncos	!!!	ft knox
240	fwgdmn		Ft. Belvoir
234	Steelcurtain75		Schofield Barracks
230	jproctor2358		Yokosuka
226	wjs_121		Quantico
226	HbergDave		Clay Kaserne Wiesbaden
226	zeinnor		Naples NSA
224	North Country Big Blue		Pentagon
224	kjicecold		Camp Ederle
224	Bengal Mann		Mainz Kastel

Top 10 Overall Scores

2068	Camp Humphreys	Camp Humphreys
2058	michaelgarza98	31098
2052	G-Mo's Raiders	kadena
2042	R.CROPS GO BOY!!!!	ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND
2038	Grateful Shamackies	Scott AFB
2028	scatter	Mac Dill AFB
2020	cwb0y48	Wiesbaden Air Base
2020	OKC Yukon	Tinker AFB
2016	leathal23	Camp Foster
2008	chicago	leatherneck

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



WADE PAYNE/AP

Missouri offensive lineman Evan Boehm, left, celebrates with quarterback Maty Mauk after beating Tennessee last Saturday. The Tigers can wrap up their second straight SEC title by winning Saturday.

Missouri eyes SEC East title

By JAKE KREINBERG
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Growing up in Kansas City, Shane Ray was a “Big 12 kid.” Through his redshirt season in 2011, Missouri was a Big 12 school.

Three years later, the Tigers find themselves competing for a berth in their second consecutive Southeastern Conference championship game.

“When we moved to the SEC, I realized the program was going into change,” Ray said. “Being young, I realized I had to be a person that would help build this program.”

Ray, a junior defensive end, leads the league with 13½ sacks and 19½ tackles for loss. He highlights a unit that, in conference play, ranks second in total defense (302.6 yards per game), first in rushing defense (109.3 yards per game) and tied for first in sacks (26).

Missouri (9-2, 6-1) also owns the SEC’s longest active winning streak on the road (40 games). To clinch their second East Division championship outright, though, the 17th-ranked Tigers must win at home Friday against Arkansas (6-5, 2-5), which has shut out LSU and Mississippi the last two weeks. Should Missouri lose, Georgia will advance to the SEC title game.

“They know it’s out there,” Tigers coach Gary Pinkel said. “I’d like to believe they understand that all their attention and focus has to be on themselves. You don’t want your players playing with any fear at all. You want them to play with a lot of confidence.”

Confident or not, many of the Tigers will be playing with a lot of emotion. The team plans to honor 19 seniors before the game, each one individually recognized and hugged by Pinkel as they walk onto

the field.

The coach, a self-described “basket case,” said it will probably take a few minutes into the first quarter until he can pull himself back together.

“You grow such a great bond because you go through so much together,” left tackle Mitch Morse said. “It will be a sad day. I’ve had way too much fun with the guys, and I told them how much they mean to me and how they’ve made this season of mine so special.”

Morse — “the dad of the offensive line,” according to center Evan Boehm — said he’s fortunate his final home game could have a lasting impact on the school. Two years removed from a 57-game season filled with a myriad of injuries, Morse knows how many variables need to add up to find success.

Missouri found a winning formula last year, when it lost to South Carolina before winning its final four matchups to clear the Gamecocks by a game in the standings. The Tigers lost 34-0 to Georgia this season on Oct. 11, but have won five straight to set up a win-and-in game against the Razorbacks.

“We’ve just got to get out there and play hard and do it,” said senior defensive end Markus Golden, who has 8½ sacks and 14 tackles for loss. “We’ve set ourselves up for greatness, and we’ve got the chance to achieve it.”

Missouri will need one of its better performances from its offense, which has eclipsed 400 yards the last two games but still averages only 360.7 yards — 13th-best in the SEC. The team also commits a league-high 7.9 penalties per game, including 12 last Saturday at Tennessee.

“It’s the biggest game of the season,” senior running back Marcus Murphy said. “We’re going to come out and give a championship performance.”

No change at top of playoff rankings

Group of Five teams Boise State, Marshall crack top 25, are contenders for a top bowl

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Alabama, Oregon, Florida State and Mississippi State remained the top four teams in the College Football Playoff rankings on Tuesday heading into a weekend when just about all the contenders are facing challenging rivals.

TCU was fifth, Ohio State was sixth and Baylor seventh. The only team in the top eight to change was UCLA, which slipped into the eighth spot.

For the first time, teams from the so-called Group of Five conferences made the top 25. Boise State moved in the rankings at No. 23 and unbeaten Marshall is 24th. The highest ranked team from outside the Big Five conferences is guaranteed one spot in the four New Year’s Bowls affiliated with the playoff but not hosting semifinals.

Alabama hosts Auburn on Saturday. Florida State plays Florida; Oregon is at Oregon State and Mississippi State visits Mississippi. TCU plays at Texas on Thanksgiving night and Ohio State hosts Michigan on Saturday. Baylor plays Texas Tech at the Dallas Cowboys’ stadium in

Arlington, Texas, the site of the national championship game.

Committee chairman Jeff Long said the difference between Nos. 4-7 is still very close.

