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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## ROCKY ROADS

### US-built roads in Afghanistan crumble for lack of care

By KEVIN SIEFF  
*The Washington Post*

**T**hey look like victims of an insurgent attack — their limbs in need of amputation, their skulls cracked — but the patients who pour daily into the Ghazni Provincial Hospital are casualties of another Afghan crisis.

They are motorists who drove on the road network built by the U.S. government and other Western donors — a \$4 billion project that was once a symbol of promise in post-Taliban Afghanistan but is now falling apart.

Western officials say the Afghan government is unable to maintain even a fraction of the roads and highways constructed since 2001, when the country had less than 50 miles of paved roads.

The deterioration has hurt commerce and has slowed military operations. In many places, the roads once deemed the hallmark of America's development effort have turned into death traps, full of cars careening into massive bomb-blast craters or sliding off crumbling pavement.

"There's been nothing. No maintenance," said a U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

### MUNICH SECURITY CONFERENCE

## War-weary West facing new threats

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

**MUNICH** — A deep sense of war weariness marked the mood during three days of talks in Munich, where international leaders tacitly acknowledged the era of grand military interventions is ending, even as they grappled with how to approach a



growing list of festering global hot spots. At the 50th annual Munich Security Conference, political and military leaders and policy experts wrestled with what to do about the civil war in Syria, where there are fears that the country could evolve into a home base for Islamic militants who have migrated there. They also talked about the complicated aftermath of the Arab Spring, which created security vacuums in parts of northern Africa.

**'The United States may want to leave [behind] all the things happening in the Middle East. But those dedicated to our extinction will not leave the United States alone.'**

Sen. John McCain  
R-Ariz.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the United States should not leave behind the things happening in the Middle East.

In Munich, there was almost a sense of nostalgia for the unifying threats of yesteryear, when allies were united against any expansion of the Soviet sphere of influence. Now, as the war in Afghanistan draws to a close after more than a decade, the U.S. and its allies in Europe are struggling to find unity in how to deal with new, emerging threats of today.

SEE MUNICH ON PAGE 6

Above: Part of Highway One in Sayedabad, Afghanistan, was damaged by a roadside bomb.

Kevin Sieff/The Washington Post

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Permanently forward deploying four ships in Rota will enable us to be in the right place, not just at the right time but all the time.”

— Navy Secretary Ray Mabus on the departure of the destroyer USS Donald Cook as it becomes part of Europe’s missile defense shield

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# MIDEAST

## Rocky: Afghans say US funding cutoff hampers road efforts

FROM FRONT PAGE

Since 2012, the United States has refused to fund the Afghan government’s road maintenance projects because it has no faith in the country’s ability to perform even simple tasks, such as dispatching a contractor to fill in a pothole or repaving a stretch of highway.

Despite those concerns, the U.S. government is still building new roads in Afghanistan, multimillion-dollar projects whose funds were allocated years ago.

The Afghans say they are doing some maintenance but claim the cutoff in U.S. funds has left them hamstrung.

“We don’t have enough money to work as they did,” said Mohammad Aref Raishkel, the director of maintenance at Afghanistan’s Ministry of Public Works. “I beg them to help us once again.”

Before the U.S. invasion in 2001, almost all of Afghanistan’s roads — mostly Soviet-built — had been destroyed by war and neglect. The new, U.S.-built highways seemed to be a godsend for this impoverished nation. But the projects became notorious for their exorbitant costs and poorly implemented contracts. Sometimes, money landed in the hands of the Taliban in exchange for a tacit cease-fire during road construction.

Now the rapid deterioration of the roads could count as symbolize a failure to preserve key gains.

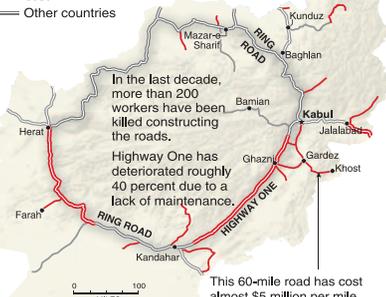
Some of the roughly 10,000 miles of roads and highways built by Western donors have been

### Paving the way for roads in Afghanistan

Since 2001, the U.S. has funded more than \$2 billion in roads, primarily on the Ring Road, the country’s central highway network. More than two-thirds of Afghans live within 30 miles of the road.

Road construction funded by:

- U.S.
- Other countries



In the last decade, more than 200 workers have been killed constructing the roads. Highway One has deteriorated roughly 40 percent due to a lack of maintenance.

This 60-mile road has cost almost \$5 million per mile, largely because of the cost of providing security for workers. The last 15 miles are scheduled to be finished this year.

THE WASHINGTON POST

worn away by overuse. Others are shredded by hundreds of improvised explosive devices laid by insurgents. Not long ago, U.S. troops and contractors repaired them, but those resources are now gone.

“It’s very hard for us to justify to our leadership in Washington that we should be putting more funds into this unless there’s some type of response on the other side,” the U.S. official said.

On the 300-mile Highway One, which connects two of the country’s most important cities, Kabul and Kandahar, the number of fatal car crashes has soared as the road has deteriorated. Military operations, including urgent casualty evacuations, have been slowed by the crumbling highway.

“The road is a disaster. It causes obstacles and delays and countless casualties,” said a senior Afghan commander in eastern Afghanistan, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn’t authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The problems are due in part to an insurgency that, 12 years into

the war, is far stronger than the United States had anticipated.

In the past six months, one Afghan battalion unearthed 200 IEDs on a 12-mile stretch of Highway One. In many other cases, the bombs were not detected and wound up exploding, leaving truck-size holes in the asphalt. Few of those holes were adequately filled.

In the Sayedabad district of Wardak province, one blast crater is 15 feet wide and 25 feet deep, a crevice big enough to swallow an 18-wheeler. Three months after the explosion, there’s been no effort to repair it.

Many officials worry that the U.S.-funded roads still under construction will fall into disrepair after they’re completed. One 60-mile road in eastern Afghanistan between Khost and Paktia provinces has cost almost \$5 million per mile, largely because of the cost of providing security for construction workers. The last 15 miles of the road are slated to be completed this year.

The United States almost immediately made road construc-

tion a top priority after the 2001 invasion — calling an effective network of highways and rural roads the key to both security and economic stability.

“Wherever the Taliban starts,” then-U.S. commander Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry said in 2006.

The U.S. military and USAID funded more than \$2 billion in roads — one of the largest American investments in Afghanistan. A host of foreign donors, particularly Germany, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, also poured billions of dollars into construction.

During the years of rapid construction, the donors’ conversations with the Afghan government about road maintenance were rare. “There was such an urgent need to build highways,” the U.S. official said. “Maintenance was not the issue at the time.”

Afghan officials assumed they would receive ongoing financial support to maintain the roads. U.S. officials say they likely would have provided such aid if the Afghan authorities had proven competent. So far, U.S. efforts to build an Afghan Road Authority that would fund and implement maintenance have been largely ineffective as tension between the two governments has risen.

Now, U.S. officials say, the problem lies mostly with the Public Works Ministry, a notoriously troubled institution. The ministry has changed little since its formation under the Soviet-backed government in the 1970s, and it lacks the ability to procure contracts or to implement its own projects, according to U.S. and other Western officials. Each year, half of its budget goes unspent because of mismanagement, according to U.S. officials.

The problems are most evident on Highway One, which runs through the country’s most embattled areas.

In the past, the U.S. Army would dispatch a platoon for days at a time to repair and reopen roads. The rapid American military withdrawal has taken away those resources.

Thanks to the lack of maintenance in the past two years, U.S. officials say the road has deteriorated roughly 40 percent.

“Things have gotten so much worse,” said Abdul Jamil, a taxi driver. “Now, if we drive too fast, everyone in the car dies.”

### Correction

A story in the Feb. 1 edition about the Mongolian contingent in northern Afghanistan inviting their coalition counterparts to join in Lunar New Year celebrations gave the wrong credit for two of the photos. The inside photo of two soldiers wrestling and another of two Mongolian soldiers in traditional garb smelling incense, as well as the small photo on the front of two soldiers wrestling were all taken by Bryan Mitchell, courtesy of Regional Command North.

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## MIDEAST



PHOTOS BY JOSH SMITH/STARS AND STRIPES

A grinning Abdullah Abdullah graces a billboard in Kabul advertising his candidacy for the Afghan presidency. Candidates were officially allowed to begin campaigning Sunday.

# Afghans seeking results as campaign begins

By JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Election posters and billboards appeared around Afghanistan's capital Sunday as the campaign officially kicked off for the crucial April election to choose a successor to President Hamid Karzai, who has led the country since the U.S.-led coalition ousted the Taliban in 2001.

Candidates vying to succeed Karzai are now legally allowed to begin their public campaigns, with rallies and televised debates planned for the coming months.

For the 11 candidates whose faces now peer down from countless posters and billboards plastered around the city, their efforts to win over voters will be complicated by an electorate weary of war and skeptical after years of what they see as broken promises from their leaders.

The vote, scheduled to take place on April 5, will mark the first democratic transfer of power since the American intervention that toppled the Taliban in 2001.

Karzai, who was appointed head of an interim administration in 2001 and won presidential elections in 2004 and in the disputed and controversial 2009 election, is barred from running again after serving two five-year terms, opening the presidency to new leadership.

A key issue going into the elections is the future of international troops in Afghanistan. Tensions have risen between the Afghan government and its foreign backers, especially the United States, over Karzai's refusal to sign an agreement that would keep as many as 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan past the end of the year as part of a train, advise and assist mission. It would form the basis for a status-of-forces agreement with NATO. Instead, Karzai is threatening to leave the decision to his successor.

Two aides to a leading presiden-

tial candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, were gunned down by assailants outside a campaign office in the western city of Herat on Saturday, underscoring the tenuous security situation as NATO prepares to withdraw all combat troops by the end of the year and the Afghan government takes the lead in the military and political fight against a resilient insurgency.

For a few residents of Kabul who gathered in a small shop on Sunday, security and economic opportunity are top priorities.

"Everyone says they want to build Afghanistan. But right now, Afghanistan needs security, peace and economic growth," said Talha Hairan, 22, the owner of the shop. "We need specific agendas."

Fully attaining such lofty goals has proved elusive for both the Afghan government and the NATO coalition, and Hairan said he's tired of unfulfilled promises.

"In the past, politicians always promised new things, but nothing happened," he said.

Sardar Wali, who stopped by to purchase a few odds and ends from Hairan, agreed.

"Many promises have gone unfulfilled," he lamented, adding that he's looking for a candidate who will bring better things for Afghanistan and Islam.

## 4 Afghan soldiers killed in ambush

KABUL — An insurgent ambush killed four soldiers in western Afghanistan on Saturday, according to an official.

Provincial spokesman Fawad Askari said another four were wounded Saturday afternoon in the attack on an Afghan National Army foot patrol along the main highway in western Afghanistan's Farah province.



Talha Hairan, owner of a shop in Kabul, talks Sunday about the presidential election.

A former foreign minister under Karzai who later fell out with him, Abdullah Abdullah ran for president in 2009 but dropped out after allegations that the vote was rigged in Karzai's favor. United Nations officials at the time said there was evidence of "widespread fraud."

Noor Mohammad Noor, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission, called on all the candidates to respect the wide range of election

rules and regulations that govern things like how much each campaign can spend, and the use of government resources for political purposes.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Zia Durrani, a police spokesman for Kandahar Province, said Saturday that four policemen had died there a day earlier when a roadside bomb explosion hit a police vehicle.

One policeman was wounded in the blast, which occurred in the Spin Boldak district of Kandahar Province, near the border with Pakistan.

From The Associated Press

rules and regulations that govern things like how much each campaign can spend, and the use of government resources for political purposes.

For Hairan and Wali, however, the larger fear this time is that foreign governments like neighboring Pakistan and Iran, as well as the United States, will interfere. "If there is corruption, it will come from abroad," Wali said.

In a recently published memoir, former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates accused U.S. diplomats of working behind the scenes to support opponents who might defeat Karzai in the 2009 election, which Gates referred to as a "clumsy and failed putsch." A spokeswoman for the U.S. National Security Council denied Gates' allegations as "categorically false, in a statement to The Guardian last month.

Afghan authorities are in charge of the election process. Apparently to allay fears of outside influence, U.S. officials confirmed last week that they had canceled funding that had been provided for opinion polling in the run-up to the election.

The candidates range from Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, whose connections to jihadists have caused controversy, to Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, a former finance minister who also ran in 2009. Other top contenders include Abdullah; the president's businessman brother, Qayyum Karzai; and another former finance minister, Zalmay Rassoul.

Faiz Mohammad Zaland, a spokesman for Ahmadzai, said his candidate's campaign will seek to take advantage of the new communications technology that has proliferated since the fall of the Taliban.

"During the campaign, our main focus will be on the information technology," he told Stars and Stripes. "Whether it is social media, or voicemails, text messages — we want to reach as many people as we can."

Zaland acknowledged that the election will face security threats, just as Afghans face such risks every day. He vowed that the campaign would move forward despite any menace posed by continued fighting or attacks.

Election commission representatives met with officials from the Defense and Interior ministries, as well as the domestic intelligence agency, on Saturday to discuss security for candidates, their staffs and polling places, according to commission spokesman Noor.

"They have assured us that they will help to strengthen security for the election," he told Stars and Stripes.

Kabul residents appeared to take the potential security risks in stride.

"There are definitely threats to the elections, because the Taliban see them as illegitimate," said Hairan, the young shopkeeper. "But I don't worry about that. When the time comes, I will vote."

Zubair Babakarkhal contributed to this report. smith.josh@stripes.com Twitter: @joshjonsmith

## EUROPE

# American tanks return to bases in Germany

MICHAEL S. DARNELL  
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Less than a year after they left European soil, American tanks have returned to military bases in Germany, where they had been a heavy presence since World War II.

In April last year, the last Abrams tanks left Germany, coinciding with a drawdown of U.S. forces that saw the inactivation of two infantry brigades — the 170th and the 172nd.

When the 22 M1A1 Abrams tanks departed the continent, it was seen as the end of an era, as tanks had been a fixture on American bases in Europe since landing at Omaha Beach in 1944.

Now, it appears that chapter of history may have been closed a bit prematurely.

On Friday, the last of 29 M1A2 SEPv2 Abrams tanks were offloaded at the railhead at the Grafenwöhr training facilities. Those heavily armored vehicles are upgraded versions of the older Abrams that left 10 months ago and will become part of what the Joint Multinational Training Command at Grafenwöhr is calling the European Activity Set.

“The EAS is a pre-positioned, battalion-plus-size equipment set with headquarters pieces and command-and-control elements,” said Col. Thomas Matsel, operations officer with the JMTC. “Units that utilize the EAS will have access to the entire breadth of military operations they may have to conduct.”

The Abrams tanks will join 33 M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and dozens of other heavy-support vehicles that will be positioned at Grafenwöhr to be used at the training facilities there, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels and at other training areas across Europe.



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

The last of 29 M1A2 SEPv2 Abrams tanks arrive Friday at the Grafenwöhr, Germany, railhead.

The concept of the EAS envisions units using the equipment in short stints before turning it over to the next group of troops.

JMTC officials hope the EAS will fill a gap in the capabilities

of the training facilities that became apparent when the tanks departed last April.

“We have the best light infantry training facilities, the best medium training area with the Stryker-

ers,” Matsel said. “The only thing missing was the heavy piece.”

Several units already are scheduled to use the EAS. The 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, is first and will take temporary

ownership of the vehicles, which will accompany them as they take part in three major exercises spanning from France to Latvia later this year.

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LaSONYA MORALES/Courtesy of NATO

Brigadier Tim Carmichael, a British soldier with Headquarters, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps at Imjin Barracks, England, dips bread into a runny egg during a successful attempt to set a Guinness world record on Jan. 22.

## NATO troops help set egg-dipping record

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — A total of 178 NATO servicemembers at Imjin Barracks, England, helped a charity for bereaved children by setting a Guinness world record for the number of people dipping strips of bread, called “soldiers,” into soft-boiled eggs simultaneously.

Winston's Wish, the charity that organized the event, announced in a news release Wednesday that it achieved the world record. The charity staged the event to promote a campaign to raise 50,000 British pounds (more than \$82,000) to support children who have lost someone close to them, such as a parent or sibling.

U.S. Army Sgt. Jessica Smith said dipping and eating the bread in unison was not that difficult since she just followed the shouted instructions. The hard parts were making certain she got yolk

on the bread and then swallowing it.

“The taste of it was semi-raw,” Smith said in a phone interview. “It was not all the way cooked, so that's what made it difficult for me to swallow because it was very gooey.”

