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Free to Deployed Areas

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## TRAGEDY AT FORT HOOD

Five years after the worst mass killing on a US military installation, **grief comes once more to Texas base.**

# NOT AGAIN



TAMIR KALIFA/AP

Lucy Hamlin and her husband, Spc. Timothy Hamlin, wait for permission to re-enter Fort Hood, Texas, on Wednesday after an Iraq War veteran opened fire, killing three people and wounding 16 others before shooting himself.

Gunman who killed 3 fellow soldiers and wounded 16 before committing suicide had no combat experience, signs of outward injury

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**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

“The data that we have are not perfect, and they are mixed. But they do strongly suggest that although mammography does have benefits, it does also have a lot of harms, and those harms are not insubstantial.”

— Lydia Pace, women’s health researcher

See story on Page 11

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**MILITARY**

**Civilians slam cuts in medical care access at Vicenza**

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — An abrupt disruption to civilians’ access to care at Vicenza’s Army health center two weeks ago has left people essentially without care and has raised questions about how thousands of civilians will receive medical care in the future, those who attended a charged public meeting Wednesday told health center commander Col. Andrew Barr.

Barr apologized repeatedly for the way in which civilians who had long been able to make appointments at the center were told recently that the procedure had been changed — with a Facebook message and a short, hasty list of local Italian physicians who might be available, including one who turned out to be an accupuncturist.

Barr said he’d had little choice when he learned that active-duty troops and their families, who have the highest priority for health care under Tricare, the Army’s health insurer, were being turned away because civilians were calling early and snatching up appointments, he said.

“Beneficiaries were being put on hold and not getting an appointment,” Barr said.

Many civilians at the Wednesday meeting were not mollified.

“One of our teachers tried to make an appointment,” said Loree Vallone, who was at the meeting representing Vicenza middle school teachers. “She called five different Italian doctors. They wouldn’t see her without a European Union medical card.”

The teacher also repeatedly had called the center, as instructed on Facebook, attempting — and failing — to get a same-day appointment there.

“Her child was very sick and she couldn’t be seen at the clinic or on the economy,” Vallone said. She and her child ended up at



Col. Andrew Barr, commander of the Vicenza garrison’s health center, said at a meeting on Wednesday he had no choice but to abruptly reduce civilians’ access to health care at the center.

the local emergency room at San Bortolo Hospital, Vallone said.

The teacher’s experience is an example of a dramatic change for civilians in the way the center does business in an Army of tightened budgets, reduced personnel and diminished resources.

Defense department civilians such as teachers, GS workers, contractors and others covered by health insurers other than Tricare, are seen on a “space available” basis at military hospitals and clinics, after a number of other groups with higher priority — troops, their families, retirees.

A decade ago, space was routinely available. But several years ago, the appointments at U.S. Army health clinics in Germany became hard to get; civilians were forced to see local doctors.

About the same time, the Army began shutting down maternity and same-day surgery units, sending everyone who needed those services, including soldiers, to local doctors or the Army hospital at Landstuhl.

Vicenza maintained those ser-



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Vicenza’s Army Health Care Center, built for almost \$48 million in 2010, will cease doing same-day surgery and providing obstetrical and maternity care in June and has significantly decreased access to routine care to some 3,000 Defense Department civilians.

vices until recently. Vicenza’s birthing center, which opened to great fanfare in 2005 after years of complaints about local Italian maternity care and the language barrier, is closing in June, along with same-day surgery.

“We’ve been very fortunate in Vicenza for a long time,” Barr said.

Barr said an increase in troops and their families, along with no increases in staff, meant that some 3,000 Vicenza civilians now will have to be more reliant on local Italian medical providers, though many of them speak little English and require payment up front.

An exception is civilian babies and children needing immunizations, who will continue to be able to receive care at the center, which opened in a new, \$48 million building on Caserme Ederle less than four years ago.

According to the center, civilians with acute issues such as flu may still call for same-day appointments for themselves or their children starting at 11 a.m. If there are any appointments left before the center closes at 4:30 p.m., they will be seen.

“There should be no doubts. The message is, ‘We take care of civilians (for acute issues) ... when space is available,’” Barr said.

He declined to say how many appointments might be available for civilians with acute issues

on a given day, and people at the meeting were skeptical.

“The sense of people about the call-in is that it’s a de facto ‘you can’t be seen,’” Stephen Salerno, a civilian lawyer, told Barr. “Just come out and tell us, ‘You can’t be seen.’”

An estimated 500 civilians with chronic conditions — diabetes, asthma and others — who saw center doctors are to be “transitioned” to local doctors, Barr said, and won’t be seen for tests, follow-up or telephone consultations at the health center. Neither will civilian women needing pap smears or other routine preventive health care.

“It is a reduction in service whether you want to admit that or not,” Vallone said.

The meeting made clear that a host of issues resulting from the change have yet to be addressed. Barr was asked what people taking medications not available in Italy would do. Such patients include a significant number of children on medication for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Other questions concerned how to coordinate care and records between U.S. health providers and Italian doctors, and refilling drug prescriptions for people who will shortly run out of their medications.

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# Aid agency accused of cover-up in Afghanistan

IG report on USAID raises concerns about risk of contracting with organizations tied to terrorism

By Tom Vanden Brook

USA Today

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Agency for International Development withheld information from Congress showing the Afghan government's apparent inability to prevent its ministries from doing business with people tied to terrorism, according to a letter from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction and documents obtained by USA Today.

The letter, from SIGAR's general counsel asserts that USAID "covered up information" showing some Afghan ministries can't account for cash or what they own. The audits show the Afghan government has failed to monitor the "potential risk of contracting with suppliers/beneficiaries having links with terrorist organizations."

"USAID kept this information from Congress and the American people," said John Sopko, the inspector general. "As a former federal prosecutor and congressional investigator, to me it begs the questions: What were they trying to hide, and why?"

**"To me it begs the questions: What were they trying to hide, and why?"**

**John Sopko**

Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction

fore signing contracts or providing funds to the suppliers."

A copy of USAID's version of the same document shows that mentions of links to terrorism are blacked out.

"Withholding information that highlights concerns about U.S. taxpayer dollars being funneled

to terrorists is reprehensible and circumvents our system of checks and balances," said Scott Arney, general counsel for the Project on Government Oversight, a non-partisan watchdog group. "USAID should come clean to the military and SIGAR to ensure that lives are not at risk, mission priorities are

attainable, and wasteful spending isn't rampant."

Information USAID has blacked out in documents released publicly includes names and other data that identify Afghans who could be at risk of retaliation, Herrick said. SIGAR, in its letter, acknowledges the need to limit dissemination of such information.

"It is a common practice to redact information from the general public about individuals who could come into harm's way if their names were released or vulnerabilities that could be exploited by unscrupulous actors if exposed," Herrick said.

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Wednesday, saying the agency had provided members of Congress and their staffs full access to its documents upon request. SIGAR's claim relates to documents that have been made available to Congress, Herrick said. The agency hasn't hidden anything, he said.

"Congress and U.S. government auditors have access to USAID documents in unredacted form, either in their offices or at USAID, and we reject the claim that we have improperly withheld information," Herrick said.

Congress may raise up the issue Thursday when Sopko and an official from USAID are scheduled to appear before a panel of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. USAID has spent nearly \$1.5 billion in taxpayer funds to help build infrastructure in Afghanistan.

"USAID must be accountable to the American people for how they are spending taxpayer dollars in Afghanistan," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, who chairs the committee's panel on national security, told USA Today in a statement.

The lack of controls to prevent Afghan ministries from contracting with people connected to terrorist organizations pops up throughout a series of audits on the agencies obtained by USA Today through a Freedom of Information Act request. A KPMG audit of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development says, "A mechanism has not been developed for screening of beneficiaries for their possible links with terrorist organizations be-

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## MIDEAST

# Afghans largely left to monitor own election

By HEATH DRUZIN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Although many foreign election monitors have left Afghanistan following a recent string of high-profile attacks in the capital, analysts say their presence may not be the key to a successful vote on Saturday.

More important, analysts say, will be how many of the 265,000 registered Afghan monitors show up on election day and the resilience of the Afghan people in despite threats from the Taliban to disrupt the elections and to take vengeance on those who vote.

"It chips away at the credibility (of the election), but it's not a death blow at all," Graeme Smith, the International Crisis Group's senior analyst in Afghanistan, said of the departure of many foreign observers.

Avoiding the widespread fraud and ballot-stuffing reported during the 2009 election is critical now as voters prepare to participate in the first democratic change of power in the country's history by electing a president who will oversee the departure of all foreign combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of the year.

Experts say avoiding the mess of the 2009 election — in which the runner-up, Abdullah Abdullah, quit in disgust rather than participate in a run-off with President Hamid Karzai — also is key to future international assistance.

There is a great deal of money at stake for a country that relies almost exclusively on international assistance to fund its government. One stipulation of the nations that pledged \$16 billion in continuing aid at the 2012 Tokyo Conference was that this year's election be "free, fair, transparent, and inclusive."

"International powers have said in private to various candidates that if it is a stolen election, there's a lot of things that won't get paid for," said Kate Clark, an analyst with the Afghanistan Analysts Network. "You can't steal an election and expect financial aid."

## Ballot in the balance

Though foreign observers play an important role in keeping tabs on Afghanistan's elections, it is Afghan observers who are the most crucial piece of the monitoring regime, Clark said.

"The key people are the locals — there are more of them and they can get out more," Clark said, referring to areas of the country considered too unsafe for foreigners.

But will they? Jandaq Spinghar, director of Afghanistan's leading domestic election observer group, the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan, said his organization feels under increasing threat after two recent attacks on the Afghan government's election commission. Several of the foundation's senior observers have resigned under threat and the group has greatly increased security at its Kabul office, he said.

The monitors' concerns were underscored by a Taliban statement released Wednesday that warned Afghans to stay away from the polls and that polling stations, voters and election workers would be considered legitimate targets for attack.

"FEFA is a player in the electoral process, so we have concerns we might also come under attack," Spinghar said.

Due to changes in the makeup of the Electoral Complaints Commission, the government body tasked with resolving election disputes, there will be less of a foreign role in adjudicating the results of the vote.

In 2009, three foreigners served on the five-person complaints commission, but this year, all members are Afghans hand-picked by Karzai, who has ruled Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S. invasion that ousted the Tal-



Employees of the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan, Afghanistan's main domestic election monitoring group, work at the foundation's offices March 31.

See a video about life on the Afghan campaign trail  
[stripes.com/go/afghanelection](http://stripes.com/go/afghanelection)

iban and is barred from running for a third term. The Independent Election Commission also is made up of Karzai appointees, and some experts say the political nature of the appointments of both bodies increases the chances of fraud.

"Even the IEC is sometimes not impartial — the election commission feels enemy towards the observers and might not allow observers to be present inside (some of) the polling stations," Spinghar said.

Noor Mohammad Noor, spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, the Afghan government's election organizing body, said he's confident in a high turnout and a credible election.

"We are working to conduct the election and be sure that the majority of people participate and the majority accept (the results)," he said.

Having fewer international monitors on the ground may have a limited impact on preventing fraud in the election, but some see their presence as a boost to confidence in the results, both for Western countries Afghanistan relies on for aid and for Afghans.

Spinghar worries that having fewer international observers could have a psychological effect on both voters and candidates.

"They should not break their commitment. They have to stay on their commitment; otherwise the Taliban will succeed," he said.

According to the Independent Election Commission, more than 330 foreign observers from 16 organizations have registered as election monitors. That's down sharply from the 1,200 who participated in the 2009 presidential poll, according to The Associated Press.

Among the international election monitoring and advising groups that pulled out of Afghanistan recently was the National Democratic Institute, one of whose monitors was among nine people killed in a March 20 attack on the heavily fortified Serena Hotel in Kabul.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also had pulled out its observers, but has since decided to send back roughly half of its 15-person election advisory team, according to a spokesman. Democracy International has not pulled any of its 18 staffers from Afghanistan, but has decided against sending 10 additional observers, Jed Ober, Democracy International's director of programs, said.

"Given the situation in Afghanistan right now, we didn't think it was prudent to bring in additional observers," he said.

Although the recent violence has scared away foreigners, it does not seem to have dampened election enthusiasm among Afghans in Kabul, where people stood in lines for hours to register to vote and often struck a defiant tone when asked if they are worried about violence at the polls.

"There is violence; there are threats to the lives of our people," said Zia Ahmad Pollazi, 53,

a teacher from Kabul. "But for God's sake and for the sake of our nation, we must vote. We are not afraid."

Voter enthusiasm as well as a vigorous and truly competitive campaign make Clark optimistic that Afghans can avoid the acrimony of the 2009 presidential election.

"I'm hoping this time will be better because there has been a genuine campaign; lots of campaign rallies, lots of interest in the media," she said. "It's not a sham competition."

Of course, in some districts with a heavy Taliban presence, the outlook among voters is much different. While most polling stations are expected to be open than in 2009, roughly 10 percent of the 7,300 polling stations across the country will be closed due to security concerns. Afghans must show their fingers into blue ink to show they have voted, and among the Taliban threats is amputating the digits of anyone with an ink-stained finger.

Speaking by telephone from Sangin District, one of the most violent corners of Helmand province, tribal leader Hajji Musa Khan said residents there want to vote but that he and many others there will sit out the election because of threats from the Taliban. "If they capture someone with ink on their finger, they should be happy if only their finger is cut off," Khan said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Josh Smith and Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

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## MILITARY

# Unit puts a new spin on old payday activities

By MATT MILLHAM  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany—The Army's on a bit of a retro kick, but perhaps no unit is taking it as far as the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, which is bringing back a tradition that many young soldiers know only from the griping of crusty old sergeants: payday activities.

The tradition dates to a time when soldiers were paid in cash and paid their bills in person. On paydays, soldiers were obliged to show up in their dress greens and were subjected to inspections. About midday, neatly dressed battalions of soldiers were allowed to leave work early to head into town with wads of cash to pay their bills.

Though cash payments gave way to checks and later electronic transfers, parts of the tradition of payday activities largely survived until the wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan — namely, regular uniform inspections.

"I think when 9/11 came around, we didn't have a lot of time for that," said Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Coombs, an 18-year Army veteran.

Now, with one war over and another winding down, they do.

The TSC's updated version of payday activities—called "Millrinder Time" in a tip to the unit's nickname—is similar to payday activities of old in its resurrection of uniform inspections, said Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Maimor, the top enlisted soldier in the TSC's Special Troops Battalion and a 26-year veteran. The focus, however, has changed, he said.

"Now the focus is readiness, well-being of the soldier, counseling—just to sharpen those tools that we lost during the war."

Many midcareer soldiers have spent years preparing for deployments but, like

21st Staff Sgt. Juna Cyriaque, don't know what the Army was like even a decade and a half ago. She'd heard of payday activities and doesn't really think of Millrinder Time as the same thing—no half-day off, no going out to pay the power company.

But it does symbolize a return to standards that many think have suffered during wartime.

"I think that we should always have time for standards," she said. "Because the Army is a profession. If we walk around looking like ... we're crazy, we don't set the standards; no one is going to take us seriously."

"I don't know how it used to be," said Donald Mayfield Jr., 20, a supply specialist from Lake Charles, La. "But I can say it definitely is a good thing going back to it."

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MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

**Sgt. 1st Class Geriberto Dragon Jr. corrects a deficiency on a soldier's uniform during an in-ranks inspection Thursday at Panzer Kaserne.**



LARRY REID/Courtesy of the US Air Force

**An MQ-1B Predator remotely piloted aircraft taxis on a runway at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., in 2008.**

## Power failure downed Predator returning from Africa mission

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany—A loss of power caused a remotely piloted MQ-1B Predator to crash into the Mediterranean Sea last fall while returning from a mission over Africa, the Air Force announced late Wednesday.

A malfunctioning power converter in the aircraft's control module, which led to the loss of stabilizer control and engine power, caused the mishap, according to an abbreviated accident investigation report released by Air Combat Command.

The aircraft, deployed from the 432nd Wing at Creech Air Force Base, Nev., was returning from a 20-hour intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission for AFRICOM, a news release said.

The Air Force did not say from what location the drone had been flying or what particular mission in Africa it was supporting. The aircraft and one communication pod were lost on impact—a loss valued at approximately \$5.3 million, according to the news release. There were no injuries or damage to other government or private property.

Flight controllers lost commu-

nications with the aircraft while preparing to hand the unmanned aerial vehicle over to launch-and-recovery controllers, according to the news release. Two seconds before losing its satellite link, the aircraft transmitted a set of electrical, flight-control and engine-warning indications. Investigators probing the crash determined that was due to the power malfunction, the news release said.

At that point, the Predator lost control and began "a rapid spiral descent into the Mediterranean Sea."

The accident was among at least four involving the Air Force's MQ-1B Predators in 2013.

In May, a Predator crashed 5.6 hours into a local training mission near Creech Air Force Base, according to the Air Force's accident investigation report on the incident.

In June, another Predator crashed during a landing attempt at Jalalabad Air Base, Afghanistan, in windy conditions. An Air Force Predator also crashed in October about 6 miles from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M., while conducting a routine training mission.

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## UKRAINE UNREST

## Ukraine crisis figures in Baltics exercise

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

SIAULIAI, Lithuania — What NATO considers normal Russian military activity over the Baltic airspace has heightened the security concerns of Lithuania in the wake of Moscow's recent annexation of the Crimean peninsula in Ukraine.

A routine military exercise involving Baltic air forces earlier this week took on greater significance because of the Ukraine crisis.

Speaking at the 17th Baltic Region Training Event at Siauliai air base in Lithuania, Lithuanian Defense Minister Juozas Olekas said Tuesday he wanted more NATO troops to be stationed in the Baltic region.