The 12-member committee was down to 11 this week because former Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese was sick and not up for the trip to Dallas. Long said Tranghese is expected back next week.

Long also caused a bit of a stir when on ESPN’s rankings show he mentioned how the rankings of teams at the time they played are factored into the committee’s decision. Long has said each week the 12-member committee starts with a clean slate and that one week’s rankings should have no bearing on the next.

Long later clarified that remark, saying first that no rankings other than the committee’s — which started Oct. 28 — are taken into account. He added that a team’s previous ranking was something the committee was aware of and not a determining factor.

“Although I will say a team that is 6-5 and has been previously ranked is going to hold more weight than a 3-8 or sub .500 team, which is an obvious thing,” he said.

Long said there has been debate among the committee members about Florida State and whether the Seminoles’ many close calls are a sign of weakness or strength.

Unbeaten Florida State has rallied from a halftime deficit five times and had five one-score games.

“There’s certainly those who view a team coming from behind and winning as a sign of a strong team, and there’s others who might believe that they’re a good enough team, they should have been in front or more in control of the game as they progressed,” Long said.



JOHN AMIS/AP

Marshall receiver Angelo Jean-Louis runs for a touchdown against UAB. The Thundering Herd joined the playoff rankings.

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SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Briefly

Redskins benching healthy star QB Griffin

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Move over, RG3. It's Colt vs. the Colts.

The Washington Redskins will start Colt McCoy over Robert Griffin III on Sunday against the Indianapolis Colts, the latest development in a stunning slide for the 2012 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year.

"My job is to do everything we can to win. ... At this time, I just feel like Colt gives us a better opportunity," coach Jay Gruden told Colts reporters on a conference call Wednesday.

The Redskins are 0-3 since Griffin returned from an ankle injury and have scored only one touchdown in each of the last two games. The former No. 2 overall draft pick seemed poised to revolutionize the quarterback position with his arm and legs when he led Washington to the playoffs two years ago, but he is 4-14 as a starter since the start of the 2013 season. He has struggled in an attempt to transform into a traditional pocket passer.

Gruden said Griffin "just needs a little more time" to master the team's offensive scheme. He said Griffin will serve as the No. 2 quarterback on Sunday.

"He wasn't happy," Gruden said, "nor

would I expect him to be happy."

Gruden has been candid about Griffin's development and was particularly brutal a week ago, citing "fundamental flaws" after an abysmal performance in a 20-point loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Griffin played a little better in a 17-13 defeat against the 49ers, but Gruden afterward hinted a change was possible, saying Griffin's 106 yards passing "is unheard of this day and age with the receivers we have, and we have to figure out something."

Griffin has now been benched twice when healthy in his young career. He was shut down for the final three games last year as the season spiraled to a 3-13 finish under then-coach Mike Shanahan.

QB Smith to start for Jets

NEW YORK — Geno Smith is getting another shot as the New York Jets' starting quarterback.

The team announced Wednesday that Smith, who had been benched in favor of Michael Vick the last three games, will be under center against the Miami Dolphins on Monday night.

Coach Rex Ryan met with both quarterbacks in the morning, according to the

team, and informed them of the decision. It was initially believed Ryan was leaning toward Vick, but the Jets (2-9) might want to get one more look at Smith to make an evaluation on the quarterback heading into the offseason.

In other NFL news:

■ NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and players' union chief DeMaurice Smith met Tuesday to discuss the league's personal conduct policy. Neither side released details of the meeting.

The NFL Players Association has been unhappy with what it calls "lack of transparency" in the NFL's policy. Smith has said the only way to have a fair policy is if the NFL and owners "commit to collective bargaining."

The NFL counters that the union agreed to the policy during labor negotiations to end the 2011 lockout. That collective bargaining agreement runs through 2021.

The union also is displeased with the way Goodell increased the minimum penalty for violation of the policy to six games following the Ray Rice case. The league contends the personal conduct policy gives him that right.

Smith and the players are seeking neutral

arbitration for all personal conduct disciplinary decisions. They also believe Goodell should be removed from that process.

■ The Denver Broncos have switched kickers again, waiving first-year pro Brandon McManus and signing Connor Barth, who hasn't kicked in an NFL game since 2012.

Barth, 28, won a competition with 38-year-old Jay Feely at the Broncos complex in suburban Denver on Tuesday.

Source: Lester, Giants to meet

SAN FRANCISCO — A person with knowledge of the arrangements says free agent left-hander Jon Lester plans to meet with the San Francisco Giants next week.

San Francisco has need for a front-line starting pitcher and was expected to get busy in the free agent market after losing slugging third baseman Pablo Sandoval to the Boston Red Sox.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday because there was no authorization to disclose the meeting.

Lester was dealt by the Red Sox to the Oakland Athletics at the trade deadline in July and helped the A's reach the playoffs for the third straight year.

Top 25 roundup

No. 3 Arizona survives scare

The Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Arizona came to Maui to face adversity. There was some back in the desert through the first four games, though most of that was self-inflicted.

Faced with their first big challenge of the season, the third-ranked Wildcats went toe-to-toe with Kansas State and put themselves on the brink of a tournament title.