Despite the taste, Smith was happy to have participated.

“It's once-in-a-lifetime,” Smith said. “I guarantee you that probably won't happen again unless

it's a charity event.”

A post on the Guinness World Records website confirmed the charity broke the record for “the most people dipping egg soldiers simultaneously.”

A Guinness representative said in a phone interview that the previous record was set in June 2012 in London by 100 members of the British army.

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MILITARY



# Departing destroyer

PHOTOS BY STEVE EARLEY/AP

Lea and Rick Corway wave as the destroyer USS Donald Cook leaves Naval Station Norfolk, Va., for Rota, Spain, on Friday.

## Donald Cook heads to Spain to be part of missile defense shield

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

The first of four U.S. Navy destroyers to form the centerpiece of Europe's missile defense shield was departing the U.S. East Coast on Friday for its new homeport in southern Spain.

Plans call for the USS Donald Cook to be joined by three more Arleigh Burke-class missile-guided destroyers, which carry the Aegis weapon system, in the next two years. All are to be stationed at the U.S. Navy base in Rota, Spain, on the Atlantic coast north of Gibraltar.

Other pieces of the missile defense shield, known as the European Phased Adaptive Approach, include land-based Aegis interceptor batteries in Romania and Poland, radar in Turkey and a command center at the U.S. Air Force base in Ramstein, Germany.

The plan has caused a major rift with Russia, which says the shield is aimed against its own nuclear missile arsenal. The U.S. and its NATO allies say the defense system is meant to protect Europe from potentially hostile countries in the region, such as Iran.

The destroyer detachment expands the Navy presence in Europe at a time when other services are drawing down across the continent. It follows the Navy's current emphasis on forward deployment, or having ships stationed closer to areas of interest.

U.S. interest in the Mediterranean has risen in recent years because of conflicts and instability across the region, from Syria to Egypt and North Africa. The Mediterranean is also a significant waterway for commercial shipping and an access point to Middle

Eastern waters from the Atlantic.

"Permanently forward deploying four ships in Rota will enable us to be in the right place, not just at the right time but all the time," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus is quoted as saying in a Defense Department news release on the Donald Cook's departure.

**The ship eventually will be joined by three more Arleigh Burke-class missile-guided destroyers: the USS Ross, Porter and Carney.**

The ships will add roughly 1,200 sailors and personnel and about 1,800 family members to Rota, a former submarine base. Many of the newcomers will arrive in the summer, according to base officials.

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Top: Ensign Mansfield Murph, right, waves goodbye to her family. Above: Petty Officer 2nd Class Jarret Rousseve embraces his girlfriend, Karen Saybe, before the ship sets sail.

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## DOD's chief budget guru stepping down

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Robert Hale, the Pentagon's chief financial officer, announced Friday that he will step down as soon as his successor is in place.

Also Friday, President Barack Obama nominated Michael McCord, Hale's principal deputy, to succeed Hale, who said he plans to wait until McCord is confirmed by the Senate before he leaves office.

Hale has served as undersecretary of defense (comptroller)

since 2009. During his tenure as the Defense Department's budget guru, Hale has wrestled with financial challenges presented by sequestration, long-term decline in military spending and repeated congressional failure to pass annual appropriations bills. He also undertook the task of working to make DOD's finances auditable for the first time in recent memory.

"When the time does come to leave the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), I will do so with decidedly mixed feelings," Hale said in a

statement.

"With the help of a large number of outstanding men and women in the Comptroller organization, and many others in this organization, we have guided this Department through some very turbulent times while also making progress on key initiatives," he said. "But having been in this job for about five years — longer than any DoD comptroller since the 1950s — I know it is getting close to the time when I should pursue other opportunities and challenges."

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## MILITARY

## Iran reassures on nuke program deal

By DAVID RISING  
The Associated Press

MUNICH — Iran's foreign minister said Sunday his country is prepared to move ahead in negotiations over its nuclear program, assuring Western diplomats that Tehran has the political will and good faith to reach a "balanced" long-term agreement.

Mohamad Javad Zarif told a gathering of the world's top diplomats and security officials that his country and Western nations were at a "historical crossroads" and just beginning to build the trust necessary for a long-term agreement.

"I think the opportunity is there, and I think we need to seize it," he said.

The comments came after Zarif met one-on-one with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the conference Sunday morning.

Kerry reiterated to Zarif the importance of both sides negotiating in good faith and of Iran abiding by its commitments, according to the State Department. Zarif described it as a "good meeting."

Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency struck a deal Nov. 11 granting U.N. inspectors wider access to Iran's nuclear facilities.

The deal is parallel to an agreement reached with world powers Nov. 24 in Geneva to have Iran halt its most sensitive uranium enrichment activities in return for an easing of Western sanctions over its nuclear program.

"That's an important beginning; it's not the end of the road," Zarif said of the two deals. "There are important questions and we are prepared to address them."

IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said he could report that "practical measures are being implemented as planned" by Iran, and that there would be new negotiations over the next phase.

The agreement with world powers, implemented Jan. 20, will be in effect for six months while further negotiations are held aimed at reaching a permanent agreement eliminating concerns that Tehran might use its nuclear program to build nuclear weapons.

Tehran denies such aims but



PHOTOS BY FRANK AUGSTEN/AP

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, center, gestures next to Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, left, prior to a panel discussion at the 50th Security Conference on Sunday.

says it is ready to reach a deal in exchange for full sanctions relief.

Iran has agreed to a new round of negotiations on Feb. 18 in Vienna with the six-nation group of world powers, the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany.

"What I can promise is that we will go to those negotiations with the political will and good faith to reach an agreement, because it would be foolish for us to only bargain for six months — that would be [a] disaster for everybody," Zarif said.

He said Iran and the international community needed to

restore mutual trust and said Tehran's end goal was "a good solution — a balanced solution." He added that "an unbalanced solution is inherently not stable."

"Believe me, you do not possess the monopoly on mistrust — there is a lot of mistrust in Iran," he told the audience. "Iranians believe, with good reason, that the West wants to deprive Iran of its ability to have access to technology."

Zarif said that "the answer at the end of the day is you need to put aside all narratives and take concrete steps."

Under the six-month deal, Iran has agreed to halt its 20 percent

enrichment program, which produces uranium just steps away from military grade, but will continue enrichment up to 5 percent.

It also will convert half of its stockpile of 20 percent enriched uranium to oxide and dilute the remaining half to 5 percent.

In return, the U.S. and the EU simultaneously announced the lifting of sanctions on petrochemical products, insurance, gold and other precious metals, passenger plane parts and services.

They also plan to release \$4.2 billion in Iranian assets of oil revenues blocked overseas in eight installments over six months.

## Munich: General emphasizes need for NATO to retain its readiness after Afghan drawdown

## FROM FRONT PAGE

"The largely bipolar world of the Cold War, East-West, was relatively straightforward compared to the forces that have been released with the fall of the Berlin Wall, the rise of sectarianism, the rise of religious extremism and the failure of governance in many places," Secretary of State John Kerry told the conference on Saturday.

Finding consensus on how to deal with those new threats also is challenging. Some, such as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., a long supporter of tougher action in Syria, said it is not too late for an intervention of some kind as part of an effort to bolster anti-government forces and counter the growing presence of al-Qaida-affiliated groups fighting against the government and more moderate opposition groups.

"The United States may want to leave [behind] all the things happening in the Middle East," McCain said. "But those dedicated to our extinction will not leave the United States alone."

Hammond provided the toll more than a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan has taken on the American public. "It is an understandable desire of the American people to stop this involvement, and the administration is to some degree reacting that way," he said. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., another proponent of more concerted action in Syria, such as the enforcement of a no-fly zone, also acknowledged the difficulty of galvanizing public support for complex security questions abroad.

Most Americans want me to pivot back to

South Carolina," Graham told the conference Saturday, using the word the administration has adopted to describe its refocus toward the Asia-Pacific region. "We're a war-weary country."

While strong public opposition and fear of lengthy entanglements abroad make the prospect of larger interventions in places like Syria or African trouble spots unlikely, the international community still must find ways to remain engaged, political and military leaders said.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel noted that strategic and nimble military assets can lend support to diplomacy.

"The trans-Atlantic partnership has been successful because of the judicious use of diplomacy and defense," Hagel said Saturday. "With the United States moving off a 13-year war footing, it's clear to us, it's very clear to President [Barack] Obama, that our future requires a renewed and enhanced era of partnership with our friends and allies, especially here in Europe."

The stakes of inaction are high in places such as Syria, where there are concerns that battle-hardened extremists could migrate to Europe to launch attacks, British Defense Secretary Philip Hammond said, echoing concerns expressed earlier by Kerry that jihadists from America, Britain and elsewhere "have flocked to learn the trade of terror" in Syria "and then perhaps to return to their home shores."

In Syria, "we are creating a new hole in the international terrorism," Hammond said. "We're al-



Secretary of State John Kerry attends the Munich Security Conference on Saturday.

For more coverage on the security conference, go to [stripes.com/go/munich](http://stripes.com/go/munich)

lowing this to happen."

In Munich, much of the discussion took place behind closed doors, where Kerry and others engaged in a series of bilateral talks over the weekend.

Political upheaval in Ukraine was a major point of discussion.

"Nowhere is the fight for a democratic European future more important today than in Ukraine," Kerry told the conference, while

advocating a trans-Atlantic Renaissance.

There also were the usual tensions between Russia and the West as NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov traded barbs over alliance missile defense plans in Europe.

Meanwhile, leaders from Germany, a country long reluctant to get involved in complicated security missions, signaled a willingness to be more assertive in working with allies to confront challenges abroad.

NATO's longest operation in history — the war in Afghanistan — received scant attention.

With the combat mission there set to end later this year, questions remain about whether the U.S. and its NATO partners will maintain a presence in the country for a post-2014 training mission. President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign a bilateral agreement with the U.S. to pave the way for a continued foreign troop presence.

NATO's credibility is at stake if Western troops withdraw from Afghanistan completely, as the U.S. did in Iraq because of failure to conclude a similar security agreement, Graham said.

"I think the future of the alliance is at stake here," Graham said. "All hell is going to break loose [in Afghanistan]. We have a chance in Afghanistan to get this right despite Karzai."

Looking past Afghanistan, officials examined ways to promote security with a smaller military presence.

Hammond said political leaders will need to establish well-de-

finied objectives and end games as part of any effort to sell even small interventions to a skeptical public.

If missions are preventative in nature, aimed at supporting fragile states before they become engulfed in violence, public support might be gained for small stability operations, he said.

"We have to find a way of funding the marginal costs of deploying this standing force" Hammond said.

Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO supreme allied commander, said the challenge of such an effort is getting an entire alliance behind such an idea.

"How do 28 nations agree on how to choose?" Breedlove asked during a panel discussion Saturday on "The Post-Conflict Conundrum." "These are the hard parts of turning aspirations into progress."

In an interview Saturday with a select group of reporters, Breedlove cautioned that NATO must retain its readiness. As the mission in Afghanistan gets smaller, more resources must be dedicated to exercises to keep the alliance combat-ready, he said.

"I don't believe anyone in the room believes NATO has answered its last call," he said. "We need to be prepared for the next time NATO is asked to come to the fore."

"If we allow all the capability to go away because we don't pay attention to it, shame on us as military leaders and political leaders."

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MILITARY

# Hagel gives nuke officers status update

By **ROBERT BURNS**  
The Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIR-CRAFT — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has made the rare gesture of phoning Air Force nuclear officers in their underground launch bunkers to update them on efforts to correct problems in their service.

Hagel placed the calls from aboard the military command aircraft that carried him home Saturday from an international security conference in Germany.

The Pentagon chief spoke to six Minuteman 3 missile launch control officers at centers operated by the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana.

Malmstrom is the focus of a widening investigation into alleged cheating by launch officers on proficiency tests. About half of the entire cadre of missile launch officers at Malmstrom have been removed from duty because of the accusations, and the probe is continuing.

The scandal has created great strain

on the remaining launch officers, forcing them to do more 24-hour shifts in the launch centers than normal.

A defense official who briefed reporters on Hagel's phone calls said the six officers to whom he spoke were generally positive in their outlook but also cited strains and stresses. The official was not authorized to discuss the private conversations by name and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hagel told the officers about a meeting he conducted Wednesday at the Pentagon with top Air Force and Navy officials

to discuss problems within the Air Force nuclear missile force. In addition to the alleged cheating, there also is a drug investigation involving a smaller number of launch officers, as well as troubling trends in other misbehavior and lapses first reported by The Associated Press.

Hagel also thanked the officers for taking on the extra shifts required while more than 90 of their colleagues are suspended in the cheating probe. Hagel expressed confidence in their ability to execute the mission, the defense official said.



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE NEUMAN, UT SAN DIEGO/AP

**Above: Visitors walk past the USNS John Glenn that was christened Saturday at General Dynamics' National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. in San Diego. Below: Former astronaut and U.S. Sen. John Glenn, for whom the ship is named, appears at the christening ceremony.**

## Ship named for former astronaut, senator John Glenn is christened

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The military on Saturday christened a Navy logistics ship in honor of John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth.

The former Ohio senator attended the ceremony in San Diego at General Dynamics' National Steel and Shipbuilding Co., along with his wife and daughter.

The 785-foot USNS John Glenn is a Mobile Landing Platform ship — a new type of amphibious staging and assault vessel. It's the second one ordered by the Navy to quickly transport troops and supplies to shore.

"What better name could adorn this ship than John Glenn — a risk taker, an innovator, a man who got the job done," Rear Admiral Thomas Shannon said during the nearly hourlong ceremony.

Admiral Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, called the ship "a giant Swiss Army knife" that can serve combat and humanitarian missions.

Greenert said he wished the



ship was available during the Philippine typhoon last year since it has 25,000 square foot of cargo space.

Glenn, 92, a Marine pilot during World War II and the Korean

War, told the audience that he was proud of the ship bearing his name. He also paid homage to the people he served alongside.

"We're proud of this ship for them and along with my name on it. We're joint partners in this," he said.

To make the name official, Glenn's daughter, Lyn, broke a bottle of sparkling wine against the hull as attendees cheered and clapped.

In a statement, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus called the christening "a fitting tribute" to the man who in 1962 became the first American to orbit the Earth as a member of the Mercury 7 program, America's first corps of astronauts.

After the historic spaceflight, he ran for Senate and served for 24 years. In 1998, he returned to flying and became the oldest person to fly in space when he joined a space shuttle mission at the age of 77.

## Ga. Air Force base is targeted for cuts

By **WAYNE CRENSHAW**  
The Macon (Ga.) Telegraph

WARNER ROBINS AFB, Ga. — Recommendations of a special commission on restructuring the Air Force would put about 1,100 jobs at Robins Air Force Base in jeopardy.

The report by the National Commission on the Structure of the Air Force calls for eliminating the Air Force Reserve Command, which is based at Robins. The command employs about 1,100 people, said Col. Rob Palmer, the unit's director of public affairs.

He emphasized the recommendation still must be approved by Congress.

According to the 21st Century Partnership, which advocates for Robins, the command has a \$150 million annual payroll and an annual economic impact of about \$250 million.

If the recommendations are implemented, the Air Force Reserve would continue to exist, but its units would fall under the command of the active-duty Air Force. The report states it would

be a more efficient way to operate and would save money. It also states the recommendations should be followed even in the absence of budget constraints.

In general, the report emphasizes a need to shift more responsibility to the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve. Part-time airmen could do many tasks at a lower cost than active-duty Air Force, the report states. It also recommends blending Guard and Reserve units with active-duty forces.

"These recommendations will lower overall military personnel costs, and they will produce a more ready and capable force by preserving funds for operations, maintenance, procurement, and recapitalization," the report states.

Retired Maj. Gen. Robert McMahon, who leads the 21st Century Partnership, said he agrees with many of the recommendations, particularly those that put more emphasis on the role of the Guard and Reserve.

"Eliminating the Air Force Reserve Command, however, is a bad idea, McMahon said.

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NATION

# Despite safety efforts, school shootings go on

By **KIMBERLY HEFLING**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's been no real reduction in the number of U.S. school shootings despite increased security put into place after the rampage at a Connecticut elementary school in December 2012 that left 20 children and six educators dead.

An Associated Press analysis finds there have been at least 11 school shootings this academic year alone, in addition to other cases of gun violence in school parking lots and elsewhere on campus when classes were not in session.

Last August, for example, a gun discharged in a 5-year-old's backpack while students were waiting for the opening bell in the cafeteria at Westside Elementary School in Memphis. No one was hurt.

Experts say the rate of school shootings is statistically unchanged since the mid- to late 1990s, and remains troubling.