He said his request was prompted by an increase in Russian military activity around the Baltic states and Russia's actions in Ukraine.

Russia has been engaged in "very active" movements along Lithuania's western borders, Olekas said. NATO ground forces in the region and visits from NATO navies would counter these movements and military exercises in Kaliningrad, a Russian territory separate from Russia proper that borders on the Baltic Sea, Lithuania and Poland.

The training event, usually held three times each year, offers an opportunity for NATO and other militaries to train their air forces. This year's brought together NATO and Sweden, a nonmember whose government is also concerned about recent Russian foreign policy moves.

In response to the Ukraine crisis, the U.S. Air Force last month deployed six additional F-15C Eagle fighters to Siauliai along with KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft to reinforce the four F-15s already there as part of NATO's regular Baltic air policing contingent.

The program was set up 10



Above: An F-15C Eagle, foreground, stationed at Siauliai air base, Lithuania, and a Swedish JAS-39 Gripen Fighter fly to a training event over the Baltic Sea on Tuesday.



Left: A Lithuanian servicemember sits in the back of a C-27 flying toward Sweden as part of the training exercise with NATO.

PHOTOS BY ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

years ago to protect the airspace of alliance members Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which don't have their own fighter aircraft. Britain, France, Germany and Denmark have proposed sending additional fighters because of the crisis.

Though NATO's Combined Air Operations Center in Udem, Germany, has detected increased Russian activity in the airspace over the Baltics, officials there have downplayed its significance. The center, which monitors the airspace for NATO nations in

northern Europe, said they had scrambled NATO fighters to intercept planes in the Baltic region 46 times in 2012.

That number is not unusual, officials at the center said. Rather, it represents an increase in Russian activity since 2006 and a recovery of power lost after the Soviet Union's collapse.

"It's just Russia's political aims writ large, and so we're seeing post-Cold War," Group Capt. Stephen Richards, director of the air operations center, said during a press briefing at the center.

"When Russian air activity really did take a real nose dive, we hardly saw any activity at all. We're now back in more positive times for Russia in terms of their air force, and we're seeing a slow increase in activity."

Lt. Gen. Joachim Wundrak, commander of the center, said that some Russian aircraft fly over international waters and do not file flight plans or send out transponder signals that can be monitored by civilian air traffic controllers. While that practice doesn't violate international law,

it is potentially dangerous for civil air traffic, so NATO jets will scramble and broadcast the position of the Russian aircraft to the civilian authorities.

"We would like to see (the Russians) more following international civil procedures, and that would make our life easier," Wundrak said.

Lithuania takes a much more suspicious view of Russian aerial activity. Before NATO established the Baltic air policing mission in 2004, Olekas said, many Russian aircraft crossed the border, and NATO's presence is what currently deters them from the area.

The air policing mission does more than just provide security for NATO states. It also helps train other countries in the region for possible air encounters.

On Tuesday, a Lithuanian C-27 from Siauliai Air Base flew over the Baltic Sea and simulated a loss in communications with officials on the ground. The Swedish air force responded, sending two JAS-39 Gripen Fighters to practice intercepting the plane and communicating with the pilots through visual means.

Svenska Dagbladet reported in April last year that Russian aircraft conducted simulated attacks on two areas of the country with military assets in March of last year. However, they did not leave international airspace.

Wundrak said as long as Russians fly in their own or international airspace, events like the simulated attack on Sweden are matters of perception.

Asked about his own perception of the incident, Wundrak said: "I'm not here to perceive things, I'm here to follow my rules and to fulfill my mission."

"We are working to a clear, agreed set of rules, so for the time being I cannot see any really problematic action against NATO airspace."

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## Navy warship heads to Black Sea to replace USS Truxtun

By HENDRICK SIMOES  
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy warship is on its way to the Black Sea as part of the ongoing response to Russia's actions in Ukraine, State Department officials said.

In the immediate aftermath of Russia's takeover of Crimea, the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun sailed into the Black Sea, where it conducted exercises with the Bulgarian and Romanian navies, practicing basic maneuvers and drills.

The Truxtun left the Black Sea March 21 to continue its scheduled deployment as part of the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group, currently in the Middle East. A new Navy warship in the Black Sea would be a replacement for the Truxtun, officials said.

The U.S. Navy would not confirm which ship it would send into the area. Two destroyers — the USS Donald Cook and the USS Ramo — are currently in the vicinity, taking part in an exercise in the eastern Mediterranean with the Greek and Israeli navies.

"We are making plans to meet the intent vocalized by (U.S. and NATO officials) to lay out a sustainable maritime presence in the eastern Mediterranean and the Black Sea, but we do not have anything to announce at this time," said Capt. Gregory Hicks, of the U.S. European Command. He said the Navy routinely operates ships in the Black Sea to demonstrate U.S. commitment to working closely with allies in the region.

On Thursday, Russian Foreign

Minister Sergei Lavrov criticized the deployment of U.S. warships in the Black Sea during a joint press conference with Kazakhstan's foreign minister.

According to Russian media reports, Lavrov accused the U.S. of violating the Montreux Convention — a 1936 international agreement that restricts the passage through the Bosphorus Straits and the Dardanelles of naval ships not belonging to Black Sea states.

Meanwhile, U.S. and NATO leaders have expressed concern over Russia amassing tens of thousands of troops on its border with Ukraine.

Along with a set of sanctions against Russia, the U.S. has been bolstering its military presence throughout the region in a show of force to reassure allies and improve the military's ability to

respond to a crisis.

"Obviously, we're working a diplomatic track, but we need to have things in place that do reassure our allies in case the diplomatic track takes longer than we want or while we try to make progress on it," State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said during a press briefing Wednesday.

In recent weeks the U.S. has sent six additional F-15s to augment NATO's Baltic air policing mission and a dozen F-16s to Poland to train with the Polish air force. Additionally, in the midst of increasing tensions, the Pentagon announced Wednesday that it was sending 175 more Marines to Romania, where 300 are already present. Officials said the move was unrelated to the current crisis between Ukraine and Russia.

In a sign that the crisis is deepening, NATO officials suspended all "practical civilian and military cooperation" with Russia Wednesday and announced that NATO would intensify its cooperation with Ukraine.

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## UKRAINE UNREST

# Director: Peace support is focus of training in Bulgaria

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. director of a military exercise in Bulgaria on Wednesday played down the drills' significance as a signal to Russia, while drawing a sharp contrast between Moscow's unilateral actions in the Black Sea region and the U.S.-led training there.

Dubbed Saber Guardian, the exercise involves some 700 sol-

diers and 13 countries, including a number of former Soviet Bloc nations that are eager to forge closer bonds with the West. All of the countries involved were welcomed into Bulgaria by its government to work together "in full partnership," Maj. Gen. Richard Longo said.

"You can draw the conclusions as you will," he said.

Longo, the U.S. Army Europe's deputy commander, spoke to Stars

and Stripes by phone Wednesday from Novo Selo training area in eastern Bulgaria, where he's been serving as one of the exercise's directors. The base, a few hundred miles from the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea, is a frequent host of U.S. and NATO forces.

The exercise, which began March 21 and is set to end Friday, was meant to give Black Sea militaries experience in working together with the U.S. and NATO "so that if something ever were to happen and we were required to work together, we will have practiced it," Longo said.

The exercise includes personnel from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Ukraine, Turkey and the U.S.

It is focused on peace support and humanitarian assistance — not combat — and geared toward staff officers and leaders who would have to manage such a crisis.

"It's a very safe thing to work together," Longo said. "But if you're in tactical operations center and you are trying to manage information ... it almost doesn't matter what the exact mission is. You still get good training on mission command."

The participation of 16 Ukrainian soldiers in the training was in the works long before the current crisis, Longo said.



PHOTOS BY BROOKS FLETCHER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Lt. Col. Nat Edwards, U.S. Army Europe's Contingency Command Post deputy chief of operations, briefs staff last week at Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria.**

About half the Ukrainian contingent was part of a multinational unit trying to manage a series of simulated situations, including riots, a chemical plant explosion and displaced-person camps.

The rest worked with another multinational group devising the disasters behind the scenes.

"We were quite happy that they were able to continue to fulfill their commitment even with ev-

erything that's going on in their country," Longo said.

The next Saber Guardian will take place in Ukraine, he said, noting that the choice of location was "coincidental."

"But that's where it's currently scheduled to take place, and my assumption is that it will take place."

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**Soldiers from the Polish Land Forces participate in Saber Guardian 2014, a multinational military exercise involving about 700 military personnel from the U.S. and 12 other nations, mostly in the Black Sea region.**

## Ousted Ukraine leader is accused of thuggery

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Interim authorities in Ukraine on Thursday accused ousted President Viktor Yanukovich's government of using a network of hired killers, kidnappers and gangs of thugs to terrorize and undermine the opposition.

A top security official, speaking at the presentation of an official report, said there was evidence Russia's security service assisted the Ukrainian counterparts' attempts to suppress anti-government protests which culminated in bloodshed in February that left more than 100 dead.

Also, Prosecutor General Oleh Mahntsky said 12 members of an elite riot police unit have been detained on suspicion of shooting protesters.

Yanukovich fled the capital, Kiev, after the culmination of the violence that played out over Feb. 18-20, precipitating the fall of his government.

The identity of the snipers believed to be responsible for most of the deaths is a subject of bitter disagreement. The interim government says Yanukovich ordered snipers to be deployed — a charge Yanukovich denied in an

AP interview on Wednesday.

Opponents of the current leadership say snipers were organized by opposition leaders trying to whip up outrage.

In his interview with the AP, Yanukovich also said he "was wrong" in inviting Russian troops into Crimea, which was swiftly annexed by Moscow following a referendum in which reunion with Russia was backed by 97 percent of those who voted.

Ukraine's fledgling government and Western leaders have since expressed concern about a recent build-up of Russian forces near the Ukrainian border. President Vladimir Putin told German Chancellor Angela Merkel last week that the troops were there for military exercises and that one battalion has already left.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Thursday offered further assurances, telling reporters that Russian troops "will be returning to the place of their permanent quarters as soon as other participants of the exercise have completed their tasks."

Lavrov, however, accused the Ukrainian government "and their patrons in the West of blowing this out of proportion."

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SCAN WITH PHONE



# FORT HOOD SHOOTING

# Officials: Gunman had no battle experience

## Ivan Lopez was being treated for mental health issues

By JENNIFER HLAD and CHRIS CARROLL  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The soldier who gunned down three fellow soldiers before taking his own life had no combat experience and showed no outward signs of battle-related injuries, senior Army leaders said Thursday.

Ivan Lopez opened fire with a semi-automatic pistol Wednesday afternoon at Fort Hood, killing three and wounding 16 servicemembers before killing himself when confronted by law enforcement. The post was placed on lockdown immediately and was given the all clear about 9 p.m.

Lopez was being treated for mental health issues and had been fully examined in March by a psychiatrist, Army Secretary John McHugh said during a previously scheduled hearing on budget matters before the Senate Armed Services committee.

"As of this morning, we had no indication on the report of that examination that there was any sign of likely violence, either to himself or to others, [and] no suicidal ideation," he said. "So the plan forward was just to continue to monitor and to treat him as deemed appropriate."

Lopez, who was assigned to the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) and had transferred to the central Texas base in February, began shooting about 4 p.m., according to Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, commanding general of Fort Hood, the site of the 2009 massacre by Maj. Nidal Hasan, in which 13 soldiers were killed and more than 30 were wounded.

Lopez entered two buildings — the medical and transportation brigades — and also fired his pistol from a vehicle, according to Milley.

There is no indication that the shooting was terrorism-related but nothing has been ruled out, Milley said.

The violence ended after 15 or 20 minutes, when a female military police officer confronted Lopez, who then shot himself in the head.

The wounded are being treated at Carl R. Darnall Medical Center on post, or the Scott and White Memorial Hospital in nearby Temple, Texas. As of 8 a.m. Thursday, the following was known about the wounded at Scott and White:

- They have nine patients; eight male and one female.

- Three are in critical condition; six are in serious condition.

- One wounded suffered gunshot wounds to the neck, chest,

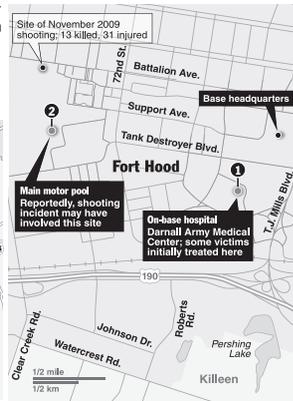


PHOTOS BY TAMIR KAUFMAN/AP

Krystina Cassidy, left, and Dianna Simpson attempt to make contact with their husbands inside Fort Hood, Texas, while standing outside the Bernie Beck Gate on Wednesday.

## Another multiple shooting at Fort Hood

Four and a half years after a mass shooting at Fort Hood claimed 13 lives and prompted a detailed review of security procedures on the large Army base, another multiple shooting incident has occurred, leaving four dead (including the gunman), 16 injured,



Details provided by base commander, Lt. Gen. Mark Milley

**1** 4 p.m. local time The gunman, enters a building which is part of the 1st Medical Brigade complex at Darnall Medical Center and opens fire with a .45-caliber handgun, then leaves building.

**2** Gunman gets into vehicle and begins driving and firing from vehicle; arrives at area housing 49th Transportation Brigade, then shoves himself as military police officer confronted him.

The gunman

Identified by others as Ivan Lopez, U.S. Army said Thursday he was deployed for the final months of the Iraq War but did not see combat.

abdomen and extremities.

- At least two underwent surgery.

An official at Darnall said they're not providing information about the wounded at this time beyond what they issue in news releases.

Testifying in Capitol Hill, McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno shed additional light on the attacker's background:

A native of Puerto Rico, Lopez

joined the Army in 2008 as an infantry soldier before changing his MOS to truck driver, McHugh told senators. He served four months in Iraq in 2011 during the war's final stretch and apparently never saw combat.

"His records show no wounds, no involvement — direct involvement — in combat," McHugh said.

"As Gen. Milley said, [there is] no record of a Purple Heart or any injury that might lead us to further investigate a battle-related

when they live off post," McHugh said. "We are not legally able to compel them to register weapons when they reside off post."

Lopez's wife, also a native of Puerto Rico, has been questioned, McHugh said. No indication of involvement with extremist or terrorist organizations has come to light, but McHugh said the investigation into that angle would continue "with an open mind."

Fort Hood was the site of a mass shooting in November 2009, when Hasan killed 13 and wounded more than 30 people at a base predeployment clinic. Hasan was found guilty of premeditated murder last summer and was sentenced to death.

The situation is also reminiscent of a 2009 shooting rampage in Iraq in which five Americans were killed.

Sgt. John Russell pleaded guilty in 2013 to killing two medical staff officers and three soldiers at the Camp Liberty combat stress clinic near Baghdad's airport.

The military has said the Russell shooting might have been triggered by combat stress.

Speaking from Hawaii on the first leg of an Asia trip, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel called the shooting a "terrible tragedy."

"My sympathies go out to this strong and resilient community, which has experienced this kind of senseless violence all too recently," he said.

Calling for prayers on behalf of the entire Fort Hood community, President Barack Obama said the soldiers and families there "have sacrificed so much on behalf of our freedom."

"Many of the people there have been through multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. They served with valor and they served with distinction, and when they're at their home base, they need to feel safe."

"Obviously this reopens the pain of what happened at Fort Hood five years ago," the president said from Chicago.

There are 65,000 military and family members living on the base, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. An Army recruiting website says Fort Hood has the biggest population among stateside bases.

Local, federal and military authorities are working together in the investigation.

U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Fla., a former Army lawyer who was stationed at Fort Hood from 2000 to 2002, said, "Nearly five years after the Nidal Hassan shooting at Fort Hood in 2009, it is clear that we must do far more to ensure that our troops are safe when they are at home on base."

In his comments, Hagel added that while base security was reviewed worldwide in the wake of the Hasan killings, "something's not working."

Stars and Stripes reporters Jon Harper, Toshio Suzuki and Andrea Huff contributed to this report. [theonlineedition.com](http://theonlineedition.com) Twitter: @jihad Carroll: @chris@stripes.com Twitter: @ChrisCarroll\_



Fort Hood commander Lt. Gen. Mark Milley speaks outside an entrance to the post Wednesday following the shooting.

TBI or such."

Lopez previously had been on a one-year deployment to the Sinai peninsula. He also served nine years in the Puerto Rico Army National Guard.

"This was an experienced soldier," Odierno said.

Several media sources reported that Lopez was a 34-year-old specialist. McHugh said Lopez had a clean disciplinary record but had been undergoing treatment for mental health conditions including depression, anxiety and sleep disturbances. He was prescribed "a number of drugs to address those, including Ambien," McHugh said.

Lopez, who lived off post, recently purchased the .45-caliber pistol he used for the attack, McHugh said. Army rules don't allow personal weapons to be brought on base without express authorization from a senior commander. But there's little the Army can do to regulate personal weapons of soldiers who don't live on bases, McHugh said.

"We try to do everything we can to encourage soldiers to register their personal weapons even

## MILITARY

# Veteran's death highlights concerns at VA

## Soldier injured during training sought help for years before committing suicide

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**

Stars and Stripes

Joseph Petit went to the VA hospital for knee pain and depression and came out on a litany of powerful drugs that he said made him hallucinate.

He repeatedly asked doctors for help with the side effects, but he said they gave him more anti-psychotics, antidepressants and anxiety drugs that made him feel worse.

Petit told his sister that he heard voices and felt bugs crawling under his skin. To keep from harming his family, he would chain himself up in his room at night, according to Brandie Petit. "I understand matters of the brain are extremely delicate," she told Stars and Stripes last month. "But my brother was not crazy before that medicine."