Kaleb Tarczewski scored 18 points, Gabe York added 15 and No. 3 Arizona hung on to win its first close game of the season, beating Kansas State 72-68 in the Maui Invitational semifinals.

"We're very, very proud of tonight's win," coach Sean Miller said. "We feel like we beat a great team, and that's why you come to Maui: to challenge [yourself]."

Arizona (5-0) rolled through its first four games despite some slow starts and shot 53 percent against Kansas State, yet couldn't shake the scrappy Wildcats.

Trailing by nine in the second half, Kansas State (3-2) whittled the lead down to a single possession in the final minute behind Marcus Foster.

Arizona rose to the challenge.

Freshman 23 forward Stanley Johnson spent most of the second half in foul trouble, but came up with some of the biggest plays down the stretch. He had a key steal and hit three free throws in the closing seconds, finishing with 14 points and seven rebounds.

Kentucky 92, Texas-Arlington 44: Devin Booker scored

19 points for his second career best in as many games. Karl-Anthony Towns added 13 with 11 rebounds for the host Wildcats.

Besides shooting 57 percent from the field, Kentucky (6-0) held the Mavericks (3-2) to 27 percent shooting.

No. 7 Texas 78, St. Francis (Pa.) 46: Freshman forward Myles Turner had 25 points and 10 rebounds, leading the host Longhorns to their first 5-0 start since 2009.

Turner, one of the top recruits in the country, had been quiet in Texas' two previous wins, but showed a deft shooting touch and his typical tough defense against Saint Francis, stepping out for three three-pointers while also blocking three shots.

No. 8 Virginia 79, Tennessee State 36: Justin Anderson was 7-for-7 from the field and scored 20 points, and the host Cavaliers had a 32-point run spanning halftime.

Anderson made five three-pointers and Mike Tobey added 13 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for the Cavaliers (5-0).

No. 12 Villanova 60, No. 19 Michigan 55: JayVaughn Pinkston had the go-ahead basket and game-saving block in the final minute to lift the Wildcats over the Wolverines in the Legends Classic championship game at New York.

Pinkston put the Wildcats (5-0) up 56-55 with a spin for separation and a one-handed bucket with 13.4 seconds left. He then had a clean stuff on Zak Irvin's dunk at-

tempt off an inbound pass with 5 seconds left.

Maryland 72, No. 13 Iowa State 63: Jared Nickens and Jake Layman scored 15 points apiece to lead a balanced offense, and the Terrapins beat the Cyclones in the championship game of the CBE Classic at Kansas City.

Dez Wells added 14 points and Melo Trimble scored 11 for the Terrapins (5-0).

No. 14 VCU 77, Oregon 63: Melvin Johnson scored 19 points and Treveon Graham had 13 for the Rams.

VCU (4-1) led by as many as 14 and never trailed in the Legends Classic consolation game in the Barclays Center at Brooklyn.

No. 15 San Diego State 74, Pittsburgh 57: Trey Kell scored 15 points and the Aztecs shot their way into the Maui Invitational championship game.

No. 17 Miami 77, Charlotte 74: Sheldon McClellan scored a career-high 31 points and had 11 rebounds as the Hurricanes defeated the host 49ers for the second time in three days.

McClellan, who had 19 points in the Hurricanes' win over Charlotte in the Charleston Classic on Sunday, was 11-for-17 from the field and had five three-pointers.

No. 23 Creighton 75, Eastern Illinois 53: Reserve center Geoffrey Groselle scored a career-high 15 points for the host Bluejays in the Emerald Coast Classic.

No. 25 Arkansas 78, SMU 72: Bobby Portis scored 22 points and the visiting Razorbacks won their first game as a ranked team in seven years.



EUGENE TANNAH/P

Arizona forward Stanley Johnson, right, dunks as his center Kaleb Tarczewski (35) and Kansas State forward Stephen Hurt (41) look on in the first half at the Maui Invitational on Tuesday.

NFL



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Arizona quarterback Drew Stanton, right, is sacked by Seattle's Jordan Hill during Sunday's game in Seattle.

Surprise: More records await Murray

FROM BACK PAGE

Murray is the only back to hit the century mark 10 times in the first 11 games.

At 1,354 yards rushing, Murray is 403 ahead of Pittsburgh's Le'Veon Bell with five games remaining after McCoy led the league last season at 1,607. McCoy is up to 859 yards, fourth in the league, after a slow start.

Now Murray begins his march up the Cowboys' single-season chart.

All-time NFL rushing leader Emmitt Smith holds six of the top eight seasons in Dallas history, and Murray has a shot at three of them this week. Once he gets there, he'll be on the verge of the top five, where Tony Dorsett and Herschel Walker reside alongside Smith.

Murray needs to average 84 yards per game to break Smith's franchise mark of 1,773 set in 1995, the last time the Cowboys won the Super Bowl. And he knows what he's facing.

"Obviously they're stacking the box and things of that nature, but that's not an excuse," said Murray, who leads the league with 268 carries and is on pace for just shy of 400. "We've got to continue to run and make it happen."

The Cowboys did it at Super Bowl championship Seattle when Murray had 46 yards at halftime before getting 46 on three straight carries to finish the drive to a go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter.