Ronald Stephens, executive director of the National School Safety Center, said there have been about 500 school-associated violent deaths in the past 20 years.

The numbers don't include a string of recent shootings at colleges and universities. Just last week, a man was shot and critically wounded at the Palm Bay

Campus of Eastern Florida State College, according to police.

Bill Bond, who was principal at Heath High School in West Paducah in 1997 when a 14-year-old freshman fired on a prayer group, killing three female students and wounding five, sees few differences in how shootings are carried out today. The one consistency, he said, is that the shooters are males confronting hopelessness.

"You see troubled young men who are desperate and they strike out and they don't see that they have any hope," Bond said.

Schools generally are much safer than they were five, 10 or 15 years ago, Stephens said. Stephens noted that perspective is important. In Chicago, there were 500 homicides in 2012, about the same number in the nation's 132,000-plus K-12 schools over two decades.

"I believe schools are much safer than they used to be but, clearly they still have a good ways to go," Stephens said.

The recent budget deal in Congress provides \$140 million to support safe school environments, and is a \$29 million increase, according to the office of Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin, chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

# Police: Man used stolen tow truck to take cars in storm

By **PARESH DAVE**  
Los Angeles Times

Louis Mitchell Jr. saw a brilliant opportunity when thousands of Georgia motorists abandoned their cars on snow-paralyzed roads last week, authorities say.

Police allege that he used a tow truck he had stolen earlier in January to haul away four cars left on roads — and without anyone's permission.

Online jail records show the Atlanta Police Department also arrested Mitchell on suspicion of driving with a suspended or revoked license, using a fake license plate, damaging property and three instances of forgery. Mitchell is being held on \$92,000 bail.

After traffic jams that state officials described as unprecedented, towing firms were hired

to remove some vehicles impeding traffic. Police were ordered to look out for potential looters, and Mitchell's unmarked tow truck caught a police officer's attention. Mitchell didn't pull over when asked and the officer gave chase, police told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The snow started Tuesday and accumulated about 2 inches, but road crews were largely unprepared for that type of storm and the volume of traffic on the roads due to early dismissal of schools and businesses.

At one point Thursday, the Georgia Department of Public Safety announced that 2,029 vehicles were left on metro-area interstates. Later that day, 147 remained and were impounded.

The state said it would cover towing and impound fees for the drivers.



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

**Punxsutawney Phil is held by Ron Ploucha after emerging from his burrow Sunday on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pa. Phil saw his shadow and forecast six more weeks of winter weather.**

# Handlers: Punxsutawney Phil predicts longer winter

By **GENE J. PUSKAR**  
AND **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**  
The Associated Press

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. — Emerging from his lair on Super Bowl Sunday, groundhog Punxsutawney Phil couldn't predict the winner of the big game but his handlers said he was sure of his weather forecast: There will be six more weeks of winter.

Pennsylvania's famed groundhog was roused from slumber at 7:28 a.m. Sunday and, according to the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, directed handler Bill Deeley to a scroll that contained the prediction — along with a Super Bowl reference.

As usual, thousands of fans turned out on Groundhog Day to see the furry rodent, the most famous of a small group of groundhogs said to forecast the weather.

Legend has it that if the groundhog sees his shadow on Feb. 2, winter will last another month and a half. If he doesn't see it, spring will come early.

In reality, Phil's prediction is decided ahead of time by a group

called the Inner Circle, whose members don top hats and tuxedos for the annual ceremony on Gobbler's Knob, the tiny hill in the town for which he's named about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh.

The prediction fell on Super Bowl Sunday for the first time. The closest the game previously came to coinciding with Groundhog Day was in 2009, when the just-out-of-the-road Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Arizona Cardinals 27-23 the night before Phil's forecast.

This year's NFL championship pitting the Seattle Seahawks and Denver Broncos at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., will be the Super Bowl's 48th installment, while Phil has been predicting the weather since 1886.

In a nod to the game, Phil's forecast came in the form of a Super Bowl-themed poem:

"A Super Bowl winner I will not predict,

But my weather forecast, you cannot contradict.

That's not a football lying beside me  
It's my shadow you see

So, six more weeks of winter it shall be!"

This year's Groundhog Day celebration marks a winter that has brought extreme cold to vast stretches of the country, including areas of the South wholly unaccustomed to severe winter weather. A snow and ice storm paralyzed Atlanta and other Southern cities last week.

Phil has now seen his shadow 101 times while failing to see it 17 times, according to the Inner Circle. There are no records for the remaining years.

The National Climatic Data Center has put Phil's forecasts to the test and found them sorely lacking, declaring the groundhog has "no predictive skill."

"It really isn't a 'bright' idea to take a measure such as a groundhog's shadow and use it as a predictive meteorological tool for the entire United States," the data center says on its website, helpfully if somewhat obviously.

Other prognosticating groundhogs include Staten Island Chuck in New York and General Beauregard Lee in Atlanta.

Suppose you discovered that all the high-tech promises of the 20th century that seem to elude mankind — fusion power, genetic enhancements, artificial intelligence, cures for disease, extended human life — are not beyond our grasp but instead are in the hands of an elite few?

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## NATION

# United Airlines dropping Cleveland as hub

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — United Airlines said Saturday it will drop its money-losing hub in Cleveland, slashing its daily flights and eliminating 470 jobs.

The company's CEO, Jeff Smisek, announced in a letter to employees that the airline will no longer use Cleveland to connect fliers coming from other airports around the country. As a result, United's daily departures from the city will fall from 199 currently to 72 by June.

"Our hub in Cleveland hasn't been profitable for over a decade, and has generated tens of millions of dollars of annual losses in recent years," Smisek states in the letter. "We simply cannot continue to bear these losses."

United said in November that it aims to cut \$2 billion in annual costs in the coming year by shifting flights, making workers more productive, and improving its maintenance procedures.

Similar cutbacks have affected many

other small hubs in cities such as Memphis, Cincinnati and Salt Lake City amid a wave of airline mergers over the last five years.

Because it's hard to fill a plane between, say, Indianapolis and Paris, airlines use hubs like Cleveland to gather passengers and connect them to the flights they want. People who live in a hub city get a wider selection of destinations because their airport has more flights than it would if it was limited to the flights supported by local traffic.

Cleveland was a hub for Continental when it merged with United in 2010 to form United Continental Holdings Inc. Ever since the merger, people in the industry have assumed it was in danger of losing its hub status, because the airline now has United's Midwestern hub in Chicago.

In June, Delta Air Lines Inc. announced it would be closing its Memphis hub, which it had inherited in its 2008 acquisition of Northwest Airlines. Delta already has a huge hub operation in Atlanta.

## Man held for alleged threat against Bush

By SABA HAMEDY  
Los Angeles Times

A man has been arrested in New York City for allegedly threatening former President George W. Bush after declaring his love for the 43rd president's daughter Barbara, officials said Saturday.

George Ogilvie, a spokesman for the U.S. Secret Service, told the Los Angeles Times that officials arrested the man Friday on suspicion of violating U.S. Code Title 18 Section 879 on issuing "threats against former presidents and certain other persons."

Ogilvie would not comment further on the arrest or give the man's name.

Reuters reported that the man has been identified as Benjamin Smith, 44, of Pittsford in upstate

New York. Inside his car, officials found a loaded rifle, a machete and a container of gasoline.

Reportedly, Smith screamed "Bush will get his" when he was taken into custody. He allegedly told agents he was divorced and "working on a relationship with Barbara Pierce Bush, 32, one of Bush's twin daughters."

Smith was first reported to local police by his mother after she found a threatening note in the home they share, Reuters reported.

The former president was not in New York at the time of the arrest.

Smith's attorney, Peggy Cross-Goldenberg, told Reuters that the note and her client's screams are not a "true threat."



FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT

Police say that a man arrested for allegedly making threats against former President George W. Bush is obsessed with his daughter Barbara Pierce Bush, seen here in 2013 in Dallas.

## Cruise ship set to sail 2 days after early return

HOUSTON — A ship was to set sail from a Houston-area port two days after returning from a cruise a day early with more than 180 ill passengers and crew aboard.

The Caribbean Princess was to embark on a cruise of the western Caribbean on Saturday, the Houston Chronicle reported. Princess Cruises had said the Caribbean Princess returned early Thursday because of a dense-fog advisory, not because of an outbreak that left people vomiting and with diarrhea.

A spokeswoman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told the Chronicle that CDC investigators had found nothing unusual or unique about the Caribbean Princess illnesses.

Passengers said crewmembers announced on the cruise's second day that people were sick — apparently with a highly contagious norovirus.

## Police ID 3 killed in cell towers collapse

CLARKSBURG, W.Va. — West Virginia State Police have released the names of two workers and a firefighter who were killed when two cellphone towers collapsed.

Lt. Michael Baylous on Sunday identified the workers as Kyle Kirkpatrick, 32, of Hubert, Okla., and Terry Lee Richard Jr., 27, of Bokoshe, Okla. He identified the firefighter as Michael Dale Garrett, 28, of Clarksburg, a member of the Nutter Fork Volunteer Fire Department.

Baylous said Kirkpatrick and Richard were working on a 300-foot cellphone tower Saturday when it collapsed in Clarksburg. Garrett was killed when a smaller cellphone tower weakened by the collapse also fell.

The towers are owned by SBA Communications.

From The Associated Press

## Police say Fla. agency chemist swapped drug evidence

By BRENDAN FARRINGTON  
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida Department of Law Enforcement announced Saturday it is investigating 2,600 cases handled by a Pensacola-based agency chemist after discovering dozens of instances where prescription pain pills that were seized by police and tested as evidence were swapped with over-the-counter pills.

FDLE Commissioner Gerald Bailey said the chemist handled cases involving 80 law enforcement agencies from 35 counties since he was hired in 2006. Most, but not all, of the cases

involved testing drug evidence, though it was not immediately clear how many cases might be compromised.

The situation was discovered after Escambia County investigators realized evidence was missing and later found other evidence packages where prescription pills had been substituted with non-prescription pills.

It potentially means drug charges will have to be dropped and prisoners released if it's determined the chemist tampered with evidence, Bailey said.

"This has the potential of impacting hundreds of drug cases across our state," Bailey told reporters. "This is a total shock and

a disappointment."

The department is using agents from each of its offices to review all the cases handled by the chemist, who is on paid leave while under criminal investigation. He is not being identified while under investigation, but Bailey said he hopes charges are brought quickly, at which point the chemist will be fired.

The department is contacting state attorneys and law enforcement agencies across the state that have pending cases that could be compromised.

"We are going back and looking at each case that was worked, and we are going to the evidence rooms of sheriff's departments

and police departments around the state and actually physically looking — especially at the prescription meds — to see if what is in that particular package is in fact a prescription medication and not in fact an over-the-counter calcium tablet," Bailey said.

Bailey said the agency doesn't yet know the motive. The chemist isn't cooperating with the investigation.

"The quantities are large," Bailey said. "It's early in the investigation. We don't know if the individual is a user or a trafficker."

The department is reviewing its drug-testing program to try to prevent similar incidents.



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## WORLD

# To retake cities, Iraq turns to Sunni tribes

By LOVEDAY MORRIS  
The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — In his battle against al-Qaida-led insurgency in western Iraq, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki is providing arms and funds to untrained bedfellows — Sunni tribesmen who complain of being neglected by his Shiite-dominated government.

The government has trucked weapons and approved millions of dollars in payments to tribesmen in Anbar province in a bid to win their help ousting al-Qaida-linked fighters who took over the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi last month. The United States is also speeding up its supply of small arms to Iraq, urging them to pass them on to tribesmen.

The support is a desperate attempt by al-Maliki to reassert control of Anbar by reviving a willed initiative — the organization of Sunni tribes and former insurgents into the so-called Awakening movement — that the United States used to dramatically weaken al-Qaida in Iraq during in the final years of the Iraq War.

The effort faces major challenges. The ranks of the paramilitary movement have dwindled since the U.S. military withdrawal in 2011, and al-Maliki is facing insurrection from parts of the country's wider Sunni minority, who complain of mistreatment and subjugation at the hands of his government.

With the government wary of arming tribesmen who may turn against it, trust is lacking on both sides. Still, some observers say a revival might be the best chance

## UN: At least 733 Iraqis killed in January

By SAMEER N. YACUB  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The United Nations said Saturday that at least 733 Iraqis were killed during violence in January, even when leaving out casualties from an embattled western province.

The figures issued Saturday by the U.N.'s Assistance Mission for Iraq show 618 civilians and 115 members of the security forces were killed in January.

The UNAMI statement excluded deaths from ongoing fighting in Anbar due to problems in verifying the "status of those killed." The figures also leave out insurgent deaths.

The U.N. said at least 1,229 Iraqis were wounded in attacks across the country last month. Baghdad was the worst affected province, with 297 killed and 585 wounded.

Al-Qaida-linked fighters and their allies seized control of the city of Fallujah and parts of the

Anbar provincial capital of Ramadi last month after authorities dismantled a protest camp by Sunnis angry at what they consider second-class treatment by the Shiite-led government.

The government and its tribal allies are besieging the rebel-held areas, with fighting reported daily.

U.N. mission chief Nickolay Mladenov expressed deep concern over the humanitarian situation in Anbar, saying thousands of families are displaced and others stranded in besieged Fallujah.

"I am deeply alarmed by the humanitarian situation of thousands of displaced families, and particularly of those stranded in Fallujah. They lack water, fuel, food, medicine and other basic commodities," he said.

Last week, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said 140,000 Iraqis have fled the embattled areas of Anbar, the largest displacement of civilians in

the country since the sectarian violence of 2006-08.

In ongoing violence, police said a bomb went off near an outdoor market in the southern suburbs of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding eight. Also, a roadside bomb hit an army patrol in the Mishadha area just north of Baghdad, killing one soldier and wounding five others.

Meanwhile, a statement by the Iraqi Defense Ministry said army shelling and airstrikes killed 15 militants during clashes on the southern edge of Fallujah.

At night, a car bomb exploded near a line of shops in eastern Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 11 others, officials said.

One hour later, a car bomb blast in a commercial district of Baghdad killed four people and wounded nine others, police said.

However, promises to incorporate Sahwa fighters into the state security forces failed to materialize after the U.S. withdrawal. Facing cuts in salaries and threats from the al-Qaida militants they

had fought against, numbers dwindled to fewer than half the more than 100,000 men that made up the movement at its peak.

After 2011, al-Ani said, Sahwa members "were left stuck in the middle between al-Qaida's hammer and [al-Maliki's] neglect."

In Anbar, growing Sunni disenfranchisement helped al-Qaida's local franchise — the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS — cement its increasing presence. After the army withdrew from Anbar cities in December — amid frictions over the dismantling of a Sunni protest camp and a raid on a local lawmaker's house — ISIS took advantage of the security vacuum to seize Ramadi and Fallujah in early January.

Government forces have since regained ground in Ramadi with the help of allied tribesmen and air support, though fierce fighting continues in several neighborhoods.

In Fallujah, where U.S. forces fought some of the bloodiest battles of the Iraq War, al-Maliki has said he hopes tribesmen can negotiate the exit of militants. Talks to allow government officials and policemen back into Fallujah have yet to bear fruit.

Tribesmen say arms flows have picked up in recent weeks. A load of 3,000 Russian machine guns and more than 2,000 Kalashnikovs were transported to tribesmen in Ramadi toward the end of January, according to an Iraqi army officer who oversaw the transfer and declined to be named because he is not authorized to give information to the media.

## Al-Qaida fighters in Syria kill rival brigade's leader

By DIAA HADID  
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Al-Qaida fighters killed the leader of a rival Islamic brigade in a twin car bombing near Syria's northern city of Aleppo, an attack likely to further exacerbate rebel infighting even as government forces continued their intense shelling of opposition-held areas of the city Sunday.

Syrian aircraft bombed buildings, burying people underneath rubble in the Bab Neirab area, the Aleppo Media Center said. It wasn't immediately clear how many casualties there were.

The bombings came after military aircraft dropped barrels packed with explosives over rebel-held areas Saturday, killing dozens. One attack killed 34 people in the rebel-held neighborhood of al-Bab, said the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which collates the country's war death toll.

Syrian forces have inched into eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo in recent weeks, their most important advance there since rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar Assad seized the areas in

mid-2012.

Activists say the troops' advance has been propelled mostly by military aircraft heavily bombing residential areas, smashing buildings into rubble and forcing civilians and rebels to flee.

They've also been assisted by weeks of rebel infighting that has pitted a loose alliance of Syrian fighters against al-Qaida-linked extremists of the Islamic State of the Iraq and the Levant.

Fighting was likely to be exacerbated further after the ISIL fighters undertook a twin suicide bombing that killed 26 people on Saturday, including the military leader of a rebel group.