In November 2012, Petit went into the Atlanta VA Medical Center in Decatur, Ga. He was hearing voices and was afraid he would harm his mother, Sandra, with whom he lived.

Petit was discharged from the emergency department and told to see his regular psychiatrist, according to the medical examiner's report obtained by Stars and Stripes.

He never left the hospital.

Petit's body was found the next day in an eighth-floor bathroom. He had put a plastic bag over his head and asphyxiated himself in his wheelchair.

His death is one of four preventable patient deaths at the Atlanta VAMC and one of at least 31 nationwide, part of a growing systemic breakdown in care at Department of Veterans Affairs facilities, according to House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller and the committee's VA Accountability Watch website.

A VA inspector general report regarding the Atlanta VAMC from April 2013 found mismanagement and a lack of oversight of the mental health department. It also substantiated allegations that there was inadequate coordination, monitoring and staffing for oversight of mental health patient care.

Mental health Service Line managers and staff "voiced numerous concerns including challenges in program oversight, inadequate clinical monitoring, staff burnout and compromised patient safety," the report stated. "The lack of effective patient care management and program oversight by the facility contributed to problems with access to [mental health] care and contributed to patients falling through the cracks."

Atlanta VAMC officials did not respond to requests from Stars and Stripes seeking comment. In February, Miller and Sen.

Marco Rubio, R-Fla., introduced the VA Management Accountability Act of 2014 in the House and the Senate, respectively. The legislation by the Florida Republicans would give the VA secretary complete authority to fire or demote VA Senior Executive Service or equivalent employees based on performance — the same authority members of Congress have to fire their own staffers. Congress would then be notified for purposes of oversight.

The legislation was introduced Feb. 11 and the committee heard stakeholder opinions during a March 25 hearing. It has 40 cosponsors from both parties and the support of the major veterans service organizations. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, joined GOP leaders and representatives of several veterans' service organizations Thursday in the Capitol to discuss the legislation.

"There are some serious problems over here," Boehner said during the news conference, and the legislation is "another tool" to hold VA facilities accountable.

"What's missing from the equation is not money or manpower, it's accountability," Miller told Stars and Stripes.

VA officials in Washington declined to provide details regarding Petit's death but said they met with his sister March 8 to discuss the path forward.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing the care and benefits Veterans have earned and deserve," VA spokesman Drew Brookie said in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "One suicide of a Veteran within our care is one too many. When an incident occurs in our system we aggressively identify, correct and work to prevent additional risks."

### Injury shattered dreams

Joseph Petit was born in 1970 and raised with faith and "old school values," his sister said.

"It was great being around him," Brandie Petit said. "He was extremely compassionate. He was always trying to help somebody."

Petit wanted to join the Army, to go airborne to be "the best of the best," she said.

Petit, who once had a 40-inch chest and was in such good shape that his sister said she thought he resembled Sylvester Stallone — enlisted as an infantryman in 1990.

He got through basic and was scheduled to attend Airborne Training and Ranger Indoctrination Training before being assigned to a Ranger Battalion, according to a letter he wrote to then-Congressman Newt Gingrich in May 1992 that would later be entered into House testimony.

Then his world collapsed.

Petit injured both knees per-

forming parachute-landing falls during airborne training in March 1991.

In the letter to Gingrich, he complained that he had not been examined by an orthopedic surgeon until more than six months after his injury.



Miller

being separated with a 10 percent disability rating, which entitled him to about four months' pay and VA benefits.

Petit asked for help in getting his knees repaired, and said if possible, after surgery, he wanted to continue to serve in the Army.

"I still aspire to be an Airborne Ranger," he wrote.

He never got help with his knees.

For about 20 years, Petit sought help through various outlets before trying the VA, his sister said. But as Petit got older, the pain appeared to be gaining the upper hand, his sister said. He became depressed as he spent more and

more time in a wheelchair.

Petit's VA doctors told him that the knee pain was in his head — somatoform pain disorder, according to the medical examiner's report — where depression and stress manifest as chronic pain.

In September, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held hearings on preventable deaths and other VA issues. In her testimony, Brandie Petit described how her brother was treated for trying to get help one day without an appointment.

"The VA police physically removed Joseph and put a standing order into place to arrest him if he showed up again without an appointment," she said.

But Petit wanted to stick with the program.

He wanted to stop taking the medications, she said, but he worried they would stop treating his knees if he did.

### He spoke of suicide

No matter how much Petit tried to keep what was happening from his family and friends, things were getting worse, she said.

At the hospital, Petit spoke of trying to asphyxiate himself with a plastic bag during appointments, according to the medical examiner's report.

He told friends that VA officials ignored him when he said he had thought about killing himself. Once before, he went into the bathroom at the VA and tried to asphyxiate himself, but he was found unconscious.

The VA changed some of his medication and sent him home after a week or so, according to House testimony.

### Questioning VA leaders

"I know he did what he did, where he did, when he did, for a reason," Brandie Petit said. "He didn't get the help he needed."

Miller first heard of Petit's case in May 2013 after an oversight visit to the Atlanta VAMC, he said.

He asked a room full of his leaders if there were other issues that Congress needed to know about. They didn't tell him about the Petit case until "minutes" before it hit the local press four days later.

"Seeing VA's handling of the incident made me think, 'If this is what it takes for VA leaders to be honest with Congress about what's happening at their facilities, you can't help but question how they operate when they think no one is paying attention,'" he said.

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NATION

# Senate to vote on release of torture report

By BRADLEY KLAPPER AND STEPHEN BRAUN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee's expected vote to approve declassifying part of a report on Bush-era interrogations of terrorism suspects puts the onus on the CIA and the White House to speed the release of one of the most definitive accounts about the government's actions after the 9/11 attacks.

Even as Thursday's vote neared, members of the intelligence community raised concerns that the committee failed to interview top spy agency officials who had authorized or supervised the brutal interrogations.

Once the 15-member panel votes as expected to declassify a 400-page summary and the key findings of its report, the CIA will start scanning the report's contents for passages that compromise national security. That has led to fears that the CIA, accused of illegally monitoring the Senate's investigation and deleting files, could sanitize key elements of what Senate investigators aim to be the fullest public reckoning of the "enhanced interrogation techniques" used on al-Qaida suspects in CIA-run prisons abroad. The committee's chairwoman, Sen. Diane Feinstein of Calif., has urged the White House to get involved.

"It's important to tell the world, 'Yes, we made a mistake and we're not going to do it again,'" said Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who plans to vote for the summary's release. The CIA "significantly overestimated" the value of waterboarding, or simulated drowning, and other techniques that can be defined only as torture, he said. The agency never conducted a rigorous internal examination of the effectiveness of its methods, he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Some in the intelligence community said the Senate report, which was written by the committee's Democratic staff, was missing a key element: the voices of key CIA officials. Those missing include former Bush administration officials involved in authorizing the use of waterboarding and other harsh questioning methods, or managing their use in secret "black site" prisons overseas.



RAMON ESPINOSA/AP

A book street vendor passes the time on her smartphone as she waits for customers in Havana, Cuba, on Tuesday. The U.S. secretly financed a social network in Cuba to stir political unrest, according to an Associated Press investigation.

# US secretly built 'Cuban Twitter'

USAID-constructed communications network sought to undermine communist government

By DESMOND BUTLER, JACK GILLUM AND ALBERTO ARCE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government masterminded the creation of a "Cuban Twitter" — a communications network designed to undermine the communist government in Cuba, built with secret shell companies and financed through foreign banks, The Associated Press has learned.

The project, which lasted more than two years and drew tens of thousands of subscribers, sought to evade Cuba's stranglehold on the Internet with a primitive social media platform. First, the network would build a Cuban audience, mostly young people; then, the plan was to push them toward dissent.

Yet its users were neither aware it was created by a U.S. agency with ties to the State Department, nor that American contractors were gathering personal data about them, in the hope that the information might be used someday for political purposes.

It is unclear whether the scheme was legal under U.S. law, which requires written authorization of covert action by the president and congressional notification. Officials at USAID would not say who had approved the program or whether the White House was aware of it. The Cuban government declined a request for comment.

At minimum, details uncovered by the AP appear to muddy the U.S. Agency for International Development's longstanding claims that it does not conduct covert actions, and could undermine the agency's mission to deliver aid to the world's poor and vulnerable — an effort that requires the trust and cooperation of foreign governments.

USAID and its contractors went to extensive lengths to conceal Washington's ties to the project, according to interviews and documents obtained by the AP. They set up front companies in Spain and the Cayman Islands to hide the money trail, and recruited CEOs without telling them they would be working on a U.S. taxpayer-funded project.

"There will be absolutely no mention of United States government involvement," according to a 2010 memo from Mobile Accord Inc., one of the project's creators. "This is absolutely crucial for the long-term success of the service and to ensure the success of the Mission."

The project, dubbed "ZunZuno," slang for a Cuban hummingbird's tweet, was publicly launched shortly after the 2009 arrest in Cuba of American contractor Alan Gross. He was imprisoned after traveling repeatedly to the country on a separate, clandestine USAID mission to expand Internet access using sensitive technology that only governments use.

USAID said in a statement that it is "proud of its work in Cuba to provide basic humanitarian assistance, promote human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to help information flow more freely to the Cuban people," whom it said "have lived under an authoritarian regime" for 50 years. The agency said its work was found to be "consistent with U.S. law."

# Ex-CIA official: No politics behind Benghazi statement

By DONNA CRAWSTA  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA's former deputy director said Wednesday he deleted references to terrorism warnings from widely disputed talking points on the deadly 2012 Benghazi attack to avoid the spy agency's gloating at the expense of the State Department.

Mike Morell faced more than three hours of questioning from the House Intelligence committee in a rare open session that examined who changed the talking points — and why — in the politically charged aftermath of the deadly Sept. 11 assault on a U.S. diplomatic mission in Libya.

Four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, were killed in two attacks over a chaotic period of several hours. Multiple independent and congressional investigations have largely faulted the State Department for inadequate security at the mission.

Morell, a 33-year veteran of the agency who has served six Republican and Democratic presidents, insisted that politics had no bearing on the revisions to the talking points and said he was under no pressure to protect President Barack Obama or then-Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I never allowed politics to influence what I said or did. Never," he said. The White House, wrapped up in a fierce presidential campaign, made only minor editorial changes to the talking points, according to the onetime CIA official.

The intelligence community's talking points, compiled for members of Congress, suggested the Sept. 11 attack stemmed from protests in Cairo and elsewhere over an anti-Islamic video rather than an assault by extremists.

Republicans have accused the Obama administration of trying to mislead the American people about an act of terror-

ism in the weeks before the November election.

Morell deleted references to extremist threats linked to al-Qaida in versions of the talking points that were used by Susan Rice, then U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, in a series of Sunday talk show appearances. Morell said his actions were driven by the information provided by intelligence community analysts and the Defense Department.

He said the CIA knew that some of the individuals involved in the attack were al-Qaida from classified sources, information that couldn't be included unless it was declassified. The talking points were provided to members of the committee for dissemination to the American people.

Morell said he removed references to the warnings based on previous CIA analysis. Otherwise, he said, the talking points would have been a "way for CIA to pound its chest and say 'we warned,' laying all the blame on the State Department."



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell testified before the House Intelligence Committee in a rare open session on Wednesday. Morell edited the disputed talking points on the 2012 Benghazi attack.

## NATION

# Examiners work to ID victims of mudslide

By LISA BAUMANN  
The Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — As medical examiners painstakingly piece together the identities and lives of the 30 people killed when a mudslide wiped out a small Washington community, one mystery troubles them.

One set of remains does not fit with the description on the missing persons list, which, as of Wednesday included 17 people.

The medical examiners know it is a male but his remains give no clue as to who he was. They can't even identify his age range. Without possible family members to compare, DNA tests are useless. At this point, gold teeth are all they have to go on.

The mystery underscores the tedious process of identifying remains more than a week after the March 22 landslide that broke off a steep hill, roared across the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River and buried a community at Oso, about 55 miles north of Seattle.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**Benton County Assistant Fire Chief Jack Coats surveys the landscape at the scene of a deadly mudslide as an excavator works below to clear a drainage channel Wednesday.**

Like the homes, the cars and the other parts of people's lives swept away by the torrent of mud, some bodies are in pieces.

Norman Thiersch, the Snohomish County Medical Examiner, said the goal of the team — which is made up of medical examiners, detectives, dentists and others — is to make sure there's no doubt as to the identities.

"This is not television," he said. "These are methodical, painstaking processes we go through."

Although the identities of 29 of the 30 confirmed dead have been determined, officials have so far released the names of only 26. Other names are expected to be released by the end of the week.

When bodies or remains are found in the mudslide area, crews dig them out and they are flown by helicopter to a nearby landing pad where they are readied to move to the medical examiner's office in Everett, about 30 miles from the scene.

Once there, the bodies are moved to a tented area for decontamination, where they are cleaned in warm water.

From there they are moved to the autopsy room where examiners take fingerprints, look for signs of dental work and identifying marks such as tattoos. When that work is complete, remains are moved to a refrigerated area where they stay until funeral homes make arrangements for burial or cremation.

# Campaign on texting, driving is planned

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Drivers know "Click It or Ticket" and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" as the mantras for national safe-driving programs.

Next up: "U Drive, U Text, U Pay."

Anyone who pays attention knows that drivers routinely ignore state prohibitions against sending text messages and using hand-held cellphones while driving. Those actions lead to an estimated 424,000 roadway deaths and injuries each year, according to federal statistics.

The challenge in combating the deadly trend has been apparent since then-Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood launched a campaign against it several years ago. Historically, few Americans can be made to change their ways through gentle persuasion. They need to be threatened.

The "Buckle Up for Safety" jingle was a popular tune, but a loser for changing habits. Not until "Click It or Ticket," with the threat of consequences, did people begin buckling their seat belts.

Driving "a little tipsy" was commonplace for drivers until Mothers Against Drunk Driving began its victim-based campaigns and "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" underscored the consequences with sobriety checkpoints and jail terms.

Now, LaHood's successor, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, is launching a national television and radio campaign to emphasize that there will be a price paid by those caught sending or receiving text messages while driving.

"We're launching this campaign to change behavior, much like we did with our work on seat belts," Foxx said in announcing the effort. "We want drivers across the board to know that if you drive and you text, you pay, because any second not looking at the road is dangerous."

# Study: Blacks, Latinos losing economic ground

By JESSE J. HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Blacks and Latinos are losing economic ground when compared with whites in the areas of employment and income as the United States pulls itself out of the Great Recession, the latest State of Black America report from the National Urban League says.

The annual report, called "One Nation Underemployed: Jobs Rebuild America," noted that the underemployment rate for black workers was 20.5 percent, compared with 18.4 percent for



Morial

Hispanic workers and 11.8 percent for white workers.

Underemployment is defined as those who are jobless or working part-time jobs but desiring full-time work.

The report also said blacks are twice as likely as whites to be unemployed. The unemployment rate for blacks was 12 percent in

February, compared with 5.8 percent for whites.

"Many Americans are being left behind, and that includes African-Americans and Latinos who are being disproportionately left behind by the job creation that we see," National Urban League President Marc Morial said.

Despite the dismal numbers, an analysis by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found blacks significantly more optimistic about their future standard of living than whites, regardless of income level, education or partisanship. Overall, 71 percent of blacks sur-

veyed in the 2012 General Social Survey agreed that they have a good chance of improving their standard of living, outpacing the share among whites by 25 percentage points.

The survey found high optimism even among blacks who say racism is a cause for economic inequality.

Such findings illustrate "a level of optimism in the African-American community and it's important to lift that up," said La June Montgomery Tabron, president and CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which released similar findings in separate research.

# New research finds mammogram risks outweigh the potential benefits

By LENNY BERNSTEIN  
The Washington Post

Mammography's benefits are substantial, but its potential harms may be greater than previously realized, which should prompt physicians and patients to make decisions about the screening test based on women's individual risks and preferences, researchers concluded in a study released Tuesday.

Lydia Pace and Nancy Keating, both associated with Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, said women should move away from guidelines that call for them

to begin having mammograms at a particular age — 40, in many cases — and be screened at frequent intervals. Instead, they should weigh the benefits and risks of mammography with their physicians and determine their tolerance for the uncertainty that may accompany skipping the exam.

"The take-home for the average woman is, first of all, that there is no right answer about mammography screening," said Pace, a research fellow in global women's health at Brigham and Women's. "The data that we have are not perfect, and they are mixed. But

they do strongly suggest that although mammography does have benefits, it does also have a lot of harms, and those harms are not insubstantial."

In a search of studies that went back to 1960, the researchers determined that for every 10,000 women aged 40 to 49 who receive regular mammograms, five lives would be saved by the discovery of cancers that otherwise would go undetected. For women aged 50 to 59, 10 lives would be saved, and among women 60 to 69, 42 lives would be saved.

The risk of breast cancer, the second-leading cause of cancer

deaths among females, increases as women age. Overall, the screenings are associated with a 19 percent reduction in mortality, the researchers wrote.

At the same time, the cumulative risk of a mammogram resulting in a false positive is about 61 percent for a 40- or 50-year-old woman who has annual mammograms for 10 years. That could result in needless surgery, chemotherapy or radiation.

The analysis, which appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association, is the latest to cast doubt on the value of mammograms, which account

for \$8 billion in annual health care expenditures in the United States, according to an editorial in the same edition. A study of 90,000 women released in February found that death rates from breast cancer and other causes were the same for women who had mammograms as for those who didn't.

"As a society ... we really, really want to have a way to decrease breast cancer early and decrease breast cancer mortality," Pace said. It is "profoundly disappointing that mammography doesn't quite live up to its promise," she added.