Murray had 49 yards in the first half of Sunday's 31-28 win at the New York Giants before finishing with 121.

"He had a couple of explosive runs for us, but for the most part it was a grinder," coach Jason Garrett said. "When you're evaluating a back, that's when it gets most impressive."

Martin agrees, because the eight-man fronts usually mean there will be one player the linemen simply can't block.

"If there's eight guys in the box, a lot of times, we're, 'Hey, there's going to be a free hat so you're going to have to handle that free hat,'" Martin said. "He's running over them, making them miss. A really complete back."

Seahawks got the message

Players clear internal issues, refocus

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The first step for Seattle's return to the NFC West race had nothing to do with what happened on the field. The Seahawks had to clear their own in-house issues.

And like most conversations for the franchise, it started with Pete Carroll. But instead of leading the charge, Carroll simply broached what needed to be addressed and put the responsibility on his core group — including Russell Wilson, Richard Sherman, Earl Thomas, Doug Baldwin and others — to make sure the entire locker room understood the message.

For at least a week the message was embraced, capped by the Seahawks' 19-3 win over Arizona on Sunday. The question

now is whether it can carry forward on a short week Thursday night against San Francisco.

"It was a topic I was on and generated some questions with some guys and we got together and just tried to bring the truth out of what was important," Carroll said Monday. "I was able to step back and let them pass the message on and they did a great job and we're just getting going. We've been trying to find our best play throughout the year. We've been working at it and this week it came clear and we made sense of it."

If Seattle (7-4) can pull off a win over the 49ers, it will be back in the discussion of elite teams in the NFC.

Sunday's win included a defensive performance that was reminiscent of last season's dominant unit. The Seahawks allowed



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Seattle head coach Pete Carroll relied on his core group of players to make sure the Seahawks got back on track.

only 204 yards for their best total since St. Louis had just 158 in Week 17 of last season. It was the eighth regular-season game in the past two seasons where Seattle held its opponent under 10 points.

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NFL

One-handed grabs not rare

Beckham's TD part of growing trend to practice impractical

By Rob Maaddi
The Associated Press

Before most television cameras start rolling and fans enter the stadium, Odell Beckham Jr. practices making acrobatic, one-handed catches in pre-game warmups.

It paid off for the rookie receiver.

Beckham's spectacular, leaping, right-handed grab while falling backward and drawing an interference penalty was the talk of the NFL and the Internet on Monday.

Everyone from LeBron James to Hollywood celebs Elizabeth Banks and John Cusack marveled at Beckham's touchdown catch in the New York Giants' loss to Dallas on Sunday night.

"The greatest catch I've ever seen," said James, who was an All-Ohio wide receiver in high school.

Banks tweeted: "Just back from the #AMAs and seeing replay of that Odell Beckham Jr. catch. OMG that was sick!"

Cusack compared it to David Tyree's helmet grab in the Super Bowl and Lynn Swann's diving reception in an earlier Super Bowl.

Beckham, however, does it every day in practice and before games. This catch just happened to be in front of a national television audience against the Cowboys. His teammates, coaches and anyone who watched him play weren't surprised.

"He practices that one-handed snag," said Eric Manning, who also threw the pass to Tyree that helped the Giants beat New England. "He's got big hands and great concentration and he can make those plays. That was a pretty great one."

Beckham made several stunning catches at LSU, including a diving, one-handed grab against Iowa in the Outback Bowl.

"I saw him and Jarvis [Landry] do things like that on the practice field all the time. I mean all the time," LSU coach Les Miles said. "They finally caught one on camera, I guess. It's something that we would have expected."

NBC analyst Cris Collinsworth, a three-time Pro Bowl receiver in the '80s, repeated: "That might be the greatest catch I've ever seen."

When asked about working on one-handed catches recently, Beckham said: "It's something you just have to practice. The opportunity sometimes presents itself and you know you want to be prepared. That is one of those things that I have been doing for a long time. Jarvis Landry and I would always do that every day in practice. We wouldn't compete, but we would see who could make the most ridiculous catch."

Many players work on one-handed catches in practice and afterward on the JUGS machine. It's not one hand for a 27-yard gain. Benjamin rated Beckham's



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. makes a one-handed catch while warming up to play against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday. The one-handed catch Beckham made that became the most talked-about play of the day rewarded a routine growing popular among many skill players of practicing impractical, one-handed catches.

end J.J. Watt catches balls one-handed before games, too. Of course, Watt has actually lined up as a receiver and has two TD catches this season.

"It's partially just hand-eye coordination before the game and it's partially to warm up the hands a little bit, partially for fun," Watt said. "The more you can do, the better athlete you can [be], the better you're going to be on the field. It's all part of it."

San Francisco's Steve Johnson said you can practice the one-handed catches by tossing the ball in the air and out of view and then trying to catch it, but when it comes to games, it's a natural instinct for a soft-handed wideout — with a little assist from those sticky receiver gloves they wear, too.

"It's a little bit of both, the gloves and his talent," Johnson said. "It was a solid catch."

Several players have made amazing one-handed catches this season, including Carolina's Kelvin Benjamin, Chicago's Brandon Marshall, New England's Rob Gronkowski, Philadelphia's Jeremy Maclin and Miami's Mike Wallace.