The attack targeted the base of the rivals, the Tawheed Brigades, and killed commander Adnan Bakkour, said Rami Abdurrahman, of the observatory.

The al-Qaida-linked ISIL also killed the prominent commander of another rebel brigade, said analyst Charles Lister, of the Brookings Doha Center.

Lister said the extremists killed Abu Hussein al-Dik, of the powerful Suqour al-Sham, showing that the ISIL was targeting key headquarters, "strategic check-

points and senior influential commanders."

Syria's war, which began as a peaceful uprising in March 2011, has slowly spread to neighboring Lebanon in myriad ways.

Also on Sunday, a group that supports militants posted a video to social networks showing a

Sunni fighter beheading another man as adults and children gathered to watch.

In the video, adults cheer as the fighter cuts the other man's head off with a small knife.

The beheaded man's hands are tied, and it isn't clear if he was alive while he was being behead-



COURTESY OF ALEPPO MEDIA CENTER/AP

Syrian citizens fill water in a bucket to extinguish shops in flames reportedly caused by a Syrian government forces warplane attack in the al-Bab neighborhood of Aleppo, Syria, on Saturday.

Sunni fighter beheading another man as adults and children gathered to watch.

In the video, adults cheer as the fighter cuts the other man's head off with a small knife.

The beheaded man's hands are tied, and it isn't clear if he was alive while he was being behead-

ed. The men's accents and languages suggest the fighters are a mix of Russian-speakers, foreign Arabs and Syrians.

Abdurrahman, of the observatory, said Sunday that the video was likely filmed in the central Syrian province of Homs last week.

## WORLD

## Thai elections peaceful, but crisis far from over

BANGKOK — Thailand held nationwide elections without bloodshed Sunday despite widespread fears of violence, but the country's profound political crisis is far from over, and one of the next flashpoints is likely to be an effort to nullify the vote.

The winning party will be largely peaceful, protesters forced thousands of polling booths to close in Bangkok and the south, disenfranchising millions of registered voters. Not all parliament seats will be filled as a result, meaning the winning party will be unable to form a new government and the nation could be left in political limbo for months.

The struggle to hold the vote was part of a 3-month-old conflict that has split the country between supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and protesters who allege her government is too corrupt to rule.

## Death toll rises to 16 from Indonesia volcano

MOUNT SINABUNG, Indonesia — The death toll from an Indonesian volcano that has been rumbling for months rose to 16 Sunday after rescuers found another charred corpse and a critically injured college student died in a hospital, officials said.

Mount Sinabung erupted again Saturday, just a day after authorities allowed thousands of villagers who had been evacuated to return to its slopes, saying volcanic activity was decreasing.

Rescuers found 14 bodies and rescued three people with burn wounds, said National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho.

## Police: 2 killed in clash at Kenyan mosque

MOMBASA, Kenya — Police opened fire on Muslim youths wielding daggers at a mosque linked to recruiting Islamic extremists, and at least one officer and a young man were killed, witnesses and officials said in the coastal resort and port city of Mombasa.

Police said they raided the Masjid Musa mosque acting on intelligence that a meeting to recruit militants was going on.

A reporter at the scene saw police shoot and kill one person as they tried to disperse a growing crowd screaming "Allahu Akbar," or "God is Great," outside the mosque.

## Mali mission to reach full strength by July

MOPTI, Mali — France's ambassador to the United Nations said Mali's peacekeeping mission will reach full troop strength in July, one year after France took over peacekeeping activities.

Genard Arand announced the timeline Sunday while leading a 15-member delegation from the U.N. Security Council on a two-day visit in Mali.

The mission is supposed to have 12,000 uniformed personnel, but as of last month only 6,400 military personnel and police had deployed.

From The Associated Press

# China's air force, navy see upgrades

By TONY CAPACCIO  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — China's air force is fielding new precision-guided cruise missiles, long-range bombers and drones as its navy expands its long-range punch, according to U.S. military intelligence officials.

"While we would not characterize the modernization as accelerated," it's "progressing at a steady pace" and is significant, Lee Fuel, a director at the U.S. Air Force's National Air and Space Intelligence Center, said in a presentation released Thursday.

Fuel's presentation and one prepared by the Office of Naval Intelligence for a hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in Wash-

ington are the most detailed new public assessments of the Chinese services' growing military capabilities.

While China's military spending is less than one-fifth of the United States', President Xi Jinping has vowed to create a strong and disciplined military since he took control of the Central Military Commission when he became party secretary in November 2012. Under Xi, the Chinese navy has conducted military drills in the Pacific and the South China Sea, and in November the nation declared an air defense identification zone over islands disputed with Japan.

China is improving its air and naval power to blunt U.S. military prowess in the Pacific, project force farther from Chinese shores

“[M]any of these capabilities are designed specifically to deter or prevent U.S. military intervention in the region.”

Jesse Karotkin  
Office of Naval Intelligence

and even blockade or invade Taiwan, the island democracy whose territory it claims.

"Given the pace" of China's naval modernization, "the gap in military capability between the mainland and Taiwan will continue to widen in China's favor," Jesse Karotkin, the ONI senior intelligence officer on China, wrote in the new statement to the commission.

In addition, the naval intelli-

gence office said in its report that "many of these capabilities are designed specifically to deter or prevent U.S. military intervention in the region."

Deploying additional land-attack cruise missiles on new submarines and surface vessels "could enhance China's ability to strike key U.S. bases throughout the region, including Guam," the 12-page naval intelligence assessment said.

# Ukrainian president set to end sick leave

By JIM HEINTZ  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The beleaguered President Viktor Yanukovich will return to work on Monday from a short sick leave, according to a statement posted on his office's website Sunday.

The announcement on Thursday that Yanukovich was on sick leave due to an acute respiratory illness raised concerns that he may have been taking himself out of action in preparation for declaring a state of emergency as the country's political crisis heads into its third month.

The protests began after Yanukovich in late November backed away from a long-awaited agreement to deepen ties with the European Union. They quickly grew to encompass a wide range of grievances after police violently dispersed some of the early gatherings.

During Yanukovich's sick leave, a sense of stasis set in and neither side showed signs of movement. His return to work could bring new actions.

Protesters seeking Yanu-



DARRO BANDIC/AP

Anti-government protesters gather in central Kiev, Ukraine, on Sunday. It was one of their largest gatherings in recent weeks, with about 30,000 people assembling at the main protest site in Kiev's central square.

kovich's resignation held one of their largest gatherings in recent weeks Sunday, with about 30,000 people assembling at the main protest site in Kiev's central square.

Top opposition figures spoke to the rally to urge supporters to push forward with their de-

mands. Arseniy Yatsenyuk, one of the protest leaders, emphasized the importance of obtaining the release of all people arrested during the protests.

"We must free all," Yatsenyuk said, adding that there were 116 people being held. "Freedom to every hero."

The parliament on Tuesday is expected to consider reforms to the constitution that would reduce some presidential powers and allot them to the prime minister. Yanukovich last week accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Mykola Azarov but has not appointed a new one.



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANCHENKO/AP

Opposition demonstrators carry posters showing imprisoned protesters during a rally in Moscow on Sunday.

# Thousands protest Putin

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Several thousand protesters marched through central Moscow on Sunday to call for the release of 20 people who were arrested after clashes between police and demonstrators in May 2012.

Some of them face up to 10 years in prison if convicted for the protest, held on Bolotnaya Square on the eve of President Vladimir Putin's inauguration to a third term as Russia's president.

Putin's return to the presidency saw the passing of new laws aimed at cracking down on anti-government protests and restricting non-governmental organizations.

The protesters marched Sunday with portraits of the jailed protesters and a banner stretching across the street reading, "Freedom to the Bolotnaya heroes, the hostages of Putin."

Some also carried Ukrainian flags to show their support for the anti-government protesters in neighboring Ukraine, where demonstrations have been going on for more than two months.

Of the 28 people rounded up in the Bolotnaya case, eight were recently freed on amnesty. Several defendants have been under house arrest, but most of the others have been in jail for more than a year and a half.

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OPINION

Splintered GOP offers weak responses

By MARTIN SCHRAM  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Today we are exploring the State of the Union's Loyal Opposition.

We are doing this because in these economically and internationally challenging times, we desperately need a Republican Party that is determined to prove that Washington really can work.

Tuesday night, after President Barack Obama made it clear that he would do as much as he could with executive orders if our divided Congress continues to operate in self-gridlock, our attention naturally turned to the Republicans who run the House and wield minority power in the Senate.

Will they be setting a bold counter-agenda — and will they tell us what they intend to do to improve such things as Obama's imperfect health care program?

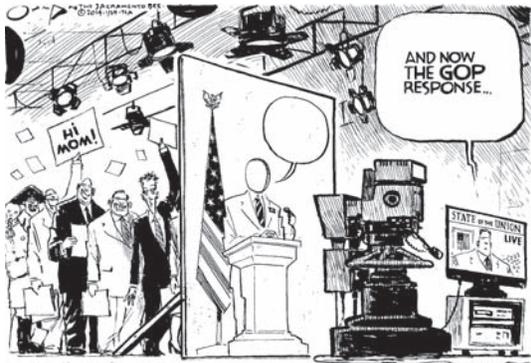
After all, we knew we couldn't judge the State of the Union and hopes for improving it by the bold phrases and go-it-alone intentions of the president. To evaluate America's ability to resolve its crises with solutions, we must evaluate the state of the leadership of the Republican Party as well.

And Tuesday night, the Republicans followed Obama's address with multiple responses that only demonstrated that the state of their party's leadership is uneven — and even unstately. And that is too bad, because we need a Republican Party that is as good as it once was — led firmly and thoughtfully in Washington by conservative thinkers including Bob Dole, Howard Baker, Jack Kemp, and, going back a bit further, Mel Laird, Jerry Ford and dozens more.

The Republicans treated the nation to not just one response, but three of them. (And of course, they weren't really responses, because they were written and in some cases recorded prior to the address to which they were purportedly responding.)

The Republicans had only one official response — Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, a family-values conservative from Washington state, who is little known nationally even though she chairs the House Republican Conference.

Rodgers' speech was touching as she led us through her life's story and especially evocative as she discussed at length the accomplishments of one of her children who



has Down syndrome. Yet, when it came to America's problems and crises, she inexplicably offered not a single solution, eschewing substance in favor of bromides and platitudes.

"Right now, the president's policies are making people's lives harder. Republicans have plans to close the gap," Rodgers said; but, inexplicably, she offered no elaboration. Republican strategists should be sent to the woodshed for allowing such a tepid script to be their party's official word.

Meanwhile, Rodgers' response was overshadowed by far more prominent Republicans, who insisted on delivering their own state of the union responses. ... Utah Sen. Mike Lee gave the so-called official tea party response; it was not carried on network television but on the Tea Party Express website. Lee, in turn, may have been overshadowed by the reigning tea party favorite, Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who gave his own response on his Senate website and on Facebook, and repeated his previously offered solutions, including creating so-called "Freedom Zones," where companies could operate unfettered by government regulations and tax burdens.

And Paul may have also been overshadowed — for as I was watching his speech online, I looked up at my TV screen, and

he was there too, being interviewed on CNN. When Wolf Blitzer asked Paul if he believed in a federal minimum wage law, the senator said only, "I'm not sure I have an answer." Turning to Iran's cutoff on producing weapons-grade uranium, amid negotiations to make sure Iran never develops a nuclear bomb, Paul blithely told CNN that unlike Obama, he wouldn't have eased economic sanctions until Iran agreed to a comprehensive accord. And when Wolf Blitzer said Iran wouldn't have made any of its interim changes if sanctions hadn't been reduced, Paul looked surprised and simply said, "Maybe, I'm not sure."

Paul, a Republican favorite in the waaaaay-too-early presidential polls, worked hard these days to not talk about the reality that on national security issues, he seems way to the left of the old Vietnam-era anti-war Democrats like George McGovern and Gene McCarthy. Indeed, Rand Paul seems to be living in a different galaxy than all the strong-on-national-security Republicans who once boldly led in Washington. But that was back in the days when the Grand Old Party was still grand, even when it wasn't all that good.

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

Obama's assessment doesn't match poor record

By JAY AMBROSE  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Suppose you are president, you've stumbled, fumbled, slipped and crashed, it's time to give a State of the Union speech and millions will be watching. What do you do — say you are sorry or will try harder or — credit for good things you did not — blame the bad things you did not on others and propose solutions that sound good to the gullible even though they will make things worse?

President Barack Obama chose the latter course, pumping up his presentation with bravado of a constitutionally abrasive kind that said he would get done what needed to get done whether Congress helped or not.

After all, he made clear, it was up to him as the great American hero to save the weak and helpless from economic evils and dastardly Republicans. He may be the president who gave us the still-scary threat of Obamacare and the most emaciated, laggard economic recovery since World War II, but he is a razzle-dazzle showman. Look, it's true, too, that he occasionally

came close to worthy ideas, as in telling us how he wanted to increase the earned income tax credit that is essentially welfare for low-wage working people. I applaud that because I think this approach is a way to rely less on welfare programs that too often discourage work and a much better means of helping low-income families than the fraud of increasing the federal minimum wage, which Obama urged Tuesday night.

The facts are that only about 3 percent of workers get the minimum wage, that high percentages of them are one of two or more workers in families with healthy incomes and that increasing the wage would provide minimal help for some while costing others working hours or jobs. More economists than not see increasing the wage as more harmful than helpful to workers, though any half-alert political scientist would know that promoting it is helpful to Democrats.

In this sleight-of-hand speech, Obama talked persuasively about the need to improve education, but he also wants floods of new immigrants coming into the country every year. Does he know how hard it

has been for a great many schools to accommodate their children and still make some pretense of performing well?

There's little question that immigrants with needed abilities can and do make a positive difference in America and that we can also absorb a smaller number of the unskilled and uneducated. But does Obama not see that we have to cut the numbers somewhere and that having fewer unskilled would also mean less poverty, less income inequality?

Does he see no contradiction between wanting to prepare our young people with skills to flourish and still wanting to bring in scads of adults whose incapacities will keep them from flourishing?

Has it occurred to him this tactic increases the number of unemployed and of people on welfare and that it is finally cruel to the immigrants themselves to bring them into such tough circumstances in a culture they barely know how to navigate? ... Do you think you can get better performance. After his term is over, some TV network could make a billion with him.

Jay Ambrose is a McClatchy-Tribune columnist.

# Looking at the news

## A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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NATION



# FOREVER HOME

By TAMARA LUSH  
The Associated Press

Florida is a retirement spot for horses, too

ALACHUA, Fla. — Whenever a horse arrives at Mill Creek Farm in Florida, Peter and Mary Gregory make the aging animal a promise to last the rest of its days.

“We say you’ll never be worked or ridden again,” said Peter Gregory, director of the farm. “And you’ll be here forever. And they are here forever because when they die here, they’re buried here.”

About 130 horses have this 325-acre farm in north-central Florida as their retirement home, dotted on by now-elderly caretakers. Nearly all of the horses have worked for years in law enforcement, military or other service jobs; a few have been seized by police.

Now the horses graze in green pastures, under moss-draped oaks. Their tranquil existence is broken only by Peter, 85, and his wife Mary, 81, riding out on golf carts from their home on the property. From field to field they go, feeding the horses hay, grain and carrot treats.

“It’s difficult to find anyplace that will take an older retired horse. We wanted Special to actually truly be retired,” said Sgt. Chris Laster, of the Sarasota County Sheriff’s Office, who brought a 23-year-old horse to the farm for retirement in

2013. “Peter knows every horse’s name there; he knows their stories.”

Originally from England, the Gregoryses spent years traveling the world when Peter was a hotelier. In 1984, they bought the farm about 20 miles north of Gainesville and created a nonprofit organization called the Retirement Home For Horses. It’s since drawn tourists, documentary filmmakers and other visitors curious about where veteran horses go.

Some of the horses are blind. Some are ill. All would have ended up at an out-of-country slaughterhouse had the Gregoryses not taken them in. The farm doesn’t accept horses from private owners.

“We believe that horses shouldn’t be ridden, quite honestly,” said Peter Gregory. “They weren’t put on earth to be ridden. Everything man does to a horse we

believe is wrong. Put a bit in their mouth, put shoes on their feet, spurs and things like that.”

Gregory said that when he and his wife die, the farm will remain a nonprofit organization to help horses. The land is protected by a perpetual conservation easement that prevents the property from being developed.

Even though the Gregoryses are looking for someone to take over, they are still accepting new horses.

“Most horses, when they get old, if they do get old, then nobody wants them anymore,” Gregory said.