## WORLD



LUIS HIDALGO/AP

People spend the night at a soccer field after a strong aftershock in Arica, Chile, early Thursday.

## Major aftershock spurs new evacuations of Chile's coast

BY LUIS HIDALGO  
AND LUIS ANDRES HENAO  
*The Associated Press*

**IQUIQUE, Chile**—Coastal residents of Chile's far north spent a second sleepless night outside their homes early Thursday after a major aftershock rattled an area hit a day earlier by a magnitude-8.2 earthquake that caused some damage and six deaths. No new major damage or casualties were reported.

After the magnitude-7.6 aftershock struck just before midnight Wednesday, Chile's Emergency Office and navy issued a tsunami alert and ordered a precautionary evacuation of low-lying areas for the country's whole 2,500-mile Pacific coastline.

Among those moved inland was President Michelle Bachelet, who was in the city of Arica assessing damage in the north from Tues-

day night's powerful quake.

"I was evacuated like all citizens. One can see that the people are prepared," she tweeted early Thursday.

Chile's evacuation order was lifted about 2 a.m. Thursday. The whole coast also was evacuated for several hours after Tuesday's quake, and for the night in the north, although the tsunami proved small.

The aftershock caused buildings to shake and people to run out into the streets in the port of Iquique, which was one of the cities that suffered damage from the Tuesday earthquake. There were no immediate reports of serious damage or injuries from the aftershock, which was one of dozens that have followed the magnitude-8.2 quake.

State television said the aftershock caused some landslides near Alto Hospicio, a poor area

in the hills above Iquique where about 2,500 homes were damaged by Tuesday's earthquake.

The Ministry of Education suspended classes again in schools in the north for Thursday.

The aftershock was felt across the border in southern Peru, where people in the cities of Tacna and Arequipa fled buildings in fear. Police Lt. Freddy Cuela in Tacna said no damage or injuries were reported. Peru's navy tweeted a tsunami alert for the country's extreme southern coast, which is next to the Chilean region hit by the quakes.

Earlier, authorities reported just six deaths from Tuesday's magnitude-8.2 quake, but didn't rule out the possibility others could have been killed in older structures made of adobe in remote communities that weren't immediately accessible.

## Shark kills woman off Australian beach

*The Associated Press*

**SYDNEY** — A large shark killed a woman near her terrified husband and friends as they took their daily morning swim Thursday off a popular Australian east coast beach, police said.

Christine Armstrong, 63, was taken by the shark as she attempted to swim the 1,970 feet between the wharf and beach near the village of Tathra, 210 miles south of Sydney, police said.

The victim was some distance from the other five swimmers, including her husband, Rob Armstrong, when they saw a 10- to 13-foot shark nearby, Police Inspector Jason Edmunds said.

"The group joined up together



Armstrong

and did their best to keep the shark at bay, although it didn't directly attack them," Edmunds told.

Nine Network television. The swimmers did not see the attack, but a witness on shore did. Edmunds said the species of the shark was unknown.

The Tathra Wharf to Waves — a swim off a rocky coastline from the wharf to the beach and back again — is an annual event that

attracts hundreds of swimmers each summer.

Local council general manager Leanne Barnes said locals meet at the beach every morning to swim out to the wharf and back.

"It's a beautiful, little coastal village and this is one of those sad things that can happen," Barnes said.

Armstrong's family said in a statement that she had been swimming at the beach for 14 years and had been a trainer at the local volunteer lifeguard club.

Police said a helicopter and boat were used to search for Armstrong's remains. The fruitless search was called off late Thursday afternoon.

# Malaysia vows to give plane families closure

BY NICK PERRY  
AND EILEEN NG  
*The Associated Press*

**PERTH, Australia** — Leaders of the two countries heading multinational efforts to solve the mystery of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 pledged Thursday that no effort would be spared to give the families of those on board the answers they need.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak flew to Australia for briefings on the search for the missing plane and talks with his Australian counterpart, Tony Abbott, whose country is overseeing the hunt in a huge and remote patch of the Indian Ocean search area.

"It is a very difficult search — the most difficult in human history. But as far as Australia is concerned, we are throwing everything we have at it," Abbott said in a media appearance with Najib.

No trace of the Boeing 777 has been found nearly four weeks after it vanished in the early hours of March 8 on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.

Ten planes and nine ships were involved in search operations Thursday, scouring the ocean far off Australia's southwest corner where investigators believe the plane may have ended up after unknown events occurred on board.

Najib, whose government has been harshly criticized by some victims' families for giving sometimes conflicting information

about the flight and for the slow pace of the investigation, said everyone involved in the search is thinking of the families of victims who are waiting desperately for news.

"I know that until we find the plane, many families cannot start to grieve," Najib said. "I cannot imagine what they are going through. But I can promise them that we will not give up.

"We want to provide comfort to the families and we will not rest until answers are indeed found. In due time, we will provide a closure for this event," he said.

Najib met with Abbott at the Australian base near Perth that is serving as the hub for the multinational search effort. They were briefed by Angus Houston, the head of a joint agency overseeing the search.

Although Australia is coordinating the ocean search, the investigation into the tragedy ultimately remains Malaysia's responsibility. Najib said Australia had agreed to be an "accredited representative in the investigation," and would work with Malaysia on a comprehensive agreement on the search.

On Wednesday, officials warned the investigation may never fully answer why the airliner disappeared. A dearth of information has plagued investigators from the moment the plane's transponders, which make the plane visible to commercial radar, were shut off.

## UN: Syrian refugees at 1M mark in Lebanon

BY BARBARA SURK  
*The Associated Press*

**TRIPOLI, Lebanon** — A teenager from central Syria became the 1 millionth Syrian refugee to register in Lebanon on Thursday, a "devastating milestone" for the tiny Arab country with about 4.5 million people of its own, the U.N. refugee agency said.

Signing up for aid, Yahya, 19, recounted his long ordeal. After being trapped by the fighting for more than two years in his native city of Homs, he was evacuated earlier this year and traveled to Yabroud, a rebel-held town near the Lebanese border that soon came under a crushing government offensive.

When staying there was no longer an option, he crossed into Lebanon with his mother and two sisters on March 5. Yahya's father was not with them — he died from

sniper fire in Homs in September 2011.

On Thursday, Yahya registered at the UNHCR center in the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

"We didn't know where to go. We just wanted to get away from all the shelling and fighting," he said, giving only his first name for fear that his relatives back in Syria would be targeted.

The conflict in Syria, a country with a prewar population of 23 million, has killed more than 150,000 people, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which documents the fighting through a network of activists on the ground.

The war has uprooted millions of Syrians from their homes, and the U.N. estimates there are now more than 2.5 million Syrians registered in neighboring countries, with more than 47,700 now awaiting registration.

## WORLD

# SUPERSIZE ME

Large menus are in order at many restaurants in China

By JULE MAKINEN  
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — A Peking duck dinner might inspire a twinge of guilt about indulging in some decadent, fatty fowl. But health-conscious diners at the high-end Da Dong restaurant chain here in the Chinese capital can at least rationalize that they did a little weightlifting before their meal.

That's because the menus at Da Dong are heftier than a small gym dumbbell — 5 pounds, 4 ounces, to be exact. Measuring 20 inches tall, 15 inches wide and more than an inch thick, the 140-page menu outweighs National Geographic's Global Atlas.

Packed with rich color photos, the volume is divided into chapters with sumptuous red-and-white calligraphy paper. The brown binding bears the restaurant's name, and a table of contents listing about 200 dishes runs four pages. And diners are handed two other menus: a selection of seasonal items (24 pages) and a wine list (a relatively svelte 19 pages).

Da Dong's massive menu may be among the most eye-popping in town, but it's hardly alone in its heftiness or artistic ambition. Even as a trend toward in-season and locally grown food has helped shrink the list of dishes at many au courant establishments in the United States and Europe in recent years, transforming their bills of fare into single-sheet affairs printed daily on ordinary paper, high-end restaurants in China have been supersizing.

Just why Chinese menus are growing in girth is a complex question rooted in cuisine, culture and commerce.

The Middle Kingdom has great culinary diversity, and whereas Western cooking often relies on time-intensive techniques such as baking and roasting, Chinese cuisine tends to utilize a relatively finite number of ingredients, with chefs producing a multitude of dishes just by switching from boiling to sauteing or using a slightly different sauce. In addition, low labor costs in comparison with the West make it easier to have more cooks in the kitchen.

Family-style ordering feeds a desire for selection, as do cooks eager to cater to diverse parochial palates, from the spicy-loving Sichuanese to the more delicate-dining Shanghaiese. A culture of entertaining, whereby hosts show their generosity by ordering lavishly, also pushes restaurateurs to expand their offerings.

Other less obvious factors over the last 20 years have also helped make menus in China increasingly elaborate. Jen Lin-Liu, author of "On the Noodle Road: From Beijing to Rome



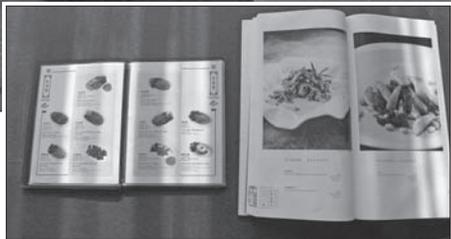
with Love and Pasta" and owner of Black Sesame Kitchen in Beijing, said it's a reflection of China's past poverty mixed with relatively recent economic gains.

"Chinese are able to try all kinds of imported ingredients that weren't available just a little over a decade ago," she said.

Dong Zhenxiang, the chef behind the 600-seat Da Dong, says he started adding photos to his menu in the early 1990s after winning designation from the local government as a "tourist class" restaurant as the nation shed Communist canteens and embraced capitalism.

He found that foreigners as well as Chinese alike appreciated the visual guide.

"Chinese dishes sometimes are very abstract when it comes to their names. Even Chinese people, if they don't know the story behind it, they'll find it hard to understand," he said. "Take, for example, The Dragon and Tiger Fight. It's fish and chicken. But if you don't know that, you don't know what's in it. A picture will show you. Even I, as a professional chef, it's taken me years to realize why some



PHOTOS BY JULE MAKINEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

**Top, Chef Dong Zhenxiang explains why the menu at Da Dong restaurant in Beijing has grown over the years. Above, a version of his menu from the 1990s is dwarfed by today's tome.**

dishes have their names."

As his menu grew more elaborate, Dong found himself in a predicament: Customers were pinching them at a pace that made running his restaurants difficult.

"Ordinary customers and competitors would steal them; they would put them in their bags or under their coats. Waitresses would ask if they had taken them, and they'd just say 'no,' and we couldn't just search them," Dong recalled. "We need about 200 menus for each restaurant, and we'd get down to 100 and there wouldn't be enough to allow people to order."

Some restaurateurs might have

dealt with the situation by switching to simpler printouts. But Dong, whose voracious appetite extends from the culinary arts to calligraphy, photography and poetry, was inclined to go big.

Now, his mega-menus are made once a year at a top printing house in Shenzhen, and theft is way down, "though we did have one person come in with a suitcase and manage to get one that way," said Dong, who will occasionally sell last season's menus for \$200 to those who really want to take one home.

Nicole Liu in the Los Angeles Times' Beijing bureau contributed to this report.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Residents: Tear down Adam Lanza's home

**CT** NEWTOWN — Some Newtown residents say in a new survey that they want the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter's home torn down and the property turned into a park or nature preserve.

The Newtown-Sandy Hook Community Foundation received more than 1,600 responses to the survey it released Monday on town residents' unmet needs in the wake of the December 2012 shootings. The foundation has been deciding how to distribute more than \$11 million in donations made in response to the shootings, which left 20 first-graders and six educators dead.

Some survey responses said money should be set aside to tear down gunman Adam Lanza's house in Newtown, where he killed his mother before going to the school.

The survey found that counseling and cash assistance services were among families' top priorities.

## Town votes down drone-hunting licenses

**CO** DEER TRAIL — A small town in Colorado won't be issuing hunting licenses to shoot down drones.

Voters in Deer Trail overwhelmingly defeated a proposal Tuesday that would have authorized the rural community east of Denver to issue drone-hunting permits.

Town officials say 73 percent of the 188 votes cast were against the measure.

Deer Trail has 348 registered voters, but officials say many of those are probably inactive.

Federal aviation authorities warned it's a crime to shoot at drones, but backers said the measure was a tongue-in-cheek challenge to surveillance programs.

Some residents called the election a novelty response to show displeasure and raise money through permits.

## Lightning strikes planes near airport

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Five airline pilots reported that their planes were struck by lightning as rain fell in the Bay Area, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration said Monday night.

The strikes were reported around San Francisco International Airport during a roughly 30-minute period that began at 12:15 p.m. Monday, said Ian Gregor, FAA spokesman in Los Angeles.

None of the pilots reported damage or requested special assistance, he said. The planes were from Alaska, Horizon, United and United Arab Emirates airlines, the agency said.

Gregor said that FAA certification regulations require planes to withstand "any likely lightning strike" and continue to fly safely and land.

Airlines are also required to have procedures in the maintenance programs for inspec-

## THE CENSUS

# \$2.2M

the home, Gregory said he will do so and move elsewhere.

The cost of a new mansion the Roman Catholic archbishop of Atlanta had built for himself. Archbishop Wilton Gregory apologized Monday for his decision, which was criticized by local Catholics who cited the example of austerity set by Pope Francis. Gregory said he will discuss the situation with several diocesan councils, including a special meeting of its finance council. If church representatives want the bishop to sell



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

## Swinging in the breeze

Chris Hoag, left, and Parrish Brown, relax in a hammock they put up along the pond in Piedmont Park in Atlanta on Tuesday.

tions after aircraft are struck by lightning.

## 13 charged in cocaine trafficking ring

**WV** WHEELING — More than a dozen people have been charged with participating in a cocaine trafficking ring in West Virginia.

Seven people from West Virginia, three from Florida and three from Maryland are charged in a 73-count indictment issued March 18 by a federal grand jury in Martinsburg.

U.S. Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld II announced the indictment on Monday in Wheeling.

The charges include money laundering, conspiracy and distributing a controlled substance near a public college.

Ihlenfeld said the group brought cocaine and crack cocaine to Keyser from other parts of the country to sell.

If convicted, each defendant faces up to life in prison on the conspiracy charge.

The charges stem from an investigation by the Potomac Highlands Drug and Violent Crime Task Force.

## Demand up for disaster training center 'city'

**KS** CRISIS CITY — A mock community in central Kansas that provides training on responding to disasters has been expanding thanks to its popularity with emergency crews.

Crisis City opened in October 2009 southwest of Salina on property owned by the Air Force. It hosts training drills that simulate various catastrophes, such as an active shooter, a train derailment or a building collapse. The various venues at Crisis City are designed to provide law enforcement, emergency medical personnel and military with hands-on training.

Joe Pruitt, program consultant and manager, told The Kansas City Star that Crisis City serves military and civilian personnel

from Kansas and other states, including Missouri, Nebraska and Texas.

The site is expanding to 155 acres, and a new shooting course is already nearly full.

## Smithsonian to revise aircraft displays

**DC** WASHINGTON — Some of the most iconic artifacts of aviation and space history will be getting an updated display for the 21st century, with the Apollo moon landing as the centerpiece.

For the first time since its 1976 opening, the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum plans to overhaul its central exhibition showing the milestones of flight. The extensive renovation announced Thursday will be carried out over the next two years with portions of the exhibit closing temporarily over time, said Museum Director J.R. "Jack" Dalley.

The project will be funded by the largest corporate donation

in the Smithsonian's history. On Thursday, Boeing announced a \$30 million gift to the museum for its exhibits and education programs.

## Girl, 6, has undergone 16 surgeries for burns

**WA** KENNEWICK — A Kennewick girl who accidentally set herself on fire while playing with a lighter on the Fourth of July in 2012 has undergone 16 surgeries.

Jadin Filla suffered burns to nearly 50 percent of her body and doctors said she had a 10 percent chance of surviving.

KEPR reported the 6-year-old kindergartner now is running around at school, just like the other kids. She is a miracle to her family and a success story to doctors.

Her surgeries are not over. She's soon scheduled for a procedure in which doctors will fuse a toe onto a hand to serve as a thumb.

From wire reports



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EXCHANGE

FACES

# Josh Elliott: I wanted to get back to sports

The Associated Press

Josh Elliott said Wednesday that his defection from ABC's "Good Morning America" for NBC is a "deeply personal" move to get back to sports at a level he could not have anticipated.



Elliott

He spoke in a conference call where NBC announced his hiring to work on future Olympics, NFL football and other events. He turned down an offer to remain at ABC's top-rated morning show to be what he described as "the last man on the bench with the showtime Lakers."

His NBC debut is planned for the May 3 Kentucky Derby broadcast.

"I have loved sports since before I could walk," said Elliott, 42. He said he dreamed of being on an Olympics broadcast before he even knew he wanted to be in television. He worked at Sports Illustrated and then ESPN before 2011 when ABC News President Ben Sherwood played a hunch and hired him as news anchor at "Good Morning America."

The arrival of Elliott and Lara Spencer built a feel-good team in the morning that prospered as the duo weathered the tumultuous, ruckus-inducing exit of Ann Curry. Now two members of that team — Elliott and weather forecaster Sam Champion — have left within four months of each other.

Elliott said he had not discussed any role at NBC News, where it was almost immediately speculated that he could be a potential successor to Matt Lauer in the morning. "I hope Matt Lauer is here when I step away from this gig 30 years down the road," he said.

The fallout of his decision, made public Sunday, has been painful and left him feeling like a bit player in an "absurdist melodrama." "It has been really difficult," he said. "It's been difficult to read categorical falsehood after categorical falsehood."