Buffalo's Robert Woods got into the act Monday night against the New York Jets. Woods appeared to get his left arm tangled a bit with a defender, so he reached up with the right, gently bobbling the ball at first before controlling it with that one hand for a 27-yard gain. Benjamin rated Beckham's

grab a 9.0 and joked that he only gets to 10 if he would've caught it with his eyes closed. Unlike Beckham and others, the Panthers rookie doesn't practice one-handed catches.

"One-handed catches are just reaction catches," he said. "You just go to that zone at the moment. It's entertainment."

Swann put Beckham's catch into perspective.

"I don't know how many times you throw that pass and how many times you actually catch it," the Hall of Famer said. "He threw it to him one time, he caught it, and for a touchdown. There are a couple of things that make it phenomenal. Fact he caught it with two fingers and a thumb and didn't use all of his hand. He stopped that baby with two fingers and his thumb, that's hard to do."

Colts veteran Reggie Wayne often draws a large crowd when he practices one-handed catches on a JUGS machine. His coach, Chuck Pagano, encourages players to work on it.

"If you make them in practice, you'll make them in games," Pagano said. "And that's what we talk about all the time. It's all about preparation."

Wallace catches 100 balls per hand each day. He also thinks those super-sticky gloves are helping guys make these plays.

"Anything you do, if you practice it, you'll get better," Wallace said.

Statistics

AFC Individual Leaders

Quarterbacks				
	Aff	Com	TD Int	
R. Manning, DEN	412	301	35/8	9
Roethlisberger, PIT	413	282	37/20	24
P. Rivers, SNO	161	922	51	7
Bradley, IND	417	271	29/8	26
Luck, NYG	406	294	36/19	10
K. Orton, BUF	250	181	18/10	12
Tannehill, MIA	389	257	25/20	20
Alec Smith, KAN	337	231	21/11	11
Flacco, BAL	375	273	17/14	18
Fitzpatrick, HOU	157	196	11	11
Rushers				
	Aff	Yds	LG TD	
L. Bell, PIT	195	4,388	81	7
Forset, BAL	155	903	582	7
A. Foster, HOU	163	1,079	142	48
J. Charles, KAN	152	772	50	47
L. Miller, MIA	137	673	491	33
J. Hill, CIN	131	643	431	62
Ivory, NYJ	130	579	445	71
D. Robinson, JAX	126	491	390	98
Bernard, CIN	126	491	390	98
T. West, CLE	126	491	390	98
Receivers				
	No	Yds	LG TD	
Dem. Brown, PIT	82	1,192	145	86
Am. Thomas, DEN	82	1,192	145	86
E. Sanders, DEN	76	1,079	142	48
Edelman, NYE	70	695	99	44
Hilton, IND	63	1,083	172	73
K. Allen, SNO	63	641	103	35
Gronkowski, NYE	58	812	140	46
And. Johnson, HOU	58	667	115	26
L. Bell, PIT	57	484	85	43
Jan. James, OAK	54	545	101	42
Punters				
	Aff	Yds	LG TD	
McAfee, IND	42	1,904	61	77
Huber, CIN	50	237	67	47
Quinn, NYJ	57	2,682	61	47
Koch, BAL	37	1,736	73	46
Leichter, HOU	54	2,532	71	46
Anger, PIT	49	3,020	64	45
Ry. Allen, NYE	45	2,097	67	46
Kern, PIT	59	2,729	46	46
Scifres, SNO	53	2,416	72	45
Fields, MIA	38	1,729	60	45
Punt Returners				
	No	Yds	LG TD	
Edelman, NYE	15	200	13	47
Hammond Jr., KAN	15	223	13	47
Ad. Jones, CIN	17	167	9	28
De. Thomas, KAN	17	167	9	28
Carrie, OAK	16	155	9	27
McKevlin, BUF	21	183	8	24
J. Landry, MIA	19	160	8	24
Whalen, IND	21	169	8	24
Jack. Jones, BAL	22	163	7	23
Whalen, IND	25	187	7	22
Kickoff Returners				
	No	Yds	LG TD	
De. Johnson, TEN	17	541	17	28
Ad. Jones, CIN	22	686	31	20
J. Landry, MIA	17	675	24	20
K. Davis, KAN	18	522	19	9
Tomlin, JAX	27	716	26	40
Whalen, IND	15	379	23	10
Hardin, NYJ	14	334	23	65
L. Washington, TEN	18	470	22	18
L. Murray, OAK	19	422	26	38
Touchdowns				
	TD	Rush	Ret	Pass
Ju. Thomas, DEN	11	8	3	0
J. Charles, KAN	11	8	3	0
Baltimore	10	9	1	0
Dem. Thomas, DEN	9	0	9	0
Am. Brown, PIT	9	0	9	0
A. Foster, HOU	9	0	9	0
Gronkowski, NYE	9	0	9	0
Buffalo, HOU	7	0	7	0
Forset, BAL	7	0	7	0
E. Sanders, DEN	7	0	7	0
Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	
Gostkowski, NYE	36	26	25	
Vinatieri, IND	36	26	25	
Staubach, NYG	30	24	24	
Tucker, BAL	30	24	24	
D. Carpenter, BUF	21	22	26	
Bulluck, HOU	23	22	26	
Sulshain, PIT	23	22	26	
St. Louis, TAM	25	23	26	
Nugent, CIN	25	25	29	
Novak, SNO	27	19	49	
Novak, SNO	27	19	49	