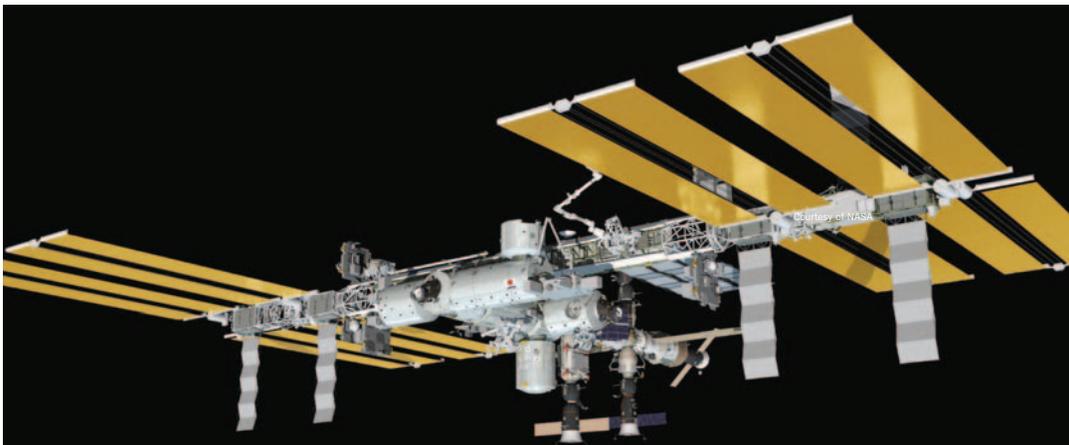
There’s a special patch of land where the horses are buried; a sign that says “Field of Dreams” stands in a clearing. A tree is planted for each horse buried in the field, marking the animals’ final resting spots.



Mary and Peter Gregory own and operate the Retirement Home for Horses at Mill Creek Farm in Alachua, Fla., where they currently care for about 130 horses.

PHOTOS BY PHIL SANDLIN/AP

## SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



# Mission critical?

## Critics doubt value of science conducted on International Space Station

By MARK K. MATTHEWS  
Orlando (Fl.) Sentinel

**A**fter the White House decided recently to prolong the life of the International Space Station until 2024, the nation's top science official declared that the four-year extension would help NASA get a big return on its \$100 billion investment.

The station is "proving to be an amazingly flexible laboratory," said John Holdren, chief science adviser to President Barack Obama.

Despite his endorsement, critics ranging from space bloggers to official NASA watchdogs say the agency still has work to do before the station reaches its scientific potential.

"The old adage is that if you build it, they will come," said Keith Cowing, a former NASA space station payload manager who runs the popular website NASA Watch. "Well, it's there, but NASA has a lot of catching up to do in terms of fully utilizing the capability of the space station."

Billed as the "largest spacecraft ever built," the football-field-sized observatory began in 1998 with the launch of a bus-sized module from Russia. Since then, the station's two major partners — the U.S. and Russia — have steadily added pieces and equipment, along with contributions from Japan, Canada and Europe.

Astronauts have lived there continuously since 2000, but as recently as 2008, crewmembers were spending only about three hours a week on science. Now, NASA officials say it's up to about 50 hours a week, due largely to the crew size doubling from three to six members in 2009. But about 15 percent of the U.S. racks for experiments onboard

the station sat empty as of Dec. 31, and in a report issued last July, NASA's internal watchdog raised questions about the "real world" benefit of station science.

"A vast majority of the research activities conducted aboard the ISS have related to basic research as opposed to applied research," investigators for NASA's inspector general wrote.

It's the difference, they noted, between figuring out the biology of life in space and developing "more efficient materials" for products that could be used on Earth.

"While discoveries made as a result of basic research may eventually contribute to 'real world' applications, investors and for-profit companies may be reluctant to allocate funds to basic research — especially when the likelihood of profitable results is unknown," the authors said.

Much of the research done so far on the station has focused on astronaut health, and that's partly by design. More than 200 space travelers have visited the station since 2000, and the steady flow has provided NASA scientists with plenty of test subjects to study risks to the body — from muscle atrophy to vision problems.

In a recent speech, NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden said that kind of research would be necessary if NASA were ever to attempt a crewed mission to Mars.

"From a NASA perspective, the ISS is absolutely essential to the goals of sending humans to Mars in the 2030s," Bolden said.

The focus on astronaut health also has exposed NASA to criticism about whether the station can benefit the 7 billion people living on Earth. Aware of that concern, NASA officials last year released a list of the top 10 research results that have

stemmed from station experiments.

They include the development of treatments for osteoporosis and finding ways to monitor water quality from space — an approach that has been tried by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"Two things that we really need to share with everyone are that the space station is up there with humans working on orbit and that it is bringing back concrete benefits for use here on Earth," Julie Robinson, chief scientist for the station, wrote in a blog post touting the facility's accomplishments.

Another way NASA said to better use the station was hiring a nonprofit group in 2011 to manage the part of the station designated as a U.S. national laboratory and to entice non-NASA researchers to do their work there.

But the Florida-based group — the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, or CASIS — had early management problems and was able to get its first sponsored payload onboard the station just last month.

A major obstacle is cost. The price of getting an experiment to the station can exceed \$250,000, and that has made many researchers wary — even though CASIS often helps defray the expense with grants.

Another problem is interest. Although the microgravity environment is helpful for some experiments, such as crystal growth, CASIS executives say they are trying to educate other scientists — including those in the field of Earth observation — that the station can help them, too.

"We're at a time where we have to demonstrate the value of the asset," said Duane Rattiff, CASIS's chief operating officer. "We have to hurry up and really show the value."

**A vast majority of the research activities conducted aboard the [International Space Station] have related to basic research as opposed to applied research.**

Keith Cowing  
NASA Watch

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Vandals topple 80 historic headstones

**WA** SUMNER — Vandals have toppled more than 80 historic headstones in the pioneer section of the city-owned Sumner, Wash., cemetery.

According to The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune the damage was reported Friday. Several city workers were able to put at least half the headstones back in place.

City spokeswoman Carmen Palmer said Sumner police are pursuing several leads.

The cemetery opened in 1864. Supervisor John Wells said the damage is worse than the last vandalism incident, in 2005. In that case, two teenage boys were convicted of causing as much as \$170,000 in damage.

Wells didn't have a dollar estimate of the current damage.

## Cellphone video of burglar leads to arrest

**NM** SANTA FE — Santa Fe police made an arrest after a woman recorded a cellphone video of a man trying to break into her home.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported authorities arrested Darioush Esfandi, 20. It is Esfandi's fourth arrest in the last year.

Police said Esfandi was attempting to break into the home Jan. 6 when he noticed the woman recording him.

They said he fled but the woman obtained video of him and a car driving by shortly after.

Police said they traced the car's license plate to him.

They arrested Esfandi on Thursday as he was leaving a home through a broken back window.

Esfandi is facing several charges including aggravated burglary, larceny, probation violation and resisting arrest.

## Stolen dinosaur replicas found in good shape

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — The owner of a Utah business that brings roving dinosaurs to birthday parties and other events said he's happy to have a 9-foot Tyrannosaurus Rex and 8-foot raptor back after they were stolen Tuesday.

Dino Media owner Adam Kelley said he arrived at his West Jordan home Tuesday evening to find the trailer housing the dinosaurs was gone.

Salt Lake Unified Police Lt. Justin Hoyle said police found the trailer Wednesday in a Murray warehouse. The dinosaurs were mostly intact with a few gashes.

Actors climb inside the beasts to move them around. The replicas cost about \$7,000 each and come from Hong Kong.

Kelley said he was relieved the dinosaurs showed up before his company's next scheduled event in March.

## Court: Transgender student's rights violated

**ME** PORTLAND — School officials violated state

## THE CENSUS

# 35

The maximum miles per hour that snowmobilers can travel in the Green Mountain National Park in Vermont after a new speed limit was set by U.S. Forest Service officials. The speed limit for what the service calls "over-snow vehicles" matches that already in place for snowmobiles on Vermont state lands. The Forest Service said its trails are open not just to snowmobiling, but also to cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and dog sledding, and it wants to make sure the trails are safe for all users. It also notes most of the trails are narrow and mountainous and have poor sight lines.



MARSHALL GORBY, THE (SPRINGFIELD, OHIO) NEWS SUN/UP

## All set for hog heaven

The family of Billy Standley, of Mechanicburg, Ohio, carries out his wish to be buried on his 1967 Harley Davidson motorcycle Friday, burying him in a large Plexiglas casket at Fairview Cemetery in Crawford County, Ohio. His sons, Pete and Roy, fashioned the casket out of Plexiglas, reinforcing the bottom with wood and steel rods to handle the extra weight. Five embalmers worked to prepare Standley's body with a metal back brace and straps to ensure he'll never lose his seat.

anti-discrimination law when they would not allow a transgender fifth-grader to use the girls' bathroom, Maine's highest court has ruled.

The family of student Nicole Maines and the Maine Human Rights Commission sued in 2009 after school officials required her to use a staff, not student, restroom.

The ruling represented the first time a state high court concluded that a transgender person should use the bathroom of the gender with which they identify, according to the Boston-based Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders' Transgender Rights Project. Federal courts haven't taken up the issue.

## Teen sues over broken arm in school bus arrest

**NY** ROTTERDAM — A 16-year-old boy is suing

a police department outside Albany after two officers broke his arm while trying to remove him from a school bus.

The altercation happened at the teen's Rotterdam home last October.

A lawyer for the family told The (Albany, N.Y.) Times Union the boy has psychiatric problems and was having his medication adjusted.

The bus driver had called police, saying he felt he couldn't safely transport the teen to school.

A security video shows the officers trying to persuade the teen to get off the bus for 15 minutes. When he doesn't respond, the officers pull him out of the seat and force his arms behind his back.

As they do, there is a loud crack.

Rotterdam Police Chief James Hamilton said the officers followed proper procedures.

## Grandson helps save man buried in grain bin

**IL** ROCKTON — A northern Illinois farm worker who fell into a grain bin and ended up buried up to his chin was rescued thanks in large part to efforts by the man's grandson to clear corn away from his chest.

Roger Bates, 73, became trapped Friday while working on the farm in the village of Rockton, a few miles south of the Wisconsin state line.

Matthew Knott, the Rockford Fire Department division chief, told the Rockford Register Star that the man's grandson, Michael, deserves a lot of the credit for helping Bates and calling 911.

It took harnessed rescuers five hours of painstaking work digging with their hands and shovels to free Bates safely. They used metal sheets to keep grain from falling back in on the man.

## Guard gets jail time for Lakers rings theft

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A former security guard who stole Los Angeles Lakers championship rings from a training center has been sentenced to 180 days in jail.

Los Angeles County prosecutors said Mejia Monterroso pleaded no contest to grand theft Friday. He also will have to pay nearly \$14,000 in restitution.

Monterroso was arrested in December.

Prosecutors said Monterroso, 23, was a guard at the Toyota Sports Center in El Segundo last year when he took three championship rings and hundreds of gift cards during a night shift.

Police said they found two of the rings at his Inglewood home.

From wire reports

## FACES

# Something different

## Winslet takes on the role of restrained mother in 'Labor Day'

By STEVEN REA

The Philadelphia Inquirer

**T**his is a different sort of Kate Winslet than we've come to expect.

In "Labor Day" — a romance, a drama, and a woman's fantasy of what men, perhaps, should be — the British actress plays Adele Wheeler, a fragile, frightened single mother too wary of the outside world to even get in the car and drive to the market.

The year is 1987, the place a small New Hampshire town. Adele's 13-year-old boy (a very good Gattlin Griffith) has assumed many of the domestic responsibilities. There's even an Oedipal tinge to their relationship.

Then, everything changes when a stranger — with a limp and a bloody hole in his stomach — enters the Wheelers' quiet, tamped-down world. He's an escaped convict (played by Josh Brolin), and over the course of director Jason Reitman's film — adapted from the Joyce Maynard novel — Winslet's broken bird, Adele, takes flight again.

"I hadn't played a character who was so the opposite of the sort of strong, strident, more obviously passionate women that I think I've played in the past," says Winslet, who has been nominated for six Oscars, winning the best actress trophy for her role in "The Reader" as a Nazi concentration camp guard trying to conceal her past in 1950s Germany.

"I was keen to explore somebody who was much more introverted and fragmented," she says. "I was fascinated by that. I had played mothers, but I hadn't really played a single mother to a son of that age. And that's a particularly interesting dynamic...."

"Also, I was drawn to the unexpected nature of the love story, which I found very moving."

"Labor Day," which premiered in September at the Toronto International Film Festival and landed Winslet a best actress Golden Globe nomination in December, opened in theaters in the U.S. on Jan. 31. Reitman, who made "Up In The Air" and "Young Adult," skewers trying something different here. The film's tone is lushly romantic one minute, edgy and suspenseful another, and then, unexpectedly, something will happen that is funny, odd. "Actually, I didn't find the script, initially, humorous in any aspect at all," Winslet confesses on the phone from London. "I was actually quite surprised myself when I first saw the movie that there were a couple of moments when I found myself laughing in spite of the moment."

Winslet, 38, was "very, very pregnant" when interviewed in late November. A few weeks



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

Kate Winslet, left, and Josh Brolin star in the big-screen romance "Labor Day."

**'I was keen to explore somebody who was much more introverted and fragmented. ... I was fascinated by that. I had played mothers, but I hadn't really played a single mother to a son of that age. And that's a particularly interesting dynamic.'**

Kate Winslet  
on her 'Labor Day' role

later she was in a different kind of labor: On Dec. 7, she and her husband, Ned Rocknoll, became parents of a baby boy, Bear. The actress has an older daughter and son, from respective marriages with film crew veteran Jim Threapleton and director Sam Mendes.

Adele's transformation in "Labor Day" was tricky for Winslet. There was the danger of playing the indrawn, quaking, agoraphobic Adele with too much outward expression, and then the challenge of showing the sexually and spiritually reawakened woman without overplaying that, too.

"One can always be heavy-handed, and I'm not always the best gauge of how far I'm going, or how much further I maybe need to go," she says.

Next up for Winslet is "The

Dressmaker," an adaptation of Susalee Ham's 2000 novel, to be directed by Jocelyn Moorhouse later this year. And the actress tries something different again in "Divergent" — playing an out-and-out villain to Shailene Woodley's teenage heroine.

Asked to look back at her career, Winslet considers three projects especially important to her development as an actress.

One is "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," the 2004 film in which Winslet plays a free spirit named Clementine, with the orange hair to match.

"Eternal Sunshine" really opened me up a lot," she says. "I couldn't be in any way self-conscious playing that brash, loud character. And really, having to do an effing good American accent... I had to pull that off. I really felt like I had some personal

breakthroughs within that experience that carried me into other things."

"Little Children," Todd Field's 2009 take on the Tom Perotta novel, in which she played a mother and housewife who falls into an affair with a stay-at-home dad, as another formative experience. So, too, her Emmy-winning performance in the Todd Haynes-directed telefilm, "Mildred Pierce." "Actually, it's very much about confidence-growing," Winslet reflects. "Acting is so much about just actually having the confidence to step out there and do your best. And I forget everything else — all the b.s., all the fear, all the pressures that you put on yourself, and actually learning how to get rid of that stuff. And that can take quite a long time."



AP

## Honored

Actress Helen Mirren, right, fires a toy gun next to actor Sam Clark during her roast as woman of the year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals in Cambridge, Mass., on Jan. 30. She joked that being honored by Prince Charles as Dame of the British Empire at Buckingham Palace didn't come anywhere close to getting the ceremonial Hasting Pudding pot at Harvard.

## Oscars' green room gets a winner's touch from Sarandon

The Associated Press

Who better than a five-time Oscar nominee and best-actress winner to help decorate the backstage green room at the Academy Awards?

Susan Sarandon is collaborating with designer David Rockwell on a photo installation for the Architectural Digest Greenroom at the Oscars on March 2. They're planning a digital display encompassing 86 screens — smartphones, tablets and TVs — one for each year of the Academy Awards. Images honoring movie heroes and Oscar history will show individually and collectively across the tableau.

The actress and the veteran architect and designer are also selecting black-and-white film stills for the stars-only space, where nominees and presenters hang out before taking the stage.

"I've been to the green room several times, and the idea of putting something in there that really makes you feel part of a tradition, it's really lovely," Sarandon said by phone Wednesday from Costa Rica. "Because it's a night that has so many ups and downs ... it's kind of nice to remember that just to be nominated you're part of this family that's been going on for 86 years."