ABC said there will likely be a taped tribute to Elliott on "Good Morning America," but it won't include a live appearance by him.

## Nelson's armadillo returned after theft

A stuffed armadillo that serves as an on-stage mascot for country music legend Willie Nelson has been returned after being kidnapped from a Las Vegas-area show.

Officials at the Westin Lake Las Vegas resort in Henderson say the critter, named 'Old Dillo,' vanished while audience members were greeting Nelson after a Monday night concert.

Westin marketing director Matt Boland says Nelson's crew called in the middle of the night from the road, asking the resort to scour surveillance footage

after the mascot went missing.

Boland says he was outside the hotel Tuesday morning when an apologetic man drove up and handed him a shoebox and instructions to return it to Nelson.

Boland says the armadillo was inside and was sent to the singer in California.

## Other news

■ NBC says 80-year-old **Willard Scott** has tied the knot with his longtime girlfriend. The veteran "Today" show personality and Paris Keena were wed Tuesday in Fort Myers, Fla. They have been together for about 11 years, "Today" host Matt Lauer said in sharing the news on Wednesday morning's telecast.

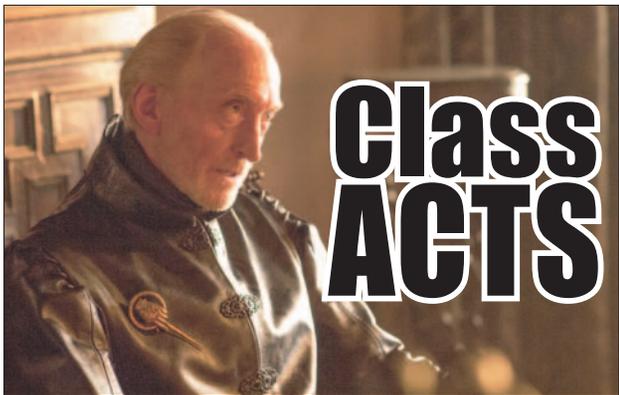
■ Authorities say actor **Colin Egglesfield** has been arrested on allegations that he damaged property at an Arizona arts festival. Tempe police say the 41-year-old actor known for his roles on "The Client List" and "All My Children" was arrested around 2:30 a.m. Saturday on charges of disorderly conduct and criminal damage. Egglesfield was booked into Tempe City Jail before being released on \$1,000 bail.

■ **Jon Cryer**, an actor who knows a thing or two about Charles Sheen and Demi Moore among others, is working on a "candid" memoir. The Emmy-winning star of "Two and a Half Men" has a deal with New American Library, an imprint of Penguin Random House. The publisher announced Wednesday that the book, currently untitled, is scheduled to be released next spring. In a statement released Wednesday, Cryer joked that he would write about stamp collecting, monetary policy and maybe Sheen, his former "Two and a Half Men" co-star.

■ **Russell Brand's** next **Booky Wook** is for kids. The actor and comedian has a deal with Aris Books for a series called "Russell Brand's Trickster Tales," retellings of classic fairy tales. The publisher announced Wednesday that the first of three planned books, "The Pied Piper of Hamelin," will be out Nov. 11.

■ **The Red Hot Chili Peppers' Flea** has embarked on a "sacred" mission: writing a memoir. The 51-year-old bassist has a deal with Grand Central Publishing, a division of Hachette Book Group. Grand Central announced Tuesday that the book, currently untitled, would be a window into Flea's "intense and dynamic life."

■ The U.S. Embassy says celebrity cook **Nigella Lawson** was denied permission to board a flight to the U.S. on March 30. The embassy did not disclose the reason for refusing Lawson, who admitted during a recent court case that she had occasionally used cocaine. Embassy spokeswoman **Lynne Platt** said Thursday that Lawson was stopped from traveling and has subsequently been invited to the embassy to apply for a visa.



PHOTOS BY HBO/A.P.

**Charles Dance** stars on the HBO TV series "Game of Thrones," based on the popular novels by **George R.R. Martin**. "I still have not read the books," Dance says. "They frighten me, books that thick. And, anyway, we're dealing with an adaptation." The fourth season starts in the U.S. on Sunday.

## 2 legendary stars delight in 'Game of Thrones' roles

By FRAZIER MOORE  
The Associated Press

**L**ike every "Game of Thrones" fan, Charles Dance was gobsmacked by last season's next-to-last installment.

That episode, "Red Wedding," made good on its title with a massacre staged by the bride's father, Lord Walder Frey, who meant to settle a score with his hall of guests, and did.

"I got quite a shock!" says Dance, speaking for everyone who saw it. "It was bloody in the extreme!"

That Dance was caught off-guard is notable, since he's a star of the show. Indeed, the character he plays, Lord Tywin Lannister, had a hand in the bloodshed. But he didn't actually appear in that episode, "and when I'm not in it, to be honest with you, I don't read the script," Dance says. "I catch up on what's happening when the episode airs."

"Game of Thrones," which returns Sunday on HBO, will pack its next punch soon enough in the new season. Such is the nature of this epic fantasy, set on a make-believe continent called Westeros, chock-full of warring kingdoms, rugged landscapes, lots of sex and swordplay, and, of course, fire-breathing dragons. If the scale of the series is vast, the source material is no less sprawling: the five-and-counting novels by George R.R. Martin in the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series.

"I still have not read the books," says Dance. "They frighten me, books that thick. And, anyway, we're dealing with an adaptation. I think it's counterproductive for actors to come to the set with well-thumbed copies of the book their film is adapted from."

Dance's despotic Lord Tywin is the grandfather of King Joffrey, an infantile tyrant whose betrothed is the granddaughter of Olenna Tyrell. Lady

Olenna is played by Diana Rigg. On-screen soon-to-be in-laws, Rigg and Dance have known and worked together for decades, including a 1997 British TV adaptation of "Rebecca." Little wonder they get on famously as they meet with a reporter at a Manhattan hotel.

Rigg says she hasn't read the "Game of Thrones" books either. "I rely upon the directors to fill me in before a shot," she confides. "They're very good with reminders."

The show's dozens of cast members include Peter Dinklage, Lena Headey, Jack Gleason, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Emilia Clarke. Asked what drew him into this elite community, Dance smiles and answers. "The writing was good, the costumes are great and, eventually, the location catering was fantastic."

"I loved the idea of playing this naughty old bag," Rigg says, offering her own explanation. "It's my idea of heaven."

Now 75, Rigg has had a rich and varied career in theater, both in her native Britain and as a Tony Award winner on Broadway, as well as films including the James Bond caper "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" and even an NBC sitcom. But her breakout role was in 1965 in the British TV thriller "The Avengers," where she played the catsuit-clad karate queen Emma Peel.

"I put me on the map," she says, "which a lifetime of Shakespeare wouldn't have done."

Tall and imperial, Dance, 67, grew up working-class in England and overcame a teenage stammer to devote himself to theater. His breakout project was the 1984 British TV hit "The Jewel in the Crown," which he followed with such films as "Michael Collins" and "Gosford Park" and the British miniseries "Bleak House," as well as lots of theater.

His first job: working as a dresser in the original West End production of "Fiddler on the Roof."

Then he landed a spot in a London repertory company with a crushing regime: "It was 16 plays in 16 weeks. What's my motivation? 'Your weekly paycheck. Just learn the lines and don't bump into the furniture.'"

**'I loved the idea of playing this naughty old bag. It's my idea of heaven.'**

Diana Rigg, right, with Natalie Dormer, on her "Game of Thrones" role



## WORLD

# Samsung catches heat over ads

'Breast marketing' strategy nothing new for S. Korean electronics company

By **YOOKYUNG LEE**  
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — When Samsung unveiled a new smartphone at the storied Radio City Music Hall, the Broadway-style spectacle was memorable not for technology but for a cast of giggling female characters who fantasized about marrying a doctor, fretted about eating too much cake, and needed a man's help to understand how to work the phone.

The stereotypes were blatant even for an industry where skimpy clad booth babes are a staple of trade shows and high-level female executives are a rarity. A backlash spread online as the event,

live-streamed on the Internet and broadcast in Times Square, unfolded.

How could an international company that wants to be seen as an innovator and spends more than \$11 billion a year on advertising and promotions so badly misjudge its audience? Without too much difficulty and often, it turns out.

A day before the Galaxy smartphone launch in March last year, the company was criticized in South Africa for using models in bikini tops to show its newest refrigerators and washing machines.

Some months later it was derided for a video promoting a fast data storage device known as a

solid state drive. Two men in the ad immediately recognize the device and understand the benefits while a woman, who says she only uses her computer for simple activities such as looking at pictures, is befuddled.

Joking that gadgets made by LG Electronics distract attention from models, Facebook user Lee Sang-hoon collected two dozen images of the company's products promoted by women with ample cleavage. The company's promotion for a new curved TV was a woman showing off her thighs in a reclining pose.

"Among men, we talk about how LG does breast marketing," Lee said.



A model poses with an LG Electronics ultra-HD TV in Seoul, South Korea. AP



Here is the definitive book on the Boston Marathon bombing and subsequent manhunt for the Tsarnaevs. Read the gripping story of the tragic, surreal, and ultimately inspiring week of April 15, 2013 as it highlights the bravery, resourcefulness, and resiliency of the Boston community.

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# Don't Buy Survival Food... Until You Read This!

Dear Stars & Stripes reader,

There are some people out there who think folks like you and me are a bit "odd".

They think having a stockpile ready for a disaster is something they can put off for "someday" or "never".

But those people are just hiding their heads in the sand. They are dead wrong -- and you are **dead right**.

You've seen the evidence and you know the situation is way too serious not to do something about it. When a crisis hits, you'll be ready. You'll make darn sure your family won't go hungry or get herded into a FEMA camp.

The fact is, if you don't take action or if you stockpile the wrong foods, you could be setting your family up to starve. It sounds harsh, but the truth is too many people with good intentions are making critical mistakes with their food stockpiles.

**MISTAKES LIKE...**

- Buying MREs (meals ready to eat) with a 5 year shelf life (depending on where you buy them, they could be nearly expired)...
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- Or simply buying the wrong foods and leaving a critical hole in your meal plan, which means your family can become malnourished...



Well, I decided to stop worrying. Obviously, waiting for FEMA to give me a handout in a disaster just wasn't an option for me. And I was completely turned off by the crazy prices of survival food sold by most stores.

So I got in touch with my buddy Frank Bates and put my order in for his Food4Patriots survival food kits. This is Frank's new line of survival food and there are 4 reasons why it's literally flying off the shelves:

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I want to make sure you **don't** miss out on this because **this is the #1 item to hoard in 2014**.

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But what if you decide right now to secure your food stockpile instead? Just **imagine how much better you'll feel right away**. And if a crisis hits and your family asks, "What are we going to eat?" you'll calmly reassure them that they're safe and they will have plenty to eat.

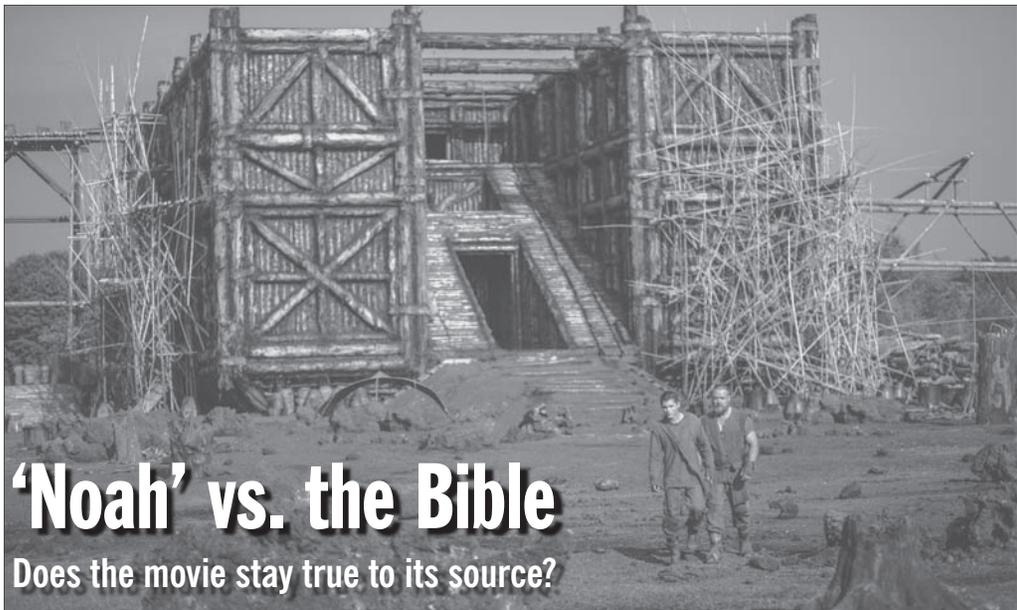
Listen, I can't predict the future. I don't know exactly when or how a crisis will hit. But from everything I see, it could be soon and it could be a big one. That's why I really want you to get the same peace of mind that I do.

*P.S. Got a call from Frank and you'll never believe this... FEMA and DHS just tried to buy up his entire supply of food! Can you believe that BS?*

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## FAITH



# 'Noah' vs. the Bible

## Does the movie stay true to its source?

BY MIRIAM KRULE  
Slate

Back in February, the Hollywood Reporter documented some of the controversy surrounding Darren Aronofsky's "Noah," which opened last Friday in the States. As with any work of art based on the Bible, the studio was concerned that religious viewers would question its faithfulness to its source. But Aronofsky has been clear that he intends for the film to appeal to believers of all faiths as well as nonbelievers.

He told the Reporter that he wanted to create "this fantastical world, a Middle-earth that they wouldn't expect from their grandmother's Bible school."

How much of Noah is based on the text as it appears in the Old Testament?

**BEFORE THE FLOOD** Like the Bible itself, the movie begins its story at the very beginning. At one point Noah tells his children the story of creation and broadly stays true to Genesis, though he conflates the second and fourth days: The Bible tells us that the greater and lesser lights (commonly accepted to be the sun and moon) were created on the fourth day, not the second.

When it comes to the current state of the land, the movie sets up two factions: Lemech and Noah, the good men, and Tubal-Cain and his people, the "evil" men. The evil men are descendants of Cain, which is in line with what the Bible states in Chapter 3. According to that chapter, Cain moved eastward and built cities and had children.

**ZOHAR** The evil men have mined the land for "zohar." This element looks like gold and has essentially magical powers — it's used to make light and, later, for a sort of antediluvian pregnancy test. Zohar is not mentioned in the story of Noah, but the Hebrew word does appear later in the Old Testament in Ezekiel and Daniel and is commonly translated to refer to a light of some sort. It's also the name of the foundational text of Kabbalah, something Aronofsky has used before, most prominently in "Pi."

**METHUSELAH** In the movie, Methuselah,



PHOTOS BY NIKO TAVERNISE, PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

**Above:** From left, Russell Crowe as Noah, Anthony Hopkins as Methuselah and Gavin Casalegno as Young Shem in a scene from "Noah." **Top:** Crowe and Logan Lerman, left, who plays Noah's son Ham, walk away from the ark in a scene.

Noah's grandfather, lives alone on the top of a mountain and has a constant craving for berries. He also keeps hallucinogens and has some mystical powers — including the ability to repair reproductive organs. He dies during the flood. Not much is said about him in the Bible, though he is the oldest documented person mentioned in the book. (After the flood, God proclaims that man won't live more than 120 years.) Doing some math using the genealogy the Bible gives us, it makes perfect sense that Methuselah would have died in the flood: As the Bible tells it, he was 187 when Lemech was born and Lemech was 182 when Noah was born. Noah was 600 when the flood came, the Bible says, which would make Methuselah 969, the same age that the Bible claims he was when he died. The Bible says nothing about an obsession with berries.

**LEMECH** Like his father Methuselah, Lemech, Noah's father, is mentioned in the Bible only for the purpose of documenting the genealogy from Adam to Noah. The movie not only takes liberties to flesh out his character, apparently inventing some sort of birth-right ritual involving snakeskin (we could

find no evidence of this in the Bible), but it has him killed by Tubal-Cain when Noah is just a teen. According to the Bible, Noah was not even when his father died; he was 595.

**TUBAL-CAIN** The character of Tubal-Cain, the movie's lead villain, is almost entirely invented. In the Bible, there is a descendant of Cain named Tubal-Cain who is described as "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron." However, it's unclear in the Bible if Tubal-Cain even lives in the time of Noah, and there is definitely no mention of any stowaways on the ark.

**NOAH'S WIFE** In the movie, Noah's wife is named Naamah and could be seen as almost an equal to Noah. In the Bible, like all the women in this story, she is simply referred to as Noah's wife and all we know is that she was on the ark. Oddly though, Tubal-Cain's sister in the Bible is named Naamah, though we know nothing else about her and it's not clear that she was alive when Noah was.

**NA'AL** The entire character of Na'el, the woman that Noah makes Ham leave behind, does not appear in the Bible. According to the Bible, Ham's wife was on the ark.

**WATCHERS** The movie introduces the characters of Watchers — CGI stone giants that do God's bidding. While there are no rock monsters in the Bible, the section right before the flood does say, "There were giants in the earth in those days."

**THE FLOOD** In the movie, Noah finds out about the flood because of two slightly confusing prophetic dreams, both of which find him submerged in water. In the Bible, it's much more straightforward, and God simply tells him what's happening. God gives Noah specific directions and dimensions and Noah builds the ark. While in the movie Methuselah gives Noah a seed from Eden to plant — which overnight turns into a forest that provides all the material for the ark — in the Bible there is no reference to where Noah gets all the wood.