NFC Individual Leaders

Quarterbacks				
	Aff	Com	TD Int	
A. Rodgers, GB	263	1,584	25	9
R. Romo, DAL	295	203	25/19	22
B. Bruce, NYG	343	863	44	4
C. Palmer, ARI	224	141	16/28	11
C. Cutler, CHI	400	267	28/25	22
M. Wilson, SEA	261	1,150	22	12
M. Ryan, ATL	424	276	30/6	19
Kaepernick, SFO	317	231	26	11
E. Manning, NYG	404	253	28/33	21
Fitzpatrick, HOU	154	126	17/10	10
K. Cousins, WAS	264	1,276	17	10
Rushers				
	Aff	Yds	LG TD	
D. Murray, DAL	217	859	39	53
M. Lynch, SEA	197	863	44	4
A. Morris, WAS	217	859	39	53
Forte, CHI	196	822	41	39
G. S. Smith, NYG	196	822	41	39
Lacy, GBY	154	672	43	37
A. Ellington, ARI	196	648	31	22
M. Ingram, NOR	149	645	43	28
R. Wilson, SEA	88	644	7	67
Receivers				
	No	Yds	LG TD	
G. Tate, DET	72	1,007	145	73
Ju. Jones, ATL	72	1,007	145	73
F. W. Smith, NYG	72	1,007	145	73
J. Nelson, GB	68	1,066	157	80
Boldin, NYJ	65	825	127	37
J. G. Smith, NYG	65	825	127	37
Macinnis, DAL	63	980	155	68
D. Williams, NYG	58	640	68	18
Cobb, GBY	58	837	144	70
Jeffery, CHI	58	783	135	74
Punters				
	Aff	Yds	LG TD	
W. Hayes, NYG	50	2,356	71	47
A. Lee, SNO	57	2,682	61	47
C. Jones, DAL	39	1,814	64	46
Nortman, CAR	54	2,489	67	46
Moorehead, NYG	36	1,609	61	45
Maxshady, GBY	36	1,448	58	45
St. Louis, TAM	53	2,416	72	45
J. Ryan, SEA	40	1,806	66	42
Weatherford, NYG	35	1,729	60	42
Punt Returners				
	No	Yds	LG TD	
Sproles, PHI	17	181	10	6
Ginn Jr., ARI	17	181	10	6
D. Williams, NYG	20	234	10	6
Ph. Brown, CAR	16	153	9	7
J. Ross, DET	22	209	9	28
M. Smith, SEA	21	174	8	24
Shereels, MIN	21	174	8	24
Roberts, WAS	22	170	7	38
T. Austin, STL	22	170	7	38
B. Ellington, TEN	11	170	7	21
Kickoff Returners				
	No	Yds	LG TD	
B. Cunningham, STL	14	361	25	38
B. Ellington, TEN	14	361	25	38
D. Williams, NYG	18	522	19	9
Dw. Harris, DAL	18	451	25	33
Ch. Williams, CHI	24	579	24	10
Roberts, WAS	24	579	24	10
Hester, ATL	28	642	23	48
Roberts, WAS	28	642	23	48
Scoring Touchdowns				
	No	Rush	Ret	Pass
M. Lynch, SEA	12	9	3	0
D. Bryant, DAL	10	0	10	0
Dem. Thomas, DEN	9	0	9	0
Lacy, GBY	9	0	9	0
Macinnis, DAL	9	0	9	0
Forte, CHI	8	5	3	0
Washington, CAR	8	0	8	0
M. Evans, TAM	8	0	8	0
Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	
Perkins, PHI	39	29	23	
Hauschka, SEA	28	28	23	
Dalton, NYG	30	29	29	
Crosby, GBY	40	41	16	
Dawson, SNO	24	24	29	
St. Louis, TAM	29	29	29	
Max. Bryant, ATL	29	29	19	
St. Louis, TAM	29	29	19	
Walsh, MIN	16	16	20	
Gano, CAR	21	21	18	

AFC team statistics

OFFENSE	Yards	Rush	Pass
Indianapolis	385	1107	3231
Denver	416	1000	3163
Baltimore	387	1124	2893
New England	389	1134	2725
Cleveland	366	1164	2505
Cincinnati	348	1256	2230
Atlanta	347	1275	2206
Houston	344	1373	2075
San Diego	326	1095	2166
Kansas City	326	1311	1895
Buffalo	322	1188	2036
Carolina	312	888	2240
N.Y. Jets	310	1263	1976
Jacksonville	304	1185	2076
Oakland	282	735	2096
DEFENSE	Yards	Rush	Pass
Buffalo	312	984	2138
Atlanta	297	1042	2137
Denver	316	755	2405
San Diego	328	1042	2245



GAMEDAY

WEEK 13

THANKSGIVING DAY GAMES

Marquee matchup

Philadelphia Eagles (8-3) at Dallas Cowboys (8-3)

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. Thursday CET, 6:30 a.m. Friday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Eagles lead 59-47 and have won three of the past four.