Get the latest on the Oscars at [tinyurl.com/stripesOscars2014](http://tinyurl.com/stripesOscars2014)



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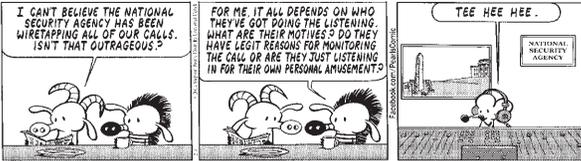
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19		20					
		21		22		23					
24	25	26			27		28		29	30	
31			32			33		34			
35			36		37			38			
		39		40		41					
42	43				44	45			46	47	48
49					50			51			
52					53			54			
55					56			57			

#### ACROSS

- 1 Icelandic saga
- 5 Cow's comment
- 8 Desire
- 12 Jump
- 13 Annoy
- 14 Tide type
- 15 Apportion (out)
- 16 Write illegibly
- 18 Intelligence
- 20 Stir up
- 21 Hairstyle
- 23 Noah's boat
- 24 "The Game of Moral Dilemmas"
- 28 Pleading
- 31 Raw rock
- 32 Brief fight
- 34 Sister
- 35 Couch
- 37 1988 Bill Murray movie

#### DOWN

- 1 "Desire Under the —"
- 2 Consider
- 3 Information
- 4 Insight
- 5 Cold War
- 6 Tolkien
- 7 Gumbo need
- 8 Still in the womb
- 9 Scolding sternly
- 10 Gosh's mates
- 11 Duel tool
- 17 A Gershwin brother
- 19 Surpasses
- 22 Retrieve
- 24 "Help!"
- 25 —Magon
- 26 Source of a second opinion
- 27 Sieve
- 29 Prompt
- 30 Conclude
- 33 "My bad"
- 36 Fly
- 38 Bitter oranges
- 40 Still, in verse
- 42 Venomous
- 43 Verberate
- 44 Impale
- 46 Tittle
- 47 — impasse
- 48 Maintain
- 50 Eggs

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

- 39 First lady
- 41 Chances, old-style
- 42 Eagles' nests
- 45 Book before Jeremiah
- 49 Pennsylvania city
- 51 Attend
- 52 Excellent in recent slang
- 53 Rd.
- 54 List-ended abbr.
- 55 Unmatched
- 56 Tavern
- 57 Beach staff

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

2-3

#### CRYPTOQUIP

JGOS YGXTAUOX YGCR UOO  
JNA DGXADT RFX N AFRD  
QXCSh, C DGCSH GO NUJNTA  
GNO CNYFYFN YFUN.

**Saturday's Cryptoquip:** HE FREQUENTLY CLAIMS THAT HIS HOME ISN'T ABSOLUTELY FILTHY, BUT I HAVE SQUALID EVIDENCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H











## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Cal hands No. 1 Arizona first loss

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ  
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — With fans rushing the floor and surrounding him in a sea of gold, California coach Mike Montgomery kept screaming and yelling at them to get back.

One of the biggest wins in school history would have to wait — about a second, anyway.

Justin Cobbs hit a step-back jumper with 0.9 seconds left, then security had to push fans away following a timeout before Cal held on to stun No. 1 Arizona 60-58 on Saturday night, handing the Wildcats their first loss of the season.

"Honestly, I was getting claustrophobic," Cobbs said, laughing. "I couldn't breathe."

Cobbs, who scored Cal's final 12 points, dribbled to his left and beat Nick Johnson before pulling up in front of an oncoming defender to sink the winning shot that sent the raucous, gold-shirt wearing crowd at Haas Pavilion spilling onto the court.

Not realizing a timeout had been called, fans frantically ran onto the floor. Montgomery and others cleared the court before Gabe York's full-court pass was knocked down to give the Bears (15-7, 6-3 Pac-12) their first victory over a No. 1 opponent since UCLA, 30, 1994, when they beat UCLA

85-70 at the Oakland Coliseum.

"I think it's just good for Cal, and I think it's good for the university and the students to come out and have that kind of excitement," Montgomery said. "I think one of the things you're trying to generate is them enjoying the game, enjoying the experience, and I think there was some of that tonight."

Arizona (21-1, 8-1), which had won a school-record 21 straight games after edging Stanford 60-57 on Wednesday night, was one of three unbeaten teams left in Division I. Now only second-ranked Syracuse (21-0), which outlasted No. 17 Duke 91-89 in overtime Saturday, and No. 4 Wichita State (23-0) remain.

Even worse for the Wildcats, coach Sean Miller said starting forward Brandon Ashley appeared to have broken his right foot going for a rebound in the opening minutes. He was scheduled to have an X-ray when the team gets back to Tucson, Ariz., Miller said.

Cobbs finished with 19 points and seven assists, David Kravish had 14 points and 11 rebounds, and Richard Solomon scored 12 points to propel Cal. The Bears improved to 3-24 against teams ranked No. 1 in The Associated Press poll, and they had never beaten a top-ranked team in Berkeley.

"It's good just getting that much



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

California's David Kravish, center, celebrates with fans on the court after a last-second win over No. 1 Arizona on Saturday in Berkeley, Calif. California won 60-58.

love from the students," Solomon said.

Kaleb Tarczewski scored a career-high 18 points and grabbed six rebounds, and T.J. McConnell had 13 points for the Wildcats, who shot just 32.3 percent from the floor. Cal, which shot 44.6 percent, held Johnson — Arizona's star guard — to four points on 1 of 14 shooting.

"Because we've been in this situation so many times, we're really comfortable. We weren't worried at all. We were ramped up," Tarczewski said. "Cobbs made a really, really tough shot." The game attracted quite an

audience, too.

There were 21 scouts from 14 different NBA teams in attendance. Former Wildcats coach Lute Olson sat in the stands behind Arizona's bench, and Oakland Athletics manager Bob Melvin — a former Cal baseball player — also supported his Bears.

"No. 1 brings out everybody," Montgomery said.

The Wildcats rallied from nine points down in the first half and eight in the second to set up a furious finish.

Arizona took the lead twice in the final minutes, and twice Cobbs came back with a tying score

— first on a runner in the lane and then on a pair of free throws.

On the final sequence, Johnson missed a short jumper in the lane and Cal corralled the rebound. Cobbs let the clock tick down, then beat Johnson for a shot that will long be remembered in Berkeley.

"I looked at it, I was watching it go in and I thought it was going to be a little short and I was just trying to be in a position to tip it in," Solomon said. "But it kept going and I watched it go through the net and I thought, wow, that was pretty."

## Top 25 roundup

# Syracuse tops Duke in battle of winningest coaches

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Coach K said he hoped this game would live up to its billing. It did, and then some.

Jerami Grant scored eight points in overtime to finish with a career-high 24 and Jim Boeheim's No. 2 Syracuse stayed unbeaten, topping Mike Krzyzewski's No. 17 Duke 91-89 on Saturday in a matchup of the two winningest coaches in Division I history.

The Orange withstood a tying three-pointer in regulation and won before a Carrier Dome record crowd of 35,446.

"It was just a great game," Boeheim said after career victory No. 941. "I don't think I've ever been involved in a better game in here where both teams played at such a high level. Both teams just went after it. We've had a lot of games that have been here that are great. There's never been one as good as this one."

C.J. Fair scored a career-best 28 points as Syracuse (21-0, 8-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) set a school record for consecutive wins to start a season. The Orange remained one of two undefeated teams in the nation, along with No. 4 Wichita State.

"I knew for us to win I would have to contribute offensively," said Fair, who shot 12 of 20. "I was able to not force things once I got going. I felt I was the hot hand and my teammates kept giving me the ball."

Grant took over in the extra period, draining some of two dunked. Duke was forced to downsize after Jabari Parker and

Amile Jefferson fouled out in the final two minutes of regulation.

"They were playing small. We knew we had a lot of mismatches around the court," Grant said. "After I got the first dunk, they just kept feeding me."

Duke's Rashad Sulaimon beat the buzzer in regulation with an off-balance three-pointer that tied it at 78. The Blue Devils led 87-84 with 80 seconds left in overtime before Syracuse rallied.

**No. 3 Florida 69, Texas A&M 36:** Michael Frazier II scored 21 points, Dorian Finney-Smith added 11 and host Florida overwhelmed Texas A&M.

The Gators (19-2, 8-0 Southeastern Conference) pushed their winning streak to 13 games and extended a school record for consecutive home wins to 27.

**No. 4 Wichita State 81, Evansville 67:** Fred VanVleet and Ron Baker had 14 points apiece, and host Wichita State withstood an early barrage by Evansville.

Cleanthony Early scored 13 and Tekele Corston added 12 points for the Shockers (23-0, 10-0 Missouri Valley), who haven't lost since last year's surprising run to the Final Four.

**No. 5 San Diego State 65, Colorado St. 56:** Coach Steve Fisher earned his 300th win at San Diego State behind 24 points from Xavier Thames and 17 for Winston Shepard.

**No. 6 Texas 81, No. 6 Kansas 69:** Isaiah Taylor scored 23 points, Jonathan

Holmes had 22 and host Texas to its sixth consecutive victory.

The Longhorns (17-4, 6-2) thumped the Jayhawks (16-5, 7-1) with suffocating defense that held the Big 12's best shooting team to 39 percent from the floor. Kansas freshman Andrew Wiggins, who averaged 24 points over the previous three games, scored seven before fouling out late.

**Georgetown 64, No. 7 Michigan State 60:** Markel Starks scored 16 points and Georgetown ended a five-game losing streak.

Jabril Trawick came up with two big plays down the stretch as the Hoyas (12-9) won the late-season nonconference game that was part of the New York area's celebration of Sunday's Super Bowl.

**Baylor 76, No. 8 Oklahoma State 70:** Brady Heslip scored a season-high 20 points to help host Baylor end a five-game losing streak.

Rico Gathers had 14 points, Gary Franklin scored all 11 of his points in the second half and Cory Jefferson had 11 points and 13 rebounds for Baylor (14-7, 2-6 Big 12).

**No. 9 Villanova 90, Temple 74:** James Bell scored 19 points to lead Villanova.

Villanova (19-2) improved to a perfect 4-0 record in Big 5 play and earned its 22nd Big 5 championship in program history.

Temple (6-14), meanwhile, missed out on a share of the city title and an opportunity to upset a top-10 team for the sixth consecutive season.

**No. 11 Kentucky 84, Missouri 79:** Aaron Harrison scored 21 points and James Young added 20 to power visiting Kentucky to the victory.

The Wildcats (16-5, 6-2 Southeastern Conference) kept their poise one game after calling a players-only meeting to discuss the team's issues away from home.

**No. 12 Louisville 87, Central Florida 70:** Russ Smith scored 27 points and Luke Hancock added 16 to help host Louisville pull away from Central Florida.

**No. 24 Ohio St. 59, No. 14 Wisconsin 58:** Aaron Craft scored all seven of his points in the final 4 minutes, LaQuinton Ross finished with 13 points, and Ohio State got a confidence-boosting road win.

**No. 15 Iowa 81, Illinois 74:** Gabriel Olaseni had 15 points and 12 rebounds, helping visiting Iowa hold on for the win.

**No. 16 Iowa State 81, No. 23 Oklahoma 75:** Sophomore Georges Niang scored a career-high 27 points and host Iowa State held on for its second win in six games.

**No. 19 Saint Louis 87, George Mason 81 (OT):** Rob Loeb scored 10 of his career-high 23 points in overtime, leading host Saint Louis to the victory.

**Saint Joseph's 73, No. 21 Massachusetts 68:** Halli Kanacevic scored 18 points and host Saint Joseph's broke away from a late tie to get the win.

**SMU 87, No. 22 Memphis 72:** Nic Moore had 14 points and 10 assists, and SMU stayed undefeated at home.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL/UFC/SPORTS BRIEFS

## Academics roundup

### Army gets victory at Loyola

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Kyle Wilson scored 19 of his 25 points after halftime — including 9 of 10 free throws — as Army rallied past Loyola (Md.) late in the second half to win 77-71 Saturday.

The Black Knights (11-10, 7-3 Patriot League) survived a late scare from the Greyhounds (9-12, 4-6). Army was trailing until less than 6 minutes remained when Kevin Ferguson (15 points, five blocks) nailed a pair of free throws to take a 58-57 lead. Wilson added a pair from the line along with a three-pointer and Army led by as many as 12 in the final 2 minutes, hitting 12 straight free throws at one point and making 20 of 25 in the half.

Jarred Jones and R.J. Williams launched a flurry in the final 45 seconds that pulled the Greyhounds within 72-70 on a Williams three-pointer.

Jones scored 17, Dylon Cormier 14 and Williams 10 for Loyola.

**Nevada 69, Air Force 56 (OT).** Jerry Evans Jr. scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as host Nevada survived a second half Air Force rally to win in overtime.

Taking a 31-18 advantage into the break, Nevada (12-10, 7-2 Mountain West) went cold early in the second half as the Falcons stormed back with a 21-7 run to take its first lead of the game on a Kamryn Williams layup that made it 39-38 with 12:12 to go. The lead seasawed down the stretch, and Nevada's Cole Huff sent the game into OT on a layup, tying the score at 54 with 11 seconds left.

Air Force (9-11, 3-6) then faltered, scoring just two points in OT as Nevada pulled away.

Marek Olesinski and Max Yon led Air Force with 19 apiece.

**Lafayette 72, Navy 54.** Joey Ptasinski scored 22 points, hitting all six of his three-point shots, as host Lafayette beat Navy to snap an 11-game losing streak.

Lafayette (5-16, 1-9 Patriot League) shot 57.5 percent from the field and made all 18 of its free throws but used defense to pull away from Navy (7-14, 2-8) in the second half.

Wesley Smith had 15 points for Navy, which shot just 34 percent from the field and lost its fifth straight.



TIM LARSEN/AP

**Renan Barao, right, lands the punch that knocked down Urijah Faber, resulting in referee Herb Dean calling the fight for Barao during the first round of the Ultimate Fighting Bantamweight Championship bout in Newark, N.J., on Saturday night.**

## Barao defeats Faber, keeps belt at UFC 169

By DAN GELSTON  
The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Renan Barao was on a tear, trying to put away Urijah Faber with a series of fists to the head.

Faber attempted to flash a thumbs up — a sign he could still fight. Barao and an early stoppage didn't let him get that chance.

Barao made quick work of Faber in his latest title defense, dropping the challenger with a right and pummeling him with a series of shots to the head while retaining his 135-pound championship in the main event of UFC 169 on Saturday night.

Referee Herb Dean stopped the fight once Barao pounced on Faber and pounded away on The California Kid. Barao won by TKO at 3:22 in the first round and had Faber in all kinds of trouble from the start. But Faber said he could have kept fighting and wanted the chance to continue in the five-round bout.

"It's my time," Barao said. "I never thought the referee could stop the fight early because Uri-

jah looked like he could keep fighting. I landed a great punch, the one good enough [to] keep this belt tight around my waist."

Jose Aldo retained his 145-pound title by unanimous decision over Ricardo Lamas in the co-main event.

Alistair Overeem beat Frank Mir by UD in a battle of former MMA heavyweight champions at the sold-out Prudential Center for UFC's Super Bowl weekend show.

Aldo ran his UFC record to 6-0 on the strength of a series of leg kicks from the opening round. He was only in trouble once, late in the fifth when Lamas finally landed a series of strikes and elbows to the champ. Lamas couldn't finish him, and his flurry came too late in the bout.

Overeem, the former Strikeforce heavyweight champion, stayed away from the ground game and toyed with Mir for three rounds. He snapped a two-fight losing streak and won for the first time since he beat former heavyweight champ Brock

## Briefly

### Watson takes lead at Phoenix Open

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — A desert critter saved leader Bubba Watson at least a stroke Saturday in the Phoenix Open. Some dog-skin play cost Phil Mickelson to the chagrin of the rowdiest fans in the largest crowd in golf history.

The estimated 189,722 in attendance had a lot to see on a sunny, cool day at TPC Scottsdale.

Watson's drive on the par-5 13th went into a desert bush and settled next to a burrowing animal hole that would have interfered with his swing, giving him a free drop.

"Right next to my ball was a burrowing animal hole and my club was going to hit it impact," Watson said. "It was big hole and the club would get caught on it. So, I got a free drop and could easily wedge it out."

He hit a 150-yard shot to the fairway, followed with a wedge to the fringe and two-putted for par on the way to a 3-under 68 and a two-stroke lead.

Without the free drop, he thought he could have played a shorter shot.

"I was looking at a 20- or 30-yard shot," Watson said.

Mickelson made a double bogey on the par-3 No. 16, the 20,000-seat stadium hole where he "lost focus" thinking about throwing footballs into the crowd.

The defending champion half-shanked his tee shot left on the 128-yard hole. He followed with a weak flop shot into the bunker, blasted to 8 feet and two-putted.