Everything with Tubal-Cain and his people attempting to board the ark is also invented for the movie. In addition, in the Bible, there is little information about what happens on the ark. We are only told the chronology — with days and months — and that just as in the movie, they landed on a mountain. In terms of knowing when to descend the ark, the movie has Japheth sending out a raven — which returns — and a dove that comes back with an olive leaf. In the Bible, the dove is sent out three times. The first time it returns, the second time it comes back with an olive leaf, and the third time it doesn't return.

**NOAH'S DRUNKENNESS** After the flood, we see Noah separated from his family and, in despair, getting hammered. In the Bible, Noah gets hammered, too, though it's not clear why. The Bible also leaves some ambiguity as to what happens while Noah is passed out naked. We find out that "Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him." What exactly the younger son (presumably Ham) did is unclear — in the Bible, seeing someone's nakedness is often translated to mean having sex and there are some who interpret this to mean that Ham sodomized his father — but Noah curses Ham's descendants because of it, saying they will be servants to Shem and Japheth's descendants.



Frazz



Dilbert



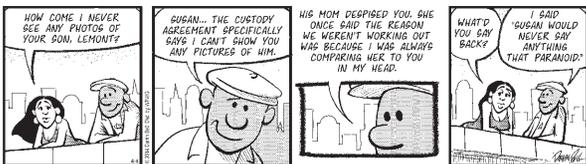
Pearls Before Swine



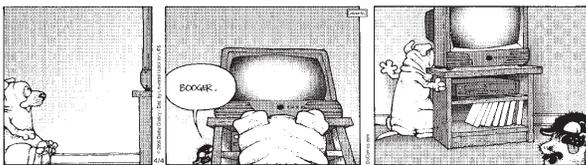
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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37	38	39					40					
41					42	43					44	45
46					47						48	
49					50						51	

ACROSS

- 1 Blond shade
- 4 Carpet style
- 8 Make bootes
- 12 Prompt
- 13 Big brass bellower
- 14 Zilch, south of the border
- 15 Man of 12 labors
- 17 Always
- 18 Pop
- 19 Song of joy
- 20 Stallone hero
- 22 Snatched
- 24 Rue the run
- 25 Enraptured
- 29 That boat
- 30 Sprite
- 31 Tokyo's old name
- 32 Unfit to swim in
- 34 Jail on board
- 35 "Sad to say ..."
- 36 Borscht base
- 37 Morass
- 40 Pleased
- 41 Arrived
- 42 Religious dissenters
- 46 Shakespeare's river
- 47 Cupid's alias
- 48 Also
- 49 Top-rated
- 50 Kittens' comments
- 51 Thither

DOWN

- 1 Essen exclamation poet
- 2 Seek damages
- 3 Discoverer of Uranus
- 4 Learn
- 5 Shake in the grass?
- 6 Honest politician?
- 7 Petrol
- 8 Messages
- 9 Church area
- 10 Concept
- 11 Mountain lake
- 16 Pepsi rival
- 19 Ballet bend
- 20 Grate
- 21 Twice cuatro
- 22 One of Franklin's certainties
- 23 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 25 Ms. Moreno
- 26 Genetics
- 27 Rewrite, maybe
- 28 AKC subjects
- 30 "— Fiction"
- 33 Mourn
- 34 Thrash
- 36 Sanctify
- 37 Ground cover
- 38 Wreath silently
- 39 Old Testament prophet
- 40 Get bigger
- 42 Height of fashion?
- 43 Before
- 44 Dove's call
- 45 Junior

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	O	B	B	S	U	M	A	F	A	R
O	D	O	R	I	F	A	S	E	M	I
M	I	R	O	N	O	R	P	A	I	D
B	E	N	I	E	G	A	I	T		
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L	E	M	O	N	H	U	E	E	M	O
A	S	I	S	L	A	X	P	R	I	M
M	A	L	F	E	Z	B	A	S	T	E
B	U	L	L	D	O	Z	E	R	S	
				D	A	R	N	M	A	S
				D	I	A	Z	A	G	O
				A	C	M	E	R	A	T
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4-4

CRYPTOQUIP

B V X U F I B J N D M K O U X A U  
 A Z M J J C N B X A R U U X L M K O D U U N  
 X L B X L M A K C D K M V Z K B R C  
 I C V B R C B J C V - A B K N C F.  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU HAVE KEENLY SHARP VISION LIKE THAT OF A KING OR A PRINCE, I'D CALL YOU REGAL-EYED.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: X equals T

# STARS AND STRIPES

# OPINION

# Time to rethink deportation standards

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe  
 John Panasiwicz, General Manager, Pacific  
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

By JOHN SANDWEG

**P**resident Barack Obama recently directed Secretary of Homeland Security John Boehner to examine U.S. immigration enforcement policies to see how the department can "conduct enforcement more humanely within the confines of the law."

The answer to the president's directive is surprisingly simple: Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement division should eliminate "noncriminal reentrants and immigration fugitives" as a priority category for deportation.

Current ICE policy prioritizes those individuals solely because they have previously been caught up in our immigration system, not because they represent a criminal threat. Taking them off the prior list would dramatically advance the president's goal of a more humane enforcement system and would enhance public safety and border security.

During the last five years, the Obama administration has transformed our nation's immigration enforcement policies into a system that emphasizes removing criminals and keeping the border secure. In 2010, civil immigration enforcement priorities were established to direct ICE officers and agents to focus their efforts accordingly. Since then, more than 80 percent of the people the agency has apprehended in the interior United States and deported have been convicted criminals.

However, official agency policy also continues to direct ICE officers and agents to investigate, arrest and deport those who unlawfully re-entered the United States after having been previously deported, and those who have absconded from immigration court proceedings, regardless of their criminal history or how long they have lived, worked or raised families in the



Don Bartlett, Los Angeles Times/MCT

**Jaren Rodriguez, 20, stands in line at the pedestrian border crossing in Tijuana, Mexico, on March 10 during a rally organized by the National Immigrant Youth Alliance, which hopes to bring students and families back to their homes in the U.S.**

United States. As a result, each year, tens of thousands of people are treated as enforcement priorities based on their immigration history alone.

Many of these people have been in the United States for a decade or more. They often have spouses who are U.S. citizens and have never been convicted of a criminal offense. Frequently, they were deported years earlier and returned to this country to reunite with their families. As a result, focusing ICE's effort on them disproportionately separates parents and children, breadwinners from families, spouse from spouse.

To be sure, those who repeatedly cross our borders illegally or abscond from the immigration court bear culpability. However, making this population a priority detracts from ICE's ability to track down and arrest the increasing number of much more serious public safety threats the agency

identifies. When I was ICE's acting director, I had the privilege of discussing the agency's enforcement priorities with officers and agents across the country. I repeatedly heard these men and women express their support for clear policies that would focus their efforts on the most serious offenders and offenses.

The president was right to suggest a review of ICE's enforcement priorities. Much of the groundwork for the change I'm suggesting has already been laid, and this policy shift could be implemented immediately. It will not solve all of the challenges facing our broken immigration system, but until Congress acts, it can fulfill the president's call for a more humane system and make the country safer.

John Sandweg, acting director of ICE from August 2013 to February, also served as acting general counsel in the Department of Homeland Security. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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Ernie Gates

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# How to get women through Infantry Officer Course

By SAGE SANTANGELO

**I** awoke to Eminem blasting hours before dawn at Quantico Marine Base in Virginia. A fog of breath and sweat permeated the cold January air as I joined 104 other nervous lieutenants hauling gear to the classroom where we would receive our first instructions. With body armor, Kevlar, a rifle and a huge pack on my 5'3" frame, I must have looked like a child next to the buff guys assembling for Day 1 of the Marine Corps' Infantry Officer Course.

I was one of four women in the group, bringing the number to 14 female officers who had attempted the course since it was opened to women in fall 2012. All the women so far had failed — all but one of them on the first day.

During the test, there came a point when I could not persuade my body to perform. It wasn't a matter of will but of pure physical strength. My mind wanted more, but my muscles quivered in failure after multiple attempts. I began to shiver as I got cold. It was told I could not continue.

The night I failed, I asked myself: Did I fail? The question matters because Marine leaders have been watching female participants like me to help them decide how to integrate women into units and positions whose primary mission is to engage in direct ground combat.

My friend, who failed at Quantico, and the fact that no woman has yet made it through the Infantry Officer Course, shouldn't be interpreted as evidence that women can't handle combat environments. To date, 13 female Marines have passed the two-month enlisted infantry training course at Camp Geiger in North Carolina. While that course is significantly less demanding

than the one at Quantico, it is still grueling and it establishes the standard for enlisted warfighters.

So what's held women back in the Marines Corps Infantry Officer Course? I absolutely agree that we shouldn't reduce qualifications. For Marine infantry officers, mistakes mean risking the lives of the troops you are charged to protect. But I believe that I could pass, and that other women could pass, if the standards for men and women were equal from the beginning of their time with the Marines, if endurance and strength training started earlier than the current practice for people interested in going into the infantry, and if women were allowed a second try, as men are.

Female lieutenants aren't as prepared as male lieutenants for the Infantry Officer Course's tests of strength and endurance because they've been encouraged to train to lesser standards. Officer Candidates School, where all Marine officers start out, is segregated by sex. I was in an all-female platoon. We worked with the men on a few occasions but never competed with them. That was odd for me.

Yes, men have biological advantages in tests of upper-body strength. But women can do pull-ups if given enough time to build that strength. Recognizing biological-based advantages and disadvantages and developing training programs that work to balance them are key.

It would be especially helpful if the Marines allowed people to decide on an infantry career earlier and offered some infantry-oriented training earlier, too. Basic training doesn't include enough physical gruntwork under a combat load. More exercises such as running, jumping and climbing while wearing a flak jacket, Kevlar and

a pack would help build strength and endurance. They would also help prevent injuries by increasing body density.

I also would have liked to have had the opportunity to try the course again. The Marine leadership has said it doesn't want female lieutenants taking the course multiple times, at least until combat positions are available to women, because it doesn't want to delay the rest of their training. Yet many of the men who failed alongside me in January are back at Quantico, training to retake the course in April. The male lieutenants who have taken it before have an advantage in that they know generally what to expect.

My failed effort at Quantico has helped me better understand the needs of the Marines on the ground and will allow me to better support them in the future. At the same time, I love the Marine Corps philosophy that failure should never be viewed as permanent or representative; it is an opportunity to remediate. Marines cannot meet standards all the time. What do we do? We train until every Marine is competent.

It's frustrating to me that there are still doubts about whether women are capable of handling combat environments. The women who have been awarded for their valor in combat, and the women who have died in combat for their country, have already answered the question about capability.

Now, instead of passively evaluating their doubts about whether women are capable of set women up to excel in infantry roles. My hope is that the Marine Corps will allow every Marine the opportunity to compete. And that when we fail, our failure is seen simply as a challenge to others to succeed.

Santangelo is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. This column first appeared in The Washington Post

## OPINION

## Secret Service problem: Weak leadership, not booze

By DAN EMMETT

These are disturbing days for the agency charged with protecting the president of the United States. From prostitutes in Colombia to drunkenness in Amsterdam, it is no wonder that so many members of Congress — as well as former agents — have lost patience with a Secret Service that can't seem to stay out of the news with embarrassing and high-profile cases of misconduct.

I was a Secret Service agent for 21 years, spent two tours of duty on the Presidential Protection Division and four years on the Counter Assault Team, and was part of trips for three presidents. I retired 10 years ago and have no dog in today's agency fights. I do not believe that alcohol abuse is a cultural problem within the Secret Service. (In fact, many agents do not drink at all, and those who do tend to consume in moderation.)

The problem in the agency is not alcohol or debauchery, but weak leadership. There are too many incompetent managers who want the title, pay and perks of management while performing no duties of leadership. The problem is not bad Secret Service agents but bad leaders.

The U.S. Secret Service was created in 1865 and began protecting the president in 1902. During 110 years of presidential protection, the agency accompanied presidents on hundreds of trips of domestic and overseas trips without bringing any unwanted attention upon itself. That is because, in my experience, agents tend to be intelligent, well-trained and fiercely patriotic Americans — nearly fanatical in their devotion to the mission at hand.

One of the reasons the best units perform poorly with poor leaders, and the Secret Service is a prime example. The most disturbing common thread among the recent episodes of misconduct is that supervisors or team leaders have been involved. While it is unacceptable for any agent to commit infractions such as those in Amsterdam and Colombia, it is utterly inexcusable for those in charge to be involved. If managers show continued lapses in judgment, how and why would anyone expect the rank and file to behave better?

The Secret Service may not admit it, but its promotion system is primarily designed to move the best-liked people, not neces-



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

**Members of the Secret Service's Counter Assault Team walk across the tarmac at Kortrijk-Wevelgem International Airport in Waregem, Belgium, on March 26. The Secret Service sent three agents home from the Netherlands after one agent was found inebriated in an Amsterdam hotel.**

sarily the best-qualified, into managerial positions. Much like in a college fraternity, a small group of senior agents votes on who will be promoted. These decisions are based as much on office politics, popularity and political correctness as the abilities of those being considered for upward mobility. While this practice is widespread in many professions, it is unacceptable in an agency whose primary function is to keep the president of the United States alive and safe.

The agency doesn't prioritize competence among its managers, yet it somehow stands baffled about why it cannot control the behavior of its agents, forcing the director to return to Capitol Hill again and again to apologize for their conduct. The apologies are temporarily appease critics, but they do nothing to address the catastrophic failure of leadership within the organization.

When I became a Secret Service agent in 1983, we were generally well led. Most of our top and mid-level supervisors were armed forces veterans; they managed and led by the ethos of military leadership, which dictates accomplishing the mission while taking care of those entrusted to

them. They expected much from their subordinates but knew that they must set the example we would follow.

The Secret Service of today is awash in managers, not leaders. Many supervisors have little tangible or leadership experience, yet they are designated as managers on the basis of their titles and long lists of schools attended. Alas, leadership cannot be taught in a classroom alone. In the military, people must first pass Officer Candidate School before assuming leadership roles. In the federal government, more often than not, people are promoted first and then trained to be leaders — the concept is entirely backward.

In December, the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general issued a report finding no evidence that "misconduct is widespread" in the Secret Service. Though it was dismissed as a whitewash by some critics, I view the findings to be quite correct. The problem of leadership, however, stems in part from the department's oversight of the Secret Service.

From its creation until shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the Secret Service

fell under the Treasury Department, where it operated efficiently and largely unencumbered. After Osama bin Laden attacked America, the Secret Service became part of the Department of Homeland Security — a massive and nightmarish new federal bureaucracy. In this environment, many young and ill-prepared agents were promoted to positions of management far too early in their careers. Today, many of those agents are at the highest levels of the Secret Service.

The tragedy of this horrid and ineffective system is that many highly qualified agents who would be superb leaders are passed over for promotion; they are not in "the club." The result is evident in today's embarrassing headlines.

Can this train wreck be put back on track? Can the Secret Service regain its respect? I believe it can.

But congressional overseers need to agree that there is a massive leadership problem in the agency and start a general purge of some top-level managers through forced retirement. Then the Secret Service should begin a leadership school for entry-level managers, preferably conducted by the military.

Finally, the next director should come from outside the agency, rather than rising from within the agency's files. When drastic changes are needed, it is difficult for someone who is friends with almost everyone in headquarters to make objective decisions. In this case, the agency needs someone with no allegiances to top-level managers.

The best leaders willingly take responsibility for their actions. In 1983, when I was a 23-year-old second lieutenant with the 1st Marine Division, my first company commander informed me that he would hold me responsible for everything my men did or failed to do. His hard lesson: It is the commander who bears the ultimate responsibility for his men's actions. While a lesson seems to be unique to the military, though it should apply nonuniformed government workers, too.

Dan Emmett, a former Marine Corps captain, retired Secret Service agent and former CIA intelligence officer, is the author of "Within Arm's Length: A Secret Service Agent's Definitive Inside Account of Protecting the President," forthcoming in June. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## The only thing that unites Arabs is the rejection of Israel

By FRIDA GHITIS

The Miami Herald

Disputes within the Arab world are nothing new, but the depth of animosity and the sheer number of fault lines, rivalries and profound strategic disagreements has reached an all-time high.

The "Arab nation" has never been fully unified. With more than 20 nation-states in the Arab League, competing agendas and ideologies have produced countless wars and contributed to making the Middle East the world's most unstable region. Even before the latest wave of acrimony, recent decades brought Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a brutal civil war in Lebanon, a Syrian invasion of Lebanon and countless other conflicts.

The Muslim division between Shites and Sunnis, at the root of some of the old conflicts, is still a major source of fighting, but it overlaps and intersects with other problems.

The wave of Arab revolutions that raised the Muslim Brotherhood to power, and then brought it crashing down in some countries, has become the latest incendiary focus, adding to confusion and chaos. The wars have spilled over into battlefields, real and

metaphoric.

Syria has become the arena of combat where tens of thousands are dying and where those differences are played out by armed force. Add to that the issue of Iran, the rift separating Palestinians and a host of other social and political issues. It's not surprising the region is boiling.

Underneath it all are bitter and urgent disagreements over what to do about Iran, a non-Arab, Shiite power, a traditional rival and sometimes enemy of the Arabs. Saudi Arabia wants to see a U.S. attack on Iran, thus bringing an end once and for all to its nuclear program. Iran and its allied Lebanon-based Shiite militia Hezbollah actively support Syrian dictator Bashar Assad. The opposition in Syria is backed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, but they back different factions of the anti-Assad forces.

In fact, Qatar and Saudi Arabia are increasingly divided. Tiny but wealthy Qatar, a city-state on a small peninsula that juts out of the larger Arabian Peninsula, is at bitter odds with its neighboring Emirates, which are furious at Doha (Qatar's capital) for supporting the Muslim Brotherhood.

