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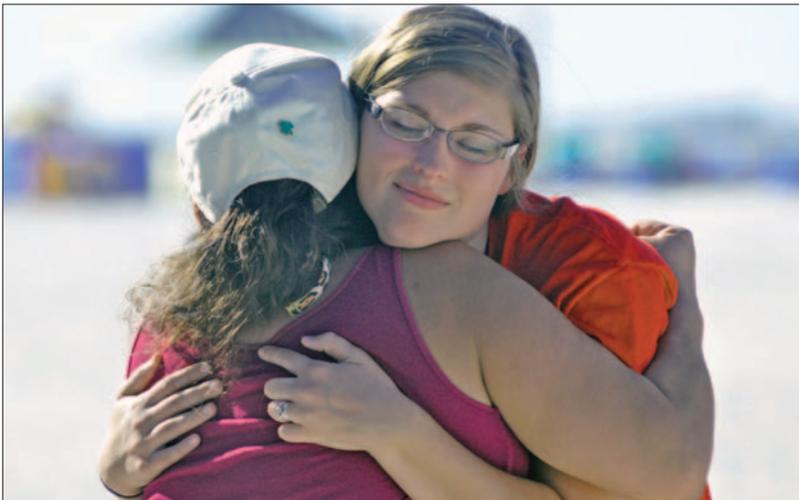
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HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Two women hug at a remembrance ceremony at the National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar this month in St. Petersburg, Fla. The program brings together loved ones of servicemembers who committed suicide.

Survival mission

Seminar brings together military families coping with suicide

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. Sitting and sobbing outside the hotel room where her Marine husband had just hanged himself, Kim Ruocco said she was horrified to find that nearly everyone who responded to the scene somehow managed to make her feel worse.

First she asked the hotel manager where her husband was staying, and he wordlessly backed into another room, shutting the door to avoid her. A trauma specialist told her to lie to her

children about what had happened.

And then there was the priest.

Addressing the newly widowed woman, just steps away from her Catholic husband's body, he said, "You know what Catholics believe about suicide? It's a sin."

"I said, 'Are you telling me that I should tell my kids that their dad is not only dead, but that he's also in hell?'" she recalled. "And he just looked at me."

That experience in 2005 started Ruocco on what has become a full-time mission to help fellow survivors cope, heal and thrive. That often

starts with an annual seminar for and by those who have lost troops and veterans to suicide.

Her journey culminated in the creation of the National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar, which recently convened in St. Petersburg, Fla. The program is organized by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, or TAPS, a nonprofit group that provides assistance to loved ones of fallen troops. This year's event drew roughly 650 survivors from around the country, all of whom lost a servicemember to suicide.

SEE SURVIVAL ON PAGE 3

DPMO head resigns amid reorganization

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The embattled head of America's efforts to account for MIAs has resigned, according to emails obtained by Stars and Stripes.

W. Montague Winfield, deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/Missing Personnel Affairs and director of the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, or DPMO, submitted his resignation letter to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Oct. 15, according to an email from his special assistant that was sent to family and veterans groups. The retired Army major general's resignation is

effective Nov. 15, when he will return to work for the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

After becoming the first commanding general of the newly formed Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command in 2003, Winfield became a polarizing figure in the accounting community, alternately blamed for its shortcomings and credited with its successes. His resignation comes on the heels of a nearly yearlong reorganization effort and a damning inspector general report on America's accounting operations.

SEE RESIGN ON PAGE 4



W. Montague Winfield

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I didn't hire him; I don't know him. I'm competent."

— Dominic Adesanya, the Maryland man accused of scaling the White House fence last week, about his public defender. He was addressing the judge at a hearing Monday.

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PACIFIC

US restricts 'juicy bar' purchases

By Ashley Rowland
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. Forces Korea has banned servicemembers from buying drinks for workers in "juicy bars," which have long been suspected of involvement in prostitution and human trafficking.

While the military has maintained a zero-tolerance policy toward prostitution, buying drinks in exchange for female company was not strictly prohibited by USFK. That changed with a new policy letter released to troops on Oct. 15.

"Paying for companionship directly supports human trafficking and is a precursor to prostitution," USFK commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti wrote in announcing the change. "This practice encourages the objectification of women, reinforces sexist attitudes, and is demeaning to all human beings."

Juicy bars are typically staffed by scantily clad women, usually brought in from the Philippines on entertainer visas, who sell pricey nonalcoholic drinks to servicemembers in exchange for their company. Patrons also can buy out the remainder of the employee's workday and take them outside the club in a practice known as "bar-firing" or "buying a day off."

"There are establishments outside our installations that support human trafficking, usually of young women, many of whom are brought into the country under false pretenses as entertainers and forced to work in bars or other establishments in violation of their visas," Scaparrotti wrote. "They are subjected to debt bondage and made to sell themselves as companions, or forced into prostitution."

The U.S., South Korea and the Philippines have acknowledged links between juicy bars and prostitution and human trafficking.

The updated policy bans providing money or anything of value in exchange for a bar worker's company inside or outside their place of employment, including fees to play darts or pool, or buying drinks or souvenirs. Violators are subject to Uniform Code of Military Justice punishment and administrative action.



ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes

Bars are commonly found in the basement and on the first and second floors of many buildings outside Osan Air Base, South Korea. At the insistence of the U.S. military, the juicy bars that once dotted the landscapes are gone.

'Paying for companionship directly supports human trafficking and is a precursor to prostitution.'

Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti commander, U.S. Forces Korea

The policy applies to all military personnel in South Korea, including those on temporary or rotational duty, and to USFK-supported organizations. Department of Defense civilians, contractors, family members and visiting guests are encouraged to abide by the order.

The command said in an email that the policy update "was issued as part of the continuing efforts of USFK to combat prostitution and human trafficking."

While USFK has long condemned prostitution and human trafficking, it has allowed troops to patronize juicy bars unless they were caught blatantly taking

part in those practices.

In 2010, then-USFK commander Gen. Walter Sharp said all juicy bars should not be punished for the actions of a few.

"The bottom line is that juicy bars...have women that are there to talk to soldiers and sailors and airmen and Marines," he said. "You can't presume that things go beyond that, which is what you would have to do if you want to put them (all) off-limits."

"We, I think, investigate very clearly any allegation...if you're in an establishment where it does go beyond that," he added. "Then, if we investigate it and find that true, then we do put them off-lim-

its. I think that we work very hard on that, and we've got a good system in place for it."

Military officials have long complained of the difficulty in drawing direct links between the seemingly innocuous selling of "juice" and prostitution and human trafficking.

"We knew certain things were going on, but we didn't have the proof necessarily," Col. Michael Strunk, 51st Fighter Wing Mission Support Group commander at Osan Air Base, said earlier this year. The 7th Air Force says its crackdown on juicy bars has led to the closure of dozens of the establishments in the popular Songtan area in the past year and a half.

The South Korean government announced last year that it was increasing its oversight of businesses that hire foreigner entertainers, including a number that were near U.S. bases, in an effort to cut down on human rights violations.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

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MILITARY

Survival: Seminar meant to celebrate lives of loved ones lost and of survivors

FROM FRONT PAGE

Amid the devastating personal stories at the seminar — Ruocco's is sadly representative — perhaps the most striking element of the gathering was the laughter, which filled the palm-lined veranda of the beachside resort where it was held. Old friends met and caught up, and seminar veterans welcomed newbies with smiles and warm embraces. Many wore buttons that read, "I'm a hugger."

There are, of course, plenty of tears at the three-day get-together, and especially at private grief sessions where participants share their sadness and deepest fears. Emotions are raw and often bubble to the surface, with survivors sometimes breaking down even as they check in. Organizers spend several days training hotel staff on what to expect and how to be sensitive to survivors struggling with their emotions in public.

But equally, there are water slides and s'mores and music and art. Child survivors splash in the gulf while their parents learn to write songs or create collages. At heart, the seminar is meant to be a celebration — of the lives of loved ones lost and of survivors — and that is a good thing, said Frank Campbell, a social worker and nationally recognized suicide expert who spoke at the conference.

"If all you do is come together to grieve, that's a funeral service," he said.

A zebra among horses

As the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan dragged on, multiple deployments strained the fabric of families, and many troops were left with unscen wounds such as traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, which the military was slow to address properly. Suicide rates in the military steadily rose during the peak of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan and remain well above the rates of their civilian peers, according to the most recent Pentagon reporting.

Loved ones of military suicide victims endure a specific kind of pain — grief at the loss, and the stigma from those who see death by suicide as a sign of weakness or even dishonor in servicemembers. They also suffer from the loss of the military family that has been part of their lives.

Ruocco's husband, John, struggled with depression through multiple combat deployments as a helicopter pilot. Before starting the seminar, she left out a place at events for families of fallen troops,

where some survivors gave her the cold shoulder.

"I felt like a zebra in a herd of horses," she said. "It increased my shame around his death and it increased my fear that his death had wiped out the way he had served."

So in 2009, she and the leadership of TAPS launched the first National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar, in San Diego. That event drew about 150 people. As a testament to the seriousness of the epidemic and the growing willingness of survivors to talk about their experience, the TAPS database for suicide survivors has swelled to more than 5,000.

"We're the group that nobody wants to have to join but everyone's glad is here," said TAPS spokeswoman Ami Neiberger-Miller, whose brother Christopher Neiberger, was killed in action in Iraq.

The seminars offer a new sense of community.

"It's just a group of people that, they don't judge you, they know how you feel, they bring you in with open arms," said David Bye, whose stepson, Jeffrey Svoboda, committed suicide in 2010. "It's a safe place where you can be yourself."

Many survivors return year after year, forming tight bonds with others who can relate in a way that so few in the country can. One of the biggest difficulties participants talk about is a lack of understanding in the larger community. "Suicide" is still a word too often spoken in whispers, deepening the alienation that survivors feel.

Camp message for children: It's OK to smile

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — On the surface, it looks like any summer camp — kids whooping it up as they hurtle down water slides, building sandcastles with the counselors and cooking s'mores at a beachside bonfire.

But beneath the carefree atmosphere, the children at the Good Grief Camp have one thing in common — a close relative who served in the military and committed suicide.

The camp is part of the annual National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar, a program that brings together loved ones of servicemembers who committed suicide. Like the adult portion of the seminar, one of its main goals is to lift the veil of shame and secrecy that often surrounds suicide, especially for military families who often move back to the civilian world after their loved one's death.

For many at the camp, whose participants range in age from 4 to 21, it's the first time they've met other children who've been through the same thing.

"It's nice to have someone who really understands and isn't just faking it," said Laura Dupont, 17, who lost her father, John.

At this year's camp, put on by the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors earlier this month, about 150 children and young adults took to the beach for three days. All were paired with a volunteer military mentor, many of whom become pen pals for years after.

"We're still carrying thousands of years of stigma and taboo around the word suicide," Campbell said.

Helping one another

In addition to grief sessions and talks from mental health professionals on coping mechanisms, the seminar offers alternative therapies such as yoga, art and music.



A mentor and a camper participate in the Good Grief Camp, part of the National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar held earlier this month in St. Petersburg, Fla.

It is, of course, just a start. Three days cannot erase the pain of losing a parent, as a large percentage of the campers have. But just realizing that other kids are going through the same ordeal can lay a foundation for healing, said Kyle Harper, who oversaw this year's camp. Her fiance died in combat.

"Certain kids who won't speak their dad's name, won't talk about the loss — in two days they're talking about it," she said.

While the mentors offer the

children a military member to look up to, it's often the returning kids who take new campers under their wing. Dupont, who attends every year, said she has gone from a timid newbie to a confident veteran who helps new arrivals feel comfortable.

"I used to be really shy, a really inside myself person, and TAPS has made me realize I can be outgoing," she said.

For Amy Whistler, an Army veteran whose husband, Blake, committed suicide while serving with Special Forces, the camp provides a break for her kids, who struggle to explain to classmates what they are going through. She hopes it will also offer her 4-year-old daughter — too young to remember the man she calls her "angel daddy" — a safe place to begin understanding what happened.

"When you live in your civilian life, you have a mask on," Whistler said. "I didn't want my kids to feel they had a stigma on them."

Part of each day is devoted to grief sessions, where children are offered a safe, private place to comment on talks about their struggles, but much of the focus is on play, letting the kids get back to being kids.

"Why would you want to come to camp if you're just going to cry all day?" Harper said.

And that gets to maybe the most crucial message, according to camp coordinator Stephanie Swisher: "A big part of this program is letting kids know that it's OK to smile."

A pilot program this year gave several participants a chance to try equine therapy. Children have their own sessions — called the Good Grief Camp — which gives adults, many now single parents, rare time to themselves.

A fundamental concept of the seminar is survivors helping survivors. Adults are paired with "peer mentors," who have

endured similar tragedies, often down to the branch of the military in which their loved one served. The community has its own lingo. "How far out are you?" is a common refrain; it's a way to ask how long it has been since a loved one's death.

"We can talk about things we wouldn't talk about in front of anyone else," said Linda O'Brien, who lost her grandson, Marine CPL Daniel O'Brien.

All of this is known as "postvention," a term coined at helping survivors cope and celebrate their loved ones, but also find new meaning in their own lives. It is also prevention, as survivors of suicide victims are far more likely to commit suicide themselves, Campbell said.

"I've seen too many kids grow up to be adults that saw the prescription for suicide written in the deaths of their loved ones," he said.

One of the most crucial ways the seminar prevents that is by breaking the silence and teaching everyone how to talk openly about suicide and to help those thinking about taking their lives — an approach that could lower the suicide rate in the civilian world, too, if the country would embrace it, Campbell said.

"If the whole community is trained in CPR, (deaths from) heart attacks will go down."

druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @druzin_stripes



PHOTOS BY HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Women sing at a remembrance ceremony at the National Military Suicide Survivor Seminar earlier this month in St. Petersburg, Fla.

MILITARY

New NATO chief lays out alliance priorities

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — As NATO's first secretary-general to hail from a country that shares a border with Russia, Jens Stoltenberg said today's tensions with Moscow conjure memories from a Cold War childhood when "NATO was there to protect us."

"I remember visiting that border when it was completely closed back in the days of the Soviet Union, when looking across was like staring into something dark and scary," Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian prime minister now heading up the 28-nation alliance, said Tuesday.

Nowadays, there is a visa-free zone between Norway and Russia, where hundreds of thousands of people cross the border each year. But Russia's moves around Ukraine during the past year have threatened such progress and brought about echoes from the past, which NATO must be prepared to counter, Stoltenberg said during a speech at the German Marshall Fund in Brussels.

NATO's new top official laid out his priorities during his first major policy speech since assuming leadership of the 28-nation alliance earlier this month. Stoltenberg replaced Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who had been criticized by some NATO allies for his sharp comments about Moscow's policies in Ukraine.

Much of Stoltenberg's speech also focused on Russia.

"NATO does not seek confrontation with Russia. And nobody



Courtesy of NATO

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg addresses the German Marshall Fund in Brussels on Tuesday.

wants a new Cold War, 25 years since the fall of the Berlin Wall," he said. "But we cannot and will not compromise on the principles on which our alliance and the security of Europe and North America rest. This is my firm conviction."

Going forward, Stoltenberg said his main goals will be pushing forward with a new action plan that aims to elevate NATO's overall state of readiness through the placement of equipment at strategic staging bases in eastern Europe, a new rapid-reaction force and a heightened presence of rotational forces on NATO's eastern frontier.

"This is the biggest reinforcement of our collective defense

since the end of the Cold War," Stoltenberg said. "We are making our forces more agile and able to deploy quickly whenever threats emerge, from any direction."

The size and shape of NATO's new "spearhead" reaction force, expected to be around 4,000 troops, will be decided when defense ministers meet in February. At the same time, Stoltenberg struck a more conciliatory and diplomatic tone than Rasmussen, emphasizing the need to find ways to work with Moscow.

"Russia is not just Norway's neighbor," he said. "It is NATO's biggest neighbor. And both NATO and Russia are here to stay. So we simply cannot ignore that other.

One way or the other, we will have a relationship. The question is what kind."

The other alternative is a relationship based on mutual respect, not suspicion; on the rule of law, not the law of the strongest; on common interest, not illusions, he said.

Meanwhile, NATO will need to keep an eye on unrest along its southern flank, where Islamic militants are operating just across the border from ally Turkey, Stoltenberg said.

"To the south, borders are disappearing. States are fragile. ISIL (the Islamic State group) and other extremist groups across North Africa and the Middle East are

'[B]oth NATO and Russia are here to stay. So we simply cannot ignore each other. One way or the other, we will have a relationship. The question is what kind.'

Jens Stoltenberg
NATO secretary-general

spreading violence and instability. And they risk exporting terrorism to our streets," Stoltenberg said.

"And extremism is fueling instability," he said. "But there is no choice between providing for our security in the east or in the south. We have to do both."

To deal with such threats, NATO allies need to reverse a decades-long trend of cuts in defense spending. Like previous secretaries-general, Stoltenberg said NATO members must allocate more funds for defense, urging members to follow through with recent pledges to boost expenditures.

"We all need to invest in our alliance politically and financially to make sure that NATO has the means to do the difficult jobs that it has to do and the political will to use those means when necessary," Stoltenberg said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

Resign: Reorganization may mean reduced authority for certain officials

FROM FRONT PAGE

"... Winfield made great strides in bringing the various components of the Personnel Accounting Community together as a team, and his emphasis on families brought new energy to Department of Defense meetings with families and veterans/family service organizations," Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Workinger wrote in an email. "We greatly appreciate his many years of service, as a soldier and a civilian, and wish him continued success at FEMA as he continues to serve our nation."

The resignation comes at a fragile time in the reorganization process, as both JPAC and

DPMO have merged into a new command that is to be set up by January. The Oct. 17 inspector general report made it clear that the effort is threatened by poor leadership and a hostile work environment.

Family groups lashed out at the reorganization efforts in recent weeks because leaders whom they blame for the dysfunction remained in top positions.

Emails from Personnel Accounting Consolidation Task Force Director Alisa Stack, who is overseeing the reorganization on Hagel's behalf, confirmed that Johnnie Webb, JPAC's longtime deputy to the commander for ex-

ternal relations and legislative affairs, has been appointed to a position "working on the future family experience."

News of the appointment angered families and leaders of the National Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen, who have sharply criticized Webb.

"This supposed reorganization is nothing more than a multimillion-dollar public relations stunt designed to get Congress and the media off DOD's back," Alliance research director Lynn O'Shea wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes. "Do they really expect the individuals who caused the

problems to correct them? DOD is thumbing their noses at the families by involving Webb and any other senior management in the reorganization."

Tom Holland, JPAC's scientific director and deputy to the commander for Central Identification Laboratory operations, recently told a group of Korean War families and advocates that he had been fired.

However, family groups say that they have been told by Stack that no officials will be losing their jobs. They may be offered other positions within the new agency if the need for their current positions no longer exists.

For some, like Holland, that could mean having considerably less power and authority.

Winfield, or "Q" as he is called by friends and colleagues, served in the Army for 31 years, according to his DPMO biography. He later served as a federal coordinating officer for FEMA, where he organized the federal response and recovery activities for 11 presidentially declared disasters.