"It was a gap wedge. It was pathetic," Mickelson said. "I don't even know what to say. I don't remember ever hitting a shot like that even in practice."

Mickelson finished with a 72 to drop to 3 under. Watson was at 15-under 198.

In other golf tournaments:

■ Stephen Gallacher of Scotland shot a final round 72 Sunday to become the first player to successfully defend the Dubai Desert Classic title, beating Emiliano Grillo of Argentina by 1 stroke.

■ Mi Hyang Lee of South Korea shot a course-record 9-under 63 Sunday to win the Women's New Zealand Golf Open in Christchurch by a stroke over defending champion Lydia Ko.

### US blanks South Korea in soccer friendly

CARSON, Calif. — Chris Wondolowski scored two goals in the United States' 2-0 victory over South Korea Saturday in its first exhibition of the World Cup year.

Wondolowski strengthened his case for inclusion on the roster in Brazil with his sixth and seventh goals in his past eight appearances for the U.S. team, which was missing several top players. The San Jose Earthquakes striker headed home a rebound in the fourth minute and struck again on a short shot in the 60th minute.

### Bryans win to keep US alive in Davis Cup

SAN DIEGO — Bob and Mike Bryan beat Dominic Inglot and Colin Fleming 6-2, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 Saturday to pull the United States to 2-1 against Britain in the first round of the Davis Cup.

The match was to be decided Sunday in reverse singles, when Wimbledon winner Andy Murray of Britain faced Sam Querrey and James Ward of Britain faced Donald Young. Murray won the opening singles match in straight sets against Donald Young on Friday while Ward rallied to beat Querrey in five sets.

### Nationals, Fister avoid arbitration with deal

WASHINGTON — Right-handed starting pitcher Doug Fister and the Washington Nationals agreed to terms on an undisclosed contract on Saturday, avoiding arbitration.

Fister was acquired from the Detroit Tigers in a trade this off-season after he went 14-9 with a 3.67 ERA over 208 1/3 innings in 2013. Fister made \$4,075,000 last season.

In other baseball moves: ■ The Los Angeles Dodgers and catcher A.J. Ellis have avoided arbitration, agreeing to a one-year contract on Saturday.

■ The Kansas City Royals have signed veteran pitcher Bruce Chen to a \$4.25 million, one-year deal on Saturday that includes a mutual option for the 2015 season.

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# HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS-EUROPE

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

# Two wins put AFNORTH girls above .500

AFNORTH's hospitality didn't extend to the scoreboard this weekend.

The Lions welcomed Rota and Baumholder to Brunsum on Friday and Saturday and sent each squad home with two losses apiece while bumping their own girls basketball season record above .500.

AFNORTH beat Rota 36-31 on Friday and 50-21 on Saturday and routed Baumholder 51-14 on Friday and 43-4 on Saturday.

Three different Lions rotated as their team's top scorer. Grace Phillips scored a game-high 16 against Rota on Friday, while Erica Balkum led all scorers with 12 later Friday against Baumholder. Jena Solorzano scored 18 in each of Saturday's games to pace all scorers.

Her day included a perfect eight-for-eight shooting effort against Rota.

AFNORTH enjoys a light schedule down the stretch. The Lions' next and final regular-season game comes Saturday against SHAPE in a battle of Division II hopefuls.

**Alconbury:** Leila Hall scored 12 points and Jada Griffin added 11 as the Dragon girls basketball team routed visiting Merweth Hill 40-15 on Friday. Alconbury wraps up its regular season with doubleheaders against Rota and Lakenheath over the next two weekends.

**Ansbach:** Things don't get any easier for the struggling Cougar basketball teams this weekend as they pay a visit to Division I power Patch. Ansbach will wrap up the regular season

at its own Division II level with home games against Schweinfurt/Bamberg and Hohenfels.

**AOSR:** The Falcon girls basketball team avenged a 27-10 loss to Signonella on Friday with a 45-29 rout of its own the next day. Alison Cook scored 11 points and Candy Martinez-Sosa added 10 in the victory.

**Aviano:** The Saint basketball teams wrap up their regular season on their home court against a familiar rival in Vicenza. The games represent the only meeting of the regular season between the two schools, though they'll likely meet again at the Division II European tournament.

**Baumholder:** The Buc wrestling team again proved itself a Division II wrestling front-runner, placing ahead of divisional foes

Bitburg and Black Forest Academy and behind only Division I Ramstein and Kaiserslautern in a five-team meet Saturday. Baumholder swept three of the higher weight classes with wins by Gabe Russell (82 pounds), Yorel Smalls (195) and Nobleman Soule (220).

**Bitburg:** Girls basketball standout Saisore Matthews turned in a big individual effort in a 55-30 loss to Wiesbaden on Friday. Matthews scored 18 points, tied for game-high honors, and also contributed 10 rebounds and three blocked shots for the Barons.

**Black Forest Academy:** The Falcons' brutal gauntlet of basketball games against Division I powers Kaiserslautern, Ramstein and Wiesbaden is finally over. BFA hosts Schweinfurt/Bamberg and visits Bitburg over the final two weekends of the regular season, then the Division II European tournament.

**Brussels:** The defending Division III girls basketball champions scored another upper-division upset Saturday with a 34-31 win over SHAPE.

Ana-Marija Vasileva scored team-high 12 points, Teodora Vasileva posted nine points and 10 rebounds and Ali DeFazio added nine points and six assists in a balanced effort.

**Hohenfels:** Tiger football phenom David Vidovic proved his basketball mettle over the weekend with consecutive 20-point scoring efforts. Vidovic scored 20 on Friday in a 61-50 win over Ansbach, and bumped that up to 23 the next day in a 50-42 win over Schweinfurt/Bamberg.

The 8-3 Tigers are unbeaten at the Division II level; all of their losses have come to Division I Viseck and Patch.

**International School of Brussels:** The Raiders return to DODDS-Europe basketball action on Tuesday with the latest installment of their rivalry with Brussels.

The Raider boys basketball team celebrated a rare win over archrival Ramstein on Tuesday and kept the momentum rolling with two victories over Black Forest Academy over the weekend. Next up is another mid-week tangle with Ramstein. The Division I contenders meet Wednesday in the Royals' gym.

**Lakenheath:** The Lancers used size advantage to dominate a regional wrestling meet Saturday.

But head coach Darryl Brock is realistic about the tournament, know-



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

**Alconbury's Jarrod Johnson tries to escape from the grasp of Lakenheath's Nick Vargas during their 120-pound wrestling match at RAF Lakenheath, England, on Saturday. Johnson would go on to win.**

ing that even larger Division I schools like Patch, Ramstein, Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden await.

**Merweth Hill:** The Mustang girls basketball team put the brakes on a prolific Alconbury offense last weekend to earn a doubleheader split.

The host Dragons piled up 40 points on Merweth Hill in a runaway win Friday. But the Mustangs slashed that by more than half the next day, earning a satisfying 15-13 victory.

**Naples:** Wiesbaden's loss over the weekend left idle Naples as the only remaining undefeated girls basketball team in any DODDS-Europe division.

**AOSR:** This weekend would wrap up a perfect regular season and likely send the Wildcats to the European tournament as the top seed in Division II.

**Patch:** The Panthers tuned up for what they hope is a reclamation of their European wrestling championship with a win over Division I rivals Wiesbaden and Viseck on Saturday.

A Patch wrestler was first or second in all but one of the event's 14 weight classes and took first in nine, from Matthew Bolduc at 106 pounds to William Miller at 220.

**Ramstein:** The Royal girls basketball team proved it's ready for the European tournament this year by knocking off both participants in last year's Division I championship game.

Ramstein beat

the team's losses came to Division II opponents.

**Vicenza:** Saturday looms as one of the more significant days this year for the Cougars. Vicenza will host one of three sectional qualifiers for the European wrestling tournament, and it will have several of its own hopefuls in the field. The school's basketball teams will be in Aviano for their regular-season finales, jockeying for Division II tournament action against the rival Saints.

**Viseck:** Falcon wrestling heavyweight Armando Saldana continued to take down all competition in the 285-pound weight class Saturday, besting contenders from Division I rivals Patch and Wiesbaden. Will Peters also won at 160 pounds.

**Wiesbaden:** The unbeaten Warrior boys basketball team beat visiting Ramstein 53-47 on Saturday, finishing off a season sweep of the Royals after a 78-62 weekend. Reynold Lewis led a balanced attack with 12 points. CJ Pridgen had a 10-point, 14-rebound double-double and Kelsey Thomas added nine points and seven rebounds.

— Gregory Broome

## Scoreboard

### Basketball

**Boys' games**  
Wiesbaden 76, Bitburg 36  
Kaiserslautern 69, 66  
Hohenfels 61, Ansbach 50

**Saturday games**  
SHAPE 53, Brussels 39  
Lakenheath 62, TASS 59  
Cobham 50, Lakenheath 48  
Kaiserslautern 49, BFA 33  
Wiesbaden 53, Ramstein 47  
Viseck 73, Ansbach 30  
Hohenfels 50, Schweinfurt 42

**Girls**  
**Friday's games**  
Alconbury 48, Baumholder 13  
AFNORTH 36, Rota 31  
Cobham 39, Baumholder 14  
Rota 34, Baumholder 25  
Wiesbaden 55, Bitburg 39  
Kaiserslautern 52, BFA 15  
Hohenfels 39, Ansbach 16  
Signonella 27, AOSR 10

**Saturday's games**  
Merweth Hill 15, Alconbury 13  
AFNORTH 50, Rota 21  
SHAPE 24, Baumholder 24  
Brussels 34, SHAPE 17  
Kaiserslautern 57, BFA 17  
Ramstein 42, Wiesbaden 40  
Hohenfels 56, Schweinfurt 16  
AOSR 45, Signonella 29

**Marksmanship**  
**European Championships**  
Squadry at Wiesbaden  
Patch 1,413; Viseck 1,386; Ansbach 1,364; Hohenfels 1,349; Baumholder 1,283; Baumholder 1,249

**Wrestling**  
**Saturday's meets**  
Lakenheath 173, SHAPE 87.5, AFNORTH 81.5, Alconbury 77, Brussels 66  
Ramstein 232.5, Kaiserslautern 162.5, Baumholder 109, Bitburg 62, BFA 62  
Patch, Viseck, Hohenfels at Wiesbaden  
Naples 133, AOSR 42, Signonella 37, Team Luiza 28

# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM THE WEEKEND

# Daegu girls clinch share of division title

A memorable 2012-13 regular season segued into a forgettable post-season, and Daegu's girls basketball team hopes to pen a different, better, redemptive ending.

Led by Rheagan Wyche's 17 points and eight steals, the Warriors downed Humphreys 64-35 on Saturday, clinching a share of first place in the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division regular season and the top seed in the league's postseason tournament.

That takes place Friday and Saturday at Taejon Christian International School new campus in Daejeon's Techno Valley, where Daegu finished second in last year's KIAIC Five-Cities Division tournament, prior to a seventh-place showing in the Far East Division II tournament.

"These girls are playing within themselves, staying within their abilities," coach Phillip Loyd said. "They're not just playing with a winning attitude, but an aggressive attitude. They don't back down."

Loyd will see double duty in the KIAIC tournament; he also coaches the boys team, which beat Humphreys 76-48 behind Anfernee Dent's 20 points and five assists. Daegu finished second in the KIAIC Blue Division regular season behind Seoul American.

For Humphreys, Chase Bennett led three double-figure scorers with 14 points in the boys game and Kayuana Stepany led the Blackhawks girls with 13 points.

**Guam:** After a 5-0 start, the Panthers boys basketball team stumbled to two weekend losses. A key reason: High-scoring Lordan Agnon was held to a combined 14 points in Guam's 49-45 loss to John F. Kennedy and 74-67 defeat against St. Paul Christian.

**Kubasaki:** Johnson & Johnson led the way again for Kubasaki's girls on Saturday, as Alyah Johnson had 22 points and 16 rebounds and Sydney Johnson scored 18 in the Dragons' 78-67 win over Kita Nakagusuku, their fourth win in five games. ... Kubasaki's boys' five-game win streak ended with a 90-80 loss to Oroku, the No. 2-rated Japanese team on the island.

**Zama:** The lone winner again for the Trojans at the CAJ Invitational was Jacob Scott at 148 pounds. ... After a weekend off, the girls basketball team is back in action with home games Tuesday and Thursday against St. Maur and Seisen International schools. Zama's boys don't play until Feb. 11 at home against Yokota.



SHEILA SUCKART/Special to Stars and Stripes

**E.J. King's Gabby Hidalgo dribbles against Edgren's Essence Prince during Saturday's DODDS Japan game at Misawa Air Base, Japan.**

**Kadena:** Jasmine Rhodes led three scorers in double figures with 24 points, powering the Okinawa-American Friendship Tournament's three-time defending champion Panthers past Gushikawa 68-56.

**Yokota:** The Panthers' basketball teams get back into action following a weekend off, the boys visiting St. Mary's and the girls hosting the Sacred Heart.

**Kinnick:** The Red Devils wrestlers enjoyed their final tune-up before Saturday's Kanto finals. They took seven titles and won the Christian Academy Japan Invitational, scoring 123 points to 76 for St. Mary's. Gianni Labato at 115 pounds upset St. Mary's Kentaro Hayashi.

**Edgren:** The list of leaders for the Eagles boys in a weekend three-school DODDS Japan basketball series read a lot like an Edgren football recap.

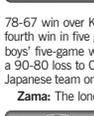
Shawn Robinson totaled 40 points in Edgren's two wins on Saturday and Khaleem Shabazz had 17 in the Eagles' win Friday over E.J. King.

**E.J. King:** Gemmar Cassi's 14 points helped the Cobras boys salvage one of three games in the road trip to Edgren. They beat Kinnick 51-43 on Saturday.

**M.C. Perry:** Jon Cadavos led a barrage of points in the extra session as the Samurai played bonus basketball in their first visit to the CAJ campus in 14 years on Friday. Perry outscored the Knights 18-4 in overtime for a 66-52 win.

**Osan, Seoul American:** The KIAIC Blue Division regular season ends for the Cougars on Wednesday at Seoul Foreign and the Falcons at home against Humphreys, the second game a makeup of one postponed due to Lunar New Year and its associated traffic.

— Dave Omauer



## Scoreboard

**Wrestling**  
**Japan**  
 Kinnick 123, St. Mary's 76, Christian Academy Japan 54, Zama 19, American School In Japan 15, Yokota 9

**Basketball**  
**Boys**  
 South Korea  
 Daegu 76, Humphreys 48  
 Okinawa  
 Oroku 90, Kubasaki 80  
 Kubasaki 97, Ginowan 83  
**Guam**  
 St. Paul Christian 74, Guam 67  
 John F. Kennedy 49, Guam 45  
**Japan**  
 Perry 66, CAJ 52, OT  
 ASU 70, St. Mary's 58  
 Edgren 63, E.J. King 48  
 Edgren 82, Kinnick 58  
 King 51, Kinnick 43

Edgren 67, Kinnick 60  
 Edgren 77, King 61  
**Girls**  
 South Korea  
 Daegu 64, Humphreys 35  
 Okinawa  
 Kubasaki 78, Kita Nakagusuku 67  
 Kubasaki 86, Haabara 74  
 Kadena 68, Gushikawa 56  
**Japan**  
 Seisen 41, Perry 21  
 CAJ 38, Perry 32  
 Kinnick 39, King 24  
 Edgren 45, King 30  
 Kinnick 53, Edgren 46  
 Edgren 60, King 34  
 Kinnick 43, Edgren 24  
**Tennis**  
**Guam**  
**Boys**  
 Simon Sanchez 20, Guam 16  
**Girls**  
 Guam 32, Simon Sanchez 2

# OLYMPICS



CARLOS GONZALEZ, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

John Shuster watches teammates during the U.S. Olympic curling trials in November. After being briefly benched as captain following a four-game losing streak at the 2010 Olympics, Shuster said the Americans are more focused than ever on returning to the medal podium at Sochi.

## No stone unturned

### Curling captain seeks redemption after poor outing in '10

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
The Associated Press

It said much about John Shuster's current state of mind that the United States curling skip is bringing his wife and 8-month-old son with him to the terrorism-threatened Winter Olympics in Sochi.

He is heading to Russia with no fear — on or off the ice. That's some feat, considering Shuster's painful experience at the 2010 Vancouver Games that would have inflicted lasting damage on many people.

He was captain of a U.S. team that had high hopes of making a second straight podium in the men's tournament, after its bronze medal in Turin in 2006. But he ended up being benched — albeit briefly — after losing all four of his first matches, and the U.S. wound up last in the standings with a 2-7 record.