Egypt, too, which has become the Muslim Brotherhood's most furious enemy, now also views Qatar as its enemy.

The battle over the future of the Muslim Brotherhood is playing out most dramatically in Egypt. When the Brotherhood rose to power after the overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak, Qatar became its principal patron. The Qatari network Al Jazeera became a vocal cheerleader. The Egyptians turned against the Brotherhood and now Egypt is back in the hands of a very popular military-installed regime.

Egypt has gone after the Muslim Brotherhood with unrestrained force, and now Cairo is receiving strong financial backing from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, while Qatar refuses to distance itself from the Islamists. That prompted the Saudis and the UAE to withdraw their ambassadors from Doha last month.

Back in Syria, the anti-Assad opposition includes Islamists of all stripes, who are fighting each other and receiving backing from different capitals, becoming a proxy for some of the conflict across the region. In addition to intra-Islamist fights, there is the moderate opposition, which opposes the Islamists. All the opposition stands against the Tehran and Hezbollah-backed Assad, who relies the ideological and political latticework cutting across the forces seeking to overthrow him.

And then there are the Palestinians. The animosity between Fatah, which dominates the West Bank-governing Palestinian Authority, and Hamas, which rules Gaza, has not equalled despite many premature forecasts of reconciliation. And there are several other groups inside the Palestinian territories, including al-Qaida affiliates and Iran-backed militants. Hamas, a Palestinian outgrowth of the Muslim Brotherhood, is facing Egypt's wrath.

Against this turbulent backdrop, the 22 members of the Arab League met in Kuwait to hold their regular summit. They agreed about almost nothing. Almost.

There is one topic that brings the Arab Nation into warm agreement. That is Israel.

A statement on the final day of the Arab League summit announced that the nearly two dozen Arab states "express our total rejection of the call to consider Israel as a Jewish state."

The many people who claimed Israel was at the root of all the problems of the Middle East may want to reconsider. It seems Israel is the one topic capable of producing a semblance of reconciliation among Arabs.

Frida Ghitis writes about global affairs for The Miami Herald. Readers may send her email at fghitis@gmail.com.



NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference															
Atlantic Division					Metropolitan Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts						
y-Boston	76	32	19	6	110	x-Pittsburgh	76	48	23	5	101				
x-Tampa Bay	76	42	25	9	93	Philadelphia	75	39	27	9	87				
x-Montreal	77	37	37	7	83	Washington	75	37	37	9	80				
Wild Card															
Detroit	76	36	26	14	86	Florida	77	27	42	8	62				
Columbus	75	38	30	7	83	Buffalo	75	21	45	9	51				
Western Conference															
Central Division					Pacific Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GP	W	L	OT	Pts						
x-St. Louis	75	51	17	7	109	x-Anaheim	76	59	18	8	108				
x-Colorado	75	48	21	6	105	x-San Jose	77	48	20	9	105				
x-Chicago	76	42	19	15	99	Los Angeles	77	26	46	6	96				
Wild Card															
Minnesota	76	39	25	11	89	Phoenix	77	36	28	13	85				
5 Dallas	75	37	31	11	85	Vancouver	77	34	32	11	79				
Phoenix	77	36	28	13	85	Winnipeg	76	33	30	7	78				
Vancouver	77	34	32	11	79	Nashville	76	33	32	11	77				
Winnipeg	76	33	30	7	78	Calgary	76	31	38	7	69				
Nashville	76	33	32	11	77	Edmonton	77	28	49	9	61				
Calgary	76	31	38	7	69	<p><b>Note:</b> Top three teams in each division and next two teams with the most points in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Two points awarded for a win, one point for overtime loss.</p> <p><b>x-</b>clinched playoff spot  <b>y-</b>clinched division</p> <p><b>Wednesday's games</b>                  N.Y. Islanders 2, Ottawa 1                  Detroit 3, Boston 2                  Anaheim 3, Edmonton 2                  Los Angeles 4, Phoenix 0</p> <p><b>Thursday's games</b>                  Columbus at Philadelphia                  Dallas at Carolina                  Boston at Toronto                  Calgary at Tampa Bay                  Minnesota at Chicago                  Buffalo at St. Louis                  Pittsburgh at Winnipeg                  N.Y. Rangers at Colorado                  Los Angeles at San Jose</p> <p><b>Friday's games</b>                  Montreal at Ottawa                  Chicago at Columbus                  Washington at New Jersey                  Buffalo at Detroit                  Calgary at Florida                  Edmonton at Phoenix                  Nashville at Anaheim</p> <p><b>Saturday's games</b>                  Philadelphia at Boston                  Colorado at St. Louis                  Washington at N.Y. Islanders                  Buffalo at Toronto                  Detroit at Montreal                  Dallas at Tampa Bay                  St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers                  New Jersey at Carolina                  Pittsburgh at Minnesota                  Los Angeles at Vancouver                  Nashville at San Jose</p> <p><b>Sunday's games</b>                  St. Louis at Chicago                  Dallas at Florida                  N.Y. Islanders at Columbus                  Buffalo at Philadelphia                  Pittsburgh at Colorado                  Anaheim at Edmonton</p>									

Roundup

# Red Wings boost playoff position in win over Bruins

The Associated Press

**DETROIT**—The NHL-leading Boston Bruins followed their game plan of keeping Gustav Nyquist in front of them for more than two periods.

When the puck got loose, and Nyquist got to it, though, one of the game's best defencemen and one of its best goalies couldn't stop the surging goal-scorer.

Nyquist broke a tie with 7:12 left in the third period on his only shot of the game, and the Detroit Red Wings held on to beat Boston 3-2 on Wednesday night.

"I didn't think Gus had one of his best games by any means, but he scored a big goal," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said.

Nyquist has a league-high 23 goals since Jan. 20 and a team-high 27 this season. He has given the Red Wings the breakout player they needed to boost their chances of extending their postseason streak to 23 seasons while missing many key players, including Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg.

The 24-year-old Swede started the season with the AHL's Grand Rapids Griffins after scoring a total of four goals in 40 games the previous two seasons.

"That's one of the young players that has come in here, and given the chance to be a front guy has taken total of advantage of it," Boston coach Claude Julien said.

"Those things probably don't happen if Datsyuk and Zetterberg are still in the lineup.

"When things like that happen, some guys are really good at stepping to the forefront. He's done an unbelievable job of doing that."

The Bruins turned the puck over near Detroit's blue line, paving the way for Nyquist to score. He raced up ice, skated around defenseman



Tony D'Amico/AP

**DETROIT Red Wings forward Gustav Nyquist, left, scores the game-winning goal on Boston Bruins goalie Tuukka Rask during the third period on Wednesday in Detroit, Mich. The Red Wings won 3-2.**

Zdeno Chara and ended his blurring sequence by scoring against Tuukka Rask.

"I think (Chara) came off the bench so it was tough for him to get enough time to gap up, got kind of flat-footed," Nyquist said. "I just tried to use my speed."

"They've got really good speed," Rask said. "We did a pretty good job of shutting them down, but not good enough."

Nyquist scored 1:42 after teammate Tomas Jurco tied the game. Jimmy Howard finished with 33 saves to seal the win, strengthening Detroit's spot as a wild-card team in the Eastern Conference with six games left.

"Howie kept us in the game and gave us a chance," defenseman Niklas Kronwall said. "We didn't play great, but we found a way."

Boston led Detroit twice, but couldn't put away the young, scrappy and short-handed team.

**Ducks 3, Oilers 2:** Corey Perry scored twice in the third period, and Francois Beauchemin added the winning goal with 1:21 left as host Anaheim rallied to beat Edmonton.

Beauchemin fired a slap shot past goalie Viktor Fasth to give the Ducks their 50th win of the season (50-18-8). Perry and Ryan Getzlaf assisted on the deciding goal.

**Islanders 2, Senators 1:** Josh Bailey had a goal and an assist for the second straight night, helping visiting New York earn back-to-back victories over Ottawa.

In the Middle East?

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## SOCCER/SPORTS BRIEFS



ROCK SCUTERI/AP

U.S. forward Julian Green, left, shields Mexico defenseman Rogelio Alfredo Chavez from the ball during the second half of a friendly match Wednesday in Glendale, Ariz. The game ended in a 2-2 draw.

## Briefly

## Clowney makes case for being top Draft choice

the Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Jadeveon Clowney believes he's the NFL's No. 1 Draft pick and says he took a big step toward that goal during South Carolina's pro day workouts Wednesday.

The 6-foot-5, 266-pound defensive end did position drills in front of dozens of NFL personnel, including Houston head coach Bill O'Brien and Jacksonville head coach Gus Bradley. And Clowney thinks he elevated his already elite status during the 40 minutes or so of running through cones, jumping over hurdles and catching tennis balls in workouts he passed on at the NFL combine in February.

"Yes, I do feel like I should be the first pick," Clowney said after the session.

Clowney did not lift weights or run the 40-yard dash, standing on his combine showings when he did 21 reps at 225 pounds and clocked a 4.53-second time.

He also felt he eased anyone's concerns about his work ethic. He was considered

by many the No. 1 pick after his sophomore season in 2012, when he had 13 sacks and closed it with his helmet-jarring hit on Michigan's Vincent Smith in the Outback Bowl.

A midseason tiff with coach Steve Spurrier — Clowney pulled himself out of the Kentucky game with a rib muscle strain without following proper protocol — intensified questions about Clowney's work habits and going hard every play.

"I think my work ethic is pretty good. I think I proved that today, but I've still got a lot of proving to do," he said.

Clowney spent Tuesday night at dinner with the Texans, including O'Brien, defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel and general manager Rick Smith. Clowney thought the visit went well and he answered their questions about what he'd bring to the Texans if they took him in the top selection in May's Draft.

■ The Washington Redskins signed quarterback Colt McCoy Thursday, giving the

team a new potential No. 3 quarterback to replace Rex Grossman. Grossman is a free agent after playing behind Rob Griffin III and Kirk Cousins the last two seasons.

McCoy could also complete for the No. 2 spot if the Redskins decide to trade Cousins.

McCoy played last year with San Francisco, appearing in four games and throwing one pass.

## T-wolves Cunningham arrested

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Timberwolves forward Dante Cunningham was arrested on allegations of domestic assault.

Police say Cunningham was booked into Hennepin County Jail on Thursday morning. Charges have not been filed, but Cunningham is being held without bail. Police say the woman making the allegations did not require medical treatment.

The Timberwolves say they are in the process of gathering more information.

They say the "organization takes the matter very seriously and does not condone the type of behavior that is associated with this situation."

The 26-year-old Cunningham is averaging 6.0 points and 4.0 rebounds off the bench for the Wolves this season.

## Northwestern union vote set

CHICAGO — A federal agency said a date has been set for Northwestern football players to vote on authorizing a union to represent them in collective bargaining with the university.

A spokesman for the National Labor Relations Board confirmed Wednesday that the vote is scheduled for April 25.

The players will cast ballots on whether to organize under the College Athletes Players' Association, known as CAPA. CAPA took the lead in pushing for the right to form the nation's first college athletes' union at Northwestern.

## Green makes US debut in friendly draw with Mexico

The Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — U.S. versus Mexico lived up to its billing with the rivals battling to a 2-2 draw Wednesday night, and provided a possible glimpse into the future with 18-year-old Julian Green making his first national team appearance for the Americans.

The highly touted Green made his senior U.S. debut, coming on in the 59th minute as a substitute at midfield for Brad Davis.

Green was on the pitch as Mexico completed a rally from a two-goal deficit to earn the exhibition match draw.

"All the players that were here today gave everything they had, and if they understand that a game goes at least 90 minutes ... we had 55, maybe 60 maximum at that (World Cup) level. So that means we have a lot of homework to do," U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann said, lamenting a non-call against Green in which he wanted a penalty in the closing minutes of the game. "You saw in some moments what this kid is capable to do. He goes in the box, he draws two guys. ... It is what it is. Obviously he was nervous, too.

He played his first cap in front of 60,000 against Mexico."

Green, the product of German club Bayern Munich's developmental system, recently committed his international soccer future to the U.S. national team.

Born in Tampa, Fla., but raised in Germany, Green has played for both German and U.S. national teams from the U-16 to U-19 levels. He was called in last year by Klinsmann, but declined the invitation to attend the team's camp at that time.

Green appeared to injure his shoulder in the 80th minute after he fell down, but was checked out quickly on the sideline and returned to the field. Klinsmann said Green simply lost his balance.

Mexico turned a dreadful first half into a tight game following captain Rafael Marquez's 49th-minute goal. Mexico became more active on the attack and threatened to tie on almost every run in the second half.

The tying goal came in the 67th minute. Alan Pulido collected the rebound of Paul Aguilar's shot that hit the post and kicked the ball into an open net.

"We got a tie that we needed to get," Mexico goalkeeper Moises

Munoz said.

Both teams had chances to take the lead late in the match. Second-half substitute Eddie Johnson was ruled offside and his goal was nullified in the 85th minute. Mexico's Miguel Angel Ponce took a shot in the 86th minute that barely went over the goal.

Early on, the U.S. looked as if it might run away with another satisfying win over its biggest rival. It took the U.S. less than 15 minutes to get on the scoreboard.

Midfielder Michael Bradley outran Mexico midfielder Jesus Zavala to a corner kick that went far post from Zusi, and Bradley finished with one touch to give the Americans the early lead.

The U.S. set the pace of the match early, making runs down the field several times and making Mexico's defense work and drawing corner kicks.

The U.S. took a two-goal lead in the 28th minute with some effective passing. Clint Dempsey sent the ball wide to Tony Beltran, a defender making just his third appearance for the national team.

Beltran crossed to Bradley, who found Chris Wondolowski to his left near the goal, and Wondolowski slotted the ball into the net.

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MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

Table with columns: Team, East Division, West Division, Central Division, and National League. Rows include Toronto, Baltimore, Boston, Tampa Bay, Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Minnesota, Seattle, Texas, Oakland, and Los Angeles.

National League

Table with columns: Team, East Division, West Division, Central Division, and American League. Rows include Washington, Atlanta, Miami, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, and Arizona.

Wednesday's games

Table listing game results for Wednesday, including Detroit vs Kansas City, Houston vs Philadelphia, Toronto vs Tampa Bay, and others.

Thursday's games

Table listing game results for Thursday, including Milwaukee at Chicago, Boston at Baltimore, and others.

Friday's games

Table listing game results for Friday, including Baltimore vs Milwaukee, Minnesota vs Cleveland, and others.

Saturday

Table listing game results for Saturday, including Philadelphia vs Chicago, Arizona vs Colorado, and others.

Sunday

Table listing game results for Sunday, including Cincinnati vs St. Louis, Tampa Bay vs Detroit, and others.

Monday

Table listing game results for Monday, including Kansas City vs Texas, Houston vs Philadelphia, and others.

Tuesday

Table listing game results for Tuesday, including Kansas City vs Texas, Houston vs Philadelphia, and others.

Wednesday

Table listing game results for Wednesday, including Kansas City vs Texas, Houston vs Philadelphia, and others.

Reds 1, Cardinals 0

Scoreboard for Reds vs Cardinals game, including batting order and game statistics.

White Sox 7, Twins 6 (11)

Scoreboard for White Sox vs Twins game, including batting order and game statistics.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 0

Scoreboard for Giants vs Diamondbacks game, including batting order and game statistics.

Cleveland 3, Yankees 2

Scoreboard for Cleveland vs Yankees game, including batting order and game statistics.

Indians 6, Athletics 4

Scoreboard for Indians vs Athletics game, including batting order and game statistics.

Braves 1, Brewers 0

Scoreboard for Braves vs Brewers game, including batting order and game statistics.

Rockies 6, Marlins 5

Scoreboard for Rockies vs Marlins game, including batting order and game statistics.

Mariners 8, Angels 2

Scoreboard for Mariners vs Angels game, including batting order and game statistics.

Nationals 5, Mets 1

Scoreboard for Nationals vs Mets game, including batting order and game statistics.

Reds 3, Orioles 2

Scoreboard for Reds vs Orioles game, including batting order and game statistics.

Dodgers 5, Padres 1

Scoreboard for Dodgers vs Padres game, including batting order and game statistics.

Angels 4, Phillies 3

Scoreboard for Angels vs Phillies game, including batting order and game statistics.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 0

Scoreboard for Blue Jays vs Rays game, including batting order and game statistics.

Astros 3, Yankees 1

Scoreboard for Astros vs Yankees game, including batting order and game statistics.

Dodgers 5, Padres 1

Scoreboard for Dodgers vs Padres game, including batting order and game statistics.

Angels 4, Phillies 3

Scoreboard for Angels vs Phillies game, including batting order and game statistics.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 0

Scoreboard for Blue Jays vs Rays game, including batting order and game statistics.

Astros 3, Yankees 1

Scoreboard for Astros vs Yankees game, including batting order and game statistics.

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Astros 3, Yankees 1

Scoreboard for Astros vs Yankees game, including batting order and game statistics.

Dodgers 5, Padres 1

Scoreboard for Dodgers vs Padres game, including batting order and game statistics.

Angels 4, Phillies 3

Scoreboard for Angels vs Phillies game, including batting order and game statistics.

Blue Jays 3, Rays 0

Scoreboard for Blue Jays vs Rays game, including batting order and game statistics.

MLB

NL roundup

# Sanchez hits winner in 16th for Pirates

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Lengthy games don't bother Tony Sanchez. He played in the longest game in NCAA tournament history while at Boston College in 2009, the Eagles losing in 25 innings to Texas.

So it was no big deal when the Pittsburgh Pirates rookie catcher was called on to pinch-hit in the 16th inning Wednesday night.

