

NATION

Virgin Galactic space plane crashes, dealing fresh blow to industry

Page 6

**MLB**

Cubs pounce on Maddon as manager

Page 25

ENTERTAINMENT

'American Horror Story' clown the stuff of nightmares

Page 15



Ebola quarantine will not be mandatory for DOD civilians » Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 73, No. 141B

© SS 2014

MIDEAST EDITION

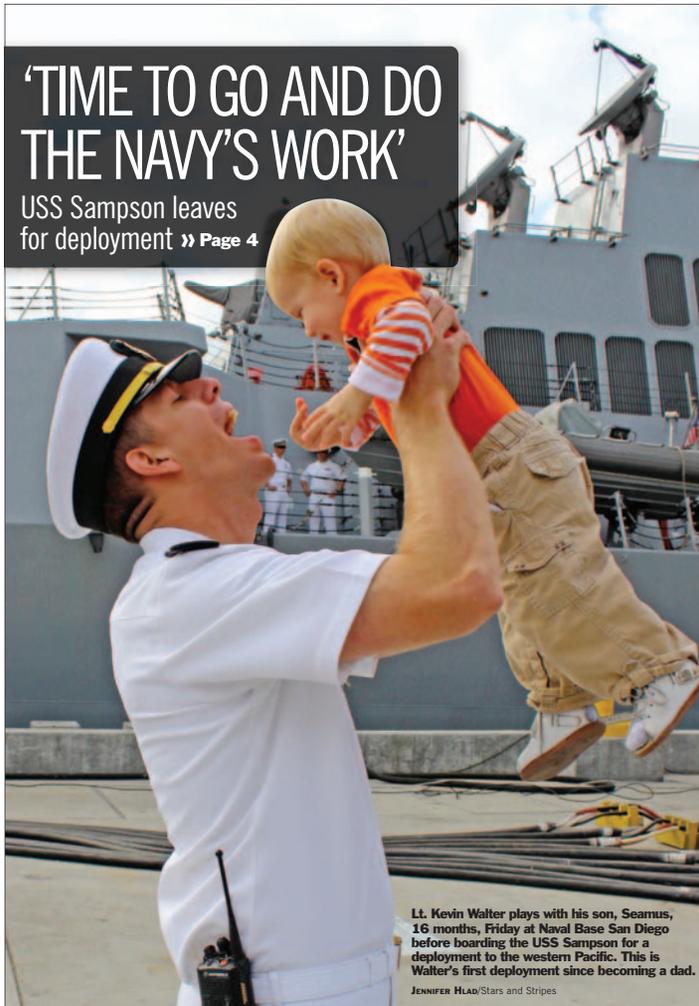
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2014

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

'TIME TO GO AND DO THE NAVY'S WORK'

USS Sampson leaves for deployment » Page 4



Lt. Kevin Walter plays with his son, Seamus, 16 months, Friday at Naval Base San Diego before boarding the USS Sampson for a deployment to the western Pacific. This is Walter's first deployment since becoming a dad.

JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

Senate takes sides over VA

McCain, other lawmakers blast secretary about pace of reform

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — New VA Secretary Bob McDonald promised to have his scandal-plagued agency on the road to recovery by Veterans Day, but there is growing frustration among Senate Republicans over a perceived lack of progress as the date approaches.



McDonald

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., the ranking lawmaker on the Veterans Affairs Committee, on Tuesday joined with fellow senators John McCain and Jeff Flake to criticize the secretary for "ongoing failures" such as keeping disgraced Phoenix VA director Sharon Helman and other executives linked to wrongdoing on the payroll.

Then McDonald got a bump of support from a powerful ally on Capitol Hill — Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the committee and architect of a \$16.3-billion VA overhaul effort.

The political dust-up comes as McDonald is nearly two months into an effort to repair the nation's veteran health care system after the VA was found to have manipulated records to mask long and potentially dangerous patient wait times at clinics and hospitals across the country.

SEE VA ON PAGE 5

'Intrusive' sexual assault survey draws complaints

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Shocked and offended by explicit questions, some U.S. servicemembers are complaining about a new sexual assault survey that hundreds of thousands have been asked to complete.

The survey is conducted every two years. But this year's version, developed by the Rand Corp., is unusually detailed, including graphically personal questions on sexual acts.

Some military members told The Associated Press that they were surprised and upset by the questions, and some even said they felt re-victimized by the blunt language. None of them would speak publicly by name, but Pentagon officials confirmed they had received complaints that the questions were "intrusive" and "invasive."

SEE SURVEY ON PAGE 2

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"When you hit someone over their head with a hammer, you don't expect them to get up immediately."

— Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management, on the U.S. stock market's record-high close on the last day of October, a volatile month in which markets had plunged almost to the point of a correction

See story on Page 23

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Military sex-assault survey asking explicit questions draws complaints
2. Author of Bin Laden book is under criminal probe
3. Iwankun's 'Mama-san' becomes Honorary Marine
4. Marine should not be retried for 2006 Iraq crimes, lawyers say
5. Mexico judge orders immediate release of jailed US Marine vet

COMING
SOON

Science and Medicine
Sharks might have distinct personalities



TODAY
IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 14
- Business 23
- Comics 19
- Crossword 19
- Entertainment 15
- Gadgets & Charts 20
- Lifestyle 18
- Music 16-17
- Opinion 12-13
- Sports 24-32
- Weather 23

MILITARY

Survey: Pentagon official says detailed questions necessary

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Defense Department said it made the survey much more explicit and detailed this year in order to get more accurate results as the military struggles to reduce its sexual assaults while also encouraging victims to come forward to get help.

The survey questions, which were obtained by The Associated Press, ask about any unwanted sexual experiences or contact, and include very specific wording about men's and women's body parts or other objects, and kinds of contact or penetration.

Here is a sample question, one of a series of 11 graphic questions out of 34. Some are even more detailed:

"Before 9/18/2013, had anyone made you insert an object or body part into someone's mouth, vagina or anus when you did not want to and did not consent?"

"We've had a number of complaints," said Jill Loftus, director of the Navy's sexual assault prevention program. "I've heard second- and third-hand that there are a number of women, officers and enlisted, who have gotten to the point where they've read the questions and they've stopped taking the survey. They found them to be either offensive or too intrusive — 'intrusive, invasive' — those are the words they used."

About 560,000 active duty, National Guard and Reserve members were invited to fill out the questionnaire — about five times the number the survey was sent to two years ago. Officials will not say how many responses they have received so far.

Early last year, a report on the 2012 anonymous survey results set off a furor when it estimated that 26,000 military members may have been sexually assaulted or subjected to unwanted sexual contact. Exasperated members of



MANUEL BALCE CENTEA/AP

Nate Galbreath, senior executive adviser for the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, leaves a news conference at the Pentagon in May.

Congress complained that the Defense Department wasn't doing enough to combat sexual assault and tried to force changes in the Pentagon's legal and command procedures.

Some major changes were enacted, such as stripping commanders of the ability to overturn verdicts and strengthening protections for victims. But other potential changes — such as keeping defendants' commanders completely out of the process — are still not law.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who has pressured the military to deal with its sexual assault problem, said changing the survey questions could skew the study over time.

"I am concerned the new survey was done in a manner that not only prevents comparing apples to apples from previous years. ... I hope this isn't a case of, 'If you don't like the answer, change the question.'"

In addition to the Rand questions, Loftus said the Navy sends its own survey to sailors and Marines that doesn't get as specific. She added, "We think we've done a very good job of trying to make people aware of what sexual as-

sault is." But Rand analysts said the more detailed questions are necessary. So did Nate Galbreath, the senior executive adviser for the Pentagon's sexual-assault prevention office.

"This is a crime of a very graphic nature," Galbreath said. "For us to improve our understanding, it sometimes requires asking tough questions."

He said the Defense Department hired Rand to develop and conduct the survey this year, based on new direction from Congress that the effort be fully independent of the Pentagon. He was aware of the complaints but said that the more succinct the questions are, the more accurate the results will be.

"Research has told us, if I ask someone, 'Have you ever been raped?' they will say, 'No,'" Galbreath said. "If I ask that same person, 'Have you ever been forced to engage in sexual activity against your will?' they might say 'Yes.' It's because of the loaded terms like rape and sexual assault that it's not very clear to a lot of people what we may be asking about."

The survey begins with ques-

tions about sexual harassment, asking about jokes, "sexual gestures or sexual body movements," requests to take or share sexually suggestive pictures or videos or efforts to establish "an unwanted romantic or sexual relationship."

Kristie Gore, one of the project leaders at Rand, said participants were told they could skip questions they found upsetting, or simply not take the survey. In the end, she said, Rand received a "relatively small" number of complaints.

She said research suggests that "the discomfort from being asked about prior trauma in a confidential survey is temporary and that such questions cause no additional long-term harm to previously traumatized persons."

Andrew Morral, the other project leader, said the questions were based on the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"If you don't use precise language to describe different types of sexual assault and harassment, people define those terms for themselves in different ways, which leads to ambiguous results," he said.

The report on the 2012 survey, which was released early last year, showed sexual assault incidents rose from about 19,000 in the 2010 survey to 26,000.

Those totals far outdistance the number of sexual assaults that are actually reported by members of the military.

According to the latest report, the number of reported sexual assaults jumped by 50 percent last year as the military worked to get more victims to come forward.

During the past two years, the military services have tried to increase awareness. Phone numbers and contact information for sexual assault prevention officers are plastered across military bases, including inside the doors of bathroom stalls. And top military officers have traveled to bases around the world speaking on the issue.

In the 2012 anonymous survey, about 6.8 percent of women who answered said they were assaulted and 1.2 percent of men. There are vastly more men in the military, so by the raw numbers, a bit more than 12,000 women said they were assaulted, compared with nearly 14,000 men.

Correction

The story in Saturday's editions about the case of Marine Corps Sgt. Lawrence Hutchins III should have said there is one more scheduled pre-trial hearing in December before the January trial.

DODDS SPORTS

Keep up with the champions of overseas military high school sports with Stars and Stripes. Visit Stripes.com/sports for DODEA sports news, scores, photos and more.



MILITARY



JOHN MARTINEZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Lance Cpl. Anthony Hutmacher watches Afghan soldiers arrive in Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Oct. 27.

Final war report lauds Afghan security forces

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Despite the political uncertainties of a contested election and an Afghan president who refused to ratify a key security document, Afghan security forces held together against a “resilient insurgency,” according to the Pentagon’s latest report on the state of Afghanistan War, released Friday.

According to the report, Taliban insurgents challenged Afghan forces but failed to achieve their main goal of disrupting the elections, which concluded after months of wrangling when Ashraf Ghani made a deal with opponent Abdullah Abdullah and took office in September.

The report, which Congress requires of the Department of Defense every six months, will be the final such document during the NATO combat mission in Afghanistan, which is due to end Dec. 31. A two-year advisory and counterterrorism mission will follow, with all U.S. troops scheduled to exit the country by the end of 2016.

Like its predecessors, the report released Friday lauds the continuing development of Afghan national security forces while pointing out areas where they still need support.

Between April and August, violence fell by 30 percent nationwide as Afghan forces overwhelmed insurgents with the help of U.S.-led coalition air and intelligence assets, the report said.

The Taliban had some success temporarily capturing remote checkpoints and small towns and the group’s morale appears to be high, the report said. The release of former leaders from prison at Guantanamo Bay likely contributed to some of that enthusiasm, the report said.

“They were, however, unable to hold any significant terrain and were consistently overmatched when engaged by ANSF enabled by coalition air and intelligence support,” it said. “They failed to capture or destroy well-defended targets, and were unable to assume control of major population centers.”

Still, Afghan forces have been suffering heavy casualties while facing high operational tempos in recent months, the report said.

As in previous reports, the ability of Haqqani network insurgents to retreat to safe havens in Pakistan to rest and resupply is said to be a major challenge to Afghan forces as U.S. troop presence shrinks.

“The resiliency of the Afghan insurgency continues to depend on sanctuary in Pakistan, making an effective relationship between Afghanistan and Pakistan critical to long-term stability in the region,” it said.

The Afghan forces still have critical shortcomings that the coalition worked to overcome in recent months.

Among them, the Afghan air force still relies on the coalition to conduct airstrikes and close air support missions.

“ISAF continued to address ANSF capability gaps in close air support; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; special operations; maintenance; and logistics,” the report said. “ISAF also continued to plan for focusing on further developing these capabilities during the Resolute Support mission.”

Carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll_

All SC Guard units back home for 1st time since 2002

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — For the first time since 2002, the South Carolina National Guard has no Army or Air Guard combat units on overseas deployments that began after the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

“It’ll be the first time now in a little over a decade that all those soldiers and airmen will be back on American soil,” Brig. Gen. R. Van McCarty said in a brief interview. “It’s real good news for us.”

McCarty said the Guard estimates there have been 18,000 deployments by individual soldiers and airmen in the 11,000-member Guard in that time.

The one-star Army general is the No. 2 commander of the state’s Army and Air National Guard and is in charge of keeping its units trained, ready and equipped.

McCarty said the returnees are about a dozen members of the 132nd Military Po-

lice Company based in Edgefield and due back over the weekend. Most of the unit came back in August after an eight-month Afghan deployment.

“I think it’s an important marker and it reflects what has occurred with the state of deployments overall,” McCarty said, referring to the declining pace of American military operations since the end of combat in Iraq and the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

President George W. Bush declared the “war on terror” after 9/11 and deployments began.

They have come at a cost. Sixteen South Carolina Guard members died during the deployments, said spokesman Maj. Cindi King. Every morning, Guard leaders got updates on the status of their overseas forces.

“It’s been a real nail-biter,” King said. In one attack, three soldiers died from an IED explosion in Afghanistan in 2012.

“I think it’s an important marker and it reflects what has occurred with the state of deployments overall.”

Brig. Gen. R. Van McCarty
South Carolina National Guard
deputy adjutant general

Most of the deployments involved engineer, aviation, and military police units, King said.

McCarty pointed out that the deployments are not done, with another one set for January. And overseas humanitarian missions are ongoing, such as its work training mechanics from Colombia’s military forces.

Quarantine optional for DOD civilians

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Department civilians can choose whether to be quarantined when they return from Ebola-infected areas of West Africa, unlike troops, who face a mandatory 21 days of “controlled monitoring.”

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Wednesday followed a recommendation from the Joint Chiefs of Staff to order the quarantines for troops, who will be isolated at their home bases upon return and monitored for symptoms.

But unlike troops, the Pentagon can’t require civilians to comply with a pre-emptive quarantine, Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said Friday.

“Because they’re civilian employees and not uniformed service members, we legally can’t force them to undergo a controlled monitoring regimen the way we can with uniformed troops,” Kirby said.

The new procedures were laid out in a memo Friday from Jessica L. Wright, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Before deploying to West Africa, civilians must notify their superiors whether they choose an “active monitoring” regimen upon return, which allows them to go about their normal daily lives while being monitored daily for symptoms, or the military-style controlled monitoring regimen.

Ebola experts and public health officials say Ebola-infected people can’t transmit the disease when they are not experiencing symptoms. Quarantine, they say, is unnecessary for people who may have been exposed to the disease but are well and being monitored for symptoms.

But in the past, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention weighed in on the controversial topic, issuing guidelines ruling out mandatory quarantines for people who are not sick.

President Barack Obama and top defense officials, however, have pointed to differences between civilians — frequently experts in infectious diseases who volunteered to go to Africa — and the troops, who were ordered there and likely have no prior experience with Ebola.

“We’re not health care workers by the way; we’re infantry men and supply clerks,” Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey said Thursday in support of the quarantine for troops.

Even though the vast majority of troops should have no contact with infected people, tighter protocols will help families and communities feel safe when they return, officials say.

Kirby pointed out that DOD civilians are present in the Ebola zone in far lower numbers than troops. Already some 1,200 military members have deployed to Liberia primarily to provide engineering and logistical support, with the possibility of another 2,800 arriving soon.

But there are currently only about 55 DOD civilians in the country, Kirby said.

Carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll_

MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes
Above: Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesse Charpentier says goodbye to his wife, Ashley Charpentier, at Naval Base San Diego on Friday. Left: Petty Officer 1st Class Marc Ashby spends time with his children, Johnathan and Veronica Ashby, and his fiancée, Madison Miller, before deploying to the western Pacific.

Sailors get sendoffs before casting off

USS Sampson leaves San Diego for western Pacific deployment

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL BASE SAN DIEGO — Petty Officer 3rd Class Jesse Charpentier held hands with his wife, Ashley, and gazed into her tearful eyes Friday morning, taking advantage of their last moments together before he left on his first deployment.

"I guess you can never really be ready," he said.

Charpentier and the rest of the crew of the USS Sampson, a guided-missile destroyer, departed on Halloween for a tour in the western Pacific. Families said they aren't sure how long the deployment will last but are hoping it will be only six or seven months.

While afloat, the Sampson will participate in maritime security exercises and training, operating with friends and allies, said Cmdr. Steve Foley, the ship's commanding officer.

The ship's crew has been getting ready for the deployment since early this year and sailed to Hawaii this summer for the Rim of the Pacific exercise as part of the training cycle.

It's difficult to leave friends and family behind, Foley said, but the sailors are ready.

"This crew is very dedicated," he said. "It is game day, and they're excited and nervous."

While the cycle of combat deployments for U.S. troops has slowed with the drawdown of forces in Afghanistan, the Navy continues to deploy dozens of ships around the globe — though budget cuts and maintenance delays have forced the service to extend some deployments while rescheduling or canceling others.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Lord said he was "a little nervous" for his first deployment. Lord, the father of a 10-month-

old, checked in to the ship about two years ago and said the crew has been busy training almost the entire time, which can be stressful for the families.

The deployment is the third for Lt. Kevin Walter, the ship's weapons officer — but his first since he became a father. Saying goodbye to his wife and two sons makes leaving harder, he said, but "it's time to go and do the Navy's work."

Petty Officer 1st Class Marc Ashby said he plans to retire after this deployment, his fifth. His fiancée, Madison Miller, said going through a deployment is a new experience for her, and even the training cycle has been an adjustment.

Still, she said, "It makes me proud to know I'm part of something that's a legacy of America."

hlad.jennifer@stripes.com
 Twitter: @jhlad



Sailors wave goodbye to their families as they board the USS Sampson on Friday at Naval Base San Diego.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
 LETTERS@STRIPES.COM

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KATHRYN PETERSON
 peterson.kathryn@stripes.com
 +49 (0) 173 313 6411

CIRCULATION

VAN ROWELL
 rowell.van@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

WAYNE VICTOR
 victor.wayne@stripes.com
 +49(0)981 466 17074

CIRCULATION

ROBERT REISMANN
 reismann.robert@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

YUKO SAITO
 CustomerHelp@Stripes.com
 +81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

CIRCULATION

MARI MATSUMOTO
 CustomerHelp@Stripes.com
 +81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171

VETERANS

Report: 60,000 vets get triple benefits

By MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly 60,000 veterans were triple dippers last year, drawing a total of \$3.5 billion in military retirement pay plus veterans and Social Security disability benefits at the same time, congressional auditors report.

It's all legal. The average payment was about \$59,000, but about 2,300 veterans, or 4 percent of the total, received concurrent payments of \$100,000 or more, the Government Accountability Office said.

The highest payment was to a veteran who received \$208,757 in combined payments in 2013.

Some lawmakers say the report shows the need for better coordination among government programs that are facing severe financial constraints. The Social Security Disability Insurance trust fund could run out of money in as soon as two years, government officials say.

"We should fulfill our promises to the men and women who serve, but we need to streamline these duplicative programs," said Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who requested the study.

Veterans' groups disagree. They say the retirement money was earned for years of service in the military, while disability payments are compensation for service-related injuries and wounds.

In most cases, veterans who receive a combination of benefits are severely disabled. About 4 in 5 veterans who got triple

payments had a disability rating of at least 50 percent, the GAO said. Nearly half of those receiving triple payments were at least 60 years old.

