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STARS AND STRIPES®

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MIDEAST EDITION

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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas



JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Afghans cheer at a rally for presidential candidate Ashraf Ghani in Kabul. Such rallies often attracted thousands in the larger cities, while in rural areas, security fears were expected to keep many would-be voters at home.

Chancing it for change

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

Afghan voters face election with hope, fear

KABUL — Afghans are facing Saturday's pivotal presidential election with both hope and fear.

Following a series of high-profile attacks ahead of the election, the Taliban have threatened to target polling centers, election workers and voters. The insurgents have also launched a campaign of intimidation that has some Afghans — particularly in rural areas where there is still heavy Taliban influence — vowing to stay home.

 **Ballot**
in the
balance

 **Online**

For election coverage, visit
stripes.com/afghanistan

But others, especially in better-protected towns and cities, are adamant that this election — the first democratic transfer of power in the country's history — marks an opportunity to steer the

war-weary country toward a more prosperous and peaceful future.

"If our country wants to go toward better democracy, then the vote of a single Afghan is very important, and I think that is why my vote is crucial," said Hamid, a 24-year-old student who attended a rally for Abdullah Abdullah, one of the front-runners, in Panjshir, northeast of Kabul earlier in the week. "If we defended our country yesterday by guns, we can save our country today by votes. So that's why I'm here."

SEE ELECTION ON PAGE 3

Fort Hood investigation focuses on mental health

By WILL WEISSERT
AND PAUL J. WEBER
The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Unstable mental health may be a "fundamental, underlying cause" of a soldier's shooting rampage at Fort Hood that left four people dead, though an argument with another servicemember likely preceded the attack, according to investigators.

Spc. Ivan Lopez turned his gun on himself after killing three people and wounding 16 others Wednesday at the sprawling Texas military base, where more than a dozen people were fatally shot by a soldier in 2009. An Army truck driver from Puerto Rico, Lopez was undergoing treatment for depression and anxiety while being evaluated for post-traumatic stress disorder, base officials said.



Lt. Gen. Mark Milley, senior officer at the nation's largest Army base, said there was a "strong indication" that Lopez was involved in a verbal altercation shortly before the shooting, though it doesn't appear he targeted specific soldiers during the attack. Investigators also are focusing on his mental health.

"We have very strong evidence that he had a medical history that indicates unstable psychiatric or psychological condition," Milley said. "We believe that to be a fundamental, underlying cause."

SEE HEALTH ON PAGE 4

Fort Hood officials said there was a "strong indication" that Spc. Ivan Lopez was involved in a verbal altercation shortly before the shooting.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm constantly Col. Newby's kid. I can't wait until he retires, so maybe that will stop some."

—Jordan Newby, who is one of several sons and daughters serving beside a parent in the Maryland National Guard.

See story on Page 11

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Science & Medicine

What women want on the dance floor, according to science



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MILITARY

Pendleton Marines leave for Australia

By Jennifer Hlad Stars and Stripes

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — About 300 Marines gathered on the parade deck at Camp San Mateo on Tuesday, lining up their sea bags on the tarmac and holding loved ones close as a gray, rainy morning turned into a bright, blustery day.

The group was the first of three waves from 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment — which uses the Camp San Mateo area of Pendleton — to leave for the unit's six-month deployment to Australia's Northern Territory. The 1,000-man battalion will be joined by about 100 Marines and four helicopters from a Hawaii-based unit to form the largest rotational deployment of Marines in Australia to date.

Mariah Singleton cuddled her baby boy, Cameron, as her husband went to the armory and finished last-minute tasks. This will be Cpl. Jason Singleton's second deployment, and his wife said she thinks it will be harder than the first.

"I know how much I'm going to miss him," she said.

Singleton had hoped her husband would be here for their son's first birthday next weekend; he missed most of her pregnancy and Cameron's birth. Still, she said, "I'm glad they're going somewhere safe."

Two groups of about 200 Marines each have deployed to Australia since President Barack Obama and then-Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the rotational deployment plan in November 2011; 1/5 is the first full Marine battalion to deploy Down Under.

During the six-month tour, the Marines will live and train with Australian soldiers and do community outreach in an effort to deepen defense ties and improve interoperability, Marines said. The unit also will do a training exercise with forces from New Zealand, and the Marines are ready to deploy elsewhere if necessary, said Lt. Col. Keven Matthews, commanding officer of 1/5.

Rotational deployments to Australia are part of the U.S.'s much-touted pivot to the Pacific. The Marines will build up to an air-



Above: Marines load their bags onto trucks Tuesday morning at Camp Pendleton, Calif., as they prepare to leave for a six-month deployment to Australia.

Left: Cpl. Jason Singleton hoists his son, Cameron, in the air as he prepares to leave Camp Pendleton, Calif.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes



excited to go, though the deployment came a little sooner than he and his new bride, Kaylin Bower, expected.