"This was nothing compared to that," Sanchez said with a smile.

The difference between the two is, this time, in a game that took 5 hours, 55 minutes, Sanchez singled in the winning run to give the Pirates a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs — the longest game in Pittsburgh history by time.

Sanchez's hit came off Carlos Villanueva (0-2), ending the game just short of 1 a.m. and 6 minutes longer than the Pirates' 8-7, 18-inning victory over Houston on May 27, 2006, that took 5:49.

"The few fans who stayed were really loud and that got the adrenaline flowing," Sanchez said. "It was a great to be in a situation where I had the chance to win a game for the first time in my career. I was getting a little nervous when I stepped up to the plate then I realized all I had to do was put the ball in play and find a hole."

Villanueva also allowed Neil Walker's game-ending home run in the Pirates' 1-0 win Monday in the season opener.

The Cubs left 19 runners on Wednesday and have gone 1-for-27 with runners in scoring position in their first two games. Yet first-year manager Rick Renteria is remaining optimistic.

"We did everything we could possibly do," Renteria said. "The guys kept coming back and that's a good sign for all of us. As



KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

The Pirates' Tony Sanchez, center, is greeted by teammates Starling Marte, top, Russell Martin, right, and Andrew McCutchen after driving in the game-winning run in the 16th against the Cubs early Thursday in Pittsburgh. The Pirates won 4-3.

long as we keep going out there and playing the way we're playing right now, good things are bound to happen."

Both teams scored in the 12th inning as the Cubs' Anthony Rizzo hit a leadoff home run and the Pirates' Starling Marte had an RBI single with two outs off closer Jose Veras.

The Cubs ended a streak of 16 scoreless innings to start the season by scoring single runs in the eighth and ninth innings to force extra innings.

**Braves 1, Brewers 0:** Pitchers Aaron

Harang and Matt Garza had no-hit bids until Chris Johnson homered with two outs in the seventh inning for host Atlanta.

Harang (1-0) didn't allow a hit until Logan Schafer grounded a single leading off the bottom of the seventh.

**Nationals 5, Mets 1:** Gio Gonzalez homered in his first start for the second straight season and pitched three-hit ball to lead visiting Washington.

Ian Desmond also went deep and Jayson Werth had four hits for the Nationals, who followed up their 10-inning comeback on

Opening Day with a more routine victory against one of Gonzalez's favorite foes. The left-hander struck out six and walked one in six comfortable innings, improving to 6-0 in his last seven starts against New York.

**Rockies 6, Marlins 5:** Jordan Pacheco had three hits and Jordan Lyles won in his debut as Colorado held on to beat host Miami for its first win of the season.

Charlie Blackmon and Michael Cuddyer each had two hits and an RBI for Colorado, which lost the first two games of the season-opening series.

**Reds 1, Cardinals 0:** Chris Heisey's single in the bottom of the ninth inning ended his team's record scoreless streak to open a season and sent host Cincinnati to a victory over the Cardinals following a long rain delay.

The Reds were the last team in the majors to score a run this season. Heisey's hit broke an 0-for-11 slump with runners in scoring position.

**Dodgers 5, Padres 1:** Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run double in the first inning and Dan Haren pitched six strong innings to lead visiting Los Angeles.

Haren retired the first nine batters before Everth Cabrera singled to center leading off the fourth and eventually scored on Yonder Alonso's one-out single to right.

**Giants 2, Diamondbacks 0:** Tim Lincecum allowed three hits while working into the eighth inning in his first start for host San Francisco.

Hudson (1-0) was making his first start since July 24 after fracturing his right ankle against the Mets while pitching for the Braves. The veteran right-hander had four strikeouts and no walks, and had Arizona hitters pounding the ball into the ground.

SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 28

Pirates 4, Cubs 3 (16)

Chicago	ab	r	h	bi	Pittsburgh	ab	r	h	bi
Bonifac 2b-ss	7	1	5	0	Marte lf	6	1	2	1
Rubio 1b	3	0	2	0	Schiller 1b	4	0	1	0
Scatso ss	6	0	0	0	JGomez p	0	0	0	0
Schiltz p	0	0	0	0	Veras p	0	0	0	0
Veras p	0	0	0	0	Pimentel p	0	0	0	0
T.Wood ph	1	0	0	0	TSanchez ph	1	0	1	0
Wright p	1	0	0	0	Walker 1b	4	0	1	0
JoKarr ph	1	0	0	0	PAWalker 3b	7	0	1	0
Wright p	0	0	0	0	Rizzo 1b	5	1	1	0
Rizzo 1b	5	1	1	0	NWalker 2b	6	1	1	0
Schiltz lf	6	0	2	1	Ishikawa 1b	3	0	0	0
Sweeney cf	4	0	0	0	Barnes p	2	1	1	0
Castillo c	8	0	1	0	Mercer ss	5	0	2	1
Castillo c	0	0	0	0	Kallis p	0	0	0	0
Lake ph-lf	5	1	2	0	Watson p	0	0	0	0
Eaton ph	1	0	0	0	Griffin p	0	0	0	0
Russell p	1	0	0	0	Melncp p	0	0	0	0
Ruggin ph	1	0	0	0	Griffin p	0	0	0	0
Elston p	0	0	0	0	Strop p	0	0	0	0
Russell p	0	0	0	0	Strop p	0	0	0	0
Ruggin ph	1	0	0	0	Thabata-ph-rf	3	1	0	0
Elston p	0	0	0	0	Hendri p	0	0	0	0
Russell p	0	0	0	0	Hendri p	0	0	0	0
Ruggin ph	1	0	0	0	Hendri p	0	0	0	0
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## NCAA TOURNAMENT: FINAL FOUR

## Did you know

This is the third trip to the Final Four for Wisconsin. The Badgers won it all in 1941, but had to wait 59 years before returning to the Final Four in 2000.

SOURCE: The Associated Press



ROBERT GAUTHIER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/NCT

Wisconsin junior center Frank Kaminsky, middle, blocks the shot of Baylor's Isaiah Austin during the first half of their West Region semifinal in the NCAA Tournament at the Honda Center in Anaheim, Calif., on March 27.

# Kaminsky tall task for Cats

BY GARY B. GRAVES  
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky.

**K**entucky faces a Texas-sized task defending Wisconsin 7-footer Frank Kaminsky, and not just because he's the tallest player the Wildcats have faced in the NCAA tournament.

The Wisconsin junior's ability to score inside and outside forces the Wildcats (28-10) to keep a body on him near the basket and deny on the perimeter.

Increasing the challenge for Kentucky's frontcourt is the absence of 7-footer Willie Cauley-Stein, who's sidelined by an ankle injury. With Cauley-Stein out, Kentucky will turn to 7-0 freshman center Dakari Johnson — who has developed into an inside presence during the postseason — and Marcus Lee.

Still, nothing the Wildcats have seen matches the threat posed by Kaminsky, named the West Region's most outstanding player after his 28-point, 11-rebound performance in Saturday's overtime win against Arizona.

Even Kentucky coach John Calipari had to ponder his answer to the first question at Tuesday's media session — about Kaminsky.

"Oooh... tough matchup for us," he said. "Really skilled.... He's going to be a handful. Wish we had Willie."

That's because of how the 234-pound Kaminsky quietly positions himself to score from all over the floor for Wisconsin (30-7). He has a sleepy-eyed look, laid-back demeanor and doesn't appear to be that mobile.

Johnson said he isn't fooled.

"We're going to have to play him as a whole team," Johnson said Tuesday. "He may not be as smooth, but he's faster than he looks. We really have to do a great defensive job against him, not just individually but as a team."

Kaminsky fits perfectly in Wisconsin's deliberate offensive scheme, where he creates multiple dangers for defenders. Besides using his size near the rim for rebounds and second-chance baskets, he can slip out beyond the arc and burn teams who fail to account for him.

Against Arizona, Kaminsky made 3 of 5 long-range attempts and 11 of 20 from the field in the regional final.

Calipari said Kentucky will miss Cauley-Stein's versatility with his ability to protect the rim and defend outside. He believes Johnson and Lee are up to the challenge of slowing down Kaminsky because of how both have played in the tournament.

Johnson has 23 points and nine rebounds the past two games. Lee came off the bench in Sunday's Midwest Region final against Michigan and had 10 points and eight rebounds in 15 minutes.

Their efforts helped Kentucky reach the Final Four. To get to the title game, Johnson, Lee and Julius Randle must contain Kaminsky while keeping an eye on his Badgers teammates.

"We just have to go out and play like we always do, just defend hard," Lee said. "We can't just one focus on one player because it's the team, not one player that can win."

Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan is driving a similar point home to his players when it comes to Kentucky's talented freshmen. The Wildcats' length, quickness and ability present matchup issues for his Badgers.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT: FINAL FOUR

## Contrast name of the game at Final Four

By JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

Florida coach Billy Donovan has his hands full preparing for Shabazz Napier and Connecticut in the Final Four, yet couldn't help but look across at the other side of the bracket.

Kentucky, with its waves of athletic freshmen against defensive and deliberate Wisconsin, yeah, that's going to be interesting to watch — even for a coach with more pressing things on his mind.

"It should be a great game," Donovan said during a conference call with the Final Four coaches on Monday. "Two, I think in a lot of ways, contrasting styles."

Contrast. This year's Final Four is full of it.

Kentucky has relied almost entirely on freshmen (again), while Florida followed a road paved by seniors.

The Gators' middle is muscular, anchored by lane bully Patric Young. Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky is a 7-footer who is just as comfortable on the three-point line as he is on the low block.

The Badgers' shot clock is more like an hour glass, offensive spacing and precision cutting setting up the perfect shot. The athletic Wildcats barge their way past opponents, getting out on the break or flying in for rebound slams.

Even the coaches have divergent paths: Donovan and Kentucky's John Calipari are Final Four regulars; UConn's Kevin Ollie and Wisconsin's Bo Ryan have crashed the party for the first time.

The 66-year-old Ryan is finally in the Final Four after so many near-misses, but the final version of the big stage before after taking Wisconsin-Platteville to four national championships before moving on to Madison.

Ollie has never been this far; he's only been a head coach for two seasons and the Huskies weren't eligible for the NCAA tournament a year ago. He does have plenty of experience, though, playing for 11



Clockwise from top left, Kentucky coach John Calipari, Wisconsin coach Bo Ryan, Connecticut coach Kevin Ollie, and Florida's Billy Donovan guide a diverse group of teams into this year's Final Four.

teams during 13 NBA seasons before ending up in Storrs.

"I always prided myself as being a coach on the court," Ollie said. "I didn't really pride myself to looking over at the coach for the play. I wanted to be the extension of the coach so he didn't have to call the play."

The contrast in big men runs the spectrum in this year's Final Four.

Florida's Young is built like a 6-foot-9 bodybuilder, using his strength to bull op-

ponents out of the lane and get to the rim. Kentucky's Julius Randle is of a similar barge-past-them mold, though with more of a face-up game, and UConn go-to big man DeAndre Daniels can shoot, slash and soar.

On the far end of the big-man spectrum is Kaminsky. A lanky 7-footer, he uses his height to score around the basket, but also has good shooting touch from the arc and an ability to find gaps in the opposing team's perimeter defense.

"Kaminsky for them is a unique player just in the fact that with his size, he can step away from the basket and shoot threes, he obviously can post up and score around the basket," Donovan said.

The range in experience couldn't be any wider between Kentucky and Florida.

The Gators are the most seasoned team left, led by seniors Young, Scottie Wilbekin, Casey Prather and Will Yegute. Those four alone had played nearly 400 combined games before Kentucky's freshmen had played one on the college level.

But the start-en-young mindset is nothing new in Lexington.

Calipari already perfected the ring-and-one, earning a national championship in 2012 behind Anthony Davis and his talented freshmen cohorts. After some shaky stretches during the regular season, Coach Cal has guided another group of young Cats — seven freshmen in the top eight of the rotation — into the Final Four.

Now, about that matchup of Badgers and Wildcats in North Texas on Saturday.

Kentucky's Wildcats are thoroughbreds, athletic players who seem to rotate in like it's a hockey game.

Wisconsin ... is ... more ... deliberate. The Badgers work their offense like a precision craftsman, screening and cutting and spacing themselves perfectly to get the best possible shot, whether it's in the lane or beyond the arc, where just about everyone on the roster can hit from.

Defense has been a priority at Wisconsin since Ryan first arrived in Madison and little has changed in the 12 years since — other than the frustration level of teams trying to score against the Badgers.

"We are who we are right now, we're not changing," Ryan said. "They're who they are right now. Whatever people want to say about styles and all that, I leave that up to them. I've never gotten caught up in that kind of a conversation."

With so many contrasts — styles, players, coaches — there's plenty to talk about.

## 'D': List of national champions is littered with great defensive teams

## FROM BACK PAGE

Florida is the best defensive team in the country, allowing just 88.5 points per 100 possessions, according to the analytics of KenPom.com. The Gators can be downright dominant on the defensive end, swarming ball-handlers and luring shooters into a false sense of security before rising up to swat shots back in their faces.

Defense has been a cornerstone for Bo Ryan since he won four national championships at Division III Wisconsin-Platteville and it's been the calling card — along with that ultra-patient offense — since he arrived at Madison. The Badgers are fundamental and fierce, allowing about 56 points per game to NCAA opponents — nearly eight less than before the tournament.

For all the flash of Kentucky's fabulous freshmen, these young Cats can get after you on D. Kentucky's latest one-and-done lineup is filled with long, athletic players who can harass on the perimeter and guard the rim — 10th nationally with 6.1 blocked shots per game — like few teams in college basketball.



Florida (36-2)  
vs. Connecticut (30-8)

AFN-Sports  
Midnight Saturday CET  
7 a.m. Sunday JKT



Wisconsin (30-7)  
vs. Kentucky (28-10)

AFN-Sports  
2:30 a.m. Sunday CET  
9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

comes to defense. Ryan Boatright has become a point-guard stopper — he had four steals and helped limit Michigan State's Keith Appling to two points in the East Region final — and UConn seems to have an entire roster of rim protectors, ranking 16th nationally with 5.8 blocked shots per game. "We are predators out there," UConn coach Kevin Ollie said.

In most years, the high-scoring teams often get the attention, whether it was Florida Gulf Coast's Dunk City a year ago or back to Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma of the early 1980s.

What usually happens at the finish? The best defensive teams end up with the hardware.

Louisville rode its swarming, chaos-inducing defense to a title last season.

The year before that, Anthony Davis and Kentucky's shot-swating young Cats set an NCAA record with 335 blocked shots on their way to the national championship.

In 2011: Connecticut 53, Butler 41.

Great defensive teams litter the list of national champions throughout history, too.

UNLV ran its wrecking crew through the bracket in 1990. North Carolina State and Georgetown let the air out of Phi Slamma Jamma in consecutive title games. Indiana played superb team defense during the last perfect season in 1976. Len Elcindor and Bill Walton anchored the UCLA teams that ran off 10 titles in 12 years.

Go all the way back to the 1950s and the San Francisco teams that won consecutive championships had a young Bill Russell dominating the middle before he went on to do the same thing for the Boston Celtics.

"In the NBA, it always seems to come down to the teams that play the best defense and it's no different in college basketball," Arizona State associate head coach Eric Musselman said. "At the end of the day, no matter how well you score, you've got to be able to stop people."

The Final Four teams have proven they can do it so far in the tournament.

Wisconsin opened the NCAA tournament by holding American to 35 points and reached the Final Four by preventing Arizona

from getting off a potential game-winning shot before the buzzer sounded in overtime.

Kentucky held Kansas State to 49 points in its NCAA opener and held Michigan State to nearly 4½ minutes of a three-point Midwest Region final victory that sent the Wildcats to the Final Four for the third time in four seasons.

UConn went toe-to-toe with one of the nation's best defensive teams in the East Region final, holding Michigan State to 39 percent shooting and two field goals — one at the buzzer after the game was decided — over the final 5 minutes.

Florida is the third team in NCAA tournament history to win four games by double digits and hold opponents under 70 points per game en route to the Final Four, limiting teams to an average of 55 points per game.

"We just take so much pride into being able to disrupt the team and being able to lock down guys," Florida forward Patric Young said.

So do the other three teams, a big reason why they're all together in North Texas.

And for all the hype heaped on Connecticut's Shabazz Napier, the Huskies are pretty husky when it

## SPORTS



## Playoff bound

Washington wraps up its first berth since '08 | Page 26

## BIG D

Last teams standing are all bringing shutdown defenses to Texas



BY JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

**W**ay back at the start of the season, amid all the whistles and fouls, defensive-minded teams appeared to be in trouble, a seemingly dying breed hamstringing by the NCAA's new hands-free rules.

As the season progressed, the top coaches and teams adjusted to the changes and found ways around the impediments.

Now, after all the increases in scoring and shooting percentages and offensive flow, the season has come down to a Final Four of teams held together by a common thread: shutdown defenses.

"In general, it's like most sports: Defense wins championships," said Bill Frieder, a longtime coach and TV/radio analyst.

"You still need to score, but basically when it gets right down to it, you have to make stops. The teams that can make a stop or two back to back are the teams that advance."

The teams remaining in this wild ride of an NCAA tournament earned a trip to North Texas this weekend because they can do just that.

SEE 'D' ON PAGE 31

Florida's Chris Walker blocks a shot by UCLA guard Norman Powell during the first half in a regional semifinal game on March 27 in Memphis, Tenn.

JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

**Inside:** ■ Florida, UConn, Wisconsin, Kentucky provide a study in contrasts, Page 31

■ Badgers' Kaminsky promises to be a handful on inside and outside for Wildcats, Page 30