LAST MEETING: Eagles beat Cowboys 24-22 on Dec. 29 to prevent Dallas from making playoffs last season.

Philadelphia RB LeSean McCoy rushed 27 times for 131 yards and added a TD catch.

EAGLES OFFENSE: OVERALL (4), RUSH (12), PASS (4).

EAGLES DEFENSE: OVERALL (7), RUSH (17), PASS (3).

COWBOYS OFFENSE: OVERALL (6), RUSH (2), PASS (17).

COWBOYS DEFENSE: OVERALL (17), RUSH (20) PASS (14).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: This is the Eagles' first Thanksgiving Day game in Dallas since 1989, which Philadelphia won 27-0. ... QB Mark Sanchez won only start vs. Dallas (9/11/11 with NYJ) and passed for 335 yards and two TDs. Has 985 passing yards (328.3 per game) in past three. ... WR Jeremy Maclin has TD catches in three of past four meetings. In past five, has 36 catches for 535 yards (107 per game) and five TDs. ... LB Connor Barwin had 2

sacks last week and leads NFC with 12 ½ sacks. ... Cowboys are 29-16-1 on Thanksgiving, including 6-2 in past eight. ... QB Tommy Romo is 7-1 as starter on Thursdays (6-1 on Thanksgiving) with 108.2 rating. Has won past three starts vs. Philadelphia and has 105.8 rating. ... WR Dez Bryant aims for fifth in row with TD and third in row with 2-plus TDs. In past two on Thanksgiving, has 15 catches for 206 yards (103 per game) and 3 TDs. ... CB Brandon Carr has 2 INTs (1 TD) in past four meetings. ... S Barry Church leads team with 61 tackles. ... DE George Selvie had 2 sacks on Oct. 20 game vs. Philadelphia last year.



Seattle Seahawks (7-4) at San Francisco 49ers (7-4)

AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Friday CET
10:30 a.m. Friday JKT
Series: Tied 15-15. The 49ers have won five of the past seven.

Last meeting: San Francisco won the last regular-season game 19-17 on Dec. 8 2013. Phil Dawson hit the game-winning, 22-yard FG with 26 seconds remaining.

Notes: This is the Seahawks' first Thanksgiving game since 2008 at Dallas. In past 6 meetings (including NFC Championship game) Seattle RB Marshawn Lynch has 600 rush yards (100 per game) and 8 TDs (6 rush). QB Russell Wilson has won three of past four vs. 49ers, including NFC Championship game. CB Richard Sherman has two INTs, a forced fumble and TD (90-yard blocked FG return) in past 4 meetings. RB Frank Gore has two highest game rushing performances in franchise history, both vs. Seattle. (212 yards on Nov. 19, 2006 and 207 on Sept. 20, 2009). WR Michael Crabtree aims for sixth in row vs. Seattle with four-plus catches (including playoffs).



Rookie running back Carlos Hyde gives the 49ers' ground game a boost.

BEN MARCOT/AP



Chicago Bears (5-6) at Detroit Lions (7-4)

AFN-Sports
6:30 p.m. Thursday CET
2:30 a.m. Friday JKT

Series: Bears lead 96-67-5, but Lions have won the past two.

Last meeting: Lions won in Chicago 21-19 on Nov. 10, 2013. Detroit QB Matthew Stafford passed for 219 yards and 3 TDs, including 2 to WR Calvin Johnson. Lions RB Reggie Bush added 105 rushing yards.

Notes: This is the Bears' first Thanksgiving game since 2004 and their first in Detroit since 1999. Jay Cutler has won seven of his past 10 starts vs. the Lions. ... In 12 meetings, RB Matt Forte has 1,365 scrimmage yards (113.8 per game) and 9 TDs. In last meeting, WR Brandon Marshall had 7 catches for 139 yards and 2 TDs. DE Willie Young played four years with Detroit (2010-13) and had six sacks. In first year with Chicago, he has eight sacks. ... Lions hosting 75th game on Thanksgiving. Lions QB Matthew Stafford aims for third win in row vs. Bears. Has passed for 771 yards (385.5 per game) and 5 TDs in past two on Thanksgiving. WR Calvin Johnson aims for sixth in row on Thanksgiving with a TD catch. DT Ndamukong Suh aims for fifth in row vs. Bears with a sack. In past six, DE Ezekiel Ansah has 4 ½ sacks and three FFs.



Cowboys WR Dez Bryant caught two TD passes against the Giants on Sunday, including the game-winner.