Louis Celli Jr., a Washington representative for the American Legion, said critics of the multiple benefits are "misguided and uninformed." He said the report "should simply be filed in the category of one of Sen. Coburn's parting shots to loyal, upstanding American patriots who have sacrificed so much for this country."

Coburn, a longtime critic of government spending, is retiring at the end of the year. He said in an interview that the report raises legitimate questions about whether disability benefits are getting to those who truly need them.

"This is billions of dollars a year in duplicative payments," Coburn said. "We ought to reassess and say, 'Are we doing more than take care of people in need?' I'm not against the military. I don't think they should be triple-dipping."

Most Americans would find it hard to understand how someone making \$86,000 per year in tax-exempt VA income qualifies for Social Security Disability Insurance, when civilian workers are disqualified from the program if they make as little as \$13,000 per year, Coburn said.

Only 17 percent of those who received multiple forms of compensation had suffered a combat-related disability, according to the GAO.

Veterans have long been exempted from rules that deny Social Security benefits



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., requested a Government Accountability Office report that ended up showing nearly 60,000 veterans collected more than \$3.5 billion in 2013 in military retirement pay, disability benefits from Veterans Affairs and disability checks from Social Security.

to anyone with other income exceeding \$13,000 per year.

But until the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, veterans were barred from receiving both military retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs' disability benefits. Under a Civil War-era statute, the Pentagon docked retirement pay dollar-for-dollar up to the amount of disability benefits from the VA.

With bipartisan support, Congress changed that law in 2002, gradually restoring military retirement pay to veterans who also draw disability benefits from the VA.

"Our nation's status as the world's only superpower is largely due to the sacrifices our veterans made in the last century," Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said in March 2002 when the bill was being debated.

"Rather than honoring their commitment and bravery by fulfilling our obligations, the federal government has chosen

to perpetuate this longstanding injustice," Reid said. "Quite simply, this is disgraceful and we must correct it."

At the time, then-Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a former Navy secretary, posed a question to fellow senators: "How can we ask the men and women who have so faithfully served to sacrifice a portion of their retirement because they are also receiving compensation for an injury suffered while serving their country?"

Warner acknowledged that the change would have "significant cost," but added: "Is the cost too high? I think not."

About 3 percent of the nation's 1.9 million military retirees collect all three benefits, the GAO said.

The report did not recommend changes to the program. The VA said in a response that it "generally agrees" with the report's conclusions. Social Security officials did not comment.

VA: Department waiting for results of inquiries before taking employee action

FROM FRONT PAGE

McDonald, who was confirmed in July with nearly unanimous Senate support, has been busy touring the country and promising changes in the agency culture that led to wrongdoing at hundreds of facilities. He unveiled a plan to fix the agency in early September called the Road to Veterans Day.

But many lawmakers expected the secretary to take the reins and to begin firing VA management. The agency overhaul law passed in August gave McDonald new powers to do it by streamlining the appeals process for federal executives.

The secretary "personally assured us that he was committed to changing the culture of dysfunction and the chronic lack of accountability at the VA that led to the recent scandal," Burr said in a joint statement with McCain and Flake.

So far the firings have not come. Helman — the Phoenix employee at the epicenter of the nationwide scandal — has remained on administrative leave with pay for about six months, even though the new VA overhaul law allows terminations in just a few weeks, according to Burr.

"These ongoing failures highlight the continued need for

strong congressional oversight of the VA to ensure that the dysfunctional culture and failures of leadership at the VA do not continue," the senators said.

A VA spokeswoman confirmed the decision to hold off on firings, saying the VA is awaiting the "results of an ongoing criminal investigation" before it takes employee actions.

More than 100 investigations of the department have been launched by the FBI, Department of Justice, the VA inspector general, and the Office of Special Counsel, a federal personnel watchdog. "VA has proposed disciplinary action against more than 40 employees nationwide related to data manipulation or patient care," according to an agency statement Thursday.

Sanders called the criticism of McDonald for not firing more VA employees a partisan attack. He said the secretary was making progress in rooting out a culture of corruption and improving access to care in the sprawling health care system.

"I have been very impressed by him," Sanders told Stars and Stripes. "He is making real progress."

Despite the issues with firing executives, McDonald has been

bringing on new VA staff and also has managed to reduce patient wait times at VA health care facilities, he said.

The VA had been publishing biweekly updates on patient wait times at facilities across the country but has not yet publicly released the data for September and October.

It was unclear last week whether McDonald was faring better with veteran affairs leadership in the House.

The Republican chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, Jeff Miller of Florida, was silent on McDonald's job performance and declined to comment for Stars and Stripes. But the committee's ranking Democrat, Mike Michaud of Maine, also urged McDonald to make better use of the new VA overhaul law to fire executives.

"Congressman Michaud worked extensively to secure the inclusion of stronger accountability and performance measures in the final bill passed earlier this year — and he expects Secretary McDonald to make full use of them when necessary," a staff member said.

Last month, Michaud voiced some frustrations with the VA after media reports that some

executives would retire instead of being fired. The staffer said he now wants to see in the coming weeks more proof of the VA improvements promised by McDonald.

"The secretary has shown a

commitment to reform, and the congressman expects to see more detail but behind the secretary's words as we approach Veterans Day," the staffer said.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

MILITARY RING

DESIGN STUDIO

create yours @

www.warriorRings.com



HELP IS ON THE WAY

We've been making loans of up to \$10,000 to active duty military for over 64 years.



Click Today...Cash Today® www.onnifinancialloans.com "We love to say yes"®

NATION

Halloween crash kills 3 in Calif.; driver flees

By Andrew Dalton
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles area authorities say they're looking for a motorist who crashed into three teenage girls trick-or-treating in Halloween costumes, leaving them with fatal injuries and fleeing the scene.

The 13-year-old girls, including twin sisters, were in a cross-walk near an elementary school in Santa Ana when the SUV with two men inside hit them at about 6:45 p.m. Friday, police and fire officials said.

Two of them were declared dead immediately, and a third died in a hospital, Orange County fire Capt. Steve Conciardi said. Their names were not immediately released.

The scene was "very sad," he said. "When millions of children, teenagers and adults are out trick-or-treating on a wonderful evening to insert tragedy like this."

Police were seeking two men who hit the girls, police Chief Carlos Rojas said. The SUV was found abandoned near the scene, but the suspects had not yet been found, Rojas said.

Police spokesman Anthony Bertagna told the Los Angeles Times that the vehicle was traveling at a "high rate of speed" when the crash occurred.

Man beheads mother, is killed by train

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — A man with a history of psychiatric problems decapitated his mother, dragged her lifeless body into the street in front of their home and then killed himself by walking into the path of a nearby oncoming train, police said Wednesday.

Neighbors initially took the woman's killing as a macabre Halloween prank.

Patricia Ward, a 66-year-old professor, was killed Tuesday night in her Farmingdale apartment just steps from a Long Island Railroad station, Nassau County Police Detective Lieutenant John Azzata said.

Her 35-year-old son, Derek Ward, committed suicide several minutes later by walking in front of a commuter train approaching the station, Azzata said.

Patricia Ward was found dead in the street at around 8 p.m. Tuesday. Her torso was found by a curb and her head was several paces away, police said. A knife was recovered in the apartment, police said.

The body was found near a home decorated with Halloween pumpkins, fake cobwebs and a mock graveyard.

"At first, everyone thought it was like a Halloween prank," neighbor Barbara Smalls said.

The Associated Press



KENNETH BROWN/AP

The Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo rocket explodes in the air during a test flight on Friday.

Spacecraft crash probed

Prototype space tourism rocket explodes over Calif.; pilot killed

By Brian Melley
The Associated Press

MOJAVE, Calif. — Federal accident investigators arrived Saturday to begin a probe into the cause of an accident that destroyed a prototype space tourism rocket ship during a test flight, killing one pilot and injuring another.

The National Transportation Safety Board team was expected to hold an initial press conference later in the day at the Mojave Air and Space Port in California, where the winged spacecraft was under development.

Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo blew apart after being released from a carrier aircraft Friday. It was the second fiery setback for commercial space travel in less than a week.

British billionaire Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Galactic, visited the site Saturday. Branson, said it was "among the most difficult trips I have ever had to make" but that he wants to be "with the dedicated and hardworking people who are now in shock at this devastating loss."

"Space is hard — but worth it," Branson said in a statement. "We will persevere and move forward together."

Branson has been the front-runner in the fledgling race to give large numbers of paying civilians a suborbital ride that would let them experience weightlessness at the edge of space.

The NTSB investigators were expected to head to an area about 20 miles from the Mojave airfield, where debris from the spaceship fell over a wide area of uninhabited desert.

The spacecraft broke up after being released from a carrier aircraft at high altitude, according to Ken Brown, a photographer who witnessed the plane breaking apart.

One pilot was found dead inside the spacecraft and another parachuted out and was flown by helicopter to a hospital, Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood said.

The accident occurred just as it seemed commercial spacecrafts were near, after a period of development that lasted far longer than



H.W. CHIU/AP

Wreckage lies at the site where the rocket crashed in Mojave, Calif.

hundreds of prospective passengers had expected.

Branson once envisioned operating flights by 2007. Last month, he talked about the first flight being next spring with his son.

"It's a real setback to the idea that lots of people are going to be taking joyrides into the fringes of outer space any time soon," said John Logsdon, retired space policy director at George Washington University.

Friday's flight marked the 55th for SpaceShipTwo, which was intended to be the first of a fleet of craft. This was only the fourth flight to include a brief rocket firing. The rockets fire after the spacecraft is released from the underside of a larger carrying plane. During other flights, the craft either was not released from its mother ship or functioned as a glider after release.

At 60 feet long, SpaceShipTwo featured two large windows for

each of up to six passengers, one on the side and one overhead.

The accident's cause was not immediately known, nor was the altitude at which the blast occurred. The first rocket-powered test flight peaked at about 10 miles above Earth. Commercial flights would go 62 miles or higher.

The problem happened about 50 minutes after takeoff and within minutes of the spaceship's release from its mother ship, said Stuart Witt, CEO of the Mojave Air and Space Port.

Virgin Galactic — owned by Branson's Virgin Group and Aabar Investments PJS of Abu Dhabi — sells seats on each prospective journey for \$250,000. The company says "future astronauts," as it calls customers, include Stephen Hawking, Justin Bieber, Ashton Kutcher and Russell Brand. The company has reported receiving \$90 million from about 700 prospective passengers.

Another victim of shooting in Seattle dies

By Martha Bellisle
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Another of the teenagers wounded in Washington state high school shooting has died, raising to four the number of fatalities after a student opened fire in a cafeteria a week ago.

Shaylee Chuckulnaskit, 14, died late Friday afternoon, officials at Providence Regional Medical Center in Everett said.

Zoe Galasso, 14, was killed during the shooting Oct. 24 by a popular freshman at Marysville Pilschuck High School. Gia Soriano, also 14, died Oct. 26 at the Everett hospital.

Two other students remain hospitalized at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Andrew Fryberg, 15, was in critical condition

Friday, and Nate Hatch, 14, was in satisfactory condition.

The shooter, Jaylen Fryberg, 15, died of a self-inflicted wound.

The school, which is 30 miles north of Seattle, was closed last week and will reopen Monday. The school will have grief counselors available.

"Our hearts are broken at the passing of our beautiful daughter," Chuckulnaskit's family said in a statement received by Providence officials. "Shay means everything to us. In Shay's short life she has been a radiant light bringing us incredible joy and happiness. She has been a loving daughter, a caring sister, a devoted friend and a wonderful part of our community. We can't imagine life without her."

The family also thanked medical and hospital officials.

Hundreds gathered Thursday on the Tulalip Indian reservation for a memorial service for Fryberg, who came from a prominent tribal family. Last week, the Tulalip Tribes released a statement condemning the shooter's "horrific actions," but adding it was their custom to come together in times of grief.

Late Friday, the tribes issued a statement on the latest death, saying, "Our hearts are heavy as we hear of the passing of Shaylee Chuckulnaskit. Shaylee and her family are part of our extended Tulalip community and we offer up our prayers."

Our hearts are broken at the passing of our beautiful daughter. Shay means everything to us.

family of victim Chuckulnaskit in a statement

"Our hearts are broken at the passing of our beautiful daughter," Chuckulnaskit's family said in a statement received by Providence officials.

"Shay means everything to us. In Shay's short life she has been a radiant light bringing us incredible joy and happiness. She has been a loving daughter, a caring sister, a devoted friend and a wonderful part of our community. We can't imagine life without her."

The family also thanked medical and hospital officials.

Hundreds gathered Thursday on the Tulalip Indian reservation for a memorial service for Fryberg, who came from a prominent tribal family. Last week, the Tulalip Tribes released a statement condemning the shooter's "horrific actions," but adding it was their custom to come together in times of grief.

Late Friday, the tribes issued a statement on the latest death, saying, "Our hearts are heavy as we hear of the passing of Shaylee Chuckulnaskit. Shaylee and her family are part of our extended Tulalip community and we offer up our prayers."

CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY IN THE COMPANY OF HEROES
REGISTER TODAY TO ATTEND!



AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER

VETERANS CONFERENCE & HONORS

NOVEMBER 6-8 ★ 17th ANNUAL ★ WASHINGTON, DC

FEATURING
THE AVC'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Two full days of panels and discussions with America's most legendary heroes, including:

- The surviving Doolittle Raiders, including Jimmy Doolittle's co-pilot, Lt. Col. Richard E. Cole.
- Recipients of our nation's highest military award - The Medal of Honor.
 - Veterans of the famed 101st Airborne in World War II on the 70th anniversary of D-Day & the Battle of the Bulge.
 - Top military commanders and battlefield heroes from World War II to the present day.
 - The famed Tuskegee Airmen.

And many more!

Visit www.americanveteranscenter.org for full details.
 Watch the entire program LIVE on Military.com.



PLUS THE WOUNDED WARRIOR EXPERIENCE

A program featuring the inspiring stories of service members wounded and injured on the front lines, and continue to serve their fellow warriors here at home.

Filmed for a very special Veterans Day broadcast on DoD News.

Presented by:

www.woundedwarriorexperience.com



AND

THE AMERICAN VETERANS CENTER HONORS

The first and only televised awards show honoring those who deserve it most – our veterans and military personnel. At this special black-tie gala, celebrities & musical acts come together to call attention to our country's greatest heroes. Airing the week of Veterans Day on Reelz & DoD News.

www.avchonors.com

Presented by:



To request a full schedule of events or registration form, call 703-302-1012 ext. 227 or email

info@americanveteranscenter.org
www.americanveteranscenter.org

NATION

Mexican judge orders release of Marine veteran

By JULIE WATSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Mexican judge ordered the immediate release of a jailed U.S. Marine veteran who spent eight months behind bars for crossing the border with loaded guns.

The judge on Friday called for retired Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmoore to be freed because of his mental state and did not make a determination on the illegal-arms charges against the Afghanistan veteran diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, according to a Mexican official who had knowledge of the ruling but was not authorized to give his name.

Tahmoore has said he took a wrong turn on a California freeway that funneled him into a Tijuana port of entry with no way to turn back. His detention brought calls for his freedom from U.S. politicians, veterans groups and social media campaigns.

"It is with an overwhelming and humbling feeling of relief that we confirm that Andrew was released today after spending 214 days in Mexican Jail," the family said in a statement.

U.S. Republican and Democratic politicians had held talks with Mexican authorities to urge

his release. A U.S. congressional committee also held a public hearing to pressure Mexico to free him.

U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, R-Calif., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he was "elated" by the news and that his PTSD will be treated by specialists in the United States. He had met with Tahmoore in jail and talked to Mexico's Jesus Murillo Karam about the case.

"As I said after visiting Andrew in the Mexican jail, he needs to come home to the United States to be with his mother, Jill, and the support network of friends I know to be standing by to help him. He is a hero who served his country bravely on the battlefields of Afghanistan, which is why so many Americans here have been focused on getting him home," Royce said.

Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who grew up in Mexico and has negotiated on a range of international issues, said he met with Tahmoore in jail in the border city of Tecate, and he had talked to Mexican officials to urge them to release Tahmoore on humanitarian grounds.

"I respect Mexico's judicial process, and I am pleased that Andrew was released today and will return home to his family," Richardson said in a statement.

Ex-band member guilty in drum major's hazing death

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A former Florida A&M band member accused of being the ringleader of a brutal hazing ritual known as "Crossing Bus C" that killed a drum major was convicted Friday of manslaughter and felony hazing.

Dante Martin, 27, was the first to stand trial in the November 2011 death of Robert Champion, 26, aboard a band bus parked outside a football game where the well-regarded Marching 100 band had performed. The case brought into focus the culture of hazing in the band, which was suspended for more than a year while officials tried to clean up the program.

Martin was known as "the president of Bus C," witnesses testified, and he organized the initiations that required fellow band members to try to make their way through a pounding gantlet of fists, drumsticks and mallets from the front of the bus to the back, including on that

November day. Two other band members went through the bus before Champion, who was from Decatur, Ga. Martin was convicted of misdemeanor hazing counts in their beatings.

Champion's parents sat silently as the verdicts were read. Martin sat with his head down as several members of his family went in the gallery behind him.

"No one won here today — no one," said Robert Champion Sr. "We hate to see anyone's child go to prison. To know that my son's life will not be in vain, that he will make a difference, I hope that people will get the message that hazing isn't cool. It doesn't work. It doesn't need to be here. You need to stop now."

The jury deliberated for about an hour before delivering its verdict.

Martin's sentencing was set for Jan. 9 and he was taken into custody immediately after the verdict. Manslaughter is punishable by up to 15 years in prison in Florida. The hazing conviction means he could spend up to 22 years in jail.



MICHAEL J. MULLEN, THE SCRANTON (PA.) TIMES-TRIBUNE/AP

Eric Frein, charged with killing Pennsylvania State Trooper Cpl. Byron Dickson and critically wounding Trooper Alex Douglass on Sept. 10, is taken to prison Friday after a preliminary hearing in Pike County Courthouse in Milford, Pa.

Marshals' hunch led to capture of shooting suspect Eric Frein

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

MOUNTAINHOME, Pa. — Scott Malkowski, a task force commander with the U.S. Marshals Service, spied a figure moving from the woods toward an abandoned airplane hangar in the Pocono Mountains. Looking at his face, his black hat and fleece, and his height and weight, Malkowski was certain he had his man.

"Suspect," he told the two operators by his side, and they fanned out on either side of their quarry, who had no idea he'd just been spotted. Hidden by tall grass, Malkowski moved stealthily toward his target, adrenaline coursing through his body.

Eric Frein didn't stand a chance.

The marshals service was one of several state and federal law enforcement agencies that took part in the intensive manhunt

for Frein — the survivalist and marksman charged in a deadly sniper attack outside the Blooming Grove state police barracks — and wound up nabbing him on the 48th day of the search.

Frein had an initial court appearance Friday morning and remained jailed without bail on first-degree murder and other charges in the Sept. 12 ambush that killed Cpl. Bryon Dickson and critically wounded Trooper Alex Douglass.

He did not have a lawyer and was not asked to enter a plea. A preliminary hearing was set for Nov. 12.

The district attorney plans to seek the death penalty.

Until his capture about 6 p.m. Thursday, Frein had some residents beginning to wonder if law enforcement was up to the task, given the rugged terrain of the Poconos and the evident skill with which he eluded dogs, thermal-

imaging cameras and teams of heavily armed officers.

On Thursday, Malkowski, 44, and other members of the team — acting on a request from Pennsylvania State Police — worked to clear an abandoned resort. About two hours in, Malkowski and two others approached the hangar at the old Birchwood-Pocono Airport.

"We just had a hunch that if we were on the run, this is a place we would hide," he said.

Once Frein was spotted, Malkowski and his team sneaked up on the fugitive. They were about 25 yards away when Frein finally realized he wasn't alone. Malkowski identified himself as law enforcement and ordered Frein, who was unarmed but had weapons in the hangar, to get onto the ground.

Frein made no attempt to flee and didn't put up a fight.