The couple was married Feb. 15 and recently got a gray-eyed puppy, Flora, that Kaylin hopes will help keep her busy while her husband is gone.

"I think when your spouse deploys, it's one of the hardest things you can go through," she said. "Thank goodness it's Australia."

Lance Cpl. Julio Argueta, like the other Marines, said he was feeling pretty good about the deployment. Many of the members of the battalion — including Argueta, Singleton and Buzard — did a rotational deployment to Okinawa last year with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Australia will be "something new," Argueta said.

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ground task force of 2,500 deploying to Australia by 2015, Marines have said.

Cpl. Russadell Buzard said he was "really excited" to deploy to the Northern Territory and experience some of the Australian culture. Pfc. Nicholas Bower also said he was

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MIDEAST

Photographer slain, reporter hurt in attack

By KIM GAMEL

The Associated Press

KABUL — An Afghan police commander opened fire Friday on two Associated Press journalists inside a security forces base in eastern Afghanistan, killing prize-winning photographer Anja Niedringhaus and wounding veteran correspondent Kathy Gannon.

Niedringhaus, 48, who had covered conflict zones from the Balkans in the 1990s to Iraq, Libya and Afghanistan and was part of a team of AP photographers who won the Pulitzer Prize in 2005, died instantly of her wounds.

Gannon, who for many years was the news organization's Afghanistan bureau chief and currently is a special correspondent for the region, was shot three times in the wrists and shoulder. After surgery, she was in stable condition and spoke to medical personnel before being flown to Kabul.

"Anja was a vibrant, dynamic journalist well-loved for her insightful photographs, her warm heart and joy for life. We are heartbroken at her loss," said AP

Executive Editor Kathleen Carroll, speaking in New York.

Niedringhaus and Gannon worked together repeatedly in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion, covering the conflict from some of the most dangerous hotspots of the Taliban insurgency. They often focused on the war's impact on Afghan civilians — and they embedded several times with Afghan police and military, reporting on their determination to build up their often under-equipped forces to face the fight with militants. Gannon also knows several leading Taliban well, and was one of the few Western reporters allowed into Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule in the 1990s.

The attack came on the eve of Afghanistan's elections for a new president and provincial councils. The Taliban have vowed to disrupt the voting and have stepped up violence in recent weeks, including increased attacks on civilian targets in Kabul and the killings of a Swedish journalist and Afghan journalist for the French news agency Agence France-Presse.

But Friday's attack was par-



WALTER BIERI, KEYSTONE/AP

Associated Press photographer Anja Niedringhaus, right, and AP journalist Kathy Gannon in Zurich in 2013. Niedringhaus, 48, was killed and Gannon was wounded Friday when an Afghan policeman opened fire on them as they sat in their car in eastern Afghanistan.

ticularly startling because it came as an insider shooting by a member of the Afghan security forces — and took place in a security forces base, located in the eastern city of Khost. It was the first known instance of an insider

attack on journalists.

Niedringhaus and Gannon were traveling Friday in a convoy of election workers delivering ballots from the center of Khost city to the outskirts, in Tani district. The convoy was protected by Af-

ghan security forces. They were in their own car with a translator and an AP Television News freelancer.

They had arrived in the heavily guarded district compound and were waiting for the convoy to move, said the freelancer, who witnessed the shooting.

A unit commander named Nagibullah walked up to the car, yelled "Allahu Akbar" — God is great — and opened fire on them in the backseat with his AK-47, the freelancer said. The officer then surrendered to the other police and was arrested.

There have been repeated instances in recent years of Afghan police or military personnel opening fire on and killing international troops working with the country's security forces. The attackers are usually either suspected Taliban infiltrators or Afghans who have come to oppose the foreign presence in the country.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied responsibility for the attack.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai expressed his deep sadness over Niedringhaus' death and the wounding of Gannon.

Election: Cities see rallies for candidates; fear of violence grips rural areas

FROM FRONT PAGE

The election comes at a critical time for Afghanistan. NATO's military coalition is planning to withdraw its combat troops by the end of the year and insurgent groups led by the Taliban remain an intractable presence.

President Hamid Karzai is barred from running again, opening the door for fresh leadership regardless of which of the eight candidates succeeds him.

In Afghanistan's cities, campaign rallies by the major contenders often have attracted massive crowds celebrating, cheering and jostling for a chance to see their favorite candidates.

Messages of defiance make the rounds on social media as many Afghans with access to modern technology say they refuse to be intimidated by threats of violence. And many Afghans' enthusiasm has not been dampened by concerns that rampant corruption could skew the result.

At a rally for another leading contender, Ashraf Ghani, in Kabul this week, hundreds of unveiled Afghan women joined the crowd, contrasting with the bloody history of the stadium where the event was held, which was once known for hosting public executions under the Taliban.

Even in the traditionally violent southern province of Helmand, where coalition and Afghan troops have fought a long and bloody war against the Taliban, many Afghans say they are ready to face the risks, asserted Habiba Sadat, a member of parliament from the province.