Initial efforts to reach Winfield, Webb and Stack for comment were not successful. Holland referred questions to the secretary of defense's office, which declined to comment on personnel issues.

burke.matt@stripes.com

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MILITARY



WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY/AP

On Nov. 6, President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to 1st Lt. Alonzo Cushing.

Ceremony for Civil War hero to be Nov. 6

By JENNIFER Hlad
Stars and Stripes

President Barack Obama will present the Medal of Honor on Nov. 6 to the family of the young officer credited with helping turn the tide of the Civil War by standing against the Confederate infantry assault known as Pickett's Charge on the last day of the Battle of Gettysburg, the White House announced Monday.

First Lt. Alonzo Cushing, 22, was commander of Battery A of the 4th United States Artillery, 2nd Corps, Army of the Potomac, on July 3, 1863, when Confederate troops launched a go-for-broke attack against the center of the Union line in what historians describe as the "High Watermark of the Confederacy."

Though he and many of his men were wounded in the Confederate bombardment, Cushing refused to retreat, instead manning the last remaining cannon in his battery. He continued to fire and direct fire until he was shot and killed, and his actions made it possible for the Union Army to successfully repel the assault, according to the White House.

A monument was erected in Cushing's honor at Gettysburg, and he was buried with full honors at his alma mater, West Point.

Congress must pass special legislation to allow the White House to award a Medal of Honor to anyone whose actions took place more than three years ago. It passed the necessary approval for Cushing last December as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Cushing's cousins, Frederic Stevens Sater and Frederic Cushing Stevens III, and their families, will join Obama at the White House.

had.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @jhlad

Mea culpa in West Point scandal

Superintendent takes responsibility for recruiting violations

By TOM ROEDER
The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

West Point's top officer Sunday took full blame for the school's recruiting violations this year that included courting high school football players with alcohol and VIP treatment on a raucous bus ride.

The incidents were first revealed in a Saturday story in *The Gazette*.

"As superintendent, I take full responsibility for all actions that occur here at West Point to include the incident on January 25, 2014," U.S. Military Academy Lt. Gen. Robert Caslen Jr. wrote in a statement on the academy's website. "I am fully committed to the values of West Point in all of our cadets and in all of our programs, and will ensure they are upheld to the highest of standards."

The incident involved 20 cadets, including 17 football players, and 14 recruits who were taken by a chartered bus under police escort to a bowling alley and bar at New York's Palisades Mall. There, cadets and recruits used entertainment money from the football team — \$40 each — to buy alcohol. Football players involved, including Army starting quarterback Angel Santiago, are expected to play when Army hosts the Air Force Academy on Saturday.

Cadets reported drinking as many as seven drinks in 90 minutes before a bus ride home that included loud music, strobe lights and cheerleaders making out, a report obtained by *The Gazette* said. In another NCAA violation, excess cash was given to recruits, and there was no formal accounting of the money.

All 20 cadets were punished, and two officers and two coaches were reprimanded. The academy reported the violation to the NCAA, which issued a warning to the school this month.

"I believe those involved in this incident have learned from their mistakes, corrected their behavior accordingly, and will have the character to be the leaders our Nation expects of its West Point graduates," Caslen wrote in the statement.

Caslen took issue with the school's account of events that said football officials waited weeks to tell leaders of the mis-



MEN SCAR/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Disputed involvement in a recruiting scandal, Army quarterback Angel Santiago, shown in 2013, is expected to play when the Cadets host the Air Force Academy on Saturday.

conduct. The faculty representative for the team "did not intend to report" the recruit party, and told academy leaders after another complaint arose about the school asking female athletes to escort recruits to a dinner, the report obtained by *The Gazette* and confirmed by West Point said.

The superintendent says that didn't happen. "There was no 'cover up,'" Caslen wrote.

The superintendent said the school stayed mum about the recruiting incident for nine months because of privacy concerns. Caslen also disputed findings in the academy's investigation of the trip that the police escort for the bus was designed to "give the recruits the full experience." He said "a single New York State Police officer" was needed to escort the bus along the busy Palisades Parkway. Caslen said it was later determined that the escort violated NCAA rules and has been "discontinued."

He also disputed the internal investigation finding that a football staffer sought female cadets to accompany football recruits to a dinner because "we want the recruits to see that [there] are pretty girls that go here." "At no time did West Point arrange a dinner date with female

cadets," Caslen wrote.

The superintendent also countered critics who say the punishment for those involved in the recruiting violations was too light.

"All 20 cadets were punished," Caslen wrote. "Maximum allowable punishment under the Cadet Disciplinary Code was administered for the most severe cases."

Caslen said West Point has worked to improve conduct in its athletic programs.

In June 2013, the school's rugby squad was temporarily disbanded over emails that denigrated female cadets, a Pentagon report on sexual assault at service academies issued in December said.

"We have programs that assess the climate and culture of our teams and clubs, and have taken

action when assessments indicate the need to do so," Caslen wrote.

"We have also commissioned outside consultants to review our workplace culture and policies for blind-spots and weaknesses."

The latest revelations out of West Point came as military academy athletic programs, including at the Air Force Academy, face increasing scrutiny for player misconduct. An August *Gazette* investigation into athlete conduct at Air Force found that football players had engaged in drug use, binge drinking, sexual assault and academic cheating.

Air Force Superintendent Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson reacted to the player misconduct by launching a review of athletic programs and cracking down on player behavior.

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WAR ON TERRORISM



VADIM GHERDA/AP

Syrian Kurdish refugees from Kobani watch fighting across the border Sunday from a hilltop on the outskirts of Suruc, Turkey.

Iraqi Kurdish peshmerga fighters on way to Kobani

By BRAM JANSSEN
The Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq — Dozens of Iraq's Kurdish peshmerga fighters were to travel to Turkey on Tuesday and from there cross into the Syrian border town of Kobani to help fellow Kurds fight Muslim militants, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdish force said.

According to the spokesman, Halgurd Hekmat, the peshmerga fighters will leave the city of Irbil in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region later in the day. He gave no further details.

Last week, the local Iraqi Kurdish government authorized the peshmerga forces to go to neighboring Syria and help fellow Kurds combat Islamic State militants in Kobani. A total of 150 peshmerga fighters were authorized to go to Kobani through Turkey.

Turkey, which has riled Kurdish leaders and frustrated Washington by refusing to allow fighters or weapons into Kobani, said last week that it would help Iraqi Kurdish fighters cross into Syria.

On Tuesday afternoon, a large

peshmerga convoy with heavy weapons was seen in Irbil, driving toward the Iraqi Kurdish area of Dohuk.

The convoy was moving by land, and it was not immediately clear if the fighters had left or would leave on a plane and the convoy would drive to Turkey.

Idriss Nassan, a Kurdish official from Kobani, told The Associated Press that they have no confirmation that peshmerga fighters were to arrive Tuesday.

"We have no information other than what we are reading on social media or hearing on the news," Nassan said by telephone from Turkey.

He added that the peshmerga command might have direct contact with the Syrian Kurdish force known as the Peoples' Protection Units, or YPG, and for that reason Kurdish politicians in Syria are not aware of the movement.

The Islamic State group launched its offensive on Kobani and nearby villages in mid-September in battles that have killed more than 800 people, according to activists.

The extremists captured dozens of Kurdish villages around

Kobani and now also control parts of the town. The battles also made more than 200,000 people flee for safety across the border into Turkey.

An AP reporter on the Turkish side of the border facing Kobani said there were three airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition on Tuesday. Occasional shooting could be heard from the town.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed that the U.S.-led coalition carried out three airstrikes on Kobani on Tuesday, adding that they targeted a gathering of Islamic State fighters.

In bizarre new video, Islamic State hostage gives tour of Kobani

By ADAM TAYLOR
The Washington Post

In a remarkable new video released by the Islamic State militants, British hostage John Cantlie gives a tour of the Syrian city of Kobani and denounces Western coverage of the fighting in the city.

Cantlie, a photographer and journalist who was taken hostage in late 2012, has appeared in a number of propaganda videos for the Islamic State group in recent months, usually in an orange jumpsuit in front of a plain black screen.

However, the new video, released Monday via social media accounts linked to the Islamic State group, appears markedly more professional than the previous ones. Notably, it appears to show Cantlie walking outside and animatedly discussing recent events.

The video also takes aim at a different target. Although previous videos appeared designed to criticize Western military action against the Islamic State, this time the main target appears to be Western media and its coverage of the situation in Kobani, where the Islamic State has battled for control against Kurdish militants.

The video begins with an aerial shot of Kobani purportedly shot by a "drone of the Islamic State army," before apparently showing Cantlie walking in what he describes as the "so-called PKK safe zone." (PKK refers to the Kurdistan Workers' Party.) Cantlie says the area is now controlled by the Islamic State, and he goes on to call Western media's reporting on Kobani inaccurate.

The British hostage specifically singles out reporting by the International Business Times, the BBC and the Independent's Patrick Cockburn. Cantlie argues that no Western reporters are in the city and thus are receiving their news only from "Kurdish commanders and White House press secretaries."

Perhaps what's most odd about the video is how much it apes the Western media it criticizes. The video begins with a logo "Inside 'Ayn al Islam'" (a reference to what the Islamic State group calls Kobani) and makes use of a number of relatively sophisticated graphics throughout.

Cantlie, who may have been

speaking under duress, brings to mind BBC correspondents in his presentation.

The Islamic State also uses the video to give its cynical version of recent events, notably suggesting that "good old John Kerry" has been criticizing "Kurd-hating Turkish President (Recep Tayyip) Erdogan."

Cantlie also makes reference to the cost of American airstrikes in Kobani ("almost half a billion dollars in total") and a U.S. air-drop that accidentally landed in the hands of the Islamic State.

"The mujahedeen is now being resupplied by the hopeless U.S. Air Force, who parachuted two

“Urban warfare is about as nasty and as tough as it gets, and it’s something of a specialty of the mujahedeen.”

John Cantlie
British hostage, in new Islamic State group video

in Kobani is almost over.

"Urban warfare is about as nasty and as tough as it gets," he says, "and it's something of a specialty of the mujahedeen."

Cantlie was taken hostage by the Islamic State group in November 2012, at the same time as American journalist James Foley, the first hostage whose execution was filmed and shared on the Internet. Like Foley, it was the second time Cantlie had been taken hostage; he had been freed by Syrian Free Army troops earlier in 2012.

The British journalist's kidnapping has created anguish for his family. His sister recently called for the United States to "reinitiate direct contact" with his captors. Cantlie's 80-year-old father died last week, just days after filming a video from his hospital bed asking for the release of his son.

"I want John to know how very proud I am of him," Paul Cantlie said in his video.

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JOHN JACKSON/Courtesy of the Defense Department

U.S. Marines and sailors load onto a KC-130 aircraft on the Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, flightline Monday after the handover of the Marines' main base — Camp Leatherneck, in Helmand province — to Afghan control Sunday.

Marines leave Helmand, putting war behind them

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Marines are putting America's longest war behind them. They are pulling up stakes in the patch of Afghan desert known as Helmand province, where 378 Marines were killed and nearly 5,000 wounded in fighting that peaked four years ago.

On Sunday they turned over to Afghan authorities the keys to Camp Leatherneck, the sprawling base in Helmand from which the Marines surged against the Taliban in 2009.

Helmand was the epicenter of President Barack Obama's surge against the Taliban. The Marines focused on it so completely that some dubbed it "Marine-istan."

It was the fight the Marines itched for after they switched their attention from Iraq's Anbar province, which by 2008 had grown so quiet that Marines complained of boredom.

"There aren't a whole heck of a lot of bad guys there left to fight," the Marine Corps commandant at

the time, Gen. James T. Conway, said in August 2008 with an eye on getting a piece of the Afghan action.

After the Marines had turned the tide in Helmand, the man who succeeded Conway, Gen. James Amos, said in 2011 that it was time to begin handing over control to the Afghans, whose ability to handle the Taliban and unify their fractured country would ultimately decide the outcome of the U.S. chapter of this war.

"We can't stay in Afghanistan forever," Amos said.

While there, the Marines took on the Taliban, mentored Afghan soldiers and executed a protect-the-population counterinsurgency strategy. They also suffered at the hands of Afghan allies who periodically turned their weapons on them in "insider" killings that peaked in 2012 but have since subsided.

The Marines point with pride to their successes in Helmand, where Afghan security forces now are in charge. But some question whether those gains will be

sustained after the Marines are gone and the Taliban seek another comeback.

Just two years ago at the British-run Camp Bastion, adjacent to Leatherneck, the Taliban pulled off arguably their most stunning attack on a NATO base of the entire war. Fifteen insurgents breached the camp's security perimeter and, using grenades, machine guns and other light weapons, killed two Marines and destroyed or heavily damaged nine aircraft.

In all, about 76,000 Marines served in Afghanistan since 2001, mostly in Helmand, according to Marine Corps records.

The Marines are now departing as the U.S. prepares to complete its combat mission in December and transition to a NATO-organized follow-on mission, called Resolute Support, to train and advise Afghan forces. There are still a little over 21,000 American troops in Afghanistan, down from a 2010-11 peak of 100,000.

Report: Afghan prison job is incomplete after 5 years

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The renovation of Afghanistan's main prison which began five years ago has yet to be completed, and the State Department has terminated the contract despite America spending \$18.5 million, a U.S. report said Tuesday.

Federal auditors of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction reported that work on Pol-i-Charkhi prison is only half finished despite the U.S. government spending almost all of the \$20.2 million contract value.

The prison, built in 1973 to house approximately 5,000 prisoners, is now heavily overcrowded with 7,400 inmates, said the report, based on an April-September assessment.

SIGAR said the Department of State's Bureau of International

Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs had already paid Al-Watan Construction Co., an Afghan firm, the sum despite its lagging results.

It also found that not all the work had been done according to contract terms.

"Under the contract's scope of work, all roof replacements required the use of metal trusses, INL site visit reports show that the contractor substituted wood trusses for metal trusses," the report said. It report added that the contractor improperly covered 30-year-old wood trusses with new roofing material rather than replacing them as required under the contract.

Meanwhile in western Herat province, an Afghan police chief said gunmen attacked a checkpoint in the capital city, also called Herat, killing two police officers.



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EBOLA OUTBREAK

Decision to isolate troops came from Army's leadership

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — "Army leadership" unexpectedly decided to quarantine U.S. Army Africa troops as they returned to Italy from a mission in Liberia because they wanted to "reassure both our soldiers and family members," Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams said by videoconference Tuesday.

Williams, who spent a month commanding those soldiers, was into his third day under quarantine along with 10 other soldiers. He was reportedly surprised to be greeted by workers in hazmat suits when he arrived by plane in Italy on Sunday.

"They wanted to take a more conservative approach," said Williams, whose chief of staff less than a week ago emphasized that the returning troops would not be under quarantine.

The policy puts the Army at odds with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which on Monday issued new guidelines calling for voluntary, home quarantine for people returning from West Africa who are at the highest risk of contracting Ebola. The new guidelines outline various risk levels, with the highest being health care workers whose protective gear may have failed or who were stuck by a needle while caring for an Ebola patient.

Most health workers needed to be subject only to daily monitoring, according to the CDC.

More than 75 troops returning from Africa will be housed in a Caserma Del Din facility that is physically separate from other Army personnel. They will be allowed no physical contact with family members but will have access to telephones and the Internet, Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Alayne Conway said.

Officials say the troops will work while in isolation, and they'll have access to a gym and entertainment facilities during off hours. Meals prepared on base will be delivered to the holding site, and troops will undergo twice daily health checks to monitor for signs of Ebola infection.

"Everybody's in great health," Williams said.

Williams said he and 10 others, housed within three buildings at Del Din, were eating food from the mess hall delivered in dis-

posable containers, which were being burned after use. He said everyone was happy to be back in Italy, even if the garrison was enclosing their area with a temporary fence.

"We're not frustrated at all," he said. "We're used to executing orders. We can exercise, watch movies ... I Skype with my wife..."

"We have 18 more days," he said. Another group of about 30 soldiers will arrive in a few days, he said, followed by a third group a few days later. Each will be held in quarantine separately until 21 days — the outer limit of the Ebola incubation period — has passed.

Williams said the decision to isolate the servicemembers was not the result of calls for such measures by Italian officials. Vicenza Mayor Achille Variati had called for the quarantine, despite the fact that U.S. Army Africa officials have repeatedly said that troops never came into contact with Ebola patients.

The order to quarantine troops when they redeploy from Liberia and Senegal was announced Monday by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno. Conway said Odierno had delivered his recommendations on the Army's Ebola safety procedures to the Secretary of Defense and Joint Staff, but officials in those divisions of the Pentagon would not comment early Tuesday on the apparent disconnect between the Army's action and the Obama administration's policies.

So far, the Army is the only military branch to order quarantine.

Italian media questions during the teleconference suggested that many local citizens remain fearful. One asked what was being done to treat the quarantined soldiers' sewage. Another asked whether their computer keyboards might be contaminated by their sweat and whether the people delivering their food might become infected.

"We're as healthy as you are," Williams said.

Experts agree that there is no risk of contracting Ebola from asymptomatic carriers or through the air. They say that the virus is not transmissible until an infected person becomes quite ill, and then, only through the passage of body fluids — especially blood, stool and vomit — into mucous membranes.

Stars and Stripes reporters Chris Carroll and Jon Harper contributed to this report.
montgomery.nancy@stripes.com



ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/AP

Sri Lankan health workers don protective gear as they attend a preparedness program for Ebola at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday.

UN: Tracking new cases a challenge

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA
The Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda — Authorities are having trouble figuring out how many more people are getting Ebola in Liberia and Sierra Leone and where the hot spots are in those countries, harming efforts to get control of the raging, deadly outbreak, the U.N.'s top Ebola official in West Africa said Tuesday.

"The challenge is good information, because information helps tell us where the disease is, how it's spreading and where we need to target our resources," Anthony Banbury told The Associated Press by phone from the Ghanaian capital of Accra, where the U.N. Mission for Ebola Emer-

gency Response, or UNMEER, is based.

Health experts say the key to stopping Ebola is breaking the chain of transmission by tracing and isolating those who have had contact with Ebola patients or victims. Health care workers can't do that if they don't know where new cases are emerging.

"And unfortunately, we don't have good data from a lot of areas. We don't know exactly what is happening," said Banbury, the chief of UNMEER.

Banbury, who visited the three most affected countries last week, said it was "heartbreaking" to see families torn apart by Ebola as they struggle to care for sick loved ones while also hoping to avoid infection. He said he is hop-

ing for a new approach in Liberia as the U.N. and its partners work to improve the capacity of communities to safely bury victims.

Over the past week, Banbury met with the presidents of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, where Ebola has infected at least 10,000 people and killed roughly half of them.

The president of the World Bank, Jim Yong Kim, meanwhile, said the three countries need at least 5,000 more health workers to effectively fight the epidemic.

Kim said Tuesday that he is worried about where those health workers can be found given the widespread fear of Ebola. Quarantining health workers returning to their home countries could also hurt recruitment efforts.