Sharpton urges prosecution in Ferguson

By ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — With a grand jury decision and a local election looming, the Rev. Al Sharpton returned to St. Louis on Friday to renew calls for the federal prosecution of a white police officer who shot and killed a black 18-year-old in the nearby suburb of Ferguson.

The civil rights activist said leaks about the supposedly secret St. Louis County grand jury deliberations undermine the local inquiry into whether to indict Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson in Michael Brown's killing. The panel is expected to complete its review

by mid-November, independent of U.S. Justice Department investigations into both Brown's death and the broader practices of the Ferguson department.

Legal analysts have said leaked information about Wilson's testimony to investigators could be an attempt to prepare the public for the possibility that the grand jury might recommend he not face charges.

"The grand jury is tainted. The confidence of the family has been shattered," Sharpton said after meeting briefly with Brown's parents and local activists at a breakfast rally before returning to New York. "We should turn this over to



Sharpton

the federal government."

The federal investigation remains open, but investigators face a tall burden in trying to mount a civil rights prosecution against Wilson. The Justice Department would need to prove that he willfully deprived Brown of his civil rights, a challenging standard, especially because police officers are given wide latitude in their use of force.

WORLD



This image taken from video Friday by Nigeria's Boko Haram terrorist network shows the leader, Abubakar Shekau, center, of Nigeria's Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

Boko Haram: No truce; kidnapped girls married

By HARUNA UMAR AND MICHELLE FAUL
The Associated Press

MAIDUGURI, Nigeria — The leader of Nigeria's Islamic extremist group Boko Haram has denied agreeing to any cease-fire with the government and said more than 200 kidnapped schoolgirls all have converted to Islam and been married off.

In a new video released late Friday night, Abubakar Shekau dashed hopes for a prisoner exchange to get the girls released.

"The issue of the girls is long forgotten because I have long ago married them off," he said, laughing. "In this war, there is no going back," he said in the video recorded by The Associated Press in the same way as previous messages.

Nigeria's chief of defense staff, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh, on Oct. 17 announced that Boko Haram had agreed to an immediate cease-fire to end a five-year insurgency that has killed thousands of people and driven hundreds of thousands from their homes in

northeast Nigeria. But attacks and abductions continued, with the extremists last week seizing Mubi, a town of more than 200,000 people. Fighting also continued Friday in Vimin, the nearby village, where Badeh was born.

‘The issue of the girls is long forgotten because I have long ago married them off.’

Abubakar Shekau Boko Haram leader in Nigeria

have reported that hundreds of people are being detained for infractions of the extremists' version of strict Shariah law in several towns and villages under their control.

Boko Haram's kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls taking exams at a boarding school in the remote northeastern town of Chibok in April prompted an international campaign for their release and criticism of Nigeria's government for not acting quickly to free them. Dozens of the girls escaped on their own in the first couple of days, but 219 remain missing.

Unconfirmed reports have indicated that the girls have been broken up into several groups and that some may have been carried across borders into Cameroon and Chad.

The government had said it had negotiated with two Boko Haram leaders in Chad, with talks hosted by President Idriss Deby, and that it was confident the girls would be freed soon. But Boko Haram has many factions.

Shekau's announcement further discredits the government of President Goodluck Jonathan, who on Thursday formally announced his candidacy for elections on Feb. 14.

Ukraine rebels to hold controversial election

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Rebel-held territories in eastern Ukraine prepared Saturday to elect legislators and executives in a vote that has been roundly condemned by the international community but backed by Russia.

Work at some polling stations in the largest separatist-controlled city of Donetsk was disrupted by a sudden intensification of hostilities. Artillery and small weapons fire could be heard in northern districts of the city near the airport, which has been the focus of heavy fighting for weeks.

Separatist authorities argue that Sunday's votes in the Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk

People's Republic will lend legitimacy to their aspirations for self-determination.

"We have put too much at stake on the altar of the victory, and through this election we are legitimizing our government and thereby separating from Ukraine even further," said rebel election chief Roman Lyagin.

Western governments and the United Nations say the vote violates the terms of a cease-fire agreement signed by Russia, Ukraine and rebel leaders in September, which envisioned local elections being held under Ukrainian laws.

The White House has denounced the planned elections as being contrary to Ukraine's constitution.

In a statement, National Security Council spokeswoman Bernadette Meehan said Friday that the U.S. is warning Russia not to use the results of the voting as a pretext to make military moves into Ukraine.

The European Union and the United Nations have also criticized the vote, but the Russian Foreign Ministry has argued that the Minsk agreement foresaw local elections in the rebel-held territories between Oct. 19 and Nov. 3.

"There is a chance to use the Nov. 2 vote to bring the situation into the constructive course instead of thoughtless and groundless inciting of confrontation," the ministry said in a statement last week.

Army officer is named president of Burkina Faso

By BRAHIMA OUEDRAOGO
The Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Burkina Faso's army appointed a military officer as transitional leader on Saturday, it said, after the West African country's president resigned from 27 years in office amid violent protests against his continued power.

Lt. Col. Isaac Yacouba Zida was unanimously appointed by the army to lead Burkina Faso, the army said in a declaration. "The period of transition" its "form and duration will be determined later" after talks with others in the country, said the declaration drafted and signed after senior officers met with the joint chief of staff Saturday.

Blaise Compaore resigned Friday after protesters stormed parliament and set the building ablaze following two days of violent demonstrations against his bid to amend the constitution to stand next year for another term. His move led to the impoverished West African country in a state of uncertainty, and both Joint Chief of Staff Gen. Honore Traore and Zida had made remarks that they were in power.

Compaore, his family and those close to him had been taken in by Ivory Coast, according to a statement from the office of President Alassane Ouattara. It did not elaborate. It said Ouattara was following events "with particular attention."

Earlier Saturday, Zida said that the president's resignation amid violent street protests was an "insurrection" and not a coup, and that Compaore and a top aide were both safe.

‘Starting today, I will assume all the responsibilities of this transition and of head of state.’

Lt. Col. Isaac Yacouba Zida member of former President Blaise Compaore's security regiment

"Starting today I will assume all the responsibilities of this transition and of head of state," he said in an announcement carried on radio early Saturday.

Zida was the second in command of the president's security regiment. Having been in Burkina Faso's ranks for more than two decades, Zida is close to the president and appreciated by lower ranking soldier.

Zida called on the international community including the African Union to "support our people during this difficult ordeal." He had announced that the country's borders had been closed, a transitional committee had been set up and the constitution had been suspended.

Gen. Traore, the joint chief of staff, had on Friday told reporters that he would assume the presidency until elections were called, so Lt. Col. Zida's declaration Saturday caused initial confusion.

Burkina Faso hosts French special forces and serves as an important ally of both France and the United States in the fight against Islamic militants in West Africa.

Reach out and touch the news with the Stars and Stripes Tablet Edition

The fastest and most reliable way to get the latest military-related news, videos and photos on your iPad®

The latest Tablet Edition offers:

- All new, easy-to-read layout and design
- Dramatically fast performance and download speeds
- Beautiful, high-resolution original photography
- More categories and more articles than ever before
- Expanded photo and video galleries

All for the same great low price!

Learn more by visiting starsandstripes.com/ipad



STARS AND STRIPES
TABLET EDITION v2.0

Download is available from the Apple App Store. iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraqi peshmerga fighters prepare for Syria battle

By ELENA BECATOROS
The Associated Press

MURSIPTINAR, Turkey — Iraqi peshmerga fighters prepared Saturday to battle Islamic State group militants in the Syrian border town of Kobani, just hours after they arrived in a town that's become a focal point in the battle against the extremists.

The force brought in badly needed heavy weapons, including artillery, heavy machine guns and anti-tank missiles, material that could tip the balance of power in favor of the embattled Kurds fighting there.

Shorsh Hassan, a spokesman for the People's Protection Units, or YPG, said the peshmerga and the YPG are preparing a role for Iraqi Kurdish troops. Hassan's comments came after some 150 peshmerga fighters on Friday night entered Kobani to fight the extremist group that controls parts of the town.

"The priority will be to recapture Kobani neighborhoods that were taken by Daesh, and then the goal is to liberate all villages in the countryside of Kobani," Hassan said by telephone from Kobani, using an Arabic acronym to refer to the Islamic State group.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said

“The priority will be to recapture Kobani neighborhoods that were taken by Daesh (Islamic State militants), and then the goal is to liberate all villages in the countryside of Kobani.”

Shorsh Hassan
People's Protection Units spokesman

Saturday that the peshmerga force had yet to take part in any battles in Kobani.

Since mid-September, Islamic State group fighters have captured dozens of predominantly Kurdish villages near Kobani and entered the town they have been trying to capture for weeks.

More than 200 people have fled to Turkey, and more than 800 people have died, activists say.

Islamic State group positions in Kobani also have been targeted by more than 150 airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition over the past weeks.



Syrian Kurdish refugee Mohammad Hassan, 84, from Kobani, weeps on a hilltop on the outskirts of Suruc, Turkey, near the Turkey-Syria border.

The observatory said the Islamic State group launched another offensive Friday night on YPG-held areas in Kobani, but failed to advance.

The group, which relies on reports from activists on the ground in Syria, said more than 100 jihadi fighters have been killed over the past three days in the clashes, as well as by U.S.-led airstrikes.

An Associated Press reporter

on the Turkish side of the border facing Kobani said it sounded like several explosions struck the town early Saturday, though no more information about them was immediately available.

U.S. Central Command said Friday that American warplanes conducted four airstrikes near Kobani, damaging four Islamic State fighting positions and one building occupied by the group.

Number of terror fighters growing

By CARA ANNA
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — A new United Nations report says the world faces a challenge of foreign fighters in terror groups on an “unprecedented scale” with about 15,000 in Syria and Iraq alone.

The report by a panel of experts monitoring al-Qaida and the Taliban, obtained Friday by The Associated Press, has been submitted to the U.N. Security Council.

“Numbers since 2010 are now many times the size of the cumulative numbers of foreign terrorist fighters between 1990 and 2010 — and are growing,” the report says. The panel was set up to support the council’s al-Qaida sanctions committee.

“The panel says fighters from more than 80 countries working with al-Qaida associates in Syria and Iraq “form the core of a new diaspora that may see the threat for years to come,” and that domestic terrorism could rise as fighters return to their home countries.

The diversity of countries means wider sharing of skills and training on the ground in Syria and Iraq, the report warns.

“There are instances of foreign terrorist fighters from France, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland operating together,” it says.

The report, dated Wednesday, also says the increasingly sophisticated use of social media is giving the Islamic State group a “cosmopolitan” appearance.

But the report says it isn’t clear whether the group will rise through divisions in the wider al-Qaida network to claim dominance of the movement.

The Islamic State group has alarmed the international community with its recent sweeping gains in Syria and northwestern Iraq and with a series of videos of beheadings of foreigners.

The U.N. has been especially concerned, sponsoring a Security Council resolution in September to address the growing threat of foreign fighters in terror groups.

The resolution requires nations to bar their citizens from traveling abroad to join terrorism organizations. The U.S. and many European nations already have laws that allow them to prosecute citizens who travel to join extremist groups or even try to do so.

But the Obama administration has acknowledged that the U.N. resolution has no enforcement mechanism to make sure other countries do the same, and that the international community has no single definition of what constitutes a terrorist group.

Charting the murky Islamic State leadership structure

By ADAM TAYLOR
The Washington Post

While it's tempting to imagine them as a disorganized horde, the reality of the Islamic State — the extremist Islamist group that has taken over vast swathes of Syria and Iraq — is that the sheer scale of their military operations, not to mention their caliphate ambitions, are not possible without some kind of organized leadership structure.

In a new report on the Islamic State group, the Soufan Group has broken down graphically what we know about its leadership structure. It's a fascinating glimpse of how the group that has captured so much of the world actually operates.

First, there's the leadership. At the top there is the caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (also known as Ibrahim Awad Ibrahim al-Badri al-Samarrai), who is no doubt the best known member of the Islamic State group so far. He is the overall leader.

The Soufan Group then points to two other men: Abu Muslim al-Turkmani (Fadi Ahmad Abdullah al-Hayyali), who oversees the

Islamic State group in Iraq, and Abu Ali al-Anbari, who oversees it in Syria. Both of these men are former members of the Iraqi Ba'ath party, the report notes.

Turkmani and Anbari are believed to be members of the Shura Council, the Islamic State group's highest advisory body.

In theory, Baghdadi must run decisions near the Shura Council, which could dismiss the caliph if it fails to carry out his duties. The council is headed by Abu Arkan al-Ameri and has nine to 11 members, all of whom are believed to be from Iraq.

Another possible member of the Shura Council is Omar al-Shishani (aka Tarkhan Tayumrazovich Batrashvili), a well-known ethnic Chechen who is distinctive for his red beard and reports of his fighting prowess (the Soufan Group casts some doubt on whether Shishani, a military commander, is a member of the council).

The most powerful body of the Islamic State group, however, is the Sharia Council, which is said to have six members. It is the body that selects the caliph and oversees Sharia law. The Islamic State

there may be a council dedicated to looking after soldiers and their families.

Finally, the Soufan Group highlights a number of officials who have specific roles in the Islamic State group. Abdul Rahman al-Afari is a member of the military council who is responsible for the families of dead soldiers, for example; Abdulla Ahmad al-Mishhadani coordinates guest houses for foreign fighters. Abu Yahya al-Iraqi is with Baghdadi at all times and acts as a channel between the caliph and Abu Ali al-Anbari.

This leadership structure may seem complicated, but given the size of the land the Islamic State group has, plus the number of soldiers it now has (as many as 31,500 according to CIA estimates), such a leadership apparatus is probably necessary.

What's more alarming is that, as Soufan Group readily admits, the scope of what we know about the Islamic State group's leadership is limited and hard to verify.

“Even if a report is accurate one day, it may change the next,” the Soufan Group's report notes.

31.5K

The approximate number of soldiers fighting for the Islamic State group, according to CIA estimates.

group is also said to have recruited a number of religious scholars to help it boost its legitimacy.

Below that level are the other, less important councils. For example, there's the security and intelligence council, designed to maintain Abu Bakr's control and stop any plots against him. Then there's the Military council, designed to help fight external forces, while the provincial council deals with civilian administration of the Islamic State group's 18 provinces (it is led by Turkmani, and each province has a governor known as a wali).

The finance council, the media council and the religious affairs council are self-explanatory, and the Soufan Group also believes

WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraqi officials: Extremists line up, slay 50

By SAMEER N. YACOUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Islamic State group extremists lined up and shot dead at least 50 tribesmen and women in Iraq's Anbar province, officials said Saturday, the latest mass killing committed by the group.

The shooting happened late Friday in the village of Ras al-Maa, north of the provincial capital of Ramadi, Anbar councilman Faleh al-Issawi said.

Militants accused men and women of the Al Bu Nimr tribe of retaliating against them after being displaced from their homes when the group seized the Anbar town of Hit last month, al-Issawi said.

"These killings are taking place almost on a daily basis now in the areas under the control of the Islamic State group and they will continue unless this terrorist group is stopped," al-Issawi told The Associated Press.

An official in the Anbar govern-

nor's office confirmed the death toll. He spoke on condition of anonymity as he is not authorized to brief journalists.

On Thursday, authorities found the bodies of 48 Sunni tribesmen killed by the Islamic State group in Anbar.

The Islamic State group has overrun a large part of Anbar province in its push to expand its territory, which currently current stands at about one-third of both Iraq and Syria. Officials with the Iraqi government, as well as of-

ficials with the U.S.-led coalition targeting the extremists, repeatedly have said that Iraqi tribes are key in the fight against the Islamic State group since they are able to penetrate areas inaccessible to airstrikes and ground forces.

Meanwhile Saturday, the United Nations mission in Baghdad said that at least 1,273 Iraqis were killed in violence in October, a slight increase compared with last month amid the Islamic State group's assault.

The U.N. report said violence killed 856 civilians and 417 members of Iraq's security forces, while attacks wounded 2,010 Iraqis.

The worst-hit city was Baghdad, with 379 civilians killed, the report said.

The U.N. figures do not take into account casualties in Anbar province nor some other militant-held parts of Iraq.

The U.N. has said September's death toll was 1,119 Iraqis killed.



LORELEI VANDER GRIEND, COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

Fire drill

Sailors fight a simulated fire during a flight deck casualty drill Oct. 23 aboard the aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush in the Persian Gulf. The aircraft carrier is deployed as part of operations targeting Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria.

Fearing uprising, Iraq militants hunt down former police, soldiers

By SAMEER N. YACOUB
AND SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Islamic State group is conducting a purge, killing dozens of former policemen and soldiers living in areas of Iraq under its control, in a campaign apparently aimed at preventing any uprising against its extremist rule.

Former officers have been gunned down in their homes, rounded up and shot in groups or killed in public squares as an example to others in recent weeks, particularly in the northern city of Mosul, the largest city in the swath of territory bridging Iraq and neighboring Syria that the militant group controls.

The campaign appears aimed at shoring up the extremists' hold at a time when it is being hit by the U.S.-led international air campaign and has lost some ground to Kurdish fighters and Shiite militias.

In one recent killing, Islamic State group gunmen last week stormed the home of former police Col. Mohammed Hassan, in Mosul. Hassan and his son fought back, killing three attackers before they were gunned down.

The militants then hung his mutilated body from a fence for several days near his home as an example, according to two residents who witnessed the battle and were aware of the events leading up to it. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Hassan was among some Sunnis in the security forces who surrendered, handed over their weapons and pledged to cut ties with the police when the Islamic State group overran Mosul in June. In return, the militants gave them "repentance badges" granting them some safety. But now, the Islamic State group suspected Hassan was engaging in activities against it.

The campaign of killings adds a new, bloody chapter in the Islamic State group's legacy. In its blitz capturing a swath of Iraq and neighboring Syria, it gained a grisly notoriety for butchering its opponents and members of sects it considers heretical.

Human Rights Watch on Thursday said that the extremists carried out a mass killing of around 600 Shiite Muslim inmates being held in Mosul's main prison when the group captured the city in June. The Shiites were separated from several hundred Sunni and Christian inmates who were set free, then the Shiites — along with a number of Kurds and Yazidis — were forced to kneel on the edge of a nearby ravine and were mowed down with automatic weapons, Human Rights Watch said in a report, based on interviews with survivors.

But killings of former police are of a new, different sort — a campaign to eliminate those who the extremists fear could become the nucleus of a revolt against their control.

In new killings, the militants on Wednesday paraded 30 Sunni tribal fighters through the western city of Hit then shot them all to death on a main street, according to a provincial official and other residents. Their bodies were found later that day, followed by another mass grave of 48 tribal fighters discovered on Thursday. The fighters, mostly from the Al Bu Nimr tribe, were captured when the extremists overran Hit earlier in the month.

Mosul, the largest city in the group's self-styled "caliphate," has seen increased killings. Last week, Mosul's governor, Atiyya al-Najafi, who was driven out of the city in the militant takeover, said pro-government Sunni militias were being formed in the city, made up of mainly of former army and police officers.

Soon after, Islamic State group militants rounded up 20 former police officers from villages south of Mosul. Hours later, their bodies — all with gunshot to the head — were handed over to the morgue, according to morgue officials.

There have been similar slayings elsewhere under the extremists' domain in the past weeks. Three days ago, IS fighters shot to death two former army officers and three policemen in a public square in the northern city of Beji, residents said. They announced to a crowd that the men had carried out mortar attacks on the militant positions in the city, according to the residents.

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 robert.reid@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
 weyrteddie@stripes.com
 (+1)202/761.0908; DSN (312)/763.0908
 +49(0)131.365.19310; 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)583.1673
 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,
 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/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 454502, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 454502, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a result, the contents of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or delivery without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or delivery without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014

stripes.com

OPINION

Privacy rules followed to the letter?

By ANN McFEATHERS
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

There are a few givens about mail: It's not much fun anymore—even grandmothers remembering your birthday know about direct deposit; everybody likes the mail carrier, who waxes to you whether you have the flu, chicken pox or Ebola; everybody wants Saturday deliveries.