"We are not afraid of their threats," she told Stars and



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan election workers carry ballot boxes and election materials on donkeys to deliver to polling stations Friday in Dara-e-Noor district of Jalalabad, east of Kabul. Elections will take place Saturday.

Stripes by phone. She predicted that many more women would participate in Saturday's election than in 2009.

Still, even optimists like Sadat acknowledge that Taliban intimidation and the threat of violence mean many Afghans in more rural areas will not cast votes.

The risks also make cooperation in those areas more likely as observers are less able to monitor the polling stations.

"Each and every center and worker of these elections is in

peril and wide range attacks are to be launched throughout the country," the Taliban said in a statement released Thursday online. "Therefore, if anyone tries to participate in these elections and consequently he is harmed, he himself will be held responsible for it."

Although the Taliban so far have failed to achieve their goal of fully disrupting the election, a rash of violence in recent months has led to a siege mentality in Afghanistan's capital, where all

the main highways running into and out of the city have been shut down. They will reopen only after the election.

Elsewhere in the country, Afghan security officials say they have dispatched 60,000 additional troops to secure polling areas. "We are completely ready to secure the election," Defense Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi said at news conference this week.

That provides little comfort to Afghans in the most rural and

dangerous areas.

In the Shultan Valley of Kunar province, a dangerous area on the border with Pakistan, members of the Taliban have been leaving letters at mosques threatening citizens who may decide to participate in the election, said a resident who asked to be identified only as Awalkhan for his own security. Imams at those mosques have been reading the Taliban threats to their audiences, he added.

"People are really worried about the security of the election," Awalkhan told Stars and Stripes by phone. "No one feels safe to even tell relatives if they plan to vote."

While some candidates have offered rides to take people to safer locations to vote, Awalkhan said that doesn't help if the Taliban discover that someone has voted.

Mohammad Asif, a resident of Urzgun province, expressed the mix of fear, defiance and hope that will mark the elections. He said he had moved his family to the provincial capital of Tarin Kowt during the election because of Taliban threats, but that he plans to vote.

"There is tension in our area," he said. "The Taliban are very strong there, so we came to Tarin Kowt for safety and to freely vote during the election."

Zubair Babarkhail contributed to this report. smith.josh@stripes.com [Twitter://joshjonsmith](https://twitter.com/joshjonsmith)

FORT HOOD SHOOTINGS



ERIC GAY/AP



(DEBORAH CANNON, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/MCT

Above: Dr. Matthew Davis, the trauma program director at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple, Texas, talks about the condition of the victims in the Fort Hood shooting on Thursday. Above left: Soldiers listen in the wings at Lt. Gen. Mark Milley addresses the media during a news conference at the base's main gate Wednesday.

Details emerge about shooting victims

Stars and Stripes

As the Fort Hood, Texas, community comes to terms with the deaths of friends and colleagues in Wednesday's shootings, information began to emerge about some of the victims.

Sgt. 1st Class Danny Ferguson: One of the three soldiers killed in the rampage died while trying to hold a door shut that would have led the gunman to a room packed with military personnel, his fiancée said.

Ferguson, a native of Mulberry, Fla., who had just returned from Afghanistan, died while trying to keep the shooter out of the room. Kristen Haley, also a soldier, told WTSP-TV.

"He held that door shut because it wouldn't lock," Haley, who was nearby when the shooting broke out, told the Tampa TV station. "It seems the doors would be bullet-proof, but apparently they're not. If he wasn't the one standing there holding those doors closed, that shooter would have been able to get through and shoot everyone else."

Sgt. Timothy Owens: Family members told The Associated Press that one of the victims was Owens, a native of Effingham, Ill.

Owens' cousin Glen Welton, also of Effingham, said Owens grew up with military dreams.

"He was one of those kids who wanted to wear camouflage and wanted to wear bomber jackets and sunglasses," said Welton, himself a National Guard veteran of Iraq.

Owens' mother, Mary Muntean, 77, of Effingham, learned of her son's death in a particularly heart-breaking manner.

Just two weeks earlier, she had been reunited with a daughter she gave up for adoption at birth. She told the AP that she was still celebrating when she got a call telling her that her son had been killed Wednesday in the attack. "She finds one child and loses

Health: Neighbor describes Lopez as 'friendly'

FROM FRONT PAGE

Lopez, 34, had reported to medical personnel that he had suffered a traumatic brain injury. He had served four months in Iraq but saw no combat, and he previously had demonstrated no apparent risk of violence.

He seemed to have a clean record that showed no ties to potential terrorists, though military officials said the investigation was ongoing.

"We're not making any assumptions by that. We're going to keep an open mind and an open investigation," Army Secretary John McHugh said Thursday in Washington, explaining that "possible extremist involvement is still being looked at very, very carefully."

Three people who were critically injured in the attack improved to fair condition