JULIO CORTAZ/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	
New England	9	2	0	.818	357	227	6-0	3-2-0	6-2-0	3-0-0	2-1-0
Miami	6	5	0	.545	285	219	3-2-0	3-3-0	5-3-0	1-2-0	2-1-0
Buffalo	6	5	0	.545	238	207	3-3-0	3-2-0	3-5-0	3-0-0	3-2-0
N.Y. Jets	2	9	0	.182	177	303	4-0-0	0-5-0	2-6-0	0-3-0	0-3-0
South											
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	335	256	4-2-0	3-2-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	4-0-0
Houston	5	6	0	.455	242	226	2-3-0	3-3-0	4-4-0	1-3-0	1-1-0
Tennessee	2	9	0	.182	192	293	1-4-0	1-5-0	2-6-0	0-3-0	1-2-0
Jacksonville	1	10	0	.091	161	305	1-4-0	0-6-0	1-7-0	0-3-0	0-3-0
North											
Cincinnati	7	3	0	.682	246	234	4-1-1	3-2-0	5-3-0	2-0-1	2-1-0
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	295	208	4-1-0	3-3-0	3-4-0	4-0-0	2-3-0
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	288	263	4-1-0	3-3-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	2-2-0
Cleveland	7	4	0	.636	242	219	4-2-0	3-2-0	4-4-0	3-0-0	2-2-0
West											
Denver	8	3	0	.727	332	260	6-0-0	2-3-0	6-1-0	2-2-0	3-0-0
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	261	195	4-1-0	3-3-0	5-3-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
San Diego	7	4	0	.636	245	216	5-1-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	2-1-0	2-2-0
Oakland	1	10	0	.091	176	285	1-5-0	0-5-0	1-8-0	0-2-0	1-3-0

National Conference

	East										
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	
Philadelphia	8	3	0	.727	342	275	6-0-0	2-3-0	4-3-0	4-0-0	2-0-0
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	292	240	3-3-0	5-0-0	5-3-0	3-0-0	2-1-0
N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	.273	233	294	2-4-0	1-4-0	2-7-0	1-1-0	1-3-0
Washington	3	8	0	.273	217	273	2-3-0	1-5-0	1-7-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
South											
Atlanta	4	7	0	.364	262	281	2-3-0	2-4-0	4-4-0	0-3-0	4-0-0
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	288	286	3-3-0	1-4-0	4-4-0	0-3-0	2-1-0
Carolina	3	7	1	.318	215	300	2-4-0	1-3-1	3-5-0	0-2-1	1-2-0
Tampa Bay	2	9	0	.182	200	300	0-5-0	2-4-0	1-7-0	1-2-0	0-4-0
North											
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	354	246	5-0-0	3-3-0	6-3-0	2-0-0	4-1-0
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	197	190	4-1-0	3-3-0	5-2-0	2-2-0	2-0-0
Chicago	5	6	0	.455	236	303	2-3-0	3-3-0	4-3-0	1-3-0	1-2-0
Minnesota	4	7	0	.364	202	244	2-3-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	0-2-0	0-4-0
West											
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	240	195	6-0-0	3-2-0	7-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Seattle	7	4	0	.636	279	218	5-1-0	2-3-0	5-2-0	2-2-0	1-1-0
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636	228	225	3-2-0	4-2-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	1-2-0
St. Louis	4	7	0	.364	209	285	2-3-0	2-4-0	3-5-0	1-2-0	2-2-0

SUNDAY'S SCHEDULE

Tennessee at Houston
Oakland at St. Louis
Carolina at Minnesota
Washington at Indianapolis
Cleveland at Buffalo
San Diego at Baltimore
N.Y. Giants at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay
New England at Pittsburgh
Arizona at Atlanta
New Orleans at Green Bay
Denver at Kansas City

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Dec. 4
Dallas at Chicago
Sunday, Dec. 7
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at Cleveland
NY Giants at Tennessee
Carolina at New Orleans
NY Jets at Minnesota
Baltimore at Miami
Indianapolis at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Houston at Jacksonville
Buffalo at Denver
Kansas City at Arizona
Seattle at Philadelphia
San Francisco at Oakland
New England at San Diego
Monday, Dec. 8
Atlanta at Green Bay

SPORTS



Taking the Heat

Curry, Golden State down Miami, stretch streak to six | **NBA, Page 25**

NFL

No surprise

Murray's emergence hardly unexpected by Eagles' McCoy

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — DeMarco Murray's huge lead in the NFL rushing race isn't a surprise to last year's winner, Philadelphia's LeSean McCoy figured the Dallas back just needed to get the ball.

"I've been a big fan of DeMarco for a while, not just this year," said McCoy, whose Eagles visit the Cowboys on Thanksgiving in a matchup of NFC East co-leaders at 8-3. "They're giving him some lanes to run in."

And Dallas is giving Murray the ball — a lot. He's on pace for the most carries since Kansas City's Larry Johnson set the league record with 416 in 2006, and the load has actually eased the past month.

The Cowboys stuck with Murray through a penchant for fumbles early in the season, and now they're staying with him against stacked defenses that have caused slow starts.

"I think that's been kind of our philosophy all year, is grind out at the beginning, kind of grind out those 2-, 3-yard runs and the big ones will come," rookie guard Zack Martin said. "It's a credit to our coaches for sticking with the run game and with DeMarco, and a credit to him, too, for not giving up on us and trusting us that we're going to get our job done."

Murray began the season with eight straight 100-yard games, breaking Hall of Famer Jim Brown's 56-year-old NFL record of six.

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Dallas running back DeMarco Murray

RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ,
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