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NATION



EVAN VUCCI/AP

A Secret Service police officer stands outside the White House fence on Thursday. Dominic Adesanya, who climbed over the fence last week, has been ordered to a federal mental health facility.

White House jumper declared unfit for trial

BY VICTORIA ST. MARTIN AND KEITH L. ALEXANDER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Maryland man accused of scaling the White House fence last week was ordered to undergo further psychological evaluation and treatment Monday, before screaming for help and claiming he was a target of a conspiracy.

Dominic Adesanya, 23, was removed from a U.S. District Court hearing at which it was announced that a psychologist had found him incompetent to stand trial. D.C. Magistrate Judge John Facciola ordered him to a federal mental health facility.

Adesanya has been charged with one count of knowingly entering or remaining in a restricted building or grounds and one count of injuring animals used by law enforcement after allegedly scaling the fence of the White House on Wednesday and punching and kicking two guard dogs. He was ordered last week to be evaluated by the court, and a D.C. Department of Behavioral Health psychologist determined that Adesanya was incompetent to stand trial after he was evaluated Friday.

The psychologist, Teresa Grant, said in her evaluation that she had "grave concerns" regarding Adesanya's ability to "adhere with court ordered release conditions... given the nature and gravity of the defendant's delusions coupled with his poor insight and judgment."

During the interview, Adesanya, who lived in Bel Air, Md., with his parents, spoke for about 10 minutes about how the National Security Agency and President Barack Obama had placed cameras and electronic devices in various rooms in his home and in light bulbs and cellphones as a means of spying on him, according to court records.

Adesanya said he believed the government was spying on him because of his sexual orientation, race and religious affiliation, the records said. The psychologist described Adesanya's insight and judgment as "poor."

"Mental health factors substantially compromise his ability to have a factual and rational understanding of his criminal proceedings and the ability to assist counsel in the preparation of his defense," Grant wrote.

In July, Adesanya allegedly hopped over a barrier at the White House and three days later was detained for allegedly trying to break into the Treasury Department. After both incidents, he was evaluated in an initial examination and found to be incompetent to stand trial.

During Monday's brief hearing, Adesanya, who was not restrained, had to be carried out of the courtroom by a marshal. Adesanya, who has consistently asked to represent himself in court, appeared agitated as he looked at his public defender. He turned to the judge and said: "I didn't hire him; I don't know him. "I'm competent," he added.

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NATION

Wash. community mourns school shooter as it grieves for victims

The Associated Press

MARYSVILLE, Wash. — Among the balloons and flowers tied to the chain-link fence outside Marysville-Pilchuck High School are these: a white wrestling shoe; a youth football team photo, with one player encased in a red-marker heart; and a candle covered with a plastic cup bearing the name “Jaylen.”

They’re all tributes to Jaylen Fryberg, the popular 15-year-old freshman who texted five friends to invite them to lunch Friday and then gunned them down at a table in the school’s cafeteria.

Two girls died in the attack, and three other students — including two of Fryberg’s cousins — were gravely wounded.

While families or friends of shooting victims sometimes express sympathy or forgiveness for the perpetrators, the notion of a mass shooter being memorialized alongside his victims is unusual, experts say. It speaks to the unique grief this community is



TED S. WARREN/AP

Plastic cups at a memorial at Marysville Pilchuck High School in Marysville, Wash., cover candles and bear the names of Zoe R. Galasso and Gia Soriano, who were killed when Jaylen Fryberg, named on the center candle, opened fire at the school before taking his own life Friday.

feeling, even in a nation where such horrors are becoming ever more common.

“Usually there’s so much anger and frustration and bewilderment in the aftermath, and generally the shooter is not someone who was this loved over time,” said Carolyn Reinach Wolf, a mental health attorney who studies mass shootings. “This is a very different response. Some of that is a credit to the community. People are able to get past the grief of the victims and see that the shooter’s family is grieving and horrified just as much.”

Fryberg, a football player who was named a prince on the school’s homecoming court one week before the killings, was a member of a prominent Tulalip Indian Tribes family. He seemed happy although he was also upset about a girl, friends said.

On Friday, he pulled out a handgun in the cafeteria and started shooting. The victims were Zoe R. Galasso, 14, who died at the scene; Gia Soriano, 14, who died at a hospital Sunday night; Shaylee Chuckulnaskit, 14, who is in critical condition; and his two cousins, Nate Hatch, 14, and Andrew Fryberg, 15. Andrew Fryberg also remained in critical condition. Hatch, who was shot in the jaw, is the only victim who has shown improvement. He was upgraded to satisfactory condition Monday in intensive care at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, from where he posted a message of forgiveness on Twitter.

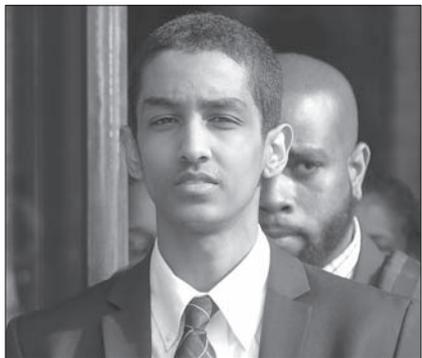
“I love you and I forgive you Jaylen rest in peace,” he wrote. A friend confirmed the friend’s authenticity.

The Snohomish County medical examiner on Monday ruled Fryberg’s death a suicide.

At the memorial outside the school Monday, a group of mourners hugged each other tightly at 10:39 a.m. — the minute the shooting was reported.

Flowers and signs were placed in a fence lined with balloons reflecting the school’s colors.

“Jaylen where do I begin, you were my brother my best friend love you bro,” read one message.



STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

Robel Phillipos was convicted Tuesday on two counts of lying about being in the dorm room of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev three days after the bombing in 2013 while two other friends removed a backpack containing potential evidence.

Friend of bombing suspect convicted of lying to the FBI

By DENISE LAVOIE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — A friend of Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was convicted Tuesday of lying during the investigation into the 2013 attack.

Robel Phillipos, 21, of Cambridge, was convicted of two counts for lying about being in Tsarnaev’s dorm room while two other friends removed a backpack containing fireworks and other potential evidence three days after the bombing while an intense manhunt was underway for the suspected bombers. He looked straight ahead impassively as the guilty verdicts were read.

FBI agents testified that Phillipos told them a string of lies about the night of April 18, 2013, before finally acknowledging he had been in Tsarnaev’s room at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth with the two men who removed Tsarnaev’s backpack and computer.

Phillipos’ lawyers said he was a frightened 19-year-old who was intimidated by the FBI and too high on marijuana to clear-

ly remember what he did that night. The defense called several friends who said Phillipos smoked marijuana a half-dozen times that day.

The defense also claimed that Phillipos’ confession was coerced by FBI agents.

Prosecutors scoffed at Phillipos’ marijuana defense, telling the jury that he was able to remember many details about April 18 and lied about his activities that night because he knew he had done something wrong.

The two friends who removed Tsarnaev’s backpack were both convicted of conspiracy and obstruction of justice.

Tsarnaev is awaiting trial in the bombings. He has pleaded not guilty to 30 federal charges and could face the death penalty if convicted.

Phillipos’ sentencing is scheduled Jan. 29, and he faces a maximum sentence of eight years on each count of lying during a terrorism investigation. Phillipos will remain under house arrest on an electronic monitoring bracelet until then.

Focus on NSA surveillance turns to courts

By ERIC TUCKER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While Congress mulls how to curtail the NSA’s collection of Americans’ telephone records, impatient civil liberties groups are looking to legal challenges already underway in the courts to limit government surveillance powers.

Three appeals courts are hearing lawsuits against the bulk phone records program, creating the potential for an eventual Supreme Court review. Judges in lower courts, meanwhile, are grappling with the admissibility in terrorism prosecutions of evidence gained through the NSA’s warrantless surveillance.

Advocates say the flurry of activity, which follows revelations last year by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden of once-secret intelligence collection programs, shows how a post-9/11 surveillance debate once primarily hashed out among lawmakers in secret is being increasingly aired in open court — not only in New York and Washington but in places like Idaho and Colorado.

“The thing that is different about the debate right now is that the courts are much more of a factor in it,” said Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director at the American Civil Liberties Union. Before the Snowden disclosures, he said, courts were generally relegated to the sidelines of the discussion. Now, judges are poised to make major decisions on at least some of the matters in coming months.

Though it’s unclear whether the Supreme Court will weigh in, the cases are proceeding at a time when the justices appear increasingly comfortable taking up digital privacy matters — including GPS tracking of cars and police searches of cellphones.

The cases “come at a critical turning point for the Supreme Court when it comes to expectations of privacy and digital information,” said American University law professor Stephen Vladeck.

Revelations that the government was collecting bulk phone records of millions of Americans who were not suspected of crimes forced a rethinking of the practice, and President Barack Obama has called for it to end.

Since then, the House has passed legislation that civil libertarians say did not go far enough. In the Senate, Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy, the Judiciary Committee chairman, is seeking a vote on a stricter measure to ban bulk collection, which has bipartisan backing and support from the White House.

As Congress considers the matter, the federal judiciary has produced divided opinions that are winding through appeals.

Court opinion before Congress takes action could influence the lawmakers’ debate. Congress could also act first, but even if it clears up disputes about the government’s statutory authority to collect bulk records, courts might still be left confronting constitutional questions.

“He said he was pleased, “not just for myself, but for everyone in the LGBTQ community and the church. This is a positive decision that keeps the dialogue going. They didn’t bar a person who is an outspoken activist and who has said that, if asked, he would perform another gay marriage.”

Although the United Methodist Church has welcomed gay and

lesbian members, the church’s Book of Discipline rejects sex outside of heterosexual marriage as “incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Since his church trial, Schaefer has become a gay rights activist, galvanizing other Methodists who support full inclusion of gays and lesbians in the church.

Schaefer initially hid his son’s

2007 wedding from his conservative Pennsylvania congregation. The small, private ceremony was held in a restaurant in Massachusetts, where gay marriage had been legal for three years. Schaefer’s actions did not become public until 2013, after a member of his congregation learned of the wedding and filed a complaint.

From The Associated Press

Pastor disciplined over gay marriage retained

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A Methodist pastor who was disciplined after he officiated at the wedding of his gay son will be allowed to remain an ordained minister.

The Judicial Council of the second-largest U.S. Protestant denomination ruled Monday that

a Pennsylvania church jury was wrong to defrock Frank Schaefer last year after he would not promise never to perform another same-sex wedding.

The council ruled on technical grounds and did not express support for gay marriage in general. Its decision is final.

Reached by phone after the decision, Schaefer called it “amaz-

WORLD

Seoul officials say Kim Jong Un had ankle surgery

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's spy agency said Tuesday it has solved the mystery of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's six-week public absence, which set off a frenzy of speculation around the world.

The National Intelligence Service told legislators that a foreign doctor operated on Kim in September or October to remove a cyst from his right ankle, according to Park Byung-seok, an aide for opposition lawmaker Shin Kyung-min. The aide said the spy agency also told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing that the cyst could

recur because of Kim's obesity, smoking and heavy public schedule.

After last being seen in state media on Sept. 3, Kim reappeared on Oct. 14 hobbling with a cane, but smiling and looking thinner. The speculation during his absence was particularly intense because of the Kim family's importance to impoverished, nuclear-armed North Korea. The family has ruled the country since its founding in 1948.

It wasn't immediately clear how the information was obtained by the spy agency, which has a spotty track record of analyzing developments in opaque North Korea.

The agency also said North Korea has expanded five of its political prisoner camps, including the Yodok camp, which was relocated to the northwest city of Kilchu, according to Lim Dae-seong, an aide to ruling party lawmaker Lee Cheol-woo, who also attended the briefing. The spy agency believes the camps hold about 100,000 prisoners, Lim said.

He said the agency also believes that North Korea recently used a firing squad to execute several people who had been close to Kim Jong Un's uncle, Jang Song Thaek, who was considered the country's No. 2 power before his sudden purge and

execution in December 2013.

In an intelligence success, South Korea's spy agency correctly said that Jang had likely been dismissed from his posts before North Korea announced his arrest.

However, it received heavy criticism when its director acknowledged that it had ignored intelligence indicating North Korea's impending shelling of a South Korean island in 2010. It also came under fire because of reports that it only learned of the 2011 death of then leader Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un, more than two days after it occurred when state media announced it to the world.

Restart of Japanese nuke plant is approved

From wire reports

TOKYO — A Japanese city assembly approved the restart of two reactors near an active volcano on the southern island of Kyushu on Tuesday, paving the way for the first resumption of a nuclear power plant since regulations were updated following the atomic disaster in 2011.

The city assembly of Satsumasa-dai in Kagoshima prefecture adopted a motion in favor of reactivating the Sendai Nuclear Power Station, 1,000 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. The two-reactor plant operated by Kyushu Electric Power Co. is expected to be brought back online as early as the start of 2015.

Other municipalities within a 30-kilometer radius of the plant said that it is not acceptable to restart the reactors without their consent, citing safety concerns among locals. The plant is located 50 kilometers from the active volcano Sakurajima.

Kagoshima Governor Yuichiro Ito has said obtaining approval from the prefecture and Satsumasa-dai city would be enough to allow reactivation of the reactors.

Critics say that does not reflect the will of local residents.

A survey conducted by local paper Minami-Nippon Shinbun in May showed nearly 60 percent of those polled opposed the restart of the reactors while 37 percent supported the move.

Environmental group Friends of the Earth Japan said the group has repeatedly urged the central and local governments to hold a public forum to listen to local opinions but this has not happened.

The group also criticized the National Institute for Chemistry and the operator for underestimating possible volcanic eruptions that could affect the facility. The regulators did not include any expert on volcanoes in the process of evaluating the plant, while local evacuation plans are "filled with problems," Friends of the Earth Japan said.



AIJAZ RAHMAN/AP

A female employee attends a meeting with her male colleagues at Titan Co.'s corporate office in Bangalore, India, on Tuesday. According to the annual Gender Gap Index by the World Economic Forum, India ranked 15th for female political participation, but it was among the bottom 20 in terms of income.

India falls back, US gains in gender equality ranking

By KATY DAIGLE
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Indian women still face some of the world's worst inequality in access to health care, education and work, despite years of rapid economic growth, according to a survey of 142 nations released Tuesday.

The annual Gender Gap Index by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum showed India falling to 114th place, after being ranked 101st out of 136 countries surveyed last year. That puts India below other fast-developing nations including South Africa, ranked 18th, China at 87 and Brazil at 71.

Nordic nations led the world in promoting equality of the sexes, as they have for many years, with Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark occupying the top five spots.

The United States climbed three places to 20th, thanks to a narrowing wage gap and more women occupying political

The top five

Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark

At the bottom

Yemen, Pakistan and Chad

offices.

"Achieving gender equality is obviously necessary for economic reasons. Only those economies who have full access to all their talent will remain competitive and will prosper," Klaus Schwab, WEF founder and executive chairman, said in a statement.

Yemen, Pakistan and Chad remained at the bottom of the index, which ranks countries based on data reported by international organizations on four categories: health and survival, access to education, economic opportunity and political participation.

Overall, the report said gender equality was improving worldwide, with 105 countries becoming

more equal since the forum launched the index in 2006 and health and education access being the most egalitarian across the globe. As a result, most improvements were shown in women's political participation in politics.

"Much of the progress on gender equality over the last 10 years has come from more women entering politics and the workforce," said the report's lead author Saadia Zahidi, who heads the forum's Gender Parity Program.

India ranked an impressive 15th for female political participation, given a large number of women holding public office.

But it was among the bottom 20 in terms of income, literacy, work force participation and infant survival.

China also has a low ratio of girls born to boys born, which contributed to the country falling 18 spots. The highest-ranking Asian country was the Philippines, in ninth place.

Syria's neighbors seeking help with flood of refugees

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Syria's neighbors on Tuesday urged European countries to open their doors to more refugees from the 3½-year civil war, and for immediate financial and technological help as their infrastructures buckle under the massive influx of civilians fleeing the conflict.

More than 3 million people have fled Syria because of the conflict, mostly to neighboring countries. Another 6 million are displaced within Syria.

Lebanon, whose population is only 4.5 million, has alone taken in some 1.1 million refugees. Its prime minister, Tammm Salam, told a Berlin conference of foreign ministers and representatives from 40 nations that the status quo was unsustainable.

In addition to placing huge strains on the country's hospitals, schools and other institutions, the refugees also are taking jobs from Lebanese workers, creating resentment, he said.

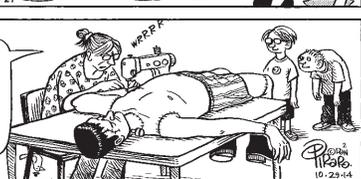
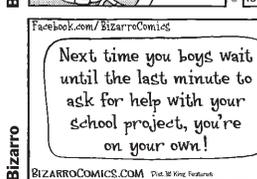
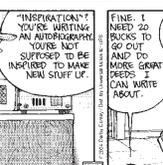
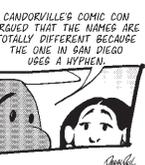
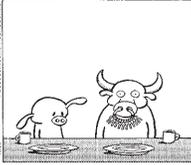
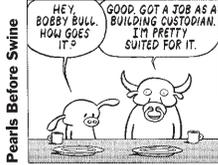
"The massive influx of Syrians into poor communities totally unprepared to cope with such a sudden burden has had a destabilizing effect, with a variety of challenges and threats that constitute a fertile ground for extremism and violence," he said.

Jordan warned of similar issues, while Turkey's deputy foreign minister, Naci Koru, noted that his country had spent some \$4 billion on dealing with Syrian refugees so far, and received only \$250 million from the international community.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, who organized the one-day conference, said in addition to easing the hardships of the refugees themselves, the focus needed to be on international investment in hospitals, schools, water supplies and waste disposal systems in the neighboring countries.

"This is not only a question of more money," he said. "We also need to use the funding more effectively and more sustainably."

He noted that Germany has taken in some 70,000 Syrians since 2012, but remains willing to do more.



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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12					13			14				
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18												
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25	26	27			28	29			30	31	32	
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43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50								51	52	53		
54										56		
57										58		

ACROSS

- 1 Manitoba tribe
- 5 Pump up the volume
- 8 Greet the villain
- 12 Full house, for one
- 13 Floral accessory
- 14 From the start
- 15 Poor
- 17 Thought
- 18 Pancho's pal, on old TV
- 19 Making a team
- 21 Grants —
- 24 Plant prickle
- 25 Anything but that
- 28 Modern money
- 30 Detergent brand
- 33 Charged particle
- 34 Low-budget film, often
- 35 Mongrel
- 36 Homer's neighbor
- 37 Clothing
- 38 Rose feature
- 39 Cuba or Aruba (Abbr.)
- 41 "Why not?"
- 43 Photo holder on a chain
- 46 Exploding stars
- 50 Jai
- 51 Cartoonist's sympathy

DOWN

- 1 Stylish
- 2 Hindu royal
- 3 Tackles team-mates
- 4 Pronouncements
- 5 Brewery product
- 6 Chaps
- 7 Compassion
- 8 17-syllable poem
- 9 Roundabout
- 10 Witnessed
- 11 Booty
- 16 Sticky stuff
- 20 Reed instrument
- 22 Carte
- 25 Potentially will
- 26 Can matter
- 27 Weeding tool
- 28 Point to
- 29 Obey reveille
- 31 Regret
- 32 Prepare for battle
- 34 Between assignments
- 38 Sandbars
- 40 "Blue —"
- 42 Blackbird
- 43 Fat
- 44 Hodgepodge
- 45 Fourth dimension
- 47 Test tube
- 48 Actress Paquin
- 49 Distort
- 52 Unfavorable vote
- 53 Decorate Easter eggs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-29

CRYPTOQUIP

XTWWHXYFU RQEHMX VYCLZM
RFL PREJIRF CHXQ QHH ITEP
VZYUPQ, VHTCL SHT ERCC

QPZI XJYFFS UZFZX?

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL PRISON UNITS IF THEY HAVE VERY SMART, PRUDENT RESIDENTS? WARDS OF WISDOM.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals O

WORLD

THE SKY'S
NO LIMIT

For Czech climbing enthusiasts,
scaling chimneys is 'a way of life'

By KAREL JANICEK
The Associated Press

From afar, they look like ants crawling up a tower into the sky.

DOLNI SMRZOVKA, Czech Republic
Dozens of members of the Czech Union of Chimney Climbers scaled the 200-foot-tall chimney of a former textile factory one Saturday — a hobby they do for thrills and incomparable views.

A 76-year-old former track-and-field athlete and an 8-year-old boy were among those who clambered up the chimney's ladder.

"It's a joy to climb one, to look around from the top on a beautiful sunny day," said organizer Jiri Chudoba. "It's also great to see the others smile and be happy."

The 30-year-old shared a trophy for the best chimney climber last year for scaling a record 23,000 meters over nearly 330 days.

It started as the Soviet-era dream of a teenager — Vladimir Randysek — who gazed out from his home at a 140-meter high Prague chimney for years, thinking how liberating it would be to climb it.

In 1981, he and three other friends decided to make the dream reality. What was supposed to be a single adventure poking fun at communist authorities turned into a regular pastime.

Gradually, it attracted more enthusiasts who consider their hobby "a way of life."

Today, more than a thousand members of the union make sure that a chimney is climbed every single day.

A group of climbing enthusiasts scale the 200-foot-tall and 100-year-old chimney of a former textile factory in Smrzovka, Czech Republic, in September.

PHOTOS BY
PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP



The Czech Union of Chimney Climbers has climbed and created a database of 9,755 chimneys in the Czech Republic and abroad with details including their exact GPS position, height and condition.

WIRED WORLD



PHOTOS BY LLOYD FOX, BALTIMORE SUN/MCT

Ben Hoffman, left, and Lorrie Hart assemble 3-D printers at the M3D plant in Fulton, Md. M3D employs about 25 people, with expectations to grow to nearly 100 by next spring, by which time the company anticipates producing 10,000 units a month.

Desktop printing³

Maryland company leading way in bringing 3-D printers to your home

BY ARTHUR HIRSCH
The Baltimore Sun

Met Micro, a cube-shaped 3-D printer that could stand on your desk or kitchen counter, and part of a larger effort to turn Maryland into a center of a fast-growing technology.

Micros will soon be shipping out by the thousands from a new plant in Howard County as one of the low-

est-priced personal 3-D printers that you don't have to build yourself. The plant — established by a new company called M3D — recently had its ceremonial opening, a moment hailed by local and state officials as a milestone in a plan to develop Maryland as a hub for 3-D printing, also known as “additive manufacturing.”

Company founders Michael Armani and David Jones, both Maryland natives who graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park, are moving M3D's operations to their new plant in Fulton, Md. from their original home in Bethesda. They've furnished a few offices and set up part of the assembly room, but the 12,000-square-foot space at the moment is a lot of empty, pale floors and walls — soon to be occupied by dozens of employees assembling and packing thousands of printers.

Programmers were working at oversized computer screens in one office, as a Micro on one desk quietly hummed along, finishing work on a 3.6-inch Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle figure in blue plastic. The printhead, or extruder — supported by a simple metal frame inside the plastic cube — turned tight circles to finish the figure's head, having started about 90 minutes earlier at the feet. A figurine can take from an hour to nearly two hours to make, a smartphone case between two and three hours.

The company has 11,000 orders from this country and overseas through its Kickstarter campaign that raised \$3.4 million. The first 50 orders are shipping now, with 2,500 scheduled to go out next month and the balance expected to ship by February. They also hope to soon offer them through retail outlets such as Amazon and Best Buy.

Selling for \$349, the Micro is one of the lowest-priced 3-D printers on the consumer market, said Chris Conery, a senior analyst at NPD Group, a consumer market research firm.

Jones said the ideal price for a consumer machine is about \$200, but the technology is not yet at the point where a printer can be sold for so little.

Jones and Armani see potential customers everywhere: children, schoolteachers, hobbyists, homecooks, engineers, home maintenance and do-it-yourselfers.

A video on their website shows a woman using a Micro at her kitchen counter to create cookie cutters, and children playing with Lego-like interlocking plastic blocks that can be made on the Micro.

“The list of applications is as long as the number of users,” said Armani.



M3D founders David Jones, left, and Michael Armani have designed a desktop 3-D printer intended for home consumers.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

No one hurt after small airplane clips an SUV

OK ARDMORE — Authorities said no one was injured when a small, single-engine airplane hit an SUV as it made an emergency landing in Ardmore.

Ardmore Fire Department Capt. Chad Mansfield said the pilot of the Lancair propeller plane reported mechanical problems and wasn't able to land at the Ardmore Downtown Executive Airport on Sunday afternoon. Mansfield said the pilot had to circle the area because another airplane had just taken off.

Authorities said the pilot hit the top of a sport utility vehicle before skidding to a stop several blocks away. No one was hurt, but the SUV's driver said the impact caused a bar to bend on the top of the SUV. The vehicle also had several dents and scratches.

Man wakes up to find stranger in his bed

CT CLINTON — A Connecticut man was arrested after police say he wandered into the wrong home drunk and got into bed with a stranger, who woke up startled and called 911.

Police said the incident happened early Saturday morning at an apartment complex in Clinton. Officers said Tyler Sullivan, 26, of Haddam, told officers he thought he was at his mother's apartment, which is in the same complex.

A man in the home said he told Sullivan to leave, but Sullivan refused. Police said Sullivan was still there when officers arrived.

Sullivan was charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct. He was released on \$1,000 bail and was ordered to appear in court on Nov. 4.

Police: Regretful robber returns cash

CA EUREKA — Police in northern California said a man robbed a gas station only to return hours later to give the money back and to apologize.

Eureka Police Sgt. Steve Watson said Sunday that Cyle Warren Abbott Jr., 23, told officers he needed cash to leave town for a fresh start, but then realized his mistake.

Watson said Abbott first entered the gas station demanding cash and wielding what the clerk believed was a semi-automatic handgun. He said the clerk gave Abbott some cash, and Abbott left, also taking two bottles of beer.

Watson said that three hours later Abbott returned, gave back most of the cash and said he was sorry. He said the weapon turned out to be a BB gun, which officers haven't found.

Abbott was booked into jail on \$50,000 bail.

Trucker reunites dog with family in Ariz.

NE LINCOLN — A dog-loving Nebraska trucker took a lost, 95-pound bull mastiff named Koda on a 1,380-mile trip

THE CENSUS

\$20K

The value of computers police say a Flint, Mich., school is trying to get back after students didn't return the equipment. A police report says that between Jan. 1 and Oct. 22, the students were given computers to do online work. Police said the students and their parents sign an agreement to return the computers. The police report didn't say what school is involved.



BOB MACK, THE (JACKSONVILLE) FLORIDA TIMES-UNION/AP

Pooch as pontiff

Diana and Joe Maier, dressed as a nun and a priest, celebrate with their West Highland white terrier, Henry, dressed as the pope, after winning the Best Pair costume contest Saturday during the 11th annual Dogtoberfest in Jacksonville, Fla. The highlight of the event, hosted by First Coast No More Homeless Pets, was a costume contest with three categories — Funniest, Scariest and Best Pair with owner-and-dog costume combinations.

back to her owners in Arizona.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported Dani and Jason Windham were getting ready for their Aug. 4 wedding in Nebraska when their three dogs knocked down a fence and ran. Animal control found the other two, but not Koda.

Seven days later, the Windhams moved to Camp Verde, Ariz. Last week, Koda was found after a farmer reported a dog chasing his cattle about 40 miles away from where she disappeared.

The Windhams couldn't afford to fly her back, so a lost pets group in Nebraska put out a call for help. Truck driver Jimmy Dimmit answered.

Koda got in with the front seat during the 24-hour drive. She was reunited with her happy owners Monday.

Search crews find 3 missing hikers

KY SLADE — Search crews found three hikers who went missing at Red River Gorge.

A search team found the three women early Monday. Crews from Wolfe and Powell counties began looking for the women on Sunday after finding an empty car near Bison Trail.

Officials said the women from Louisville were cold, but safe.

Police: No need to worry about clown

IN FISHERS — Police said there's no need for neighbors to be concerned about a clown that has been seen wandering around an Indianapolis suburb.

The Fishers Police Department issued a news release Monday about the mysterious clown. It says officers have determined that the costumed person didn't commit a crime and had no criminal intent. It says the identity of the clown will not be released because he or she doesn't pose a threat to the community.

The Indianapolis Star reported that some local residents called police when they began seeing

the lone clown walking along residential streets with a bunch of balloons about two weeks ago.

The news release says the person simply wanted to celebrate Halloween, his or her favorite holiday.

Space station dodges junk from old satellite

FL CAPE CANAVERAL — The International Space Station sidestepped a piece of treacherous junk Monday just hours before the planned launch of a supply ship from Virginia.

NASA said debris from an old, wrecked Russian satellite would have come dangerously close to the orbiting lab if not for the move. The space station was maneuvered well out of harm's way to keep the outpost and its six inhabitants safe.

Mission Control was informed of the space junk over the weekend. It is wreckage from a Kosmos satellite that was launched in 1993 and collided with an Iridium spacecraft in 2009.

Coast Guard rescues 3 people on sailboat

WA SEATTLE — The Coast Guard said a container ship rescued three people from a disabled 32-foot sailboat adrift nearly 800 miles west of the California-Oregon border.

Petty Officer 1st Class George Degener in Seattle said the crew of the Hale's Revenge was safely taken aboard the 965-foot Hyundai Grace on Monday morning in 20-foot seas. The ship is continuing to Panama.

The sailboat was on its way from Honolulu to Everett, Wash., when it was damaged in the high seas and 45 mph winds. It activated an emergency beacon Sunday evening.

The cargo ship responded as part of the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue system, or Amvr.

Degener said there are no plans to salvage the sailboat at this point. Other mariners have been notified of the hazard to navigation.

From wire reports

FACES

Shaping a superstar

Two of country's heaviest hitters influence Will Chase's character on 'Nashville'

By ALICIA RANCILO
The Associated Press

Will Chase's character on ABC's "Nashville" is the quintessential superstar.

Country singer Luke Wheeler has a team of publicists and his own barbecue sauce. His wardrobe staple is a large, black cowboy hat like Tim McGraw, who is the inspiration for his character, Chase says.

"The template that was thrown around to me was always (McGraw), just as far as the enormity of his stardom and star power," the 44-year-old actor said in a recent interview.

"I make it more Blake (Shelton) ... Then there's the dad (side of him).

... A lot of it was my Uncle Wayne. I grew up in Kentucky, so a lot of it was just already in me somewhere. I'd heard these things or I'd seen this guy. I knew this guy, which I think was why I probably got the role. I knew this guy was probably in me."

"Nashville," which airs on AFN-Spectrum, follows the ins and outs of country music. It also stars Connie Britton and Hayden Panettiere.

Luke Wheeler was introduced in season two as a new love interest for Britton's character, Rayna James. His arrival complicated Rayna's on-again, off-again



Blake Shelton, top left, and Tim McGraw, top right, serve as role models for actor Will Chase, who plays country superstar Luke Wheeler on "Nashville."

ABC/AP



"The World of Ice & Fire: The Untold History of Westeros and the Game of Thrones," a companion volume to author George R.R. Martin's "Ice and Fire" series, was released Tuesday.

'Thrones' back story in new book

The Associated Press

George R.R. Martin knows all the signs of Boba Fett Syndrome.

Named for the minor "Star Wars" character who fans demanded to know more about, Boba Fett Syndrome is most acute for any book or film series that has reached the level of phenomenon, when minutiae becomes major. For Martin, this has meant not just the usual demands for the next "A Song of Ice and Fire" fantasy novel (don't ask, he's still working on it), but constant letters and emails asking for information on everything from dragons to Aegon Targaryen's war against the Seven Kingdoms.

Martin's new book, released this week, is "The World of Ice & Fire: The Untold History of Westeros and the Game of Thrones," 300 pages of back story and original artwork by the some of the world's top fantasy illustrators. He agreed to the companion volume in 2006 and expected it would take just a couple of years. Naturally, it took longer. He intended to write some brief text to accompany the drawings, but ended up setting down some 300,000 words, more than enough to make his editor's "head explode."

"It was bigger than I anticipated," he said during a recent telephone interview, acknowledging that "The World of Ice & Fire" might have delayed still further the next "Ice and Fire" novel. "I start these things that I think won't take much time and they grow and grow."

Martin, 66, has completed five of seven planned novels: The most recent, "A Dance With Dragons," came out in 2011, the same year the Emmy-winning HBO adaptation "Game of Thrones" first aired.

Martin said "The World of Ice & Fire" offers material already in the "Ice and Fire" series, material he has long worked out in his mind and on paper, but had never released, and material he invented entirely for the book.

Neil Patrick Harris to host new variety show

The Associated Press

NBC is bringing Neil Patrick Harris back to series television as host of a comedy-variety series.

The new show is based on the successful British TV format "Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway." NBC didn't announce an official title or premiere date for its adaptation, which will air for 10 episodes.

The series will feature comedy sketches, musical numbers, mini game shows and appearances by A-list stars, NBC said. It will film in front of a live audience.

Harris has previously served as host of both the Emmys and Tony Awards. He was recently announced as host of the 2015 Academy Awards.

The versatile performer starred for nine seasons in the CBS comedy "How I Met Your

Mother." He is currently co-starring in the suspense film "Gone Girl."

'Fast and Furious 7' retitled

The latest "Fast and Furious" movie has been retitled "Furious 7."

The new title for the film, previously known as "Fast and Furious 7," was unveiled online Sunday by Universal Pictures. The film, set to open in April, is one of the last films starring Paul Walker, who died in a car crash last November.

Walker died midway through shooting "Furious 7" and the film will still include his performance.

More than perhaps any other franchise, the "Fast and Furious" movies have steered clear of consistent titles. Instead, they have furious-

ly mixed articles and numbers in ever-shifting titles like "2 Fast 2 Furious," "The Fast and the Furious" and "Fast Five."

Stones book going for \$5,000

The next Rolling Stones project will cost you a lot more than the average concert ticket.

A boxed, collector's edition of "The Rolling Stones," a coffee table book featuring hundreds of famous and little-known photographs, will be released in December. The publisher Taschen announced Monday that band members Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Ron Wood and Charlie Watts signed each of the available 1,150 copies. The asking price: \$5,000. The regular edition, unsigned and slightly smaller in dimension, has a list price of \$150.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Market seesaw gives investors pause

By Steve Rothwell

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sometimes a little fear is healthy for stock investors.

Nine days ago, after a series of sharp sell-offs, the Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 7.4 percent from its September record as fears of a global economic slowdown intensified. Stocks have surged back, thanks to strong corporate earnings, and on Friday the S&P 500 had its best gain in nearly two years.

How should investors view this intense flip-flop? As an overdue reminder that stocks aren't one-way rides.

While last week's slump doesn't technically count as a correction — defined as a 10 percent drop from a peak — that's how many professional investors view it.

"It's important to have these periods of scare and fear," said Joe Quinlan, chief market strategist for U.S. Trust. "It keeps investors honest and it keeps them



RICHARD DEW/LEAP

Specialists Robert Tuccillo, left, and Frank Masiello work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

on their toes."

In fact, such sell-offs often provide a base for another move higher in stocks, market observers say.

That's because a slump stops people from focusing on the upward momentum of the stock market. If prices rise with few bumps along the way, investors sometimes stop considering the fundamental drivers of the mar-

ket, such as company earnings and the health of the economy, Quinlan said. Investors are also tempted to ignore a tenet of investing: diversify. After a big drop, though, they think about putting money into other things besides stocks.

It has been more than three years since the last correction, and that was making some investors hesitant to buy stocks. The average amount of time between slumps is 18 months, according to data from S&P Capital IQ. Many investors reasoned that, statistically speaking, at least, the market was due for a sell-off.

John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management, said the recent plunge wasn't typical of a sell-off that precedes a deeper drop in stock prices.

Instead, the slump was typical of a sell-off that happens in a rising market, known as a bull market, he said.

By contrast, declines of 20 percent or more, known as bear

markets, tend to start with gradual sell-offs, rather than sudden swoons, Manley said.

"The thing about bull market corrections is that they come out of nowhere, and they are very violent and they are very nasty, and they are very short," Manley said.

For a deeper sell-off to happen, investors need to become complacent, or wildly enthusiastic, he said. So far, he sees little evidence of that on Wall Street.

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 27, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials **+12.27**
16,836.98

Nasdaq Composite **+2.21**
4,485.93

Standard & Poor's 500 **-2.95**
1,961.63

Russell 2000 **-1.34**
1,117.48

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 29)	\$1.3091
Dollar buys (Oct. 29)	€0.7639
British pound (Oct. 29)	\$1.66
Japanese yen (Oct. 29)	¥105.60
South Korean won (Oct. 29)	₩1,025.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6173
Canada (Dollar)	1.1196
China (Yuan)	€1.1159
Denmark (Krone)	5.8489
Egypt (Pound)	1.7115
Euro	\$1.2729/7856
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.7576
Hungary (Forint)	243.14
Israel (Shekel)	3.7595
Japan (Yen)	106.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2890
Norway (Krone)	6.6217
Philippines (Peso)	44.76
Poland (Zloty)	3.32
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2741
South Korea (Won)	1,048.60
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9465
Thailand (Baht)	32.43
Turkey (Lira)	1.2149

(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 quoted 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.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.01
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.04

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	66	58	Cldy	Fort Wayne	54	41	PCldy	Louisville	61	50	Cir	Pocatello	60	31	PCldy	Sioux City	58	30	Cir
Ableene, Texas	75	51	Pldy	Cheyenne	62	32	PCldy	Fresno	81	55	Cir	Lubbock	69	42	Cir	Portland, Maine	65	51	Rain	Sioux Falls	54	28	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	55	44	Cldy	Chicago	51	40	PCldy	Goodland	72	32	Cir	Macon	80	56	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	61	52	Cldy	South Bend	52	42	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	62	55	Rain	Cincinnati	56	47	Cir	Grand Junction	61	31	Cir	Madison	48	36	PCldy	Providence	70	59	Cldy	Spokane	66	53	Cldy
Albuquerque	69	45	Cir	Cleveland	54	46	Cldy	Grand Rapids	49	42	Cldy	Medford	69	53	Cir	Pueblo	71	23	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	57	39	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	66	53	Cldy	Colorado Springs	66	30	Cir	Great Falls	57	41	PCldy	Memphis	70	54	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	79	59	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	66	43	Cldy
Amarillo	70	39	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	84	57	PCldy	Green Bay	48	37	Cldy	Miami Beach	86	73	PCldy	Rapid City	64	28	Cir	Tucson	68	58	Cir
Anchorage	34	22	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	78	60	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	77	57	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	73	46	PCldy	Reno	72	43	PCldy	Tallahassee	85	56	PCldy
Ashville	65	49	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	55	48	PCldy	Harrisburg	65	55	Cldy	Milwaukee	49	40	Cldy	Richmond	77	59	Cldy	Tampa	79	53	PCldy
Atlanta	74	59	Rain	Concord, N.H.	64	49	Rain	Hartford Springfield	68	56	Cldy	Minneapolis-St. Paul	49	36	Cldy	Roanoke	68	55	Rain	Toledo	54	42	Cldy
Atlantic City	72	58	Rain	Concord, N.H.	64	49	Rain	Helena	57	37	Cldy	Missoula	52	37	Cldy	Rochester	55	49	Cldy	Topeka	67	36	Cir
Austin	69	40	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	77	55	PCldy	Honolulu	83	73	Cir	Mobile	63	43	Cir	Rockford	50	37	PCldy	Tucson	68	58	Cir
Baltimore	68	58	Cldy	Dayton	54	45	Cir	Houston	82	66	Cldy	Montgomery	78	62	Cldy	Sacramento	80	53	PCldy	Tulsa	72	44	Cldy
Baton Rouge	82	62	Cldy	Daytona Beach	84	63	PCldy	Huntsville	69	58	Cldy	Nashville	66	52	PCldy	St. Louis	61	43	Cir	Tupelo	70	57	Cldy
Bismarck	56	28	Cldy	Denver	68	34	Cir	Indianapolis	55	43	Cir	New Orleans	81	66	Cir	St. Petersburg	83	71	PCldy	Yreka	69	52	Cldy
Birmingham	68	61	Cldy	Des Moines	55	37	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	76	61	Cldy	New York City	68	59	Cldy	St. Thomas	87	75	Cldy	Washington	70	63	Cldy
Boise	62	43	Cldy	Detroit	51	43	Cldy	Jacksonville	83	69	PCldy	Newark	69	58	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	62	52	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	85	72	PCldy
Boston	69	57	PCldy	Duluth	42	37	Cldy	Juneau	44	34	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	80	61	Cldy	Salt Lake City	62	36	PCldy	Wichita	70	42	Cir
Bridgeport	65	55	Cldy	El Paso	78	51	Cir	Kansas City	62	40	Cir	North Platte	69	26	Cir	San Diego	75	55	Cldy	Wichita Falls	75	49	Cir
Brownsville	84	69	PCldy	Elkins	57	49	Cldy	Key West	85	77	PCldy	Oklahoma City	65	45	Cir	San Antonio	80	65	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	62	54	Rain
Buffalo	53	47	Cldy	Eugene	63	52	Rain	Lake Charles	81	65	Cldy	Orlando	87	64	PCldy	San Francisco	78	60	Cir	Yakima	57	41	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	61	52	Cldy	Fargo	60	43	Cir	Lansing	63	45	Cir	Pasadena	82	45	Cir	San Jose	79	54	Cir	Youngstown	55	45	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	55	44	Rain	Fairbanks	16	-2	Cir	Las Vegas	82	58	Cir	Pendleton	83	45	Cir	Santa Fe	67	36	Cir				
Casper, Wyo.	58	31	PCldy	Fargo	46	28	Cldy	Lexington	60	50	PCldy	Peoria	55	28	Cir	St. Marie	44	40	Rain				
Charleston, S.C.	83	61	PCldy	Flagstaff	65	30	Cir	Lincoln	62	33	Cir	Philadelphia	68	59	Cldy	Savannah	83	61	PCldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	61	53	Cldy	Film	50	42	Cldy	Little Rock	71	51	Cir	Phoenix	89	65	Cir	Seattle	60	50	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	75	55	Cldy	Fort Smith	71	46	Cir	Los Angeles	85	62	Cir	Pittsburgh	56	48	Cldy	Shreveport	72	59	Cldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Mon., 92, Big Spring, Texas
Lo: Mon., 5, Sodie State Park, Calif.

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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
 croley.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 wey.teddie@stripes.com
 +41-631.3615.9310 cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310
Pacific
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377
Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 +1(202)761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: +1(202) 761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: +1(202) 761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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OPINION

As in Vietnam, CAPs can help in Iraq

By BILL HOLMBERG

The great debate about how the U.S. should respond to the Islamic State threat in the Middle East revolves around President Barack Obama's oft-repeated vow to "combat" Iraq but, rather, send support troops for training, intelligence and air support.

On the other side of the debate about "boots on the ground" are both Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Ray Odierno, Army chief of staff. Both commanders have said they could see circumstances that would lead them to ask Obama to deploy ground forces. This rare public disagreement between civilian and military leaders ignores an important lesson learned in Vietnam: There is an effective way to put boots on the ground without sending in the massive ground forces that proved ineffective in Southeast Asia — where large unit warfare, armored units and the mantra of "body counts" ultimately failed to achieve American objectives.

The Vietnam experience taught us that small units living with the local population, adapting to their environment and helping meet the basics of security, food, water, shelter and hope are more effective in defeating insurgencies than are tanks and battalions. It's a "hearts and minds" strategy versus B-52 carpet bombing.

The Army had its Special Forces (Green Berets) deployed in that region of South Vietnam during that war with a different mission. And the Marines had their Combined Action Platoons, or CAPs.

The CAPs — consisting of 13-man squads of Marines, plus a hospital corpsman, and South Vietnamese militia members — provided "small fifts," while the other agency (ARL) internally established a special program that enabled peo-

ple all over the world to simply donate to "Marines Care." Millions of dollars were raised in this "helping hands" mission.

In the new war against the Islamic State, the number of steel fifts and helping hands would obviously depend on the size and nature of the territory.

The steel fift first priority, reinforced as needed, would provide security. Then on with the business of improving life as envisioned by the village leaders with counsel and support from the "helping hands." Life support and building materials would be mostly provided by nongovernmental organizations such as CARE International.

As was the case in Vietnam — we should make clear that our steel fift-helping hand approach is not for taking new territory. Instead, it is for protecting and embracing constructive life once land has been liberated.

In Vietnam, 109 CAPs were established; 104 held during the Tet offensive, and the five were soon back in action.

The CAPs were trained to secure, hold and develop. The failed metrics of the main U.S. forces implemented by Gen. William C. Westmoreland in Vietnam were "search and destroy" and "body count," a strategy that should not be applied in dealing with the Islamic State.

As the United States begins to retreat, there will be large numbers of people needing security, logistical assistance and help to meet basic needs. Ways to make the freed land productive, as well as providing security, food, water, energy, medical services and enterprise opportunities, will become our top priority.

If the U.S. and allied forces provide such support we could establish "America and the World Care" to solicit international contributions and good will. In due course as security, water, food, energy, medical services, willing workers and open markets become normalable, business enterprises would emerge to reduce the need for

outside reconstruction funds.

Better cultivation of existing food sources would be a priority. A great deal could be learned from the Jewish kibbutz in terms of high-yielding crops with little land and water. Then there is the opportunity to turn to step-by-step rebuilding in keeping with local customs while embracing advanced renewable energy technologies and building practices — developing with a vision of the future while honoring the positive merits of the past.

This then leads to a brighter future where caring for family, community and the planet becomes their priority; and politics and religion give way to reality and the freedom to practice their faith peacefully.

The Marines have already showcased the value of "partnering" with local populations in Iraq's Anbar province, where U.S. forces and tribal leaders joined to turn back al-Qaida.

There, the Marines performed the politically tricky role of getting different power centers — the tribes, police and army remnants — to work together, with the goal of sharing responsibility for security and development to the Iraqis. It required patience, open-mindedness, empathy, understanding and cooperation.

As Marine Gen. John F. Kelly put it, "Words like 'won' or 'victory' do not apply when speaking of counterinsurgency operations."

Search, destroy and body counts will not win in a war fueled by an idealism, culture and tribal animosity, regardless of the destruction it is causing or the brutality, ruthlessness and corruption of its leaders. Once that vital section of the world is freed from the worst of these conditions and replaced by good works and sensitivity, America's strategy there would be construction — not destruction.

Bill Holmberg, a retired Marine officer, helped start the CAPS program in South Vietnam.

Putin unfit to be leader of anti-US resistance

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY

Bloomberg News

I experienced conflicting emotions as I read Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent declaration of a new Cold War in a speech to the Valdai Club of Russia experts. The Russian leader blamed the United States for what he sees as the collapse of the global security system and warned America not to mess with Russia. At many points in the speech, I found myself nodding in agreement — but it's impossible to buy the entirety of Putin's message, because he is the wrong messenger.

While the U.S. unilaterally declared itself the winner of the Cold War, Russia never recognized its defeat, even semi-officially. For former President Boris Yeltsin, the Soviet Union's collapse was a release from the crippling Communist ideology that prevented Russia from rejoining the civilized world. To me and many of my friends, that made it a win, not a loss.

As Putin pointed out, the Cold War did not end in any kind of peace treaty. That left the U.S. free to act unilaterally. It hasn't always used that power wisely. Iraq and Afghanistan hardly are better off after the U.S. interventions, and what Putin calls an "expanding space of chaos" in the Middle East is in part the result of U.S. policies.

The U.S., Putin said, "keeps fighting the results of its own policy, throwing its might at removing self-created risks and paying a growing price for it." There's some truth to that.

Putin spoke of politically motivated

sanctions undermining liberal, market-based globalization — and indeed, the ill-conceived sanctions against Russia (and Putin's equally blundering responses to them) create economic distortions that hurt innocent people. In Russia, the sanctions have contributed to currency devaluation and rampant inflation, and in Europe, they will make it harder to rekindle economic growth.

As Putin's pronouncements so often do, the speech last week was a mix of truth, half-truth and outright lies. It isn't true, for example, that it was the U.S.'s decision in 2002 to abandon an anti-missile defense treaty with Russia that led more countries to develop nuclear capacity. Nor was it the European Union's decision to do a trade deal with Ukraine that sparked a "civil war with huge casualties." Putin likes to string facts into dubious chains of cause and effect.

The main problem, however, is with Putin's attempts to offer an alternative to U.S. dominance. While stating that Russia doesn't want to be a superpower, he tried to claim moral leadership:

"We do not need to meddle anywhere or command anyone, but keep your hands off our territory," Putin's spokesman said. "The world's destiny is not ours." That's it. And if Russia's leadership exists or is possible in something, it's in defending the norms of international law."

Putin's Russia could be a major power — it is more fearsome now than at any time since the Soviet Union disappeared. Yet that isn't his goal. Putin claims to want. He sees himself as a respected ar-

biter of global disputes, a moral authority who enforces the rules. That, however, is a role for which his career makes him singularly unfit.

A history of selective justice for political enemies, rigged elections, one of the world's most expensive and shameless propaganda machines, the fostering of a lazy resource dependency, a group of billionaire friends who keep winning government orders and a personal life that is shrouded in mystery (the only Russian newspaper that dared allege he had a mistress had to close immediately — one of its allows Putin to pull off a convincing Gandhi impersonation).

These days, it is easy to challenge the U.S. on moral grounds and even easier to accuse it of incompetence in international affairs. Yet a moral leader must do more than that. The best leadership is by example. It's easy to see why Putin is not much of an inspiration to Ukraine, which has just voted overwhelmingly against pro-Russian political forces. The U.S. and its European allies didn't buy these votes. Resisting Putin makes Ukrainians worse-off economically; they are rejecting the kind of repressive, ignorant, cynical society he has built in Russia.

The world may need powers that can challenge the U.S. Putin's Russia or Xi Jinping's China don't fit the bill because these are not examples anyone would want to follow. By laying claim to undeserved moral authority, Putin and his ilk are undermining the arguments they make for a more just, more stable international system.

Berlin-based writer Leonid Bershidsky is a Bloomberg View contributor.

OPINION

Fear at a fever pitch with Halloween near

By KEVIN HERRIGAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Halloween is Friday night. One year, instead of a small child dressed as Dracula, the real Dracula will come to the door and it won't be a Snickers bar that he wants. Or else Dracula will be a bear in disguise.

Unreasonable? You say my fears are unreasonable? That all we have to fear is fear itself? I fear fear itself, but I fear lots of other things, too. Nameless, unreasonable, unjustified terror, that's the ticket. I fear all the things that Republican politicians say I should be fearing.

To judge from the news, we Americans are the most fearful people on Earth. We've come to be proud of how afraid we are, strapping on our guns and parading through the streets.

We may also be the dumbest people on Earth. We march down the streets with our fellow open-carriers and look them in the eye. Do they look like people with sound judgment? Do they look like they've had shooting-range training? Or do they look like they forked over \$500 at a gun show for the beat-up Bushmaster they're carrying?

One of them screws up, it's you who'll be in trouble. You or your kids. As a Fearful American, you've gone to bulletblocker.com and outfitted your entire family with body armor. You bought the kids the \$399.99 bulletproof backpacks that come complete with a school shooting survival kit, everything from field dressings and antibiotics to bottled water and day-glo orange duct tape.

You would be safer with stricter gun laws, but you'd rather go with your gut. You're not the problem. You're not going to leave your Glock on the toilet paper holder in the Johnny-on-the-Spot, but you can't be

sure about the other guys. So you go home and wait for Halloween.

Ding-dong. The doorbell rings and it's Ebola. You knew it would happen, so you wore the lime-yellow Dupont Tychem full-body encapsulation suit you bought online for \$491.17. Virologists, epidemiologists, bah. What do they know? You get your news from cable, not scientists.

"Trick or treat," says Ebola, and you throw it a Snickers bar and slam the door. Ding-dong. Ebola wants 1,500 more candy bars for the Central American kids it rode over the border with. Fine. Just go away.

George Soros and Michael Bloomberg are now on your porch, dangerous old Jewish men who are totally behind everything you don't like and want to take away your Big Gulps. You give them candy, go away, though you probably just played right into the war on candy.

ISIS is next, or ISIL or IS, whatever it's calling itself these days. You knew President Barack Obama couldn't keep them from spreading. One day, Syria, next day Iraq, next day, your front porch. It's why Muslims are dangerous, even though the kids' pediatrician seems OK, despite trying to vaccinate them. Thank you, but when it comes to vaccines, we prefer to take our advice from Playboy models or the goofball we met at the mall.

Agenda 21 is at the door. You can't tell because you hear the rotor blades of a black helicopter. Agenda 21 may be a 22-year-old nonbinding sustainable development resolution, but we prefer to believe it's a United Nations plot to take our private property and turn it over to Sweden or somewhere like that. Denmark. Qatar. One of those Norwegian countries. Plus euthanize old folks.

We almost got it triggered in Missouri last year, but then the governor vetoed the bill and we only came up one state sena-



tor short of overriding the veto. Out of 197 legislators in both houses, just short of two-thirds voted for the override.

We may be fearful, we may have the facts wrong, but we are legion.

Behind the Swedes and the Danes came the environmental wackos who don't want us to ride our ATVs and horses in the Current and Jacks Fork rivers anymore. They scare us to death. God didn't give us this beautiful land so we couldn't tear it up. Real Americans like the sound of internal combustion engines in the wilderness and horse poop in their water.

Up the street come hordes of black youths in hoodies and white youths twerking. And the Common Core commies. And Hollywood liberals. So many threats, so few Snickers bars.

Now there's a guy at the door wearing a blue jacket with "FEMA" on the back. The Federal Emergency Management Agency. Just the guys who show up after tornadoes and floods? Hah. You dupe.

FEMA is setting up concentration camps. Yes, they're going to intern us, like the Japanese during World War II. There's boxcars in Montana, man. Plastic coffins in Georgia.

Yes, we believe this. Why wouldn't we? It's been on the Internet. You thought it went away when even Glenn Beck said it was false? Well, it's back now as part of the Ebola scare.

Be afraid, be very afraid. It's the new national motto.

Kevin Herrigan is deputy editorial page editor for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Fight Washington paralysis with permanent panels

By CLIVE CROOK
Bloomberg News

Last time, I asked whether too much democracy had ruined America. In a sense, I said, it had. So what does an avowed anti-democrat suggest as an alternative? Less vetocracy, more technocracy.

One can hope for better politicians and leaders more capable of leading. Just possibly, tinkering with the electoral machinery might help. Partisan redistricting shifts power from general-election voters to party-primary voters, who may choose candidates less amenable to compromise and further to the left or right. But a ban on gerrymandering — desirable as that might be — wouldn't solve the problem. The causes of polarization are deeper and less treatable.

Paralyzing political division might be a chronic, even worsening, illness that the United States just has to live with. Treating the symptoms might be the best you can do.

The most plausible palliative would be for Washington to take its habit of forming expert presidential commissions and do something more far-reaching. The Base Realignment and Closure Commissions, starting in the 1980s, are the classic instance of policy by delegation. In effect, Congress agreed to put itself at one remove from decisions about which military bases to close. In order to get something done — something that obviously needed to be

done — Congress disempowered itself and passed the hard choices to somebody else.

The BRAC model inspired other occasional attempts, including most recently the Simpson-Bowles commission on the budget. In that case, the results weren't so good. The commission worked up a smart, fair plan for reducing the long-term budget deficit. This was backed by a majority of the commission's members, but not (after defections on party lines) by the supermajority needed to trigger congressional action. In that sense, it failed. It's it raised the standard of the discussion, helped the public and the press to understand the issues and exerted pressure on Congress to do something. It wasn't useless.

I'd like to see a different kind of commission. Temporary panels charged with specific legislative tasks or investigations are fine, but there's also a need for permanent agencies with a wider policymaking remit.

Consider the Federal Reserve, an extreme case, admittedly, but an instructive one. The Fed is a remarkable constitutional anomaly. It controls vital instruments of economic policy and holds that fate of the country in its hands, yet operates with a high degree of political independence. You don't hear people arguing that monetary policy decisions should be taken by a committee of Congress. In operational terms, there's no reason why they shouldn't be; it's just that Congress' record of reckless incompetence makes the idea seem like a joke.

The Fed has its critics, of course, and its unique constitutional dispensation is challenged from time to time, but its political independence is mostly seen as a good thing. Yet the idea of replicating that idea, and creating other permanent, semi-independent policymaking agencies, almost never comes up.

There's a reason for that. It's hard to imagine that an independent fiscal agency, for instance, would ever be allowed to do for U.S. budget policy what the Fed does for interest rates. Decisions about taxes and spending — about who gets what and who pays — are too contentious, too close to the core of democratic politics. Congress will never permanently delegate them the way it's delegated monetary policy. However, a bit more power-sharing might be possible, and that would be better than nothing.

In recent years, many countries have created independent or semi-independent "fiscal councils" with open-ended reporting, oversight and advisory roles. Economists at the International Monetary Fund recently surveyed these efforts. The Congressional Budget Office was one of the fiscal councils they reviewed.

The CBO is an interesting case. Though very different from the Fed, it's another remarkable institution. It's much the best staffed and most generously financed of all the fiscal councils, and its reputation for probity and analytical excellence is unsurpassed. Yet, as a creature of Congress designed to serve the interests of Congress,

its powers are minimal. It estimates the budgetary cost of legislative proposals, and it reviews the fiscal outlook. But its work is strictly bounded (by rules that Congress has become adept at gaming). It doesn't give advice, much less make policy.

Perhaps this constraint is the price of independence — but it would be good to see the limits tested. How about a standing fiscal agency with the CBO's impartiality, authority and access to information, without Fed-like policymaking power but mandated to critique proposals and press recommendations of its own. Think tanks can't do this; they lack the resources and in most cases they have partisan loyalties. Even when they're right, their credibility is in doubt.

Why might Congress ever agree to such a thing? For the same reason it took part in the Simpson-Bowles effort — because from time to time it's maneuvered into needing to seem more responsible. Or perhaps because some members of Congress do actually regret the institution's incapacity, and think that a bit more outside pressure would help.

There's plenty of scope for other such semi-independent agencies. I'd like to see one on taxation, another on the criminal justice system and another on financial regulation. All of these are areas in which the performance of Congress has been beyond bad.

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg View columnist and a member of the Bloomberg View editorial board.

NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS



FRANK JENSEN II/AP

New York Rangers left wing Rick Nash, left, shoots the puck past Minnesota goalie Darcy Kuemper during the third period of Monday's game in New York. The Rangers won 5-4.

NHL roundup

Rangers stun Wild in last 20 minutes

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Rangers could have been counted out multiple times against the Minnesota Wild.

Such as when forward Chris Kreider was ejected in the first period or when defenseman John Moore was kicked out in the second, or when the Wild scored two even-strength goals and then carried a three-goal lead into the third period.

But with only 20 minutes to go against the NHL's hottest goalie, the Rangers found a way to forge one of their most improbable wins.

Despite recording only eight shots through 40 minutes, New York stormed back against Darcy Kuemper and the Wild, scoring five goals in the third period for a 5-4 victory Monday night.

Only one other time — Jan. 4, 1956, against Detroit — has New York come back from a 3-0 hole in the third period to win. The last time the Rangers rallied from any three-goal deficit in the third period to win was Dec. 27, 1992, against Boston.

"It was a pretty crazy game," Rangers captain Ryan McDonagh said, "but in the end you want to be on the good side of those."

Rangers defenseman Kevin Klein started the comeback at 2:52 of the third. Rick Nash made that 2-2 at 4:48, but Jason Zucker restored the Wild's two-goal lead 4:47 seconds later.

"When they scored the fourth one, that was a tough one," goalie Henrik Lundqvist said. "We came back with two goals and we had the energy. We had the

building going and they killed the momentum."

That, too, was fleeting. Youth and some fresh legs carried the Rangers to victory.

Anthony Duclair scored his first NHL goal with 3:48 remaining, and Mats Zuccarello put the Rangers ahead 37 seconds later in New York's biggest third period since January 1993.

The Wild appeared to be in complete control nearly all night, but left with a stunning loss. Kuemper gave up only four goals in five previous games this season.

"This is twice already this year where we've blown third-period leads," coach Mike Yeo said. "I don't know if we did that twice all last year."

"We didn't respond very well tonight, no question."

Derick Brassard made it 4-3 at 7:54, and the 19-year-old Duclair, playing his seventh NHL game, tied it. Zuccarello set it with his first of the season.

"It hasn't sunk in yet, I don't think," Duclair said. "It was a big comeback for us. It speaks to the leadership in this locker room."

Oilers 3, Canadiens 0: Ben Scrivens made 29 saves for his seventh career shutout, and Benoit Pouliot had a goal and an assist to lead host Edmonton over Montreal.

Nail Yakupov and Taylor Hall also scored for the Oilers, who have won four straight after an 0-4-1 start — the worst in franchise history.

Dustin Tokarski stopped 16 of 18 shots for the Canadiens (7-2-0), who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Montreal	9	7	2	0	14	27/23
Tampa Bay	9	5	3	1	11	27/26
Detroit	9	5	3	1	11	27/26
Boston	10	5	5	0	10	26/24
Ottawa	7	4	2	3	9	17/15
Florida	9	4	4	1	9	21/19
Toronto	8	3	4	1	7	21/25
Buffalo	8	3	4	1	7	11/19
Metropolitan Division						
N.Y. Islanders	8	4	2	2	10	25/25
New Jersey	8	4	2	2	10	25/25
Washington	8	4	2	2	10	25/19
N.Y. Rangers	8	5	2	1	11	22/12
Pittsburgh	7	4	2	1	9	25/19
Columbus	8	4	3	3	9	23/23
Philadelphia	8	3	3	2	8	26/30
Carolina	7	0	5	2	2	14/29

Western Conference						
Central Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Nashville	8	5	1	2	12	19/16
Chicago	8	4	2	2	10	29/29
Minnesota	7	4	3	0	8	23/11
St. Louis	8	4	3	1	7	16/13
Colorado	9	2	4	3	7	20/29
Winnipeg	8	2	5	1	6	15/21
Pacific Division						
Anaheim	8	5	1	1	14	30/19
Los Angeles	8	6	1	1	13	22/12
Calgary	10	5	4	1	11	26/22
Vancouver	8	5	3	0	10	27/26
Edmonton	8	4	3	1	9	23/23
Arizona	7	3	3	1	7	18/25

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

Monday's games
N.Y. Rangers 5, Minnesota 4
Edmonton 3, Montreal 0
Tuesday's games
Minnesota at Boston
Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders
Los Angeles at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Pittsburgh
Ottawa at Columbus
Buffalo at Toronto
Anaheim at Tampa Bay
Anaheim at Chicago
St. Louis at Dallas
San Jose at Colorado
Montreal at Calgary
Carolina at Vancouver
Wednesday's games
Detroit at Washington
Nashville at Edmonton

Monday Rangers 5, Wild 4

Minnesota 0 0 3 1-4
N.Y. Rangers 5 2 0 0 5-4
First Period—1. Minnesota, Prosser (Cooke), 5:29; 2. Minnesota, Coffey 2 (Fontaine, Carter), 6:24; 3. Minnesota, Pomville 3 (Grandland, Scandella), 15:38.
Second Period—4. N.Y. Rangers, Klein 2 (Zuccarello, Nash), 2:52; 5. N.Y. Rangers, Nash 9 (Hunwick, Brassard), 4:48; 6. Minnesota, Zucker 5 (Nielsen, Suter), 5:35; 7. N.Y. Rangers, Brassard 4 (Hagelin, Zuccarello), 7:08; 8. N.Y. Rangers, Duclair 1 (Hunwick, Klein), 16:12; 9. N.Y. Rangers, Zuccarello 1 (Brassard, McDonagh), 16:49.
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 13-11-6-30; **Rangers** 10-9-3-12-20.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 4; **N.Y. Rangers** 9 of 1.
Goalies—Minnesota, Kuemper 4-2-0 (20 shots); **N.Y. Rangers**, Lundqvist 5-3-0 (30-26).
A—18,006 (18,006), T—2:24.

Oilers 3, Canadiens 0

Montreal 0 0 0 0-0
Edmonton 3 1 0 0-0
First Period—1. Edmonton, Pouliot 1 (Arcobello), 19:41.
Second Period—2. Edmonton, Yakupov 2 (Pouliot, Fayne), 6:33.
Third Period—0. Edmonton, Hall 5 (Nugent-Hopkins, Joensuu), 17:42 (en.); Edmonton 7-1-19.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 10-7-12-29; **Edmonton** 7-5-19.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 4; **Edmonton** 10 of 6.
Goalies—Montreal, Tokarski 1-1-0 (18 shots); **Edmonton**, Scrivens 4-3-0 (29-25).
A—16,839 (16,839), T—2:31.

Scoring leaders

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Tyler Seguin, Dal	8	6	7	13
Cory Perry, Aah	9	5	3	12
Sidney Crosby, Pit	8	5	7	12
Jeff Carter, LA	8	5	7	12
Tyler Toffoli, LA	7	5	7	12
Patrick Marleau, SJ	10	4	8	12
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	9	4	7	11
Rick Nash, NYR	8	4	7	11
Ryan Johansen, Cjs	8	5	6	11
Chris Tardes, NY	8	3	8	11
Brent Burns, SJ	10	3	8	11
Jason Segin, Van	8	3	8	11
Isaac Spivey, Dal	8	2	9	11
Jakub Voracek, Phi	10	2	9	11

Calendar

Jan. 1 — Winter Classic: Chicago at Washington.
Jan. 22-26 — All-Star break.
Feb. 21 — Stadium Series: Los Angeles vs. San Jose at Santa Clara, Calif.
April 11 — Regular season ends.

Briefly

Germany to bid on 2024 Olympics

The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Germany will bid to stage the 2024 Summer Olympics, with Berlin and Hamburg vying for the candidacy.

The German Olympic Committee's board approved unanimously on Tuesday to present a bid and will now hear proposals from both cities before selecting the representative in March next year.

"We are confident that it will be a big opportunity for one of the cities and a big opportunity for the entire sport," national Olympic Committee chairman Alfons Hoermann told reporters.

"We are also confident that an Olympic project can be — and will be — good for our country," Hoermann said.

If the bid for the 2024 Olympics is unsuccessful, Germany will then likely bid for the 2028 games.

Ex-NBA star Blaylock sentenced in fatal crash

ATLANTA — Former NBA All-Star Daron "Mookie" Blaylock was ordered to spend three years of a 15-year sentence behind bars after he pleaded guilty in a car crash that killed a woman in Georgia.

His attorney, Amanda Palmer, tells the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Blaylock agreed Monday to a plea deal on a vehicular

homicide charge. The 15-year sentence breaks down to seven years in prison, with four suspended, and probation for eight.

Forty-three-year-old Monica Murphy died in the May 2013 head-on crash. Blaylock's attorneys have said a medical condition caused the ex-player to black out on the road and no alcohol was found in his system.

Sharks F Scott suspended 2 games

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San Jose Sharks forward John Scott has been suspended two games for his role in a fight with Anaheim's Tim Jackman.

The altercation came late in the third period Sunday night in San Jose's 4-1 win over the Ducks. Scott came off the bench on a legal line change and immediately engaged Jackman in a fight.

Scott made no effort to play the puck after coming on the ice and rules say a player can be disciplined if his purpose for coming onto the ice is to start a fight.

In other NHL news:
 ■ The Columbus Blue Jackets will be without goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky for one or two weeks with a broken finger.

Bobrovsky suffered a fractured finger when he was struck by a puck in practice on Monday. He is 4-0-4 with a 2.81 goals-against average and .908 save percentage in eight games this season.

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WORLD SERIES



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Kansas City's Salvador Perez, right, misses the throw to home as San Francisco's Hunter Pence scores on a two-run RBI double by Juan Perez on Sunday during the eighth inning of Game 5 of the World Series in San Francisco.

Royals say history on their side

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In Lorenzo Cain's view, the Kansas City Royals have a big advantage when it comes to Game 6 of the World Series.

"We're definitely not facing Bumgarner (Tuesday), so that definitely helps," the AL Championship Series MVP said Monday.

Jake Peavy was scheduled to start for the Giants on Tuesday night, with San Francisco leading the World Series 3-2 and one win from its third title in five years.

Kansas City turned to 23-year-old rookie Yordano Ventura in a rematch of Game 2 starters.

The 33-year-old Peavy is seeking his first World Series win — he didn't get a decision for Boston in Game 3 last year — and is well aware he could get the victory in the clincher.

"I can't imagine anything being any sweeter than that," he said. "This is the start that you play your whole career wanting."

Kansas City is in the same position it was in in 1985, when the Royals sent Charlie Leibrandt to the mound against St. Louis. Kansas City won 2-1 that night on pinch-hitter Dane Iorg's two-run single in the ninth after a blown call by first base umpire Don Denkinger, and the Royals went on to blow out the Cardinals 11-0 a day later behind Bret Saberhagen for their only title.

In the 41 previous instances the World Series was 2-2 in the best-of-seven format, the Game 5 winner has taken the title 27 times. But eight of the last 10 teams to come home trailing 3-2 swept Games 6 and 7.

"We have a lot of confidence in Ventura. We have confidence that we will win every time he takes the mound," Royals first baseman Eric Hosmer said. "We know we can do it. We're a confident group. But we can't do anything without winning Game 6. We're excited to get back home, where we feed off the fans and that energy."

Ventura, whose fastball averaged 98 mph this season, didn't get a decision in the second game, allowing two runs and eight hits in 5½ innings before Royals manager Ned Yost went to his hard-throwing HDH relief trio of Kelvin Herrera, Wade Davis and Greg Holland in the 7-2 victory.

"His confidence is just staggering," Yost said. "You walk in that clubhouse, and he looks you square in the eye with that glint that says: 'I'm ready for this.'"

San Francisco's Tim Hudson and Kansas City's Jeremy Guthrie would be the likely Game 7 starters if the Series is extended to Wednesday. And lurking is Bumgarner, who pitched a four-hit shutout to win Game 5 on Sunday. Bumgarner, 4-0 in Series play with a record-low 0.29 ERA, could come out of the bullpen on two days' rest.

It's been a wild postseason

Finish line in sight for Giants, Royals

Scoreboard

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Buster Posey was annoyed. Playfully so. The Giants catcher wanted Madison Bumgarner to do more than barely break a smile after a brilliant pitching performance put San Francisco one win from another World Series title.

No way, Buster. Because in this postseason full of stars and surprises, who knows? Bumgarner may still have more work to do.

Baseball took its final break Monday before the Giants and Royals settle things. Holding a 3-2 edge, San Francisco tried to claim its third championship in five years Tuesday night when the wild-card match-up resumed at Kansas City.

"We're trying to grind this thing out, the way we have for what feels like forever now," Jake Peavy, who starts Game 6 for the Giants, said before Monday night's workout at Kauffman Stadium. "Not even sure of the date, the day. Doesn't matter."

The day off gave fans a chance to savor what they'd already seen in the past month, and there was plenty — the success of Bumgarner, Lorenzo Cain and Yusemeiro Petit, the struggles of Clayton Kershaw,

Mike Trout and Detroit's aces, a rack of tight games and one that went 18 innings.

And there could be more to come. Maybe Ned Yost even had it right.

"Oh, man, somewhere inside of me, secretly I had hoped that it would go seven games for the excitement and the thrill of it," the Kansas City manager said after a loss in Game 4.

"Sure looks that way."

Perhaps it's only fitting this Fall Classic ends at Kauffman Stadium, a place hosting playoff baseball for the first time in 29 years. The Royals started this pulsating postseason at home with a 9-8 comeback win in 12 innings over Oakland in the AL wild-card game, a thriller that began on the last day of September and nearly stretched into October.

That captivating night in Kansas City set the stage for a month to remember: dramatic finishes, favorites falling and underdogs overachieving, stars slipping and new ones shining.

Perhaps it's only fitting this Fall Classic ends at Kauffman Stadium, a place hosting playoff baseball for the first time in 29 years. The Royals started this pulsating postseason at home with a 9-8 comeback win in 12 innings over Oakland in the AL wild-card game, a thriller that began on the last day of September and nearly stretched into October.

That captivating night in Kansas City set the stage for a month to remember: dramatic finishes, favorites falling and underdogs overachieving, stars slipping and new ones shining.

World Series

(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
San Francisco 3, Kansas City 2
San Francisco 7, Kansas City 1
Kansas City 7, San Francisco 2
Kansas City 3, San Francisco 2
San Francisco 11, Kansas City 4
San Francisco 3, Kansas City 0
Tuesday: San Francisco (Peavy 6-4) at Kansas City (Ventura 1-4-10)
x-Wednesday: San Francisco at Kansas City

But the majors' most notable names during the regular season — Dodgers ace Kershaw and Angels slugger Trout — fanned out fast in the Division Series. A trio of Cy Young winners didn't do enough for Detroit. Injuries slowed down former Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera of the Tigers and Cardinals ace Adam Wainwright.

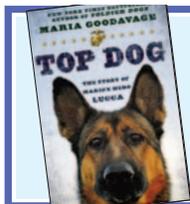
Royals rookie Brandon Finnegan might understand the topsy-turvy nature of these playoffs better than anyone.

Only four months after he pitched in the College World Series, the 21-year-old reliever got two key outs in the seventh inning as Kansas City won Game 3. A night later, Finnegan failed to bridge the gap to the back end of the bullpen, allowing five runs in an 11-4 loss to San Francisco.

"Baseball can pick you up quickly," Finnegan said, "and hit you in the gut quickly."

Baseball can pick you up quickly and hit you in the gut quickly.

Brandon Finnegan
Royals reliever



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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

QBs key Big 12 rise for TCU, W. Virginia

By LUKE MEREDITH
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Big 12 teams have typically gone as far as their quarterbacks have taken them.

TCU and West Virginia have learned that a strong passing game is key to competing for the Big 12 title, while more than a few perennial contenders are struggling along with their signal callers.

Trevone Boykin has thrown for 2,306 yards and 21 TD passes for No. 10 TCU (6-1, 3-1 Big 12), which ascended to the top spot nationally in scoring offense (50.4 ppg.) after an 82-point outburst against Texas Tech over the weekend. Clint Trickett leads the Big 12 with 345.4 passing yards per game for No. 20 West Virginia (6-2, 4-1), which has won four in a row.

The Mountaineers will host Boykin and the Horned Frogs on Saturday in a match-up of two of the nation's most improved quarterbacks.

"He plays with more confidence right now. He's not making nearly as many mistakes as he was," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said of Trickett, who threw for 238 yards in a 34-10 win over the Cowboys on Saturday. "You see that happen to players. The quarterback for TCU is playing with confidence right now. Last year I didn't think he played with any confidence."

Boykin's transformation from a part-time wide receiver to a Heisman Trophy-contending quarterback has been one of the more remarkable stories in the country

so far.

"I think he's the best player in the country," Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "It's night and day from where he was last year."

Boykin has thrown for 843 yards and 10 touchdown passes in his last two games, including seven in Saturday's rout of Texas Tech, to help TCU surpass its Big 12 win total from 2013 by the end of October.

"It all starts with Boykin. He's a tremendous athlete that keeps the play alive. He's hard to tackle. He's got a quick release and he's extremely accurate," West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen said.

West Virginia finished 2013 by blowing a 24-point lead at home and losing to Iowa State, but the Mountaineers have bounced back behind Trickett, who has finally lived up to his potential as a senior.

Trickett was rushed into starting duty in 2013 and it showed. He completed just 52.8 percent of his passes and, like Boykin, threw for seven TDs with seven picks a year ago. This season, he is completing 68.3 percent of his passes and his yards per attempt have gone from 6.8 to 8.7. He has thrown 17 TDs against just five picks.

"I think it's a little bit like Trevone Boykin, our quarterback. I think (Trickett) is doing a good job. Trevone is doing a good job and I think also he has skill players around him and their offensive lines have both gotten better than they were a year ago," TCU coach Gary Patterson said about Trickett's improvement.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

TCU quarterback Trevone Boykin scrambles out of the pocket during the first half of Saturday's game against Texas Tech in Fort Worth, Texas.

Seventh-ranked Mississippi tries to fix faltering offense

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Coach Hugh Freeze has purposely slowed down Mississippi's offense, choosing to lean on the team's elite defense to contend in the Southeastern Conference.

But the offense wasn't just conservative during Saturday's 10-7 loss to LSU — it was flat-out bad.

Quarterback Bo Wallace made it clear on Monday that he wants the Rebels to be more aggressive when No. 7 Mississippi (7-1, 4-1 SEC) hosts No. 4 Auburn (6-1, 3-1) on Saturday. Wallace said he and Freeze have a constant dialogue about the offense and he'll be confident in whatever the coaching staff decides.

The gameplan is "on the coaches' end" that they call and things like that," Wallace said. "Hopefully we can be more aggressive this week, but I'm going to run the plays that are called. That's all I can do."

More aggressive play-calling might help the Rebels, but so would better execution. Wallace had one of his worst games of the season against LSU, com-

pleting just 14 of 33 passes for 176 yards and one touchdown. He also threw an interception in the final seconds that ended hope for a comeback victory.

'Should we speed it up more? Maybe. But I still say we had a chance to win in a hostile environment.'

Hugh Freeze
Ole Miss coach

ple's injury. Freeze hopes Tunsil will be able to play against Auburn.

Running the ball has been a constant struggle all season for the Rebels, who rank 11th out of 14 conference teams on the ground.

The most noticeable difference for the Ole Miss offense in recent weeks is the slower tempo. Freeze has a long history of wanting to push the pace on offense, with his teams snapping the ball almost as soon as it's placed by the official.

That all changed a few games into this season when Freeze realized his defense was one of the nation's elite. The Rebels are giving up just 10.5 points per game, which leads the Football Bowl Subdivision.

So Ole Miss slowed things down in order to shorten the game, milk the clock and limit possessions.

It worked for a few weeks, but now the offense has changed from conservative to stagnant. Freeze said he'll look at everything, but made no apologies for the team's strategy against LSU. "I certainly think the plan that we had gave us a chance to win," Freeze said. "We had two touchdowns called back and had chances to score more points. Either we didn't make the right call or we didn't execute properly at times or LSU made good plays. Should we speed it up more? Maybe. But I still say we had a chance to win in a hostile environment."

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

What factors will be key for playoff panel?

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

Breaking down the ballots for the AP Top 25 and wrapping up college football's ninth weekend:

You make the call

Mississippi beat Alabama at home but lost at LSU to a team that had already lost twice.

Which team do you rank higher, the Rebels (7-1) or the Crimson Tide (7-1)?

Oregon lost with an injury-depleted offensive line at home to Arizona, which then lost at home to Southern California on a last-second missed kick. The Trojans have lost a total of three games, two in the final seconds.

Which team do you rank higher, the Ducks (7-1) or the Wildcats (6-1)?

Voters in The Associated Press college football poll have been trying to sort out this stuff for years.

The College Football Playoff selection committee now gets to untangle these teams. The 12-member panel's first top 25 rankings come out Tuesday night. The committee began deliberating just outside of Dallas on Monday, the first of seven gatherings before the playoff pairings are revealed Dec. 7.

Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio, whose team ranked No. 8 in the AP Top 25, said he'll be keeping an eye on the committee's rankings and that he's interested to see how the members come to their decisions.

"I think you've got to be a big-picture thinker here," Dantonio said of about his interest in the process.

In the latest AP poll Sunday, Mississippi State and Florida State, the only undefeated teams left in the Big Five conferences, hold the top two spots. The No. 1 Bulldogs received 46 first-place votes and the second-ranked Seminoles 14.

Overall, the voters valued total résumé and recent performances



GERALD HERBERT/AP

LSU defensive back Tre' Sullivan, center, and tight end Jake Franklin, right, celebrate with fans after LSU's 10-7 victory over Mississippi on Saturday in Baton Rouge, La.

over head-to-head matchups.

Alabama moved up to No. 3, followed by Auburn, Oregon and Notre Dame.

Ole Miss fell to No. 7 after its first loss.

"I look at my vote as a snapshot of what I have seen during the season, but weighing particular importance on the most recent game," said voter Tim Griffin of the San Antonio Express-News in an email. He had Alabama ahead of Ole Miss and Oregon ahead of Arizona.

The Rebels were beaten 10-7 by LSU on Saturday night in Death Valley. LSU fans rushed the field to celebrate beating a top-five team.

Just a few weeks ago the field-rushing was going on in Oxford, Miss., after the Rebels slipped by Alabama, 23-17.

So both Alabama and Ole Miss lost tough close games, though it

could be argued the Tide lost to a better team. LSU has already lost at home to Mississippi State and were blown out at Auburn.

Alabama gets rewarded for losing to Mississippi?

"I waffled on this one for quite a while," said Adam Sparks from the Tennessean in Nashville. "My final decision was just a question of which team I think is better today on a neutral field, rather than three weeks ago in Oxford. I think Alabama is better today."

How about Oregon and Arizona?

The Wildcats were unranked when they went into Autzen Stadium earlier this month and coming off a miraculous comeback victory against California, capped by a Hail Mary TD pass.

Arizona took advantage of the Ducks' patchwork offensive line, and got the benefit of a late celebration penalty on Oregon dur-

ing its game-winning drive, to win 31-24.

Since then, Oregon's offensive line has gotten healthier and Marcus Mariotta and the Ducks have been rolling. Arizona immediately stumbled against USC, but routed Washington State in Pullman on Saturday.

Oregon is No. 5. Arizona is No. 14.

"The overall body of work through nine weeks should mean more than individual snapshots from any given week," said Drew Sharp from the Detroit Free Press. "Oregon might wind up with the biggest non-conference win of the season, taking a good Michigan State team out to the woodshed in the second week of the season. That affords them a little forgiveness over a bad game against Arizona."

Maybe preseason perceptions are still in play? Alabama and

Oregon were top-five in the preseason. Ole Miss was No. 17 and Arizona was unranked.

But in some cases preseason rankings don't get in the way.

Baylor beat TCU in Waco, Texas, with a stunning 24-point, fourth-quarter comeback. The next week Baylor lost at West Virginia. The Horned Pigs have won two straight by a combined score of 124-36, including Saturday's 82-27 beatdown of Texas Tech.

TCU (6-1), which has also beaten Oklahoma, is No. 10. Baylor (6-1), best win TCU, is No. 12.

TCU was unranked in the preseason. Baylor was 10th.

Time to see what the selection committee has to say.

Going up

The #SECBias crowd won't like this.

LSU made the biggest move in the rankings this week jumping eight spots to No. 16 after beating Ole Miss.

Florida State did gain some ground on Mississippi State in the polls after the Bulldogs had a hard time shaking free from Kentucky in a 45-31 victory on Saturday. The Seminoles gained no first-place votes, but narrowed the points gap between them and the Bulldogs to 33. It was 47 the week before.

In and out

USC's latest excruciating loss, this time on a last-minute touchdown by Utah, dropped the Trojans out of the rankings.

No. 24 Duke, the defending ACC Coastal Division champs, is in for the first time this season.

Looking ahead

Some huge games coming Saturday that most didn't see coming in September:

■ TCU visits No. 20 West Virginia.

■ No. 18 Utah at No. 15 Arizona State in a key Pac-12 South matchup.

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NBA

Bryant's back

Lakers star returns after just six games last season with some milestones in reach

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

Opening night in the NBA. The San Antonio Spurs get their rings and show off their fifth championship banner. The first full season under Commissioner Adam Silver gets under way.

That's enough reason for buzz.
Kobe Bryant's return will only add more.

Bryant's 19th season got started Tuesday night when the Los Angeles Lakers opened at home against the Houston Rockets. What he has left in the tank — after two injury-filled years — might be one of the biggest questions heading into the season, with the Lakers already being widely written off in the loaded Western Conference and Bryant hardly expected to regain the elite form that he displayed for so long.

"The official start of the journey," said Bryant, who played in just six games last season.

There's an easy answer to why he is still out there.

Bryant is already wealthy beyond belief, a five-time champion, a lock to be a Hall of Famer, a lock to be in the Top 50 players ever whenever that list gets updated. But he still

feels like there's something for him to prove on the floor; hence, he's going to do what he's done for so long: try to lead the Lakers to the playoffs.

Here's a look at some of the things that set Bryant apart, and what milestones he's on the verge of reaching this season.

The best at missing: He takes a lot of shots. And therefore, he misses a lot of shots. Bryant's 99th unsuccessful field-goal attempt this season will be the 13,418th of his regular-season career — which will pass John Havlicek for the NBA record in that most ignominious department. Factor in playoff games, and Bryant already has missed more attempts from the floor than anyone in league history.

593 for 3: Bryant has 31,700 points in his career. He's 593 points away from pass-

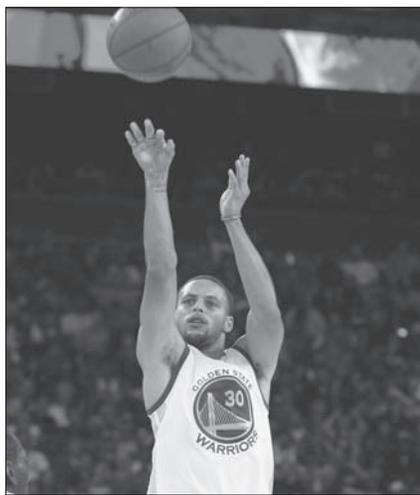
ing Michael Jordan for No. 3 on the league's all-time regular-season list. At his career average, that would take Bryant about 24 games to reach, so barring any absences he could be flirting with that mark as early as mid-December.

The class of '96: The 1996 NBA Draft class was simply awesome — Bryant, Allen Iverson, Ray Allen, Steve Nash, Stephon Marbury, Antoine Walker, Shareef Abdur-Rahim, Derek Fisher, Jermaine O'Neal, Peja Stojakovic, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and more. It also serves as a reminder of some of the biggest draft blunders in history. Bryant went No. 13 in that class. Here's the six players taken immediately before Bryant: Lorenzen Wright, Kerry Kittles, Samaki Walker, Erick Dampier, Todd Fuller and Vitaly Potapenko. Combined, they scored 27,871 points in their careers, which is 3,829 and counting less than Bryant.

He wins: If Bryant plays in 24 Laker wins this season, he'll go up to fifth on the NBA's all-time victories-appeared-in list. Bryant is currently eighth in that department with 813, with those within realistic reach being Shaquille O'Neal (819), Gary Payton (823) and Clifford Robinson (836). Bryant has appeared in 432 losses; that's not even in the top 100 in NBA history.

Big Apple star: He's from Philadelphia and spent his whole career in Los Angeles, but Bryant seemed at his best in New York. His career average at Madison Square Garden is 30.7 points, the highest road-site average of his illustrious career. The Lakers are at New York on Feb. 1.

Drive for 55: Players currently active have combined to post 16 games with 55 or more points. Bryant has half of them. LeBron James has three, for the second spot on that list.



GEORGE NIXON/PA

Golden State's Stephen Curry led the league last year in three-point attempts (615) and three-pointers made (215).

Range: Stats show success for teams taking more threes

FROM BACK PAGE

No, he wasn't kidding when he said that in June. Popovich detests the three-pointer, but in this NBA, it's a prerequisite.

"It's changed the game," Popovich said. "It makes it tougher to cover that much room defensively on the court, so you do have to pay attention to it defensively. It's a back of a weapon. To me it's not basketball but you've got to use it. If you don't, you're in big trouble."

To wit: Of the 14 teams that made 600 attempts or less from three-point range last season, 10 didn't make the playoffs. The other four combined to go 14-21 in the postseason.

"All the analytics guys have looked at it and they see the value of the three-point shot, especially the corner three-point shot," Heat forward Danny Granger said. "Teams are obviously game-planning to get those shots and to get shooters to space the court."

It's not accurate to say everybody in the NBA is shooting three-pointers. It just seems that way. Kevin Love, Kevin Durant and Paul George were all among the 10 most prolific three-takers last season — and they're all listed at 6-foot-9 or taller. James made eight straight threes in a game against Charlotte, on his way to a 61-point night. Spencer Hawes and Chris Bosh combined to take more than 500 shots from past the arc — and they're both 7-footers, give or take an inch.

Hawes actually shot a smidge better from long range last season than San Antonio's Danny Green — who just happens to have record for most threes in an NBA Finals.

Now the Cavaliers are surrounding James with shooters in Cleveland, including Love.

"It's more of a skilled league," Orlando coach Jacque Vaughn said. "Just the way fouls are called, the way the offense and the freedom of movement is, if you're a skilled basketball player there's a place for you. And skill is shooting the basketball. I think we're seeing that across the board in our league now."

When Vaughn played, the game was more physical, defenders allowed to do more things within legal limits. Vaughn said the first time he ever had a pick set against him was by longtime league strongman Charles Oakley, and he laughed at saying that he's "still recovering" from that hit. Suffice to say, there aren't many Oakleys in today's game.

Finesse is in, force is out. "The game has definitely changed," Vaughn said. Preseason numbers show more of the same. The Heat took nearly 50 shots from three-point range in a team scrimmage earlier this month. Corner threes seen to tax teams' defensive rotations more than anything else, and offenses aren't going to take away that weapon anytime soon.

"The game that we play today is a different game than was played 10 years ago, 15 years ago, 20 years ago," Korver said. "Rules are different, philosophies are different, and shooting is a big part of the game. I think for a while people thought that shooting was a lost art in the NBA and I feel like it's made a huge comeback recently and the trend is that it's probably going to keep going."

The Lakers' Kobe Bryant

JAE C. HOWE/AP

NBA/NFL

Sixers might be worse this year

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The official news came this week that the Philadelphia 76ers — the former franchise of the NBA — had signed an all-star forward and All-First Team defensive pick.

Just don't rush out quite yet for a jersey — it's Malcolm Thomas, an NBA Development League all-star for the Austin Toros.

Thomas will earn a nice pay bump, first-class travel, fantastic coaching, and call himself an NBA player. But given expectations of the 76ers this season, he as might as well still play in the D-League.

"If they win 15 games," former NBA coach Stan Van Gundy said, "they will have overachieved to the highest level."

Think a 26-game losing streak and 19 wins under coach Brett Brown was lousy last season?

This year's Sixers may tumble their way toward NBA infamy with a collection of castoffs. The losses should stamp them the favorite for the No. 1 overall pick in the 2015 draft — and the record book as one of the worst teams in NBA history.

The Sixers have mastered the art of tanking, fielding a noncompetitive roster in hopes of better odds at high draft picks and potential franchise players.

Foolproof plan, right? Look how the Sixers became championship contenders after selecting Evan Turner with the No. 2 overall pick in 2010. OK, bad example.

With the approval of team owner Joshua Harris, 76ers president Sam Hinkie has set course for a dip in the standings for several seasons with the wildly optimistic expectation that the franchise will rise into contention in three or four years.

That means lottery picks Michael Carter-Williams, Joel Embiid, Nerlens Noel and Darjo Saric will all blossom into all-stars and at least one, maybe two, will become franchise-type players.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

76ers forwards Nerlens Noel, rear, and Chris Johnson chase a rebound during a preseason game. Noel is among the recent lottery picks Philadelphia is hoping to build a winner around, eventually.

That means Hinkie won't whiff on future picks or get burned on trades. That means star free-agents will bypass Miami, New York, Cleveland, San Antonio, and D-League to Philly.

Can all of that happen?

Maybe. But for now, a championship parade through downtown Philadelphia is just a wild dream.

None of their nine first-round picks preceding Carter-Williams in 2013 play for the Sixers. None ever helped the Sixers advance past the second round of the playoffs.

Thaddeus Young, Lou Williams, Nic Vucevic and Andre Iguodala were on the 2011-12 Sixers that made it to the Eastern Conference semifinals. Thinking they were on the cusp of a breakthrough, the Sixers traded Iguodala and Vucevic to get Los Angeles Lakers center Andrew Bynum.

Bynum never played a game in his lone season with the Sixers because of bad knees and the franchise unraveled.

"It's a little painful right now to be a former Sixer and see the losses and all," former 76ers player and coach Doug Collins said.

When the team opens the season Wednesday at Indiana, Jason Richardson — injured and facing retirement — will be the only player left when Hinkie took over the team in May 2013.

Some good news for Carter-Williams, the NBA rookie of the year has been cleared to return to practice following shoulder surgery on Nov. 6 and could return a week later.

The Sixers play their home opener Saturday against Miami in front of what should be a packed Wells Fargo Center, but

are having trouble selling tickets beyond that.

"I can ... see why you would never buy a ticket right now because it's a substandard product," Van Gundy said.

One that Hinkie — and his analytics-minded front office — has vowed to improve.

As of Monday, the 76ers had just \$32 million committed to this season's payroll, the lowest figure in the league by about \$20 million. They have only \$4.6 million on the books for next season, giving them millions to offer free agents in 2015 and beyond.

But what player with any competitive spirit would want to sign with Philadelphia?

Money always talks, but it will take a brave all-star or two to decide the Sixers are headed into contention.

"At some point, you've got to develop a culture of winning and winning habits and gaining some results so the guys can believe it," former NBA coach and all-star guard Mark Jackson said. "Because that can fester and be like a disease you've got to rid those guys of in order to get a winning culture."

The Sixers already scored their biggest win of the season when NBA owners failed to pass draft lottery reform last week. The team with the worst record will still have a 25 percent chance at getting the top pick and cannot drop lower than fourth.

Hinkie isn't swayed even though his method has been nicknamed "Tankadelphia."

Hinkie is betting his career and the team's future that the Sixers can hit the championship jackpot with a bunch of winning lottery tickets.

Vick to start at QB for Jets this Sunday

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
The Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey — It's Michael Vick's turn. Even though it's probably too late to save the New York Jets' season.

Rex Ryan announced Monday that Vick will start at quarterback over Geno Smith in the Jets' road game against the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday.

"I think this is the right decision at this time," Ryan said, adding that it isn't "any long-term deal or whatever."

The Jets are mired in a seven-game skid that has them at 1-7 after a 43-23 loss in which both Smith and Vick turned the ball over three times against the Buffalo Bills on Sunday.

"I think it's a great opportunity," the 34-year-old Vick said. "Any time you get named to be the starter, in any profession, in professional sports, it's a great thing. You have to relish it, but also at the same time take it extremely serious and understand what's at stake and what needs to be done."

Smith, in his second season, was benched in the first quarter Sunday after throwing interceptions on three consecutive possessions. Vick took over and provided a spark, leading the Jets to a touchdown on his first drive, but also committed three turnovers of his own.

"My focus is just on Kansas City and trying to find a way to get a win," Ryan said. "That's why this decision was made."

Vick was 18-for-36 for 153 yards against the Bills, and also ran for a team-leading 69 yards on eight carries. But he threw one interception — and nearly had another that was ruled incomplete after being overturned by video review — and lost two fumbles.

His first start with the Jets will come against Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who helped revive the quarterback's career in Philadelphia after he served nearly two years in prison for his role in a dogfighting ring. Vick called it "kind of ironic" and added that it

isn't exactly what he wanted, but is happy to be starting — regardless of the opponent.

"I love Andy Reid for the man that he is," Vick said. "As far as the football game, football is football. I just want to go out there and do what's best for the team and hopefully try to get a win."

Smith injured his right shoulder during the game when he made a touchdown-saving tackle on his final interception, but both he and Ryan said it isn't serious. Ryan did acknowledge Smith's shoulder isn't 100 percent, and Matt Simms could be activated from the practice squad if Smith isn't available.

"They said it was minor soreness," Smith said.

The Jets have been searching for a franchise-type quarterback since the days of Broadway Joe.

Vick will become the 27th quarterback to start a game for New York since Joe Namath's last game with the team in 1976. A few have had some good moments — Vinny Testaverde, Chad Pennington, Brett Favre and even Mark Sanchez — but none was able to sustain any level of dominance or postseason success.

Smith was given every opportunity to prove he could be that type of player after being thrust into the job when Sanchez was lost for the year during the 2013 preseason. He finished his shaky rookie season with 12 touchdowns and 21 interceptions, but had a solid final month to give the Jets some hope.

New York signed Vick in the offseason to provide some competition for Smith, but it was clear early that it was the second-year quarterback's job all along. Still, Smith did little to reward the Jets' faith in him as he had seven touchdown passes and 10 interceptions in eight games.

"Have there been guys that took a step back and then took a leap forward? There have been guys like that," Ryan said. "Hopefully that's what happens to Geno, but I don't think anybody in this organization is looking at him differently right now."

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NFL



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Bills tight end Scott Chandler, left, celebrates with Sammy Watkins after Watkins scored a touchdown during the second half against the New York Jets on Sunday. Buffalo won the game and improved to 5-3.

Bills remain cautious after another promising start

By JOHN WAWROW
The Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Bills rookie receiver Sammy Watkins learned a valuable lesson about celebrating too early.

"It was a boneheaded play," Watkins said Monday, a day after he pulled up early and raised his arm before being tackled from behind 5 yards short of the end zone. "Next time, I'll run full speed through the goal and score."

The play, in Buffalo's otherwise dominating 43-23 win over the New York Jets, might also serve as a cautionary reminder for the rest of the team entering its bye week off.

This is no time for the Bills (5-3) to let up.

Recent history has shown that promising starts haven't translated into strong finishes for a franchise whose 14-season playoff drought is the NFL's longest active streak.

Just ask defensive tackle Kyle Williams.

"I don't think that's lost on this team," Williams said. "I think that we have the leadership on this team that has been there, that has done that, and is going to kind of shepherd these young guys in knowing that we've got a long way to go yet."

Williams can vouch for that.

The nine-year veteran was a member of the previous two Buffalo teams that had winning records at the midpoint of the season only to miss the playoffs.

It happened in 2011, when Buffalo started 5-3 and then lost seven of its last eight. It was hardly better in 2008, when Buffalo opened 5-3 and finished 7-9.

And it happened in the pre-Williams days in 2002, when Buffalo turned a 5-3 start into an 8-8 finish.

Overall, the Bills haven't had a winning record over their final eight games since closing the 2004 season 6-2. Otherwise, Buffalo's combined second-half season record over the past nine years is 25-47.

The Bills, who are off until hosting Kansas City (4-3) on Nov. 9, have a long way to go before they can start earning anyone's respect.

"The only way that you can earn respect or have teams fear you, is you have to go out and win,"

Williams said. "You can't rely especially on a 5-3 record."

The Bills find themselves in the AFC playoff picture because of an attacking-style defense that, through Sunday, was leading the league with 28 sacks and 18 takeaways, including a season-best six (four interceptions, two fumbles) against the Jets.

"The numbers don't lie, (but) we can be a lot better," safety Aaron Williams. "We're still not where we're at."

On offense, Buffalo has found a semblance of consistency and identity since veteran journeyman Kyle Orton took over the starting job after EJ Manuel was benched four weeks ago.

In going 3-1, Orton has provided a spark to what had been a popgun passing attack in four games under Manuel.

Orton has the edge on Manuel in yards passing (1,128-838), completion percentage (67-58) and touchdowns (9-5), while each has thrown three interceptions.

Orton has also had a flare for the dramatics by engineering last minute game-winning drives to beat Detroit 17-14 on Oct. 5, and Minnesota, 17-16 two weeks later.

"I think we've got a lot of faith in his ability," tight end Scott Chandler said of Orton. "Him coming in and taking the reins like he did, there wasn't anybody who doubted that he could get the job done. And we've been pretty happy with it so far."

There's still room for improvement.

Buffalo's running attack is slowed by injuries. C.J. Spiller (collarbone) isn't eligible to return until Week 16, while Fred Jackson is expected to miss three more weeks with a groin injury.

On defense, Buffalo has suddenly sprung leaks against the run.

After allowing just 405 yards and no touchdowns rushing in their first six games, the Bills have surrendered 333 yards and three scores in their past two.

"We're happy, but we're not satisfied," Aaron Williams said. "We know this record should have been a lot better than 5-3."

Pats know tougher test is on the way

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — A smiling Jonas Gray stood at the more prominent locker he got after being promoted from the Patriots practice squad.

He showed he belongs by rushing for 86 yards in his second NFL game, a 51-23 rout of the Chicago Bears on Sunday.

A much tougher test looms — the Denver Broncos. "You realize it's not just another game," Gray, who spent the first six games on the practice squad, said Monday. "You know that you're playing against a really good team, so you've got to be on point on everything you do, no mistakes."

Peyton Manning will lead Denver (6-1) into Foxborough on Sunday against New England (6-2). It's a rematch of last year's AFC championship game, won by the Broncos 26-16 in Denver, and a possible preview of this year's.

So the Patriots moved quickly from their romp over the struggling Bears.

"When it ended it was a victory that was short lived," tight end Tim Wright said. "We knew we had to focus all our attention on the Broncos."

Tom Brady completed 30 of 35 passes for 354 yards, five touchdowns and no interceptions in the Patriots' fourth straight win.

Jonas Gray Patriots RB

He wasn't sacked, thanks, in part, to decent blocking by Gray.

"That job becomes a lot tougher against the Broncos pass rush. Speedy Von Miller leads them with nine sacks and DeMarcus Ware has seven.

"They do a good job of disguising their blitzes and hitting those gaps hard," Gray said. "So you've just got to go in there and anchor down and be ready for some bull rushes."

He got plenty of work on that when he spent all last season on Baltimore's practice squad. He

was on the scout team that played against the starting defense and picked up tips from fullback Vonta Leach.

"When I first realized I could be a pretty good blocker was last year when I used to see Vonta Leach do it all the time," Gray said, "and (the defensive) guys never gave me a day off. They always came hard every day."

Undrafted out of Notre Dame, Gray spent the 2012 season on the Miami Dolphins' physically unable to perform list.

The Patriots promoted him from the practice squad after starting running back Stevan Ridley suffered a season-ending injury to his right knee in the sixth game, a 37-22 win over the Buffalo Bills.

"He's a guy who worked very hard behind the scenes and when he got his number called he went out there and did his job," Wright said.

But that was against the Bears, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

The Patriots face a much tougher schedule in the second half of the season. The eight teams they've played have a combined record of 24-35-1. The eight teams left are 37-25.

They have a bye after Denver then visit Indianapolis and play at home against Detroit before going on the road against Green Bay and San Diego.

"I don't think we're playing our best football at all," Patriots defensive end Rob Ninkovic said. "We have to play our best football at the end of the season. You can never be happy (with) where you're at."

New England faced Denver in each of the past three regular seasons and won all three games. But they have to play out defenders Ware at end and former Patriot Aqib Talib at cornerback and the results have been dramatic.

The Broncos have allowed the fewest yards rushing per game, 72.4, and the fourth fewest total yards per game, 315.3. And they have 23 sacks added key games.

Gray and his teammates had better be ready.

"They always talk about who's the better team in the AFC," Gray said. "Whenever you go against an opponent like that, you want to be able to be at your best. The stuff you got away with before, you won't be able to get away with that now."



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Patriots linebacker Jamie Collins, left, and safety Patrick Chung, center, tackle Bears running back Matt Forte on Sunday.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
New England	6	2	0	.750	238 177
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	178 165
Akron	4	4	0	.500	174 151
N.Y. Jets	1	7	0	.125	144 228
	South				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Indianapolis	5	3	0	.625	250 187
Houston	4	4	0	.500	185 166
Tennessee	2	5	0	.290	137 202
Jacksonville	1	7	0	.125	118 218
	North				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Cincinnati	4	2	1	.643	161 164
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	217 131
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.625	205 186
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	163 152
	West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Denver	6	1	0	.857	224 142
San Diego	5	3	0	.625	205 149
Kansas City	4	3	0	.571	176 128
Oakland	0	7	0	.000	105 181

National Conference

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	213 167
Philadelphia	5	2	0	.714	203 156
N.Y. Giants	3	4	0	.429	154 169
Washington	3	5	0	.375	171 200
	South				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Carolina	3	3	1	.438	167 208
New Orleans	3	4	0	.429	199 188
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	182 221
Tampa Bay	1	6	0	.143	133 223
	North				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Detroit	6	2	0	.750	162 126
Green Bay	5	3	0	.625	222 191
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	180 222
Minnesota	3	5	0	.375	139 173
	West				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Arizona	6	0	0	.857	164 139
San Francisco	4	3	0	.571	158 165
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	172 150
St. Louis	2	5	0	.286	136 210

Thursday's game
 Denver 35, San Diego 21

Sunday's games
 Detroit 22, Atlanta 21
 Kansas City 34, St. Louis 7
 Houston 50, Tennessee 16
 Minnesota 19, Tampa Bay 13, OT
 Seattle 13, Carolina 9
 Cincinnati 27, Baltimore 24
 Miami 27, Jacksonville 13
 New England 51, Chicago 23
 Buffalo 43, N.Y. Jets 23
 Arizona 34, Philadelphia 20
 Cleveland 23, Oakland 13
 Pittsburgh 51, Indianapolis 34
 New Orleans 40, Green Bay 43
Open: N.Y. Giants, San Francisco
 Washington 20, Dallas 17, OT

Monday
 New Orleans at Carolina

Sunday, Nov. 2
 Arizona at Dallas
 Philadelphia at Houston
 Kansas City at San Diego
 Washington at Minnesota
 Tampa Bay at Cleveland
 Philadelphia at Cincinnati
 San Diego at Miami
 St. Louis at San Francisco
 Oakland at Seattle
 Denver at New England
 Baltimore at Pittsburgh

Open: Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Tennessee

Monday, Nov. 3
 Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants

Monday Redskins 20, Cowboys 17 (OT)

Washington	Q	1	2	3	4	Total
Dallas	0	7	3	7	3	20
Washington	0	0	7	3	7	17

First Quarter
 Was—FG Forbath 40, 9:48.

Second Quarter
 Dal—Bryant 5 pass from Romo (Bailey kick), 4:45.

Third Quarter
 Was—Morris 5 run (Forbath kick), 9:51.
 Dal—FG Bailey 21, 4:03.

Fourth Quarter
 Was—McCoy 7 run (Forbath kick), 12:30.
 Dal—Witten 25 pass from Weeden (Bailey kick), 9:27.

Overtime
 Was—FG Forbath 40, 9:43.
 A=97.05.

	Was	Dal
First downs	20	20
Total Net Yards	409	390
Rushes-yards	31-123	25-166
Passing	289	224
Punt Returns	2-39	2-18
Kickoff Returns	0-0	2-45
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	25-30-1	21-34-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-13	5-54
Punts	5-46.2	4-51.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	4-2
Penalties-Yards	6-45	3-35
Time of Possession	38:12	28:37

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Washington: Morris 18-73, Hahn 1-9, McCoy 7-15, Reed 1-12, Dallas (Murray) 19-141, Randle 3-28, Dunbar 1-6, Romo 1-1, Weeden 1 (Criminus 5).
Passing—Washington: McCoy 25-30-1, 2-99, Dallas (Murray) 17-28-0, 2-209, Weeden 4-6-0.
Receiving—Washington: Reed 7-40, Jackson 4-27, Gibson 4-47, Paulk 2-37, Helu Jr. 2-14, Morris 1-12, Young 1-12, Roberts 1-11, Williams 6-69, Witten 6-70, Murray 1-17, Hahn 1-7, McCoy 1-11, Dunbar 1-11, Hanna 1-7.
Missed field goals—None.

McCoy's start a memorable one

QB returns to Texas, leads Redskins past Cowboys in OT; Romo injured

By SCHUYLER DIXON

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Colt McCoy's successful return to his home state trumped Tony Romo's dramatic return to the game.

McCoy, the small-town West Texas kid, calmly directed Washington to Kai Forbath's 40-yard field goal in overtime, and Dallas was unable to answer after Romo came back from an injury to his surgically repaired back, sending the Redskins to a 20-17 victory on Monday night that snapped the Cowboys' six-game winning streak.

Playing in Dallas' stadium for the first time since his Texas-record 45th victory in the 2009 Big 12 championship game against Nebraska — 13-12 on a last-play field goal — McCoy won in his first NFL start in nearly three years.

"Last-second wins, right?" McCoy said, laughing. "But I grew up as the game went on. I felt more and more comfortable and I started seeing the defense right. We made some plays down the stretch that good teams have to make to win games."

It might be McCoy's only start if Robert Griffin III is ready to return from a dislocated ankle that has sidelined him since Week 2. The Redskins go to Minnesota on Sunday, and then have their bye week.

"Robert's our starter," coach Jay Gruden said. "I haven't wavered off of that in my mind. When he's ready, he'll be ready



TIM SHARP/AP

Redskins quarterback Colt McCoy, center, and Roy Helu celebrate after McCoy ran for a touchdown during the second half on Monday against the Cowboys in Arlington, Texas.

to go."

The Cowboys (6-2) had one last chance after Forbath's kick, but didn't get a first down. Romo's pass on fourth down was knocked away by Bashaud Breeland.

Dallas running back DeMarco Murray extended the record he

took from Jim Brown a week ago with his eighth straight 100-yard rushing game to start the season. He had 141 yards rushing and another 80 receiving, but also had his fifth fumble of the season at the end of a 36-yard screen pass inside the Washington 10 in the first half.

"Well, it's terribly disappointing," owner Jerry Jones said. "Jay Gruden and his staff, their organization, they came in here and took it to us and they won the game. We couldn't get it done."

Romo left after getting sacked by Keenan Robinson in the third quarter. He lay motionless for several minutes but returned for the final Dallas drive of regulation.

The 34-year-old Romo, who had surgery for a herniated disk last December, reached for his back after the hit and stayed flat on the ground before trainers rolled him to his side. He walked to the locker room mostly under his own power.

Coach Jason Garrett said X-rays were negative and Romo had a back contusion.

"Even if I hadn't had back surgery, I probably would have felt that one pretty good," said Romo, who was 17-for-28 for 209 yards and a touchdown while getting sacked five times. "It was a direct shot."

Romo played through a back injury against the Redskins last year, leading a winning drive that kept the Cowboys' playoff hopes alive. But he had to sit out a season-ending loss to Philadelphia that kept Dallas out of the postseason for the fourth straight year.

This time, it was McCoy lead-

ing the Redskins (3-5) to their first NFC East win since beating Dallas with a playoff spot on the line in the 2012 finale. He took over for an ineffective Kirk Cousins at halftime last weekend and led a drive to Forbath's game-winner on the final play of a 19-17 victory over Tennessee.

"The Redskins lost eight division games in a row — and their last seven games in prime time. "I just tried to stay composed," said McCoy, who was shaky early and threw an interception in the end zone with Washington in scoring range. "I don't know if it was nerves or not. I called a play wrong in the huddle one time. But we found a way to win and found a way to play well in the second half."

McCoy, who was 25-for-30 for 299 yards, threw 23 yards to Pierre Garçon to get the winning drive going. On third-and-3 from midfield, he fed the pocket, pointed to Jordan Reed to run up the field and lofted a pass that Reed caught while tiptoeing inbounds.

Another 16-yarder to Reed made Forbath's job much easier.

Brandon Weeden took over at quarterback after Romo was hurt, and his first play was a handoff to Murray for 51 yards to the Redskins 6, but the Cowboys had to settle for a field goal.

McCoy put Washington up 17-10 early in the fourth quarter with a 7-yard run on a quarterback draw, slicing between three defenders across the goal line.

Weeden answered with a matching 80-yard drive capped by his 25-yard scoring pass to Jason Witten.

TIM SHARP/AP

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo is sacked by Redskins linebacker Keenan Robinson during the second half on Monday. Romo suffered an injury during the play but returned late in the fourth quarter.

SPORTS



Real McCoy

QB helps Redskins end Dallas' 6-game streak | Page 31

NBA

Shooting range

More than ever, teams relying on three-pointers

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The offensive concept of pace-and-space was nearly an unbeatable combination for the Miami Heat, the plan of surrounding LeBron James with multiple shooters good enough to net two straight NBA titles.

Plenty of teams are having success with the approach.

None more than the San Antonio Spurs, who ended Miami's championship reign with their pace-and-space attack.

Shooters might be valued more now by NBA teams than ever, particularly those who can connect from beyond the three-point line. More than 86 percent of those who played in the league tried at least one three-pointer last season, and the most attempts in the history of the league were taken from that distance — continuing a trend and smashing the previous mark that was set just one year earlier.

And no one seems to believe the fascination with movement, passing and plenty of threes will end anytime soon.

"The teams that are playing with the pass and shooting seem to be doing really well," said Atlanta's Kyle Korver, one of the league's best shooters.

"I think the Spurs are the model that a lot of teams are understanding that not everyone gets to have LeBron James on their team. Not everyone gets to have one of the few super-dominant, all-pro, superstars in this league and so playing with the pass and playing with space and playing quick is a really good backup."

The Spurs led the league in three-point accuracy last year, making more shots from deep than ever before.

In the playoffs, their percentages got even better, and in the NBA Finals against the Heat they shot a swifty good 47 percent from three-land.

"I hate it," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

SEE RANGE ON PAGE 28

The Atlanta Hawks' Kyle Korver was 12th overall last season in three-pointers with 185.

CURTIS COMPTON,
ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT



PEDRO PORTAL, EL NUEVO HERALDO/MCT



MICHAEL LAUGHLIN, SUN SENTINEL/MCT

The Thunder's Kevin Durant, left, was sixth in the league in three-pointers last season, making 192. The Pacers' Paul George, right, was 13th with 182.

Bills keeping perspective after another solid start | Page 30

WVU, TCU quarterbacks help teams surge in Big 12 standings | Page 26