Oh yes. Forever stamps—what are those all about? If you keep dozens of stamps issued years ago, you'll pay a little less to mail a letter today. But if you are like most people, you buy a few stamps and then post your letters.

But the big news about the U.S. Postal Service is that it is monitoring our mail. Incompetently and intrusively.

According to a "surveillance audit" done by the postal inspector general (a person of great power but no gun), which the sleuths at the New York Times uncovered, nearly 50,000 requests from law enforcement officials for mail monitoring were approved last year. Often, no reason was given. Sometimes there wasn't even a written request.

Naturally, this stems from the excesses of the Patriot Act after the 9/11 attacks. I can hear your sighs. Well, whatever. They already read our emails and listen to our phones. Of course, they check our mail.

Sadly, most of our mail isn't all that interesting any more. It's the same bills, fliers, magazines, catalogues, advertising circulars and appeals for money we got last week and will get again next week and the week after that. Etc. Etc. Etc. Right

By MARTIN SCHRAM
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

With its gush of deceptive, distorting video ads, Campaign 2014 has at least given this: three out of the four branches of Washington's governance clearly have seen the light about dark money in politics.

Most politically savvy players in three branches—the executive branch, legislative branch and, yes, the news media branch (it's time we admit that we too are players in how things happen in Washington)—now grasp the corrosive impact of the so-called "dark" or secret money in politics. Recent news stories make clear that record money amounts are flooding into our campaigns from sources that are not clear to voters. But of course it is never secret from the politicians.

Only the judicial branch—and here we are just talking about the U.S. Supreme Court's five-vote majority of conservative activists who gave us today's campaign mess—still shows no sign of grasping the reality all others see. Namely, the dark money they called constitutional is gravely distorting the principles and undermining the practice of democracy the Founders believed they were creating.

And finally, today's cram course in hardcore civics must lay bare one reality that none of Washington's four branches of de facto governance really understands: Our government now operates by a de facto system of public financing of campaigns. It's not quite the one liberals began championing in the post-Watergate 1970s. But make no mistake—campaigns are being financed by money that comes out of

now we're all getting pieces of election mail but apparently that's not a crime and the government already knows about it.

Does the government think the terrorists write each other about their plans? "Hey, Ahmed, we're all set for that bombing they we talked about."

So many Americans get gun magazines, the source is possibly be of any use to the authorities.

But the authorities, who make the rules, say they find gold mines of information by reading addresses and such, learning about financial irregularities, pornography and fraud, among other criminal acts. Apparently, they are not supposed to hold envelopes up to the light or steam them open without a warrant. We must have faith they won't do that.

The Times found, possibly unsurprisingly, that the incompetence of the Postal Service caused it to process law enforcement requests far too late (terrorists and creepy neighbors had long moved on) or gave the same tracking number to different requests.

It gets even better. The Postal Service posted the audit concluding that its incompetence could hamper legitimate investigations and even "harm the Postal Service's brand" on its own website: Who could make this up!

It may not surprise you that the Postal Service says it doesn't have enough money to pay so many people using the Internet and calling each other instead of mailing letters. (And Amazon hasn't even started using drones to deliver its goods yet.)

So the Postal Service keeps seeking

higher prices for stamps and mailing stuff. Letters now cost 49 cents to mail, and in September the cost of mailing priority packages went up. The Postal Service hopes to raise \$2 billion more a year from higher prices.

While most Americans don't find out they are being monitored, some do. An Arizona woman who criticized the immigration policies of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, who has been found guilty of racial profiling and openly touts unfair treatment of immigrants, found Arpaio was given information about her mail by the Postal Service. Claiming the monitoring damaged her business, she sued the county and won.

Did you know that the Postal Service uses a mail imaging program to photograph the exterior of every piece of paper mail sent in the United States? Do you suppose the holding agencies have to check all images? Talk about bad job! On the other hand, just monitoring the mail of any average American household would be tedious enough.

Not to worry. This is the official response: "The U.S. Postal Service will continue to ensure the sanctity and privacy of the U.S. Mail and protect the safety of its employees and customers." Whew!

Concerned about its "brand," the Postal Service undoubtedly soon will start its national advertising campaign about mailing. The holding agencies will be in for a treat. Don't fret about carefully wrapping them. The Postal Service will make that task moot.

Ann McFeathers is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

Change needed for corrupt campaign finance

our potential tax dollars. It's the most costly and least efficient way of doing it. And we're stuck with it until we recognize the problem and fix it.

Here goes. First, consider the problem of limitless, dark or secret campaign money. In two 5-4 decisions, the Supreme Court freed billionaires from having to comply with strict limits on how much they can spend in electing politicians. It also freed them from the scrutiny that comes when voters know who paid for ads as they are watching and perhaps believing.

In 2010, the Supreme Court reversed decades of campaign finance regulations by ruling it is unconstitutional to limit political spending by corporations, unions and even the richest individuals. Then last April the court, in its McCutcheon case ruling, declared unconstitutional all limits on how much wealthy individuals can directly give to candidates for federal offices and to political party committees.

In those rulings, the scales of justice became the ones that ended up covering the eyes of the court's conservative majority. In the majority opinion, Justice Anthony Kennedy actually wrote: "In fact, there is only scant evidence that independent expenditures even ingratiate. Ingratiation and access, in any event, are not corruption."

Last April, Chief Justice John Roberts, in writing the Court's McCutcheon opinion, seemed to define the Earth as both round and flat at the same time. Lifting contribution limits was OK, he wrote, because public disclosure will keep things honest. "Finally, disclosure of contributions minimizes the potential for abuse of the campaign finance system. ... (and may)

deter actual corruption and avoid the appearance of corruption by exposing large contributions and expenditures to the light of publicity."

But Roberts later wrote that such public disclosure might never happen because their laws allow individuals to spend money via so-called independent groups: "The existing aggregate limits may in fact encourage the movement of money away from entities subject to disclosure."

Finally, consider this three-point reality that proves we actually have a form of public financing—done in the worst possible way.

One: Candidates pay for dollars, seeking-demanding campaign money from lobbyists whose special interests are regulated by the candidates' congressional committees.

Two: The special interests invest money in the candidates' elections, because they will later need favors in the form of tax write-offs and loopholes. It is money the special interests will get to keep that would otherwise be federal revenue.

Three: Later the special interests receive favors worth billions of would-be tax dollars, a spectacular return on their campaign investments.

That's the system we have. It's the most wasteful public financing of campaigns you could imagine.

Think tanks, concerned citizens and representatives must now work to enact rules or constitutional amendments that will fix our undemocratic and wasteful campaign finance mess.

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

OPINION

Gun limits vital to women who need them

By REKHA BASU

The Des Moines (Iowa) Register

What wasn't said

everything.
Gabby Giffords came to Des Moines last month to talk with women about gun safety. But after a few opening sentences, the former congresswoman from Arizona didn't speak again.

And that fact spoke louder than anything anyone could have said about the need to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

It was nearly three years ago that Giffords, now 44, was shot in the head while holding a public meeting with constituents outside a Tucson supermarket. At first it was unclear if she would survive — six other people at the scene did not — and then if she'd be able to read or write, walk or talk.

She walks with a cane now. When there is something to applaud, she does it by slapping one hand against a knee; the other is paralyzed. She still has trouble talking thanks to a condition called aphasia, which sometimes makes it hard to understand speech or writing, or to call up the right words. It's associated with strokes and head injuries.

It happened to "Gabby," as she is widely known, because a mentally ill man with a history of drug abuse who spouted conspiracy theories and didn't think women should hold political office could buy a 9 mm pistol from a sportsman's store and fire on a crowd.

"Dangerous people with guns are a threat to women," Giffords said firmly but haltingly. "Criminals with guns, abusers with guns, stalkers with guns. That makes gun violence a women's issue — for mothers, for families, for me and you."

Giffords was on a nine-state tour with the

organization she co-founded with her husband, retired astronaut Mark Kelly (both gun owners) called Americans for Responsible Solutions. They did so in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Connecticut. Its fact sheet explains why this is a women's issue:

Women in America are 11 times more likely to be killed by a gun than women in other advanced industrialized countries.

In the 12 years ending in 2013, more U.S. women were killed by intimate partners using guns — close to 6,500 — than U.S. troops were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

The risk of death in a domestic dispute increases fivefold when there's a gun available.

This is the time of year, before elections, when organizations are out lobbying hard for their issues. It might be human-services spending or the federal debt. It may be climate change or agricultural subsidies. But it was clear from this panel of women, in law enforcement, domestic violence prevention, human and civil rights, that this one is already an issue for them.

The immediate priority for Giffords' organization is fixing weaknesses in federal and state laws. At the federal level, even though people convicted of domestic abuse and felony stalking can't legally buy guns, those convicted of misdemeanor stalking can. And the domestic abuse prohibition doesn't apply to dating relationships, though in 2008 almost half of all domestic violence homicides were committed against someone who was or had been a dating partner.

Proposed fixes to the law also would prohibit people under temporary restraining orders from owning firearms, expand federal background checks and improve



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Former Rep. Gabby Giffords, D-Ariz., speaks in support of Initiative 594, a measure seeking universal background checks on gun sales and transfers, last month in Seattle.

domestic violence records submissions to the national crime database. Another gun-safety organization, Moms Demand Action, notes that in 29 states, convicted stalkers can buy and own guns.

Giffords sat and listened as women talked about particular acts of gun violence, polls and loopholes. She nodded, leaned forward, occasionally wrinkled her forehead and applauded as the situation demanded. But she didn't talk.

I returned to the office stirred by her determined demeanor despite the horrible reality of what was done to her, only to get another reality check. It was a news release from the organization Iowa Gun Owners.

"Gun-grabbers will only be more emboldened if they can attack our gun rights in the legislative session and feel no pushback in their districts when election season comes along," it said. So it was distributing scorecards showing how every state legislator had voted on guns.

"Gun-control zealots in Iowa are learning a painful lesson," said the news release. "If you come after our gun rights, you will be held accountable."

Painful? They don't understand the meaning of that word. They should meet Gabby Giffords.

Rekha Basu is a Des Moines Register columnist.

Will Holder revisit his poor press-protection legacy?

By DAVID A. SCHULZ

As Eric Holder reflects on his six years as attorney general, one disturbing aspect of his legacy should give him significant pause. On Holder's watch, legal protections traditionally afforded to communications between reporters and sources have been torn down, potentially for years to come the media's ability to uncover and report on government missteps. The attorney general should acknowledge the problems and address them before leaving office.

Holder has faced harsh criticism for reducing two related strategies that undermined reporter-source communications. The first denied that any "reporter's privilege" exists — and just this year the Supreme Court let stand an appellate court ruling adopting Holder's position.

That ruling came in response to a prosecutor's demand that Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter James Risen disclose his source in a report on the CIA's effort to subvert Iran's nuclear program. Although a reporter's privilege has been recognized for decades in other contexts, a divided court of appeals accepted the Justice Department's argument that no evidentiary privilege allowed Risen's refusal to identify his source in a criminal prosecution. Under this ruling, the question of whether to require a reporter to reveal a source rests with the prosecutor alone.

The ruling is an unflinching rejection of a reporter's right to make a binding promise of confidentiality in exchange for information. It is a criminal assault on the foundation of trust needed for effective



Holder

investigative reporting and threatens to limit severely disclosures by government whistleblowers. That Holder's Justice Department fought for just this ruling caused some media lawyers to label this administration "worse than Nixon" for the free press.

The impact of this ruling is compounded by a second Holder strategy: relaxing regulations limiting prosecutors' surreptitious surveillance of reporters' communications.

For years, there have been relatively few subpoenas for reporters' telephone records or email, primarily due to strict Justice Department rules respecting the confidentiality of reporters' communications. Adopted in the 1970s after disclosures of the Nixon administration's misuse of government investigatory powers against "enemy" reporters, the rules limited when prosecutors could secretly obtain reporters' records. Department policy recognized that "freedom of the press can be no broader than the freedom of reporters to investigate" and expressly restricted federal prosecutors from using their investigatory powers in ways that "might impair the news gathering function." Prosecutors got the message.

In its zeal to hunt down whistleblowers, however, Holder's Justice Department expansively reinterpreted these rules. In one leak investigation, it secretly seized records for 20 phone lines used by doz-

ens of Associated Press reporters over two months, even though the department knew the identities of the two reporters to whom the information was leaked and the days the leak occurred. In another investigation, the department told a court in a sealed affidavit that there was probable cause to believe a Fox News reporter violated the Espionage Act simply by asking a government source for confidential information, an accusation Holder now says he regrets. The unprecedented charge of criminality was made to obtain a warrant for the reporter's email, even though the department had no intention of prosecuting him.

After the uproar last year when these seizures became public, President Barack Obama instructed Holder to review the department's rules for obtaining information from reporters. When revised rules were released, however, they set off new alarms. The revisions made important improvements, covering modern forms of communication, closing the loophole that permitted the secret seizure of the AP's records and extending the rules to cover search warrant applications as was used to get the Fox email. But the new Holder guidelines provided greater discretion for subpoenaing reporters and significantly watered down the message conveyed by the old rules — that prosecutors should rarely compel reporters to divulge information.

Gone is the explicit instruction to prosecutors not to "impair the news gathering function," replaced by a vague admonition to avoid issuing subpoenas if they "might unreasonably impair ordinary newsgathering activities." The rules provide no guidance for prosecutors of what actually

constitutes "ordinary newsgathering" and new criteria to invite more subpoenas. New provisions can be read to eliminate the safeguards for reporters' communications at the request of the director of national intelligence. And they omit previous restrictions on the retention and use of seized information.

There is still time for Holder to make the corrections that are clearly needed. Without some legal protection for reporters' communications, essential sources of information inevitably will dry up. This truth was well understood by one of Holder's predecessors as attorney general — Robert Jackson — who in 1941 refused to release FBI reports to Congress because disclosure "would be of serious prejudice to the future usefulness of" the FBI. As he explained, some of the most valuable information obtained by the FBI "can only be obtained upon a pledge not to disclose its sources."

The same is true for news sources. The government may not like leaks about the Department of Veterans Affairs or CIA secret prisons, but our democracy depends on whistleblowers who will often talk to reporters only "upon a pledge not to disclose" their sources. If he wants to avoid being remembered forever as "worse than Nixon," the attorney general must act to correct these missteps.

David A. Schulz is a First Amendment lawyer and co-director of the Media Freedom and Information Access Clinic at Yale Law School. He has provided counsel to The Associated Press regarding the seizure of its phone records by the Justice Department. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

40 face drug charges, including police officer

NJ CAMDEN — Authorities said a Camden County police officer is among 40 people charged in connection with a drug trafficking network.

Authorities said the police department alerted prosecutors that Officer Ashley Bailey's husband was a member of the network.

They said Bailey accessed confidential information and alerted targets of the investigation. The 28-year-old is charged with official misconduct, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and making terroristic threats. Bailey's husband's brother is among three people suspected of leading the network, which operated in Camden and the surrounding suburbs.

Investigators believe the operation engaged in drug sales valued at approximately \$1.2 million annually. Authorities have seized 8,000 bags of heroin, 1,000 bags of crack cocaine, 10 pounds of marijuana, and four firearms, including an automatic rifle.

Parachutist rescued from television tower

MO ST. LOUIS — Firefighters rescued a parachutist who became stuck on the wires of a broadcast tower about 125 feet off of the ground and dangled for about two hours.

First responders were dispatched on Thursday night after the man's parachute became stuck on the wires connected to the KETC-TV tower in south St. Louis County. Authorities haven't said where he jumped from.

A firefighter climbed the tower and passed an anchor to the man, who released himself from his parachute and was lowered to the ground. The man was taken from the scene in an ambulance. His identity hasn't been released.

145 minors arrested for drinking at party

DE NEWARK — Police in Newark said they've arrested 145 minors caught drinking at a party.

Newark police said Wednesday that officers saw a loud party on Saturday afternoon and soon discovered that minors were drinking there. After serving a search warrant, officers arrested 145 minors, including three who were younger than 18. All of them were turned over to their parents.

Police said they're planning to arrest three residents of the home on 145 charges of providing alcohol to minors, two counts of marijuana possession and three counts each of noise violation and failure to get a permit for a gathering of more than 150 people.

X-ray shows tortoise swallowed

FL MIAMI — The source of a sick tortoise's discomfort became clear after a South Florida veterinarian took an X-ray. The animal had swallowed a turtle pendant.

Dr. Don Harris said the 15-pound male African spurred tortoise named Lola hadn't pooped

THE CENSUS

\$250

The amount accepted by a woman to end a 2-year-old lawsuit against Starbucks over the company's decision to stop making discs for a specific single-serve coffee machine. Pam Montgomery, of Okemos, Mich., said she bought a Tassimo brewer because of the Starbucks coffee discs. But Starbucks came up with its own machine. Tassimo can make other coffees, but attorney Timothy McCarthy Jr. said Montgomery wanted a machine to brew Starbucks coffee. It's "gold," he said. In a court filing, Starbucks attorney Ed Perdue said the coffee giant never promised Tassimo discs would be made forever.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Horror at the Gates of Hell

People react to a mock execution in the Gates of Hell haunted house in Las Vegas. The haunted house is billed as an "R-rated haunted attraction" and, according to JT Mollner, a managing partner of Freakling Bros., which runs the attraction, about one in five groups are terrified they exit the house early.

for a month and began acting sick over the weekend. Lola's owner brought him to the Avian & Exotic Animal Medical Center in Miami, which Harris co-owns.

After an X-ray, Harris spotted the small, turtle-shaped object inside his patient.

Lola's owner told Harris she didn't recognize the pendant, but Harris said tortoises graze like cattle. They eat grass, plants and other vegetation, sometimes consuming rocks and other objects as well.

Harris is keeping Lola at his clinic, trying to get the pendant to pass. If that fails, surgery may follow.

Man who posted lyrics won't face charges

KY LOUISVILLE — Prosecutors have dismissed a felony charge against a western Kentucky man arrested for posting violent song lyrics to his Facebook page.

The lyrics James E. Evans posted in August included the words "student bodies lying dead in the halls" and prompted complaints to school officials in Muhlenberg

County. Evans was charged with terroristic threatening and spent eight days in jail because he said he could not afford the \$1,000 bond.

The case attracted the attention of the American Civil Liberties Union, which called for his case to be dismissed. His attorney, Bill Sharp, with the Kentucky ACLU, said the charge was dismissed on Monday.

2 teens hurt in car hood-surfing accident

NV LAS VEGAS — Police said two teenagers were hurt in an apparent hood-surfing accident after an overnight bonfire party in a desert area outside Las Vegas.

Las Vegas Officer Richard Strader told KVVU-TV Fox 3 that both male teens were thrown from their perches atop the vehicle when it swerved out of control a little before 5 a.m. Friday near the eastern end of Sahara Avenue.

Both were taken to University Medical Center, where Strader said one was being treated for severe head trauma. Strader said the female vehicle

driver was arrested on a felony drunken driving charge.

The names of those involved weren't immediately made public.

Police seize THC-laced chocolate bars, taffy

MD UPPERMARLBORO — Prince George's County police said they've seized several boxes of candy infused with marijuana.

Police said Friday that the candy came to the area from the West Coast and Colorado and includes taffy and chocolate bars.

Each piece of candy seized, they said, had about 100 milligrams of THC.

Police said it's the first time they've seen that type of product in their jurisdiction and wanted to make parents aware of the seizure ahead of Friday's trick-or-treating.

Dalai Lama explains 'key to happiness'

NJ PRINCETON — Thousands poured into Princeton University's gymnasium

Tuesday to hear wisdom from the man in the orange baseball cap.

"What is the key to happiness?" a student asked him.

The Dalai Lama, 79, thought for a moment and said, "Money." And as laughter began rippling through the room, he added: "Or sex."

"But no one was laughing louder than the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism, on campus and wearing a Princeton cap in addition to his traditional robes, to deliver a lecture titled "Develop the Heart."

His Holiness was only kidding about the money and sex, of course, and once the laughter had died down, he returned to the theme of his talk.

"Develop inner strength. Self-confidence," he said, touching his left hand to his heart. "But sometimes self-confidence can be negative."

It should be driven instead by compassion, he said, "so you carry your work, your actions truthfully, honestly ... transparently."

From wire reports

ENTERTAINMENT

'It's really fun to be a **BAD GUY**'



John Carroll Lynch stars as Twisty the Clown on "American Horror Story: Freak Show." The program attracted an audience of 10 million viewers for its season premiere.

'American Horror Story' actor John Carroll Lynch is scary good

BY GINA MCINTYRE
Los Angeles Times

When "American Horror Story" creator Ryan Murphy first contacted actor John Carroll Lynch about a possible role on the fourth season of his gleefully deranged hit, he was upfront about his aims for a new character, a silent, grinning killer straight out of a child's nightmare.

"He described it in a way that I understood it to be somebody calling me up and going, 'We'd like you to play my version of the Phantom of the Opera,'" Lynch recalled recently. "He said he wanted to create the most terrifying clown in the history of television."

By all accounts, he succeeded. Lynch's Twisty the Clown has become the chief talking point of "American Horror Story: Freak Show," quite an achievement considering Murphy stocked the latest season of his Emmy-winning anthology series with conjoined twins, a bearded Kathy Bates and a three-breasted hermaphrodite played by Angela Bassett.

The artistic grandchild of Tod Browning's "Freaks" and Katherine Dunn's cult novel "Geek Love," "Freak Show" centers on stardom-obsessed Elsa Mars (Jessica Lange), who brings her carnival to Jupiter, Fla., in 1952 and soon recruits conjoined sisters Dot and Bette Tattler (Sarah Paulson) into her revue, certain that they'll revive flagging interest in the show.

But the locals greet the performers with hostility and suspicion, which only intensifies after a series of inexplicable murders and abductions shocks the sleepy Southern town.

Unlike Elsa's circus, "Freak Show" had no trouble attracting viewers when it debuted this month. A total of 10 million people watched the season premiere, making it the most watched program in the history of FX.

Not surprisingly, the show already has been renewed for a fifth season, and Murphy is also creating a companion series, "American Crime Story."

Not everyone was pleased with what they saw, however — some children's entertainers complained that Twisty was likely to exacerbate coulrophobia, the fear of clowns. And they might have a point.

In his first moments on screen, Twisty, wearing stained satin ruffles and a mask of giant teeth, interrupts a lov-

ers' lakeside picnic, presenting a young woman with plastic flowers before stabbing her boyfriend to death on their red, checkered blanket. He imprisons his living victims in an abandoned school bus hidden in a remote locale.

Lynch insists, though, that while Twisty is a terrifying villain, he's more than just a mute slasher, and upcoming installments of the show, including a two-part Halloween episode, will reveal telling details about his personal story.

"It's great to play a character that is so starkly drawn, and it's really fun to be a bad guy," Lynch said. "In this case I really like that Ryan and the writers have provided not only a really terrific, scary character, but also they provided a lot of humanity that you'll learn about as the season progresses."

"I think a lesser actor would have thought of it as a ghoul or something two-dimensional and just walked around and wore the makeup and would have done nothing else," said Finn Wittrock, who plays Twisty's "acolyte" Dandy Mott on the series. "John, even when he's just walking around, he's really doing the work of an actor and finding some emotional depth. As the episodes go on, you learn a lot more about Twisty's humanity, so he gets to show his chops a little bit more."

Originally from Colorado, Lynch, 51, has been a working actor for decades, with dozens of credits to his name. He played the cross-dressing, down-on-his-luck older brother on "The Drew Carey Show," contract killer Varly Stroud on HBO's earlier sideshow-themed series "Carnivale" and, more recently, a KGB informant on FX's acclaimed spy drama "The Americans." He's appeared in films directed by David Fincher ("Zodiac"), Clint Eastwood ("Gran Torino") and Martin Scorsese ("Shutter Island") and had an especially memorable turn as the doting husband to Frances McDormand's Marge Gunderson in the Coen brothers' murder mystery "Fargo" ("I'll fix ya some eggs").

When weighing whether to play Twisty, Lynch said he found himself intrigued by the hurdles he'd need to leap for the role.

"I knew that the character was going to be primarily silent, and that was a challenge," he said. "I knew the character, most of his face was going to be covered, and that was a challenge. It's like if you were boxing and somebody said, 'We'd like you to fight that guy, but we'd like you to fight that guy just with your feet and we'll tie your hands behind your back!' I would say no to that challenge, but I said yes to this one."

For the record, Lynch said he's not frightened of clowns. "I don't have any issues with clowns - I feel like I owe them an apology, in some ways," he said. "My crazy fear is I'm always afraid my keys are going to fall down a subway grate when I walk over it. I'm afraid they're going to jump out of my pocket and fall down. Isn't that stupid?"

The actor described the experience of seeing himself for the first time in full costume as "macabre, to say the least." He made balloon animals during the roughly 90 minutes it took for makeup artists to apply the character's skullcap and sadistic smile, a prosthetic appliance that covers the bottom portion of Lynch's face.

"When I'm running, it cuts off my air supply pretty well, so that can be uncomfortable," Lynch said. "And the whole thing is very hot, especially (when we were shooting) in New Orleans in the middle of the summer. But I guess: What price beauty?"

Given Twisty's extreme look, the character is one sure to inspire legends of Halloween costumes. But Lynch has a suggestion for fans considering dressing as the murderous clown for the holiday — maybe don't. "I heard from other people on Twitter that they're very excited about Twisty Halloween costumes, and all I can think is, 'You people are nuts!'" Lynch said with a laugh. "You have no idea what you're getting yourself into. How're you going to have a nice apple cider? Go as a princess. Come on."

“ I heard from other people on Twitter that they're very excited about Twisty Halloween costumes, and all I can think is, 'You people are nuts!' ”

MUSIC

6 Country albums worth a listen

By Joy Tipping/The Dallas Morning News

I spend a LOT of money on country music every fall, and this year has been no exception, with an amazing crop of new CDs. (Yes, I still buy CDs. So sue me. Listen to them however you like, legally; just listen!) These are the six recent (and about to be released) ones I'm enjoying most right now.



"Jeff Bridges & The Abiders Live." Never thought I'd say it, but I love Jeff Bridges even more as a singer than I cherish him as the Dude in *The Big Lebowski*. Of course, the band's name refers back to "The dude abides," as he always will. This CD is chock-full of Americana/Country that'll tear at your soul.

Top download: "To Live Is To Fly," by Townes Van Zandt.



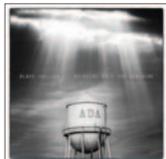
"747," Lady Antebellum. I used to go good-naturedly (at least I hope it was taken that way) tease Hillary Scott a bit for her squeaky, Minnie Mouse-ish stage voice (she sounded much better in a recording studio). But she's obviously taken vocal training seriously and now she (and her bandmates) sound simply terrific, onstage or on record. Listening to this CD, I was reminded of Little Big Town, which is the highest compliment I can pay a country band.

Top download: "Down South."



"Sundown Heaven Town," Tim McGraw. I had to warm up to this one with a few listens, but now I'm totally adoring it. It's infectious, kinda-old, kinda-new country that will give you endless earworms.

Top download: "Meanwhile Back at Mama's," a duet with wife Faith Hill.



"Bringing Back the Sunshine," Blake Shelton. He's a superstar because of "The Voice," but this guy's been building a career forever, and it shows. Every CD gets better, and he gets just a little more lovably, er, plucky on each one. Love the shout-out to his hometown of Ada, Okla., whose water tower is on the CD cover.

Top download: "Kiss My (expletive)." See what I mean about "plucky"?



"Old Boots, New Dirt," Jason Aldean. It's got not only top-notch musicianship and writing, it's passionate, hot (as in sexy) and loaded with cool musical riffs.

Top download: "Burnin' It Down," an unexpected ballad that'll have you bringing out your lighter to hold up, even if you're just listening in your dark living room.



"Pain Killer," Little Big Town. I saved this one for last, even though it's my favorite of the bunch, because it just dropped last week. The critic's advance copy was playing in my car and in my head pretty much nonstop since I got it; this harmony-focused band has never sounded better. My big wish: That sweet-voiced Kimberly Schlapman would get as big a hit off this album as the other three members have had previously (the four take turns on lead vocals).

Top download: Honesty? Every single one of them. But I'll choose the Schlapman-led "Good People," because I want people to notice her fabulousness.



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Trippy tribute

Flaming Lips fail with full-length 'Sgt. Pepper' cover

The Flaming Lips

With a Little Help from My Friends (Warner Bros.)

Ever wonder what "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" would sound like sung by robots? Me neither, but here's the answer:

The Flaming Lips have recorded a full-length tribute to the Beatles' 1967 album, and the music is even more far-out and psychedelic than the landmark original. This daft pop is silly, bombastic, druggy, irreverent and ruddy, with lots of drums and blasts, but it's not much fun or funny.

The songs lack the melodic charm and rhythmic bounce of the Fab Four renditions. Instead, there's so much distortion not even "Lovely Rita" is pretty.

And if the goal is merely to be weird, the Lips don't come close to matching William Shtatner, who established the standard for bizarre Beatles covers when he sang "Lucy In the Sky With Diamonds." There's no Shtatner here, but guest appearances by Miley Cyrus, Moby, My



Morning Jacket and J Mascis — among others — fail to salvage the set.

The Lips forgo the famous sustained chord to conclude "A Day In the Life." Instead, the song and album end abruptly, as if someone finally wised up and pulled the plug.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press

Jessie Ware

Tough Love (Interscope)

Jessie Ware's "Tough Love" is lovely, and that's not a tepid endorsement. No, the English singer's sophomore disc is lovely in the way of a sunset or a cruise around the lazy river after a long day at the waterpark.

The whole thing is a pleasure to enjoy, with Ware laying bare heraches and pains over a series of down-tempo tracks, her vocals easing listeners from song to song like a gentle current.

The title track and lead single, produced by BenZel (the duo that includes heavy-hit

ter Benny Blanco), has Prince-in-the-'80s written all over it, and Ware certainly does the vibe justice. She channels the music icon again on "You & I (Forever)," a gem that credits fellow Prince fan, R&B singer Miguel, who also lends his songwriting help on the deliciously sultry R&B track, "Kind of, Sometimes. Maybe."

"Sweetest Song" nearly lives up to its title, thanks to lush layers of guitars and echoing background vocals. "Champagne Kisses" is fun, and the vocal harmonies of "Keep on Lying" are nothing short of beautiful.

Ware's easygoing pace sometimes works against her, increasing the likelihood that

listeners are lulled into listening on autopilot. But an unexpected musical build-up or twist, such as in the final minute or so of the Ed Sheeran-assisted "Say You Love Me," does a good job of keeping ears engaged.

Other times, like on "Pieces," Ware arrests attention from the beginning. "It's illogical, I was nothing without you, you oughta know, I was lost when I found you," she sings, exerting her voice over a striking arrangement of strings.

"Tough Love" isn't for everyone, but of course, neither are sunsets or lazy rivers.

— Melanie J. Sims
The Associated Press



MUSIC



Haters gonna H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E., H.A.T.E.

Taylor Swift's '1989':
A pivot into pop,
a misstep into
conformity

Taylor Swift

ANDREW ESTEY, INVISION/AP

By CHRIS RICHARDS
The Washington Post

Taylor Swift's "1989" — an anti-septic pop album scrubbed of any greasy country music fingerprints — qualifies as a rare and exquisite dud. When it's triumphant, it's like that Super Bowl Sunday when your team is up 42 points at the half. When it's bland, it's like nosing on empty calories in a dream you won't remember. Sometimes, somehow, it's both.

But above all, it's shrewd. The album's first single, "Shake It Off," preemptively shushes any criticism Swift might have shouldered for officially renouncing Nashville — and she does it with a cascading refrain that's pure pop. "Haters gonna hate, hate, hate, hate, hate," she chirps. "Baby, I'm just gonna shake, shake, shake, shake, shake — shake it off."

She sure sounds comfy inside that armor. Which is weird, right? One of the most powerful entertainers on the planet shouldn't have to sing in a defensive crouch. But in addition to penning real-talk mega-hits about breakups, make-ups, flame-outs and happily-ever-afters, Swift is always honing the illusion that she's an underdog — a global superstar earnestly beseeching our sympathies, our ears and our dollars.

"1989" makes that illusion seem more ridiculous than ever. Named after the year she was born, the 24-year-old's fifth album has all the pomp and razzmatazz of a big career pivot. But as a pop record,



Taylor Swift

1989 (Big Machine Records)

it's ultimately a declaration of conformity. Swift wants to sound like everybody else. And she wants to be the best at it, too.

In a society that seeks constant validation through social media, "1989" serves as a conformist power fantasy that might resonate more than we'd like to admit — because it's also a big, dull gesture we're expected to applaud no matter what. Clap a little louder or be excommunicated to the valley of the haters. Those are your options in this ludicrous world.

Sonically, the world Swift curates on "1989" couldn't sound more familiar: She's assembled an arsenal of weapons-grade radio pop, largely with the help of Max Martin, the Swedish producer who

knows how to make Swift's hooks sound like reincarnated new-wave hits. Drum machines and synthesizers, good; acoustic guitars and decorative mandolins, bad.

These new envoirs feel light-years away from old Nashville, and they invite Swift to twist her voice in new ways. Unfortunately, her mild vocal acrobatics frequently expose the clunkiness of her lyrics. "Darling, I'm a nightmare dressed like a daydream," she talk-sings with an awkward wave of the finger on "Blank Space," a buzzy song that rightfully bites back at the bogus, boy-crazy image the tabloids have been burnishing of Swift in recent years.

Meantime, her worst lyrics lurk in the album's book-ended odes to life in her new home of New York City. The chorus of "Welcome To New York" rings out like a desperate and over-caffeinated tourism jingle ("Welcome to New York — It's been waiting for you!"), while the hook of "New Romantics," a feisty bonus track, registers somewhere between mody emo and the back pages of a high school literary magazine. ("Heartbreak is the national anthem/ We sing it proudly.")

She's gone from describing adolescence like an adult to describing adulthood like an adolescent — all of which begins to undermine the long-running Swiftian myth that there's a secret power in being profoundly uncool. Where is Taylor taking us on this grand odyssey of uncoolness? To a rom-com fairy-tale Manhattan that doesn't actually exist? To a new wave '80s

she never got to live through? To contemporary pop music's most tame and mundane center?

For a hint, flash back to 2008 when Swift was memorializing the battle for some forgotten boy's heart on "You Belong With Me," a masterful song about the misfit life: "She wears short skirts, I wear T-shirts/She's cheer captain and I'm on the bleachers." In light of "1989," that second line is the prophetic one. Young Swift wasn't off doing whip-its behind the Wawa or reading Kafka at Starbucks. She was on the sidelines, wishing she fit in, standing by.

And now here she is, ruling over all of popland, projecting the dim aura of unimpeachability. Because yes, Swift is a woman thriving at the summit of a pop culture largely shaped by men. And yes, she's a truth-telling songwriter who's done some truly brilliant work. And yes, she's only 24 and her future remains bright and unwritten. All of those things are true and good.

But it is wrong to wish that Swift — at this point — was just the itty-bittiest bit cooler? Is it wrong to wish "1989" didn't sound so anonymous? Is it wrong to demand our leaders not make follower music? Is it wrong to feel disoriented and disheartened by the effusion of suck-uppy articles dutifully praising these unimaginative songs? Is it wrong to squirm knowing that those same songs will likely saturate our public spaces for years — or maybe even the rest of our lives?

Asking these questions doesn't make you a hater. It makes you a listener.

LIFESTYLE

Powerchuting

gets off the ground

Attach a parachute to a dune buggy and you've got a unique way to fly

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

The enormous fan-like propeller behind the passenger whirs, then begins to howl as the pilot hits the accelerator.

The wheels bump along the gravelly desert and a small jolt tugs on the safety belts as the chute billows into the sky over Scottsdale, Ariz.

A few seconds later, the strange-looking machine lifts off the ground, floating away like a dandelion spore catching the wind.

The takeoff of a powerchute is quick, exhilarating, unlike anything you've ever experienced.

The actual flight, even better. "It's the closest thing to being a bird that you can imagine," said Randy Long of Arizona Powerchutes.

OK, so, what's a powerchute? Picture a dune buggy with a massive parachute attached to the back of it, sort of a cross between something the Wright Brothers might have designed and that flying machine from the Mad Max movies.

The front end looks a little like a three-wheeled stroller, the seats set atop an angled frame behind a fat rubber wheel. The two back wheels splay out for support under the engine and a massive propeller that looks a little like an oversize house fan behind the passenger.

Brackets rise up and out to the sides to support the lines that attach to the chute, which is essentially a 40-foot version of what sky divers use. Turning is controlled by foot levers that pull on the tension cords attached to the chute.

Yes, it's a little odd-looking. And, yes, it provides a flying experience unlike any other.

"I had been on a balloon tour before, and it reminds me of that in some ways with

ful engines and bigger chutes. the setup and you're out there at sunrise," said Laura McMurchie of Scottsdale. "But once you're in the air, it's a little more liberating than being in the balloon with 10 other people. It's just you and the pilot and they do everything from skimming, where you're low to the ground and skimming the terrain basically, and then they go up quite high in that contraption."

Powerchutes — short for powered parachutes — are similar to powergliders in that both are small-engine flying machines.

The difference is that powerchutes allow passengers and require a sport pilot license to operate. Powergliders either have a motor that attaches as a backpack or has a small buggy that goes with it, while powerchutes are larger with more power-

ful engines and bigger chutes.

Powerchutes have a range of about 50 miles — Long's engine uses a 10-gallon fuel tank — and top out at around 28 mph. The machines can fly up to 10,000 feet and, unlike most aircraft, are allowed under FAA rules to fly down to the surface in uninhabited areas.

They're also considered one of the safest aircraft around because of their stability and, as Long puts it, the chute is already deployed before it leaves the ground.

"It seems like it's a little bit of this makeshift device, but it works," McMurchie said.



chie said.

The range of altitude and the relatively slow speeds of powerchutes provide an exhilarating flying experience, from soaring up

high for spectacular views to darting along washes and riverbeds from just above the treetops.

Powerchutes are a fantastic way to view wildlife from above — though coyotes don't like the engine noise too much.

Law enforcement agencies have also used powerchutes in search and rescue efforts because the machines move slower and get to more places than regular aircraft.

And because the machines don't need much space to get airborne, pilots can take off from backyard strips, small airports or even open fields.

"If you're a pilot of a small plane, you fly from one small airport with your buddies, eat breakfast and fly back," Long said. "But these give you a little more sense of adventure, getting out and enjoying nature, have a little wind in your face and maybe see some wildlife."

Powerchutes are flown all over the country but tend to be more popular in places with warmer climates.

Arizona Powerchutes (arizonapowerchutes.com) offers a 30-minute introductory flight for \$289 per person and has training packages available.

Stay-and-fly packages also are available with the Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale at Troon North, where guests can add to their connect-with-the-sky experience with a Celestial Picnic under the stars the night before.



At top and above, instructor Randy Long of Arizona Powerchutes flies solo over the Sonoran Desert in Phoenix in a powerchute.

PHOTOS BY ARIZONA POWERCHUTES/AP

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

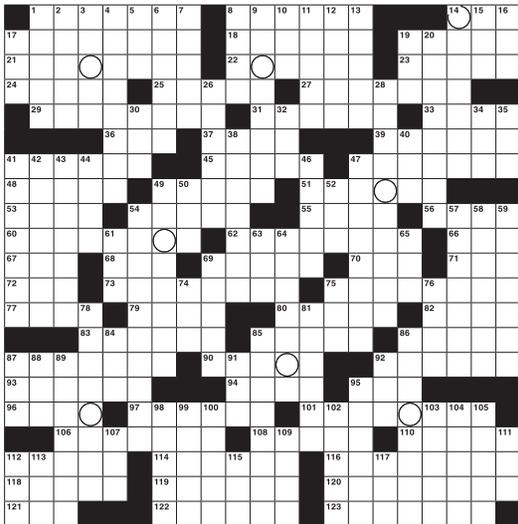
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

WINNERS' CIRCLE

BY CALEB EMMONS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Note: When this puzzle is completed, the eight circled letters, starting in the upper left and proceeding roughly clockwise, will spell an appropriate word ... or a different appropriate word.

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|------|---------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Boors | 8 Latin dances | 14 Opponent of 14-Down, in sports | 17 Park place | 18 Woodworker's vise | 19 Flip ___ | 21 Opponent of 3-Down, in Greek myth | 22 Opponent of 9-Down, in classical literature | 23 Certain marked-down item: Abbr. | 24 Like court testimony | 25 Product once pitched by Michael Jackson and Mariah Carey | 27 Where some "K-I-S-S-I-A-V-G" is done | 29 Least taut | 31 The "L" of "A = L x W" | 33 Mexico City sight | 36 Any ship | 37 Banjoist Fleck | 39 Steep slope | 41 March birthstone, traditionally | 45 "Siegfried," e.g. | 47 Yellow diner packet | 48 Cue user, maybe | 49 Google ___ | 51 Opponent of 28-Down, in comics | 53 Martial artist Jacki e | 54 Animal also known as a hog-nosed coon | 55 "___ sur" ("Of course": Fr.) | 56 Mouth, slangily | 60 Opponent of 49-Down, in film | 62 18 or 21 | 66 NPR's Shapiro | 67 It may be taken from the neck of a superhero | 68 Red topper | 69 Snaps | 70 Rough track condition | 71 Baja aunt | 72 Female gametes | 73 A case might be made for one | 75 Relative of neo-soul | 77 Challenge | 79 Hatfields or McCoys | 80 "What ___?" (Mark Twain essay) | 82 The works | 83 Unusual diacritic used in Portuguese | 85 Jack on "24" | 86 Long-distance swimmer Nyad | 87 Lila ___ Oscar winner for "Zorba the Greek" | 90 Opponent of 64-Down, in the Bible | 92 Brackish water locales | 93 Missouri tributary | 94 Chrysler greeting | 95 Knot | 96 Opponent of 78-Down, in fabl e | 97 Cousin of ibid. | 101 Opponent of 86-Down, in games | 106 Ornamental pond feature | 108 Tickl e | 110 Pasta seasoner | 112 Rear | 114 Where to emulate the locals, it's said | 116 English city where the Magna Carta originated | 118 Take over | 119 Ideal worl d | 120 Soothed | 121 Part of a clown outfi t | 122 Second | 123 X' s | DOWN | 1 A whole lot | 2 Wassai l | 3 See 21-Across | 4 Part of many a silo | 5 Address letters | 6 Obsoletec summer | 7 Postpaid encls. | 8 The 12 of the Pac-12: Abbr. | 9 See 22-Across | 10 Inc.'s cousi n | 11 Subbed (for) | 12 ___ friends | 13 Sardinelike fish | 14 See 14-Across | 15 Sleep (with) | 16 Dutch financial giant | 17 Acidity measures, informally | 19 Diver's suppl y | 20 The ___ City (New Orleans) | 26 W.W. II craft | 28 See 51-Across | 30 Prefix with plunk | 32 Wade catcher? | 34 Windy City terminal code | 35 Collection of marks, for short? | 38 Leader of ancient Ephesus? | 40 '70s radical grp. | 41 Good thing to hit | 42 Attai n | 43 What "America" has for 4 of 44 | 44 Beer ___ | 46 Ararat successor | 47 Stanley, for one | 49 See 60-Across | 50 Be behind | 52 Not do well | 54 By force | 57 Knock | 58 Servation holder? | 59 Squares | 61 One of the brands of Yum! Brands | 63 What fog might delay, for short | 64 See 90-Across | 65 Hall-of-Fame outfielder Roush | 69 Getting just a slap on the wrist, say | 74 Loony | 75 ___ Zion Church | 76 Lock up | 78 See 96-Across | 81 3 x 3 x 3 container? | 84 Day-care attendee | 85 Riboflavin, e.g. | 86 See 101-Across | 87 Autobahn speed meas. | 88 She, in Ri o | 89 Sweetie pie | 91 Tuna often served seared | 92 Start of a bear market | 95 ___ fly | 98 Vice of Dorian Gray | 99 "The Divine Comedy" division | 100 Download alternative | 102 Civil war president | 103 North African capital | 104 Missouri tributary | 105 Creepers | 107 Latin law | 109 Essential part | 111 Drug sold in microdots | 112 Like some talent and emotions | 113 Singer DiFranco | 115 Reveal, poetically | 117 Form of digital communication?: Abbr. |
|--------|---------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------|----------|------|---------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|



GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



KNOWLEDGE

ARCHIVE PHOTO OF THE DAY

IS POWER.

STRIPES CENTRAL

Stripes BLOGS

Get your fair share from our award-winning journalists at Stripes.com/blogs.

PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

GADGETS & CHARTS

Using avatars, apps to help troubled vets

By Todd South

The Record (Hackensack, N.J.)

Hector hasn't left his house in weeks, and he's been drinking alone. Hector is a veteran who needs help.

Hector also is an avatar, a virtual character, featured in one of the scenarios presented in a new online and mobile application called Together Strong.

The app is an interactive game designed to aid those who are close to a veteran — to sharpen skills to notice warning signs and guide troubled vets to seek help. It allows users to role-play situations involving troubled military veterans with virtual characters, and to choose responses that might help them.

People who have had traumatic experiences or fall into substance abuse might avoid seeking help as a rule, but veterans are especially vulnerable, worrying that they might be seen as weak if they seek help or tell others their problems, experts said.

The app — developed by Kognito, a Manhattan-based company that creates virtual situations to help improve health care, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs — helps the player navigate each scenario, offering tips and information. It awards gold stars when the player makes a good decision.

The app was developed over several months with teams of VA staff, military servicemembers and veteran volunteers, said Ann Feder, manager of the VA's New York/New Jersey mental health programs.

While available to anyone free until the end of the year, the app was developed for the mental health system's veterans.

VA staff and Kognito wanted the app to have as real a feel as possible, so they adjusted the program based on feedback during several rounds of tests.

They got notes about specific issues, such as how a dependent veteran might speak to others,

dress, or take care of himself or herself.

Inside Hector's apartment, for example, there's a dead houseplant, multiple six-packs of beer atop the refrigerator and clothing scattered about. Hector looks tired, there are bags under his eyes and he slumps into the couch. The main character — activated by the player — knows this is not Hector's usual demeanor.

A common thread in each scenario is the way in which veterans downplay their problems or avoid asking for help.

This is common to many people who have had traumatic experiences, said Sam Spinelli, chief of the Substance Use Disorder Services at the VA Medical Center in East Orange.

Spinelli worked in the VA development team to give feedback on the behaviors he's seen in his nearly 25 years of working with veterans.

"What are they going to listen to? What are they not going to listen to?" Spinelli said, noting that those concerns always are the focus of building the conversations in developing the application.

This is the second app produced by Kognito with the New York/New Jersey system. The first, Family of Heroes, was released in 2011, to help families of veterans learn how to talk with their veteran about potential problems and how to seek help.

Since its release, it has been used by more than 62,000 people, Feder said.

It cost \$200,000 to produce. The Together Strong program was made at a cost of \$215,000.

In 2011, the New York/New Jersey VA network looked at non-traditional ways to reach veterans, Feder said.

"How do you find that veteran that isn't knocking on the door?" she said. Two ways are through the family and through fellow veterans, she said.

The VA in the past three years has built a peer network of 800 veterans working in VA facilities to assist other veterans.

Find out more and get the app at jointogetherstrong.com



GADGET WATCH



MCT

With the Rachio Iro system, users can control sprinklers from any smartphone, tablet or computer.

Wi-fi sprinkler system a refreshing idea

By Gregg Ellman

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I was emailed an offer to try out the Rachio Iro sprinkler system, described as easy to set up and use. "As for the sprinkler, you plug it in where your old controller was and then it helps create a customized watering schedule with your home Wi-Fi network. You then can change or update it from your phone anywhere you have a signal."

Sure enough, it was pretty much that easy. There are instructions for the setup, including step-by-step instructions and video tutorials on the website, which are a great help.

Since it did involve electrical work (connecting wires), I had a friend over who has much more electrical knowledge. There seemed to be nothing to it, however. Rachio recommends that users take a photo of the wiring before you do anything, so you remember how everything should go back together.

With the Rachio Iro system, you need a constant Wi-Fi signal hitting the box. That allows control of the system from any smartphone, tablet or computer anywhere in the world.

Before you begin the physical setup, you might need to relocate your Wi-Fi router or extend your existing Wi-Fi signal to reach the Rachio box.

The box has flashing LEDs to indicate whether you have a good signal.

I've always wanted the greenest lawn on the street, and controlling the water schedule is always a challenge.

The Rachio system replaces your existing controller without needing to do anything to the sprinklers.

Once you're hooked up, set up your zones long that way you want it to run and for how long.

If you're on the other side of the country and you get a warning for heavy rain coming on a day the sprinklers are set to turn on, no problem. Just turn on the app (free at the Apple App Store and Google Play) and shut your system down for the day.

Online: rachio.ie, \$249

Epson's new luster metallic inkjet photo paper presents one big problem: I like it so much that I keep printing and printing and printing. That means using more and more ink, but with the look of this metallic paper, it's worth every drop.

When metallic photo papers were first introduced to the consumer market, they raised a lot of eyebrows from skeptics. But the finished prints certainly bring the wow factor.

If you're not familiar with metallic paper, this description, as printed on the outside of the box, will either explain it well or make your head spin: "Designed with an incredible Dmax and rich color gamut, this semi-gloss E surface, photographic paper features a unique metallic surface that provides extreme sharpness and depth."

What this high-quality paper does is make colors incredibly vibrant. In some ways you can say it has a 3-D look; the colors are so vibrant it kept me printing for hours.

A friend in the photo industry described it this way: "The flexible paper has a see-through reflective coating that allows vibrant colors to come alive."

I added a touch of extra saturation in Adobe Photoshop, which made the prints (sporting events, landscapes) even better.

The paper is available with luster or glossy finish in sizes from 8.5 by 11 inches, 25 sheet packs for \$24, up to 36 inches by 100-foot rolls for \$359.

Online: Epson.com

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on iTunes for Oct. 29:

1. "Partners," Barbra Streisand
2. "Sundown Heaven Town (Deluxe Edition)," Tim McGraw
3. "RUN WILD. LIVE FREE. LOVE STRONG." for KING & COUNTRY
4. "Anything Goes," Florida Georgia Line
5. "Bulletproof Picasso," Train
6. "The Cowboy Rides Away: Live From AT&T Stadium," George Strait
7. "World On Fire (Featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators)," Slash
8. "Old Boots, New Dirt," Jason Aldean
9. "Title — EP," Meghan Trainor
10. "Guardians of the Galaxy: Awesome Mix, Vol. 1," Various Artists

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify from Oct. 20-26:

1. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
2. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
3. "Animals," Maroon 5
4. "How Do You Find that Veteran that Isn't Knocking on the Door?," she said.
5. "Bang Bang," Jessie J.
6. "Cool Kids," Echoesmith
7. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
8. "Don't Tell 'Em," Jeremih
9. "Take Me To Church," Hozier
10. "Blame," Calvin Harris

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES VIDEO GAMES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for October 29:

1. "Transformers: Age of Extinction"
2. "The Fault in Our Stars"
3. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"
4. "Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow"
5. "Fed Up"
6. "Chef"
7. "The Lunchbox"
8. "Blended"
9. "Draft Day"

— Compiled by MCT

Game Informer rank the Top 10 horror games for Halloween:

1. "The Evil Within," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
2. "Alien: Isolation," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
3. "The Vanishing of Ethan Carter," PC
4. "Metro Redux," PS4, Xbox One, PC
5. "Five Nights at Freddy's," PC, iOS
6. "The Walking Dead: Season Two," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC, iOS
7. "PT," PS4
8. "Neverending Nightmares," PC
9. "Lifeless Planet," PC
10. "Among the Sleep," PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for Oct. 29:

- ANDROID
1. Clash of Gangs
 2. New Words With Friends
 3. Bubble Shooter Galaxy
 4. Gods Rush
 5. RETRY

Top 5 free apps for Oct. 29:

- APPLE
1. Facebook Messenger
 2. Spider-Man Unlimited
 3. Yik Yak
 4. Amazing Thief
 5. Bicolor

— Compiled by MCT

*Looking for a new field
where you can stand out?*

STARS  STRIPES®

Veteran's Job Center

veteransjob.stripes.com

**Find your next opportunity
with employers who actively
seek the experience of
former military.**

**Post your resume and access
25,000 jobs for free.**



STARS AND STRIPES

DAILY HEADLINES



Sign up to get the top stories of the day, emailed right to your inbox, every day!

TODAY'S TOP HEADLINES FROM STARS AND STRIPES.

STARS AND STRIPES

WEEKLY UPDATE



Subscribe to get each week's most important stories, along with other military news of note from bases around the world.

STARS AND STRIPES OFFERS A SUMMARY OF THE LEADING STORIES OF THE WEEK.



Get your news at: stripes.com/newsletters

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Record high close after volatile month

2.3

By **KEN SWEET**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For stock investors, there was no shortage of drama in October.

Stocks started the month modestly below a record high, only to cascade to their worst slump in two years. But after flirting with a correction, or a 10 percent drop, the U.S. market rebounded and closed at all-time highs on the last day of the month.

All told, U.S. stocks ended October solidly higher, up 2.3 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average capped the rally by rising 195.10 points, or 1.1 percent, to end at 17,390.52 on Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 23.40 points, or 1.2 percent, to 2,018.05, and the Nasdaq composite added 64.60 points, or 1.4 percent, to 4,630.74.

Both the Dow and the S&P 500 closed at record highs.

It's a remarkable turn given the month's volatility, which at times approached levels from the 2008

The percentage U.S. stocks rose in October after following a seesaw path driven by fears that Europe's economy was slipping back into a recession and concerns over possible weakness in the U.S. economy.

financial crisis. Then again, the month has an unfortunate history for unsettling moves, such as the stock market crashes of 1929 and 1987.

This October, the market's seesaw path was driven by fears that Europe's economy was slipping back into a recession, worries about plunging oil prices and concerns of possible weakness in the U.S. economy. Oh, and don't forget Ebola. Those anxieties sent the market, for the most part, straight down for two weeks.

The nadir came on Oct. 15, when the S&P 500 came within a hair's breadth of going into a correction.

Investors had suspected such a drop. The last one occurred in late 2011, and historically, corrections happen every 18 months or so.

But just after the market came close to going into a correction, it bounced right back. Strong U.S. corporate earnings were the primary driver of the rebound, as well as signs that central banks in Japan and Europe were going to do all they could to stop their economies from dragging everyone else down with them.

"I don't think it's a surprise that we came close to a correction. We've been expecting one for a while. I think the bigger surprise has been how we ripped around all the way back up," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist at Nuveen Asset Management. "When you hit someone over their head with a hammer, you don't expect them to get up immediately."

U.S. companies have been, for the most part, reporting strong quarterly results, lifting the last two weeks. Corporate profits are up 7.3 percent from a year ago, ac-

cording to FactSet, compared with the 4.5 percent investors had expected at the beginning of the month. And any worries about the U.S. economy earlier in the month evaporated as the data rolled in, most recently, Thursday's data showing the U.S. economy grew at a 3.5 percent pace last quarter.

Friday's gains were driven by the Bank of Japan, which surprised investors by announcing it would increase its bond and asset purchases.

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 31, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+195.10
	17,390.52
Nasdaq composite	+64.60
	4,630.74
Standard & Poor's 500	+23.40
	2,018.05
Russell 2000	+17.74
	1,173.51

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 3)	\$1,2905
Dollar buys (Nov. 3)	€0.7749
British pound (Nov. 3)	\$1.64
Japanese yen (Nov. 3)	107.00
South Korean won (Nov. 3)	1,030.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5991
Canada (Dollar)	1.1278
China (Yuan)	6.1129
Denmark (Krone)	6.9414
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.2527/0.7952
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7551
Hungary (Forint)	246.08
Israel (Sheqel)	3.7917
Japan (Yen)	112.29
Norway (Krone)	6.7206
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.9920
Philippines (Peso)	44.93
Poland (Zloty)	3.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2854
South Korea (Won)	1,075.02
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9622
Thailand (Baht)	32.61
Turkey (Lira)	2.2205

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.09
30-year bond	2.06

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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

Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	71	51	Cldy	Chatanooga	52	30	Cir	Fort Wayne	48	22	Cir	Louisville	50	27	Cir
Akron, Ohio	41	30	Cldy	Cheyenne	62	41	Cldy	Fresno	67	49	Cir	Lubbock	68	45	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	45	33	Cir	Chicago	49	31	Cir	Goodland	76	42	PCldy	Macon	59	32	Cir
Albuquerque	66	47	Cldy	Cincinnati	45	27	Cir	Grand Junction	54	42	Rain	Madison	48	27	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	46	36	Cir	Cleveland	43	31	Cldy	Grand Rapids	48	24	PCldy	Medford	57	37	PCldy
Amarillo	57	37	Cldy	Colorado Springs	63	43	Cldy	Great Falls	39	31	Snow	Memphis	58	33	PCldy
Anchorage	37	30	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	55	35	Cir	Green Bay	51	33	Cir	Miami Beach	74	51	Cldy
Ashville	64	45	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	60	33	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	52	33	Cir	Midland-Odessa	71	51	Cldy
Atlanta	55	31	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	44	31	Cldy	Harrisburg, Pa.	49	37	PCldy	Milwaukee	47	29	PCldy
Atlantic City	51	31	Cir	Concord, N.H.	41	31	Cir	Hartford	49	37	PCldy	Miami	74	51	Cldy
Austin	72	43	Cir	Corpus Christi	78	58	Cir	Helena	44	35	Snow	Minneapolis	42	31	Rain
Baltimore	50	37	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	70	43	PCldy	Honolulu	87	74	PCldy	Miss St. Paul	45	31	Rain
Baton Rouge	66	33	Cir	Dayton	43	26	Cir	Houston	71	41	PCldy	Montgomery	61	30	Cir
Bilings	59	41	Rain	Daytona Beach	65	44	Cir	Huntsville	55	30	Cir	Nashville	53	28	Cir
Birmingham	57	29	Cir	Denver	67	45	Cldy	Indianapolis	48	26	Cir	New Orleans	64	43	Cir
Bismarck	61	32	PCldy	Des Moines	60	33	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	64	30	Cir	New York City	50	49	Cir
Boise	58	38	PCldy	Detroit	46	27	PCldy	Jacksonville	61	38	Cir	Newark	55	43	Cir
Boston	47	39	Cir	Duluth	45	29	PCldy	Janeau	45	37	Rain	Newark, Va.	50	49	Cir
Bridgeport	50	37	Cldy	El Paso	79	58	Cir	Kansas City	59	35	Cir	North Platte	72	34	PCldy
Brownsville	82	63	PCldy	Elkins	42	29	Cldy	West West	59	35	Cir	Omaha City	66	40	PCldy
Buffalo	42	31	Cir	Erie	42	32	Cldy	Knoxville	48	29	PCldy	Omaha	61	35	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	42	30	Cir	Eugene	58	43	Cldy	Lake Charles	66	34	Cir	Orlando	68	43	Cir
Caribou, Maine	34	30	Snow	Evansville	51	26	Cir	Lansing	45	23	PCldy	Paducah	53	26	PCldy
Casper	55	40	Cir	Fairbanks	14	00	Cldy	Las Vegas	65	51	PCldy	Pendleton	53	37	PCldy
Charleston, S.C.	56	38	Cir	Fargo	53	33	PCldy	Lexington	47	26	Cir	Peoria	49	40	PCldy
Charleston, W. Va.	48	35	Cldy	Flagstaff	44	35	Snow	Lincoln	65	36	Cir	Philadelphia	49	40	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	51	34	Cir	Fort Smith	61	34	Cir	Little Rock	59	34	Cir	Phoenix	71	62	Cldy
							Los Angeles	72	53	Cir	Pittsburgh	44	30	Cldy	

National temperature extremes
Hi: Ft. Si., Phoenix
Lo: Ft. Si., Langdon, N.D.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	11	6	2	2	17	29
Tampa Bay	11	7	3	3	15	38
Ottawa	9	5	2	2	16	22
Boston	9	5	2	2	12	26
Ottawa	12	6	6	0	12	32
Toronto	10	4	4	1	11	29
Florida	8	3	2	3	9	12
Buffalo	11	3	4	1	9	13

Metropolitan Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	9	6	2	1	13	36
N.Y. Islanders	9	4	3	0	12	35
New Jersey	10	5	3	2	12	30
N.Y. Rangers	9	4	3	0	10	27
Washington	9	4	3	2	10	27
Philadelphia	10	4	4	2	10	33
Columbus	9	4	3	0	8	29
Carolina	8	0	6	2	2	15

Friday						
Maple Leafs 4, Blue Jackets 1						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	1	1	2	4	1	1
Columbus	1	0	1	1	1	1

First Period—1, Toronto, Kessel 6 (Winnik, Kadri), 15:28.
Second Period—2, Toronto, Clarkson 3 (Phaneuf, Holland), 12:13 (pp).
Third Period—3, Toronto, Kadri 3 (Kessel, Winnik), 2:38, 4, Columbus, Atkinson 5 (Johansen, Johnson), 10:40 (pp), 5, Toronto, Winnik 1 (Kessel), 16:27.
Shots on goal—Toronto 9-16-2-27.
Columbus 9-11-26.
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 1 of 2; Columbus 1 of 4.
Goalsies—Toronto, Bernier 3-3-1 (29 shots-28 saves). Columbus, McElhinney 0-2-0 (27-23).
A—14,479 (18,144), **T**—2:36.

Western Conference						
Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	10	6	2	2	14	29
Chicago	10	6	3	1	13	27
Minnesota	10	4	3	0	12	31
Dallas	10	4	2	4	12	33
St. Louis	9	5	3	1	11	22
Colorado	11	3	4	4	10	27
Winnipeg	10	4	5	1	9	20

Pacific Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	12	9	3	0	18	33
Vancouver	10	7	3	0	14	34
Los Angeles	11	6	2	2	14	25
Calgary	12	6	4	2	14	31
San Jose	12	4	4	4	14	38
Edmonton	10	4	5	1	9	27
Arizona	9	3	5	1	7	22

Red Wings 5, Kings 2						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	0	1	1	2	0	1
Detroit	4	0	1	5	4	6

First Period—1, Detroit, Nyquist 6 (Zetterberg, Kronwall), 5:51 (pp), 2, Detroit, Datsyuk 3, 9:42, 3, Detroit, Nyquist 7 (Kronwall, Datsyuk), 11:44 (pp), 4, Detroit, Tatar 2 (Nyquist, Sheahan), 15:28.
Second Period—5, Los Angeles, Martinez 1 (Richards, Lewis), 10:41.
Third Period—6, Los Angeles, Toffoli 6 (Regehr, King), 1:48 (sh), 7, Detroit, Datsyuk 4 (Zetterberg, Abdelkader), 18:50 (er).
Shots on goal—Los Angeles 7-12-11-30. Detroit 12-8-15-35.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 2 of 2; Detroit 2 of 5.
Goalsies—Los Angeles, Quick 5-2-2 (34 shots-30 saves). Detroit, Howard 5-1-2 (30-28).
A—20,027 (20,066), **T**—2:36.

Wednesday's games
 Detroit 4, Washington 2
 Nashville 4, Edmonton 1

Thursday's games
 New Jersey 2, Winnipeg 1, SO
 Boston 3, Ottawa 4, SO
 Minnesota 4, San Jose 3, SO
 Chicago 5, Buffalo 2, OT
 Pittsburgh 3, Los Angeles 0
 Tampa Bay 4, Philadelphia 3
 Florida 2, Arizona 1
 St. Louis 2, Anaheim 0
 Colorado 5, N.Y. Islanders 0
 Vancouver 3, Montreal 2, OT

Friday's games
 Toronto 4, Columbus 1
 Detroit 5, Los Angeles 2
 Anaheim 2, Dallas 1, OT
 Calgary 4, Nashville 3

Saturday's games
 Ottawa at Boston
 Chicago at Toronto
 Washington at Tampa Bay
 Philadelphia at Florida
 Columbus at New Jersey
 Winnipeg at N.Y. Rangers
 Buffalo at Pittsburgh
 Arizona at Carolina
 Colorado at St. Louis
 Dallas at Minnesota
 Vancouver at Edmonton
 N.Y. Islanders at San Jose

Sunday's games
 Detroit at Buffalo
 Los Angeles at Carolina
 Calgary at Montreal
 Arizona at Washington
 Anaheim at Colorado
 Winnipeg at Chicago
 Nashville at Vancouver

Monday's game
 St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers

Ducks 2, Stars 1 (OT)						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	0	1	0	1	2	0
Dallas	0	0	1	1	0	1

First Period—1, Anaheim, Perry 10 (Beauchemin, Kestler), 16:45.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Rousseau 4 (Daley, Garbutt), 14:33.
Overtime—2, Anaheim, Thompson 1 (Perry, Fowler), 2:30.
Shots on goal—Anaheim 11-5-7-1-24. Dallas 8-1-11-2-22.
Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 6; Dallas 0 of 6.
Goalsies—Anaheim, Andersen 7-1-0 (22 shots-21 saves). Dallas, Lehtonen 4-0-4 (24-22).
A—15,343 (18,532), **T**—2:49.

Flames 4, Predators 3						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	0	2	1	3	4	0
Calgary	0	1	3	4	0	1

Second Period—1, Calgary, Monahan 3 (Wideman, Gienrosses), 4:23 (pp), 2, Nashville, C. Smith 4 (Ellis, Ekholm), 5:30, 3, Nashville, Neal 6 (Reiber), 11:09.
Third Period—4, Calgary, Hudler 3 (Granlund, J.Gaudreau), 2:36, 5, Calgary, Brodie 4 (Monahan, Giordano), 4:23 (pp), 6, Calgary, J.Gaudreau 2 (Engelund, Smit), 6:37, 7, Nashville, Neal 7 (Cullen, Forsberg), 10:47 (pp).
Shots on goal—Nashville 8-9-14-31. Calgary 10-10-10-30.
Power-play opportunities—Nashville 1 of 1; Calgary 2 of 2.
Goalsies—Nashville, Hiller 6-2-1 (30 shots-26 saves). Calgary, Hirtle 4-2-1 (31-28).
A—18,505 (19,289), **T**—2:30.



DUANE BURLISON/AP

Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard makes a save during this period of Friday's game against Los Angeles in Detroit. Howard made 28 saves to help Detroit win 5-2.

Roundup

Nyquist, Datsyuk lead Red Wings past Kings

DETROIT — Right from the start, it was easy to see which team had fresh legs.

Gustav Nyquist and Pavel Datsyuk each scored twice to lead the Detroit Red Wings over the Los Angeles Kings 5-2 on Friday night.

Nyquist had a pair of power-play goals, and Datsyuk and Tomas Tatar also scored in a four-goal first period to help the Red Wings win their third straight at Joe Louis Arena.

Jimmy Howard made 28 saves — one on Dustin Brown's penalty shot — for his fifth victory of the season. Detroit outshot the Kings 35-30 and kept the Stanley Cup champions winless on the road.

The Kings took the ice a night after being shut out in Pittsburgh. The Red Wings, meanwhile, had Thursday off, and their fresher legs were obvious in the first period.

"We got off to a really good start. The power play was magic," said coach Mike Babcock, whose team started the game 25th in the NHL in power play efficiency.

"The schedule favored us tonight and we were able to jump on L.A. early."

Alec Martinez flicked a rebound past Howard midway through the second period to put the Kings on the board, and Tyler Toffoli added a short-handed goal early in the third.

Los Angeles had a chance to make it a one-goal game when Brown was awarded a penalty shot 3 minutes into the third, but Howard made a pad save to maintain the two-goal cushion.

The goalie had a bit of help.

"I think with all the rain today it was a bit humid tonight so it probably wasn't the best ice for him to do a move," Howard said. "So I just stayed patient."

Detroit scored on the game's first power play when Nyquist sent home Henrik Zetterberg's cen-

tering pass 6 minutes into regulation.

The Kings are 0-2-1 on a quick four-game road trip that ends Sunday at Carolina.

Maple Leafs 4, Blue Jackets 1: Daniel Winnik and Phil Kessel each had a goal and two assists, and Jonathan Bernier made 28 saves to lead visiting Toronto past injury-riddled Columbus.

Nazem Kadri added a goal and an assist and David Clarkson also scored for the Maple Leafs, who are 3-0-1 on the road and 2-4-0 at home.

Kessel punched in a shot that went to video review before it was confirmed. Clarkson redirected a pass from Dion Phaneuf on the power play, and Kadri finished a 2-on-1 feed from Kessel in the third. Winnik scored his 50th NHL goal late in his 500th career game.

Ducks 2, Stars 1 (OT): Nate Thompson scored 2:30 into overtime to lift visiting Anaheim over Dallas.

Thompson tipped a shot by Corey Perry from the top of the left circle past Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen.

Perry scored Anaheim's first goal at 16:45 of the second period to quiet a crowd that boomed him every time he touched the puck. Perry leads the NHL with 10 goals in 12 games. Thompson scored his first of the season.

Flames 4, Predators 3: Johnny Gaudreau sparked a third-period comeback with a goal and an assist as host Calgary scored three times in just more than 4 minutes to beat Nashville.

With the Flames trailing 2-1, Jiri Hudler got the rally started with the tying goal 2:36 into the third. It came on a setup from rookies Markus Granlund and Gaudreau.

After JT Brodie's pass deflected in off Predators defenseman Shea Weber to give the Flames the lead at 4:23, Calgary went ahead by two goals 2 minutes after that on Gaudreau's tally.



MIKE MUNDEN/AP

Columbus' Adam Cracknell, right, chases Toronto's Daniel Winnik during the first period of Friday's game in Columbus, Ohio.

AUTO RACING/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BOB BOOTH, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/AP

Kyle Busch celebrates after winning the NASCAR Trucks series race at Texas Motor Speedway on Friday in Fort Worth, Texas.

Roundup

Busch gets seventh Trucks win of year

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Kyle Busch passed German Quiroga off a restart in a two-lap shootout in the Camping World Truck race Friday night at Texas Motor Speedway for his seventh victory in nine series starts this year.

Ninth on a restart with five laps left, Busch moved to third in one lap and was running second behind Quiroga when Jeb Burton sent ThorSport Racing teammate Johnny Sauter spinning through the infield grass, forcing the green-white-checkered finish.

“Driving up through the middle there, the seas sort of parted ways a little bit, and they were already three-wide, and I’m like, ‘There’s a gap there. I’m taking it.’ And that put us four-wide. But in those situations, with that many laps to go, you’ve just got to do it.”

Busch restarted on the outside of Quiroga and pulled away easily before another caution ended the race on the final lap.

“I thought the 17 (Timothy Peters) was in the cabrind seat there,” Busch said. “I figured he had the perfect strategy — two tires and he was going to be on the outside, get through those guys and get out front.”

Quiroga was involved in the last-lap wreck, dropping him to 17th.

Jeb Burton was second, followed by Peters, Tyler Reddick, points leader Matt Crafton, Joey Coulter, Max Gresham, Joe Nemechek, Ryan Blaney and Cameron Hayley.

Defending series champion Crafton increased his lead to 23 points over Blaney with two races left. Crafton won the June race at the track.

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series: Tony Stewart had NASCAR’s first 200-mph qualifying lap on an intermediate track, and Matt Kenseth took the pole for the Sprint Cup race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas.

Stewart turned a lap at 200.111 mph in the second of three qualifying rounds Friday before dropping off to sixth in the final round on the high-banked 1½-mile oval.

Kenseth topped the eight drivers eligible for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship with a final-round lap of 199.299.

Jeff Gordon will be outside on the front as one of five Chase qualifiers starting in the top 10. The others are Kevin Harvick (fifth), Ryan Newman (seventh), and Joey Logano (10th).

Brad Keselowski is the lowest of the Chase qualifiers at 26th. His only worst start was 33rd at the season-opening Daytona 500.

Formula One: Formula One championship leader Lewis Hamilton posted the fastest times in Friday’s two practice sessions at the U.S. Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, but abandoned the second session with about 10 minutes to go to deal with engine problems.

Hamilton is chasing his second world championship. He won the title in 2008 with McLaren and has a 17-point lead over Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg with 100 still available in the final three races. The final race in Abu Dhabi will be worth double points, a new system that Hamilton this week questioned as an unfair way to wrap a season-long dual between himself and Rosberg.

More change could be on way to Ann Arbor

AD Brandon’s exit a sign of things to come

By Noah Trister
The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Less than a year after taking over Michigan’s athletic department, Dave Brandon hired Brady Hoke to be his football coach.

Now, with that football program floundering through a dismal season, Brandon is done as athletic director. Will Hoke be the next to go?

That’s the most obvious question after Brandon’s resignation, which was announced by school President Mark Schlissel on Friday. Michigan named Jim Hackett interim athletic director, and Schlissel indicated Hackett could potentially have a say in whether Hoke returns after this season.

“Football, like all of our programs, are evaluated by the athletic department through the season, but particularly at the end of the season, so I would imagine that the interim athletic director will be intimately involved in charge of the evaluation of football,” Schlissel said.

“The interim AD is the athletic director until we hire a permanent AD. I feel comfortable hiring deans and provosts. I feel a little bit less comfortable — I’m not the guy to make a decision about a particular coach. We have an athletic program that I delegate that authority to.”

Schlissel announced Brandon’s resignation at a news conference, and although the tone was respectful and appreciative, the president acknowledged that the athletic department has gone through a rough stretch recently.

Brandon’s departure comes amid another disappointing football season — and concerns over everything from the school’s concussions protocol to student attendance at games.

Hoke’s future has been in doubt for a while because of his team’s lack of progress, but Brandon also became a target of disgruntled fans and students.

Schlissel was asked if he was prepared to fire Brandon if the athletic director hadn’t resigned.

“I’m not at all prepared to deal in a hypothetical,” Schlissel said. “But he and I had been working closely, as you might imagine, through the controversial events of recent weeks.”

“We discussed iteratively the best way to set the athletic program in a stronger and positive direction, and we’ve been working closely together on that. It was Dave



Todd McInture, Detroit News/AP

Former Steelcase CEO Jim Hackett speaks after being introduced as the University of Michigan’s interim athletic director during a news conference in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Friday. University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel announced that athletic director Dave Brandon resigned.



Hoke



Brandon

that mentioned and raised the prospect of his decision to resign.” Hackett graduated from the university in 1977 and played football for Michigan.

“I’d like to thank Dave Brandon for his commitment to Michigan,” Hackett said. “The athletic department is in great financial condition. We have new varsity sports that will continue to make Michigan a destination for aspiring student-athletes, and Dave worked extremely hard to modernize Michigan’s athletic facilities.”

But those successes have a hard time registering when the football team is playing poorly. Michigan for years was a power both in the Big Ten and nationally, but not anymore. The Wolverines are 3-5 heading into Saturday’s homecoming game against Indiana.

Hoke and Brandon faced sharp criticism for the coaching staff’s

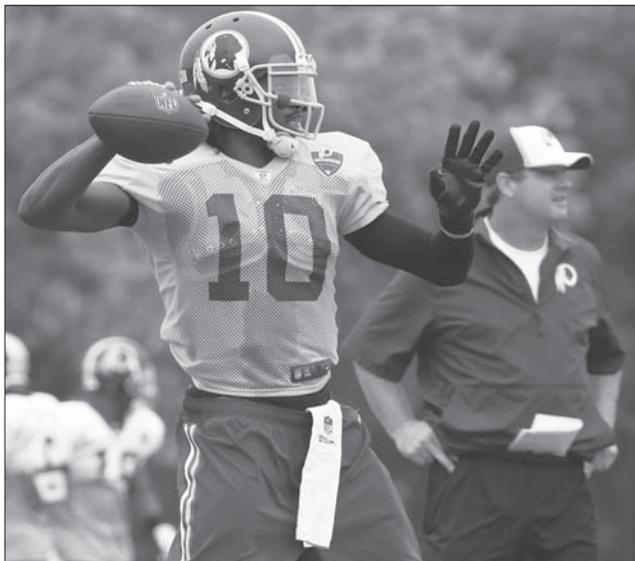
handling of quarterback Shane Morris’ head injury in a game this September against Minnesota. Morris was allowed to play briefly after a hard hit. He was later diagnosed with a probable concussion.

Brandon said communication was a problem — both during the game when Morris was hit, and over the next couple of days. The school announced a change in protocol soon after.

The team’s lackluster performance has been accompanied by a growing sense of malaise among fans. Empty seats in the area at Michigan Stadium, where students sit have become common.

Brandon has acknowledged that the decision to replace assigned seating for students with general admission in 2013 did not go over well. That policy was quickly changed, and the school recently announced that it was cutting student ticket prices next year.

NFL



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Washington head coach Jay Gruden, right, didn't hesitate to name quarterback Robert Griffin III, left, the starting quarterback this week against Minnesota, even though Colt McCoy led the Redskins to victory in their last two games. Griffin is coming off a dislocated ankle that sidelined him the last six weeks.

Redskins' Griffin eager to get back on the field

The Associated Press

After six-plus games on the sideline, Robert Griffin III is back as the quarterback of the Washington Redskins.

"I feel great," said Griffin, who dislocated his left ankle in the first quarter of the Week 2 victory over Jacksonville. "I'm real excited to get back out there. I'm going to lean on my guys to help me get through this game. I look forward to being able to dish (the ball) to them and let them do the work. With these guys around me, I don't have to try to do too much. You've got to trust the guys around you. If there's any rust, I'm sure they'll overshadow me because they're playing at a high level. (But) if there comes a time when I have to carry the team, I'm willing to do that."

Griffin returned to individual drills last week and the full practice on Wednesday.

"Robert got the majority of the (work) with the ones today and we have every intention of giving him the start," said first-year coach Jay Gruden, who initially replaced Griffin with Kirk Cousins before turning to Colt McCoy at halftime of the Tennessee



TIM SHARP/AP

Dallas wide receiver Terrance Williams, left, and Washington quarterback Robert Griffin III greet each other before Monday's game in Texas.

game on Oct. 19. "He's done all the drills the right way. He made some good throws today. Everything's checking out good."

Griffin said he felt ready to play this past Monday at Dallas, which would have been the low end of the six-to-eight week timetable for the injury when it was diagnosed.

However, as Griffin explained, "We just wanted to give it a little bit more time and be smart about it. With the past, you learn from that, you learn from those mistakes."

That past includes two torn ACLs, one of which occurred in the divisional-round playoff loss to Seattle that ended his record-setting 2012 rookie season, sidelined him throughout the ensuing offseason and hampered him at times during his underwhelming 2013 campaign.

So this time, Griffin said, "We took the proper precautions to make sure I was able to go for the foreseeable future. That's why we're doing it this week."

The Redskins are 3-5, as are the Vikings, who rank fourth against the pass and are tied for second with 25 sacks. Although McCoy led Washington past Tennessee and Dallas, Gruden said he didn't consider waiting to play Griffin until the Redskins return from their bye week, when they face Tampa Bay's NFL-worst defense on Nov. 16.

"We waited (an extra) week," Gruden said. "He was champing at the bit. There's not a (defense) in the National Football League that's going to take it easy on him. He's going to have to rise to the occasion this week, next week, the week after. Will he be perfect? No, but I think Robert at 100 percent gives us the best chance to win."

Colts' secondary looks to rebound

By COREY ELLIOT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Vontae Davis doesn't get a lot of hype playing cornerback for the Colts. In eight games this season, Davis has 22 tackles, two interceptions and one forced fumble. He leads the NFL in passes defensed with 12 deflections, four in a 27-0 victory over Cincinnati.

"The coaches have helped my game elevate," Davis said. "I credit (the coaches) for helping me understand the game better than what I have. The game is starting to slow down for me, come more natural to me."

Davis is joined by fellow sixth-cornerbacks Greg Toler and Darius Butler in Indianapolis' secondary. Together, the group is trying to best the Colts' 2013 ranking of 13th in passing defense.

Through eight weeks, Indianapolis ranks 21st in passing defense and its 51-34 loss to Pittsburgh on Sunday didn't do the Colts any favors. Ben Roethlisberger burned them for 52 yards and six touchdowns, five after Davis left the game with a knee injury.

Davis was initially listed day-to-day, but after full participation in practice Thursday, he will start Monday night against the New York Giants.

"(Vontae) is a big part of our defense, he brings attitude to the game. He brings a different ele-

ment, he's physical and we're always on the same page," Butler said.

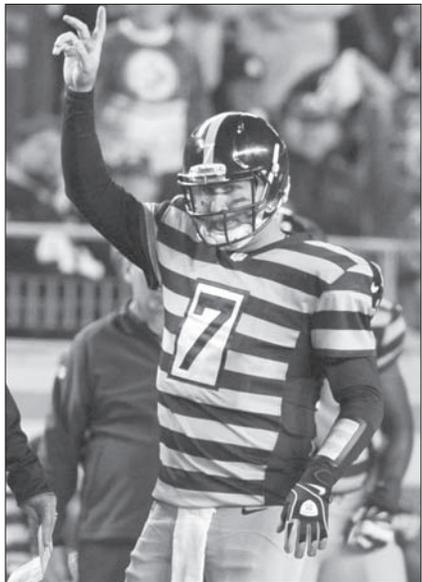
The Giants will be without many of the familiar weapons Eli Manning has had in the past.

Victor Cruz is out with a season-ending knee injury and Hakeem Nicks will be lining up opposite his former team Monday night. However, Davis and Indy's secondary aren't taking any chances.

"We still respect (the Giants' receivers)," Davis said. "It starts at the top, Tom Coughlin, he's a well-respected coach and we expect their best. (Manning) is a good quarterback (he has won two Super Bowls and all the accolades you dream of. We've got to go in with the mindset to slow him down."

The Colts' secondary has six interceptions and two forced fumbles. Indy's secondary has been trending in the right direction, despite the blowout by the Steelers, but there hasn't been much buzz, yet — and that might be just the way the Colts prefer it.

"We always call our secondary 'No Fly Zone' but it's nothing we've stamped," Toler said. "We just want to get the ball back to Andrew (Luck) and our offense because they're a high-flying offense. If we get the notoriety, cool, if not it's no big deal. The numbers will show at the end of the day and the numbers don't lie."



DON WRIGHT/AP

Pittsburgh quarterback Ben Roethlisberger picked the Colts secondary apart last weekend for 522 yards and six touchdowns.

NFL

Time: Rookies making immediate contribution

FROM BACK PAGE

"I mean it's just a totally different game than the college game," Perry said. "The offenses that you face are different. You see a little more zone read nowadays with some of the teams that we play, but for the most part it's a different game."

"And so (Clinton-Dix) is learning, and I think every day for him is a new experience. You can see him growing, still has a ways to go ... So we just got to keep plugging, we're taking nothing for granted, as you've got to be with young guys."

While Derek Carr has been Oakland's starter from the get-go, and Teddy Bridgewater and Blake Bortles have ascended to starting roles, neither is close to producing the way Robert Griffin III, Andrew Luck, Russell Wilson and Cam Newton did in recent seasons.

But the offensive line has produced quite a few noteworthy debut seasons, ranging from centers Corey Linsley (Green Bay), Bryan Stork (New England) and Russell Bodine (Cincinnati) to tackles Ja'wan James (Miami) and Justin Britt (Seattle) to guards Zach Martin (Dallas) and Joel Bitonio (Cleveland).

"They are old-school offensive linemen," said Cowboys coach Jason Garrett. "They don't say a whole lot. They go out and do their job. They do it the right way."

Not all rookies find the transition so easy.

Last spring's top overall draft pick, DE-LB Jadeveon Clowney, got hurt in Houston's opener and only just returned. Giants WR Odell Beckham Jr. injured his hamstring in the first practice of

training camp and only recently got into the lineup.

Falcons OT Jake Matthews has been ineffective and bothered by a sprained ankle. The Lions' Eric Ebron, considered one of the top tight ends to enter the league in years, has been slowed by injuries.

And Johnny Manziel sits patiently on Cleveland's bench, the most touted rookie backup since, well, Tim Tebow.

Still, this has been an exceptionally strong rookie crop, with solid work by Ravens linebacker C.J. Mosley, Vikings RB Jerick McKinnon and Chargers RB Brandon Oliver.

And it's punctuated by the performances of three kickers: Washington punter Tress Way, and placekickers Chandler Catanzaro and Cody Parkey.

Way is showing the way by leading the NFL with 49.7 gross yards per kick.

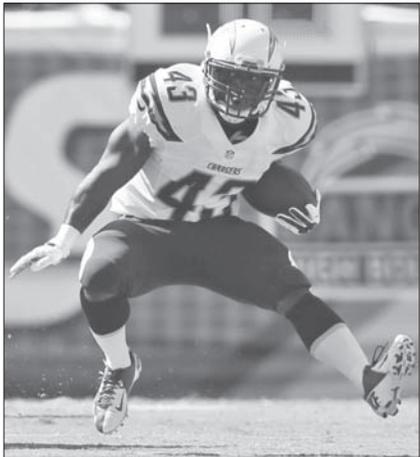
Arizona's Catanzaro set the rookie mark by making his first 16 field goal tries.

Catanzaro was an undrafted free agent who beat out veteran Jay Peely in the preseason and has been spotless since. Even his kickoffs, something he didn't handle in college, have been strong.

Cardinals coach Bruce Arians said that special teams coach Amos Jones had worked out the Clemson product before the draft.

"We kept our fingers crossed that he did not get drafted," Arians said. "Because he was a guy we had marked to get right away as soon as college free agency started."

Nice move. One of many made by NFL teams in adding rookies who can make an impact.



GREGORY BULL/AP

San Diego Chargers rookie running back Brandon Oliver runs upfield during a game in San Diego earlier this season. More and more, rookies — especially those selected high in the draft — are being expected to contribute immediately.



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Dallas Cowboys defensive line coach Rod Marinelli loved his O-16 season when he was the head coach in Detroit. He loved last season as one of the architects of the league's worst defense in Dallas. A football lifer who immerses himself in the daily grind of building players, regardless of circumstances, the Cowboys are now enjoying the fruits of his optimism.

Marinelli working his magic

Straight-talking coordinator has Cowboys' 'D' humming

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Rod Marinelli loved his O-16 season as coach of the Detroit Lions. Same with his first season in Dallas a year ago as one of the architects of a defense that came close to being the worst in NFL history.

Why? How?

Because he's a football lifer who immerses himself in the daily grind of building players, regardless of circumstances. And the Cowboys are benefiting from an unflinching optimism that has fueled a surprising turnaround for the defense, and in turn a fast start for the team.

"I don't think I've ever had a bad year in football," Marinelli said this week as the Cowboys (6-2) prepared for Sunday's game against Arizona (6-1). "Because you are in charge of that yourself. I'm in charge of my emotions and my energy."

Marinelli and Monte Kiffin came to Dallas together last year to switch the Cowboys back to a four-man defensive front with three linebackers after nearly a decade in the 3-4. After they gave up the third-most yards in league history, Marinelli was elevated to defensive coordinator over Kiffin.

So the audience for Marinelli's simple and direct approach expanded from mostly just the defensive linemen, the position he directly coaches, to all the players behind them as well.

"Although the tone is similar to Kiffin as far as the way we hustle and get after the opposing offense, Rod brings that extra maniac level, I guess," said cornerback Brandon Carr. "It's fast, intense."

Naturally, Carr was asked to explain the "maniac" thing.

"Let's see," Carr said, pausing. "Nothing ... is ... ever ... good enough for him. That's kind of crazy, isn't it?"

Not to Marinelli, whose college career at Cal Lutheran in the early 1970s was interrupted by a tour with the Army in Vietnam. Sure, he's got a little military in him — blunt and demanding. He admits it, but says there's a flip side.



TIM SHARP/AP

Dallas Cowboys defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli instructs players during a rookie minicamp at the Cowboys' headquarters in Irving, Texas. Marinelli's defense has far exceeded expectations, despite a bump in the road a week ago against Washington.

"When I say it's good enough, then it has meaning to it," Marinelli said. "When there's meaning to it — 'I did something well, he acknowledged that' — that's good. And then I correct. Correct, correct, correct. And some guys get sensitive. I don't care. Just correct."

Marinelli showed the unvarnished version of himself when Tony Dungy was putting together his staff at Tampa Bay in 1996. Dungy was sold during a day in California with the then-Southern Cal assistant.

"His love is I guess what you'd call tough love," Dungy said. "But if you can hang with him, you're going to be a better person, a better man and a better player."



GAMEDAY

WEEK 9

TELEVISED GAMES



Marquee matchup

Denver Broncos (6-1) at New England Patriots (6-2)

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday Central European Time

San Diego Chargers (5-3) at Miami Dolphins (4-3)

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
Series: Miami leads 13-12, but San Diego has won two of the past three meetings.

Last meeting: Dolphins beat the visiting Chargers 20-16 on Nov. 17, 2013.

Notes: Chargers' Antonio Gates needs one more TD reception to become the first TE in NFL history with four career 10-plus TD seasons. ... Dolphins QB Ryan Tannehill won his only career start against the Chargers, passing for 268 yards and a TD.



Arizona Cardinals (6-1) at Dallas Cowboys (6-2)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
Series: Cowboys lead 55-30-1, but Cardinals have won the past three.
Last meeting: Cardinals beat the visiting Cowboys 19-13 in OT on Dec. 4, 2011.

Notes: Cardinals QB Carson Palmer has 2 TD passes in each of his four '14 starts ... WR Larry Fitzgerald has a catch in 156 straight games, the NFL's longest active streak. ... Cowboys RB DeMarco Murray is the only player in NFL history with 100-plus rushing yards in the first eight games.

SERIES RECORD: Broncos lead 25-19; Patriots have won past three.
LAST MEETING: Denver beat New England, 26-16, in last year's AFC championship game.
BRONCOS OFFENSE: OVERALL (6), RUSH (21), PASS (3).
BRONCOS DEFENSE: OVERALL (4), RUSH (1), PASS (17).
PATRIOTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (10), RUSH (17), PASS (10).
PATRIOTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (12), RUSH (25), PASS (2).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: First game in NFL history to feature opposing starting QBs with 150-plus regular-season wins each. ... In the 2013 AFC championship vs. New England, Broncos QB Peyton Manning passed for 400 yards and 2 TDs. He has 2-plus TD passes in 13 consecutive games, tied for longest streak in league history ... RB Ronnie Hillman rushed for a career-high 109 yards last week. ... In the past four games, WR Demaryius Thomas has 34 catches for 626 yards and 5 TDs. ... WR Wes Welker spent six seasons with New England (2007-12) and is the Pat's

New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski

CHARLES TRAINOR JR., MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

career leader in catches (672) ... Broncos are only NFL team to feature two players with 7-plus sacks each (LBs Von Miller and DeMarcus Ware) ... Since entering the league in 2011, Miller leads the AFC with 44 sacks. ... The Patriots aim for their 14th consecutive regular-season victory at home ... Last week, QB Tom Brady completed 30 of 35 passes for 354 yards and 5 TDs and no interceptions. He's the only QB in NFL history with 350-plus yards, 5-plus TDs, no interceptions and an 85-plus completion percentage in a game (also did it against Tennessee on Oct. 18, 2009). Has won 87 of 100 regular-season home starts, most of any QB in the Super Bowl era through their first 100 ... WR Brandon LaFell had career highs in catches (11) and receiving yards (124) with a TD last week. ... TE Rob Gronkowski had nine receptions for 149 yards and tied a career high with 3 TDs vs. Chicago last week. Since entering the league in 2010, he leads the NFL with 49 TD catches.



St. Louis Rams (2-5) at San Francisco 49ers (4-3)

AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Sunday CET
Series: 49ers lead 64-62-3, including the past three.

Last meeting: 49ers beat the host Rams 31-17 on Oct. 13.

Notes: Rams QB Austin Davis has 10 TD passes in his first five starts ... Rookie RB Tre Mason is averaging 5.2 yards a carry. ... When 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick starts and has a 100-plus rating, the team is 15-1 ... RB Frank Gore has 15 rushing TDs in the past 15 meetings with the Rams.



Baltimore Ravens (5-3) at Pittsburgh Steelers (5-3)

AFN-Sports
2:20 a.m. Monday CET
Series: Steelers lead 20-17, but the Ravens have won the past two.

Last meeting: Ravens beat the visiting Steelers 26-6 on Sept. 11.

Notes: Ravens QB Joe Flacco has won five of the past seven against Pittsburgh, passing for 1,508 yards with 9 TDs and 1 interception. ... Last week, Ben Roethlisberger passed for a club record 522 yards and 6 TDs. He's the only player in NFL history with two 100-plus-yard passing games.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Philadelphia at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Kansas City
Washington at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at Cleveland
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Seattle
Open: Atlanta, Buffalo, Chicago, Detroit, Oakland Bay, Tennessee
Monday
Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Nov. 6
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Sunday, Nov. 9
San Francisco at New Orleans
Kansas City at Buffalo
Miami at Detroit
Tennessee at Baltimore
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets
Atlanta at Tampa Bay
Dallas vs. Jacksonville in London
Denver at Oakland
N.Y. Giants at Seattle
St. Louis at Chicago
Chicago at Green Bay
Open: Houston, Indianapolis, Minnesota, New England, San Diego, Washington
Monday, Nov. 10
Carolina at Philadelphia

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	East			Home	Away	2-0	AFC	NFC	Div
				Pct	PF	PA						
New England	6	2	0	.750	238	177	4-0-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	
Buffalo	5	3	0	.625	178	165	2-2-0	3-1-0	2-3-0	3-0-0	2-1-0	
Miami	4	3	0	.571	174	151	1-2-0	3-1-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	
N.Y. Jets	1	7	0	.125	144	228	1-4-0	0-3-0	1-4-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	
South												
Indianapolis	5	3	0	.625	250	187	3-1-0	2-2-0	5-2-0	0-1-0	3-0-0	
Houston	4	4	0	.500	185	165	2-1-0	2-3-0	2-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	
Tennessee	2	6	0	.250	137	202	1-3-0	1-3-0	2-4-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	
Jacksonville	1	7	0	.125	118	218	1-3-0	0-4-0	1-5-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	
North												
Cincinnati	4	2	1	.643	161	164	3-0-1	1-2-0	3-2-0	1-0-1	2-0-0	
Baltimore	3	3	0	.625	217	151	3-1-0	2-2-0	2-3-0	3-0-0	2-2-0	
Pittsburgh	5	3	0	.625	205	196	3-1-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	163	152	3-1-0	1-2-0	3-3-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	
West												
Denver	6	1	0	.857	224	142	5-0-0	1-1-0	4-0-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	
San Diego	5	3	0	.625	205	149	3-1-0	2-2-0	4-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Kansas City	4	3	0	.571	176	128	2-1-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	
Oakland	0	7	0	.000	105	181	0-4-0	0-3-0	0-6-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	

National Conference

	W	L	T	East			Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
				Pct	PF	PA					
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	213	167	3-2-0	3-0-0	4-2-0	2-0-0	1-1-0
Philadelphia	5	2	0	.714	203	156	4-0-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
N.Y. Giants	3	4	0	.429	154	169	2-1-0	1-3-0	2-4-0	1-0-0	1-2-0
Washington	3	5	0	.375	171	200	2-2-0	1-3-0	1-4-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
North											
New Orleans	4	4	0	.500	227	198	3-0-0	1-4-0	4-3-0	0-1-0	2-1-0
Carolina	3	5	1	.389	177	236	2-3-0	2-2-0	3-0-0	0-2-1	1-1-0
Atlanta	2	6	0	.250	192	221	2-2-0	0-4-0	2-4-0	0-2-0	2-0-0
Tampa Bay	1	6	0	.143	133	223	0-4-0	1-2-0	0-5-0	1-1-0	0-3-0
South											
Detroit	6	2	0	.750	162	126	3-1-0	3-1-0	5-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0
Green Bay	5	3	0	.625	222	191	3-0-0	2-3-0	3-3-0	2-0-0	2-1-0
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	180	222	0-3-0	3-2-0	2-2-0	1-3-0	0-1-0
Minnesota	3	5	0	.375	139	173	1-2-0	2-3-0	3-3-0	0-2-0	0-2-0
West											
Arizona	6	1	0	.857	164	139	4-0-0	2-1-0	4-0-0	2-1-0	1-0-0
San Francisco	4	3	0	.571	158	165	1-2-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	172	150	2-1-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
St. Louis	2	5	0	.286	136	210	1-3-0	1-2-0	2-4-0	0-1-0	1-1-0

SPORTS



Chicago hire

Cubs nab former Tampa Bay manager Maddon | Page 25

NFL

Time to shine

Rookie WRs, DBs expected to contribute immediately

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

Hey rook, get in there and show your stuff.

That's the reality of the NFL these days, when rookies, especially those selected high in the draft, not only are given a chance to prove themselves but are expected to contribute immediately. The salary cap forces it, but so do coaches eager to get more athletic skill on the field.

This year, wide receivers and the guys who try to cover them are having the most impact.

Such as Brandin Cooks of the Saints. "He is so sharp in being able to pick things up and we use him in a lot of different ways,"

Drew Brees says of throwing to the first-round pick. "He just continues to amaze me with his ability to compartmentalize those things and go out and execute it. If he makes a mistake it only happens once. He cor-

Inside:

- Griffin excited to be back on field for 'Skins, Page 29
- Davis, Colts' secondary looking to rebound after rout at hands of Steelers, Page 29

rects it very quickly. I've been impressed with that."

Perhaps equally as impressive has been the work of another first-rounder, Cleveland cornerback Justin Gilbert.

He started slowly but recently has been as effective as veteran Joe Haden at the other corner.

"I think he's really improving," said Browns safety Donte

Whitner. "I think he's going out there and not thinking. He's going out there to make plays and not going out there not to get beat."

That's critical in the secondary, where Chicago CB Kyle Fuller, San Diego CB Jason Verrett, Denver CB Bradley Roby, San Francisco safety Jimmie Ward, Arizona S Deone Bucannon, and Green Bay S Ha Ha Clinton-Dix have stood out in positions where the transition from college is exceptionally difficult.

Not to mention the challenge of facing high-powered pro offenses where receivers such as Cooks, Arizona's John Brown, Buffalo's Sammy Watkins, Carolina's Kelvin Benjamin, Jacksonville's Allen Robinson and Philadelphia's Jordan Matthews have so smoothly fit in.

"It's huge," Packers safeties coach Darren Perry says of the learning curve, particularly for a safety in his first NFL season.

SEE TIME ON PAGE 30



New Orleans rookie wide receiver Brandin Cooks has fit right in with Drew Brees and the Saints' high-octane offensive philosophy.

BILL HABER/AP

Winds of change blowing at Michigan | College football, Page 28

LeBron, Cavaliers bounce back with win over Bulls | NBA, Page 27

Nyquist, Datsyuk each find net twice in Detroit win | NHL, Page 26