"It just didn't work out," Shuster said, casting his mind back to his darkest hour in curling.

That experience, however, could well be the making of him. After some soul-searching post-Vancouver, Shuster has bounced back in a newly formed rink that contains three other people from his home state of Minnesota — Jeff Isaacson, John Landsteiner and Jared Zezel. Isaacson was with Shuster on the Vancouver team.

They came through a strong field at the U.S. Olympic trials in Fargo at the end of last year and then overcame a bad start in

**'The team won't make the same mistakes (as in 2010).'**

**John Shuster**  
US curling captain

the Olympic qualification event to win five straight games, securing a return to the Winter Games.

Things have changed on the home front for Shuster, too. For the past few months, he has ditched his job as a restaurant manager in Duluth to become a stay-at-home dad for Luke while his wife Sara, who he married a few months after Vancouver, works long hours as a pharmacist.

They'll both be there in Sochi, as well as his parents, despite security fears surrounding the Olympics.

"Things have come together just as I hoped they would," Shuster said in a telephone interview prior to the team flying out to Russia.

"The team won't make the same mistakes (as in 2010) when we get those opportunities. We have to capitalize on them. I think the more you play at world events and top-caliber events, the more comfortable you are playing in them. And I'm getting to the point where I'm pretty darn comfortable."

They are upbeat words from Shuster and the team's head coach, Tim Muller, backs them up.

"You can't come away from what happened (in Vancouver) without gaining some experi-

ence," Muller said. "I think he's so focused on this and the chemistry in the team now is way different from what it was then. It's so good, so comfortable."

So good, in fact, that Zezel — a student who has taken a year off the books to follow his Olympic dream — has been staying at the Shusters' place for three days here, four days there, while he practises with the team in the nearby curling club.

"You have to be friends off the ice in this sport," Shuster said. "We all enjoy giving each other a fair amount of digs and joke around a little bit, but we keep it light and have the common goal of helping each other perform their best."

Shuster believes a first men's curling gold medal is an attainable target for the U.S. team, even though they are at a huge disadvantage to the likes of Sweden and Britain.

While these two top European teams are professional curlers, combining hard practice on the ice with daily gym sessions, the minimal funding the Americans receive barely covers their training expenses.

But like with everything else, Shuster is focusing on the positives.

"We played against three of medal favorites last week (in the Continental Cup) in Las Vegas — Sweden, Norway and Great Britain — and we basically played even against," Shuster said. "So I think we'll be right in the mix in Sochi."

## IOC urging Sochi to solve hotel issues

By STEPHEN WILSON  
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The IOC is urging Russian Olympic organizers to move quickly to resolve the issue of accommodations that are not ready for accredited media personnel in the mountains outside Sochi.

According to the Sochi organizing committee, only six of the nine media hotels in the mountain area are fully operational.

Some media have arrived and found they had no place to stay, and thousands more journalists are expected to arrive Monday.

The matter was being examined Sunday at a meeting of the International Olympic Committee executive board.

"There are still some issues to be solved as always just before the games," IOC President Thomas Bach said. "We are in contact with the organizing committee and we hope that the situation will be solved in the next couple of days."

The Russian government has spent \$51 billion on the Olympics in the hopes of turning the Black Sea summer resort into a year-round tourism destination.

While pre-Games attention has focused on cost overruns, threats of terrorist attacks and the Russian law banning gay "propaganda" among minors, the hotel situation could become an embarrassment for local organizers.

Organizers estimate that up to 6,000 media will be arriving in Sochi on Monday. About 11,000 media overall are expected to be covering Russia's first Winter Games.

IOC vice president John Coates of Australia said he was expecting an update on the situation from Sochi organizers at Sunday's meeting.

"It's obviously very important," he said.

**'They are aware it's a serious issue.'**

**Kevin Gosper**

IOC press commission chairman

IOC press commission chairman Kevin Gosper took the issue to the executive board and was working with Gilbert Palli, the executive director of the Olympic Games, in discussions with Sochi organizers.

"We've alerted them that a lot of people are coming in and particularly of the difficulty still in the mountains," Gosper said. "They are aware it's a serious issue."

Gosper said servicing of the hotels was now the major problem.

"The accommodation is there, but serving the accommodation is the challenge," he said.

Organizers said in a statement Saturday that media who arrive to find an incomplete room will be given new accommodation, some with an upgrade.

"Within the three remaining hotels, the rooms are currently going through the final testing process and check of their services," the organizing committee said. "At the end of the testing process guests will then be accommodated in the hotels they initially booked."

Bach, meanwhile, praised Sochi's overall readiness for the Games, which open on Friday.

"Things are going very well," he said. "I had a good opportunity yesterday to visit the Olympic Village and to speak with a lot of athletes and they were all very happy and excited about the conditions in the Olympic village."

"The sports facilities are ready. The stage is set for the best winter athletes of the world, and we are very confident that we will have excellent Games."



LUCA BRUNO/AP

A woman talks on her cellphone in an unfinished area of the Gorki Plaza East hotel in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. The IOC is urging Russian Olympic organizers to move quickly to resolve the issue of accommodations that are not ready for accredited media personnel in the mountains outside Sochi. According to the Sochi Winter Olympic organizing committee, only six of the nine media hotels in the mountain area are fully operational.

NFL

# Manning wins 5th MVP

## Panthers' Kuechly named league's top defensive player

BY BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Peyton Manning's record-setting season earned him his fifth Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award Saturday night in a landslide.

No other player has won more than three.

Denver's record-setting quarterback, who threw for 55 touchdowns and 5,477 yards in leading the Broncos to the American Football Conference's best record, earned 49 votes from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league. New England quarterback Tom Brady got the other vote.

Manning won his other MVPs with Indianapolis in 2003, '04, '08 and '09. He was the runner-up last season to Adrian Peterson.

"I am humbled by this recognition and grateful to my family, (Broncos owner) Pat Bowlen, John Elway, John Fox and the entire Denver Broncos organization, and of course, my coaches and my teammates," Manning said in a prepared video acceptance speech. He was not on hand as he gets ready for Sunday's Super Bowl against Seattle.

"Now, I sent a couple of guys over there tonight to pick up the trophy on my behalf — my father Archie and my son Marshall. Thank you very much and God bless you."

Archie Manning, holding his grandson Marshall in his arms, accepted the award from two more MVPs, Joe Montana and Aaron Rodgers.

Manning still trails several Hall of Famers for total MVPs in their sport. Wayne Gretzky won nine NHL MVPs, Barry Bonds owns seven in baseball, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar won six in the NBA.

He also took the AP's Offensive Player of the Year award for the second time. Elway accepted the Offensive Player award on Manning's behalf.

Carolina grabbed two major awards, with Ron Rivera winning AP NFL Coach of the Year and linebacker Luke Kuechly voted top defensive player.

Broncos executive John Elway accepted the Offensive Player award on Manning's behalf.

"I can say I have never seen a better year played by a quarterback than Peyton Manning," Elway said. "To see what he did this year, it was truly amazing."

Manning received 33 votes for that honor. He also was runner-up last year to Peterson for Offensive Player.

This time, running back LeSean McCoy of Philadelphia was second with 10 votes, followed by Kansas City running back Jamaal Charles with four.

Rivera engineered the Panthers' turnaround from a 7-9 record to 12-4, the NFC South title and a first-round playoff bye. Kuechly keyed a defense that allowed 241



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION FOR NFL/AP

points, less than every team except NFC champion Seattle.

Green Bay running back Eddie Lacy and Jets defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson were the top rookies for 2013.

San Diego quarterback Philip Rivers took the Comeback Player of the Year award at the NFL Honors show.

Rivera's fine work in his third season

in charge in Carolina brought him 21½ votes. That outdistanced Kansas City's Andy Reid, who got 13½ votes. In his first year with the Chiefs, Reid took them from 2-14 to 11-5 and an AFC wild-card berth.

Chicago cornerback Charles Tillman won the Walter Payton Man of the Year award, and accepted the honor with tears in his eyes.

# Hall: Guy joins Jan Stenerud as only kickers enshrined in Canton

FROM BACK PAGE

The announcement was made at the NFL Honors award show, less than 24 hours before the Denver Broncos take on the Seattle Seahawks in the first Super Bowl.

Among the finalists who didn't get in were two with ties to the Indianapolis Colts and current Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning — coach Tony Dungy and receiver Marvin Harrison.

Each incoming Hall of Famer walked to the stage and was announced individually. Strahan, who helped the Giants make two Super Bowls, got a huge cheer from the home crowd.

Induction will be on Aug. 1 in Canton, Ohio.

Guy turned the punting job into a defensive weapon after he became the first player at his position to be selected in the first round of the draft in 1973. He made "hang time" part of the football vernacular while playing all of his 207 games in 14 seasons with the Raiders.

The Southern Mississippi product averaged 42.4 yards for his career. Only three of his 1,049 punts were blocked, and he had 209 punts downed inside the 20-yard line.

"It's gratifying to now see a punter go into the Hall of Fame," Guy said, who joins Jan Stenerud as the only kickers enshrined. "Whether it was me or somebody else, they needed representation in that position."

Stenerud was the cornerstone of a Bucs defense that led the league



RUSTY KENNEDY/AP

The Philadelphia Eagles' Claude Humphrey, right, uses Minnesota Vikings quarterback Tommy Kramer's jersey for a handle as Kramer is sacked for a 14-yard loss in an NFC playoff game at Philadelphia. Humphrey was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.

in 2002 and '05, and the NFC five times. He was The Associated Press Defensive Player of the Year when Tampa Bay won its only Super Bowl after the 2002 season.

The linebacker never missed a game in his 14 seasons and averaged a remarkable 146 tackles. Six of his 25 interceptions were returned for touchdowns, including a league-record three in '02.

Seattle certainly got a winner

when it moved up to the No. 6 spot in the 1997 draft to take Jones. He immediately provided blindsided protection for Warren Moon and quickly became the first Seahawk lineman to earn a Pro Bowl spot. He was one of the chief road graders who helped Shaun Alexander rush for 266 yards in a 2001 game — the fourth-highest total in NFL history — and then rush for a team-record 1,880 yards and 28

TDs in his MVP season in 2005.

"Coming into the league all I wanted to do was get here, and ... say I could play this game," Jones said. "For me to be here now, and for my team that I started with and finished with, to be here in the Super Bowl is just like the icing on the cake."

Strahan set the NFL record for sacks in a single season, getting 22½ in 2001. The one most people remember is the record-setter in the final game of the regular season, when Green Bay's Brett Favre seemed to lay down on a play late in the game.

While there is controversy about that play, the gap-toothed Strahan was one of the top two-way defensive ends. Younger teammates said he taught them how to work to become NFL players, and he walked away from the NFL after winning the Super Bowl in February 2008.

"It's hard to find guys with everything, but this guy had everything — size, speed, power, toughness, endurance, motor, smarts, leadership, heart, love for the game, but what I admired most about Michael was his pride," Giants general Jerry Reese said. "No matter what the circumstances were, when he walked out on that field on Sunday, he was going to give it ALL to you. There aren't many guys who can say that."

Ree read out of little Kutztown (Pa.) University and played his first 15 seasons with Buffalo, getting to four Super Bowls, but never winning one. His final season was

with Washington. His 951 career receptions are third in league history, highlighted by nine consecutive seasons of 50-plus catches.

Long before people spoke about yards after the catch, Reese was doing it. He finished with 13,198 yards and 87 touchdowns.

"Having to wait this long for him is a sin, but the bottom line is he's in and that's what counts," former Bills quarterback Jim Kelly said of Reese's nine-year wait to get into the Hall.

A walk-on at Southern University, Williams was a shutdown cornerback in his 14 NFL seasons, the first 10 with the Cardinals and the last four with the Rams. He had 55 career interceptions, getting at least one in every season except his last. He had five or more in picks in six seasons, with nine being his best in 1994. Williams spent his last four seasons with St. Louis. He started at cornerback for the Rams in the 2001 Super Bowl and played safely in his final two seasons.

The Hall of Fame doors finally opened for Humphrey on his 28th year of eligibility and his fifth as a finalist. The durable six-time Pro Bowl pick had 122 career sacks in 14 seasons with the Falcons and Eagles, who acquired him after a brief retirement in the 1978 season.

"I never really gave up hope," said Humphrey, whose only regret was his wife died in July and didn't get to see his election. "I always figured there was a place for me here."

# SPORTS



**Bears go big**  
Cal notches rare upset over unbeaten No. 1 Arizona | Page 26

**NFL**

# Hang time

## Wait is over for Guy as punter finally makes Hall of Fame

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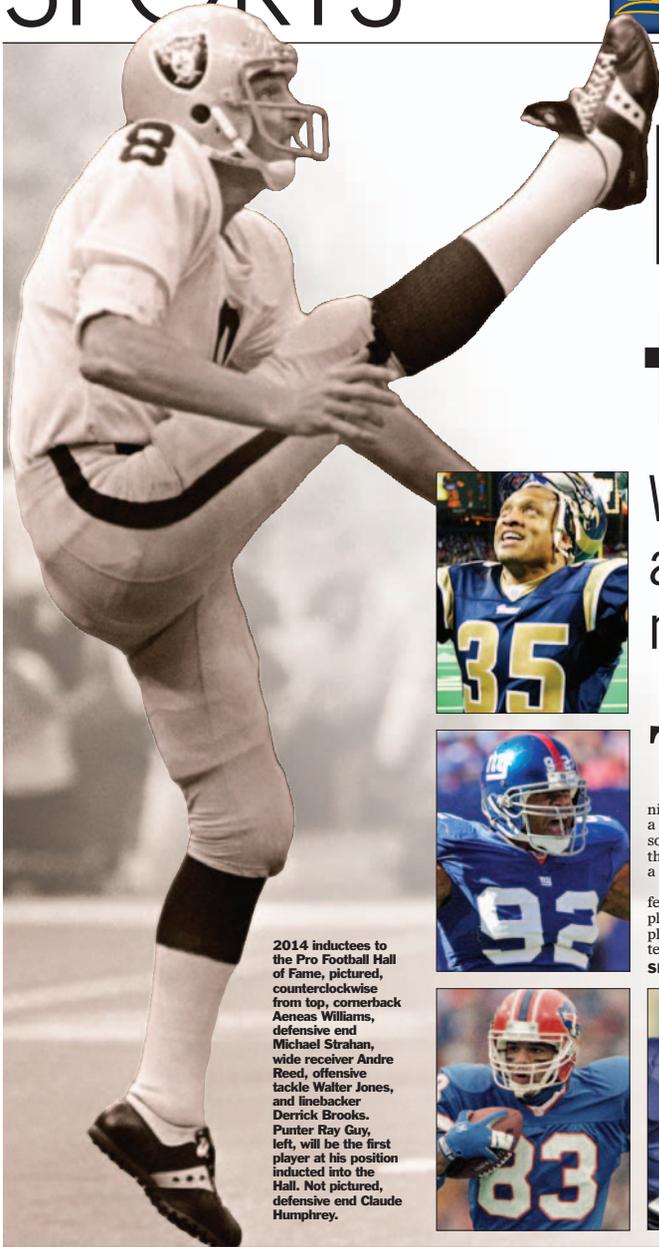
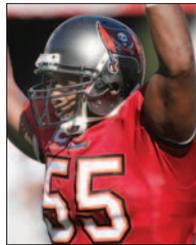
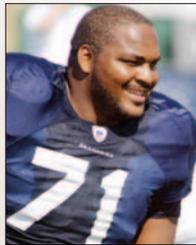
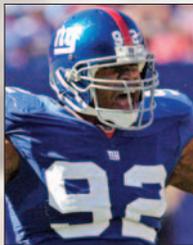
The hang time is over for Ray Guy. The longtime punter for the Oakland Raiders is all by himself once again. After waiting 23 years, Guy is the first punter elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

“Good things are worth waiting for,” Guy said Saturday night after being elected along with six other players. “It’s just a matter of time when it will show up. And I knew it would, sooner or later. It had to, whether it was me or somebody down the road. But sooner or later, it had to show up, because that is a part of a football game.”

Defensive end Michael Strahan, receiver Andre Reed, defensive back Aeneas Williams and defensive end Claude Humphrey also were part of the class of 2014. Two first-time eligible players, linebacker Derrick Brooks and offensive tackle Walter Jones, were selected.

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2014 inductees to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, pictured, counterclockwise from top, cornerback Aeneas Williams, defensive end Michael Strahan, wide receiver Andre Reed, offensive tackle Walter Jones, and linebacker Derrick Brooks. Punter Ray Guy, left, will be the first player at his position inducted into the Hall. Not pictured, defensive end Claude Humphrey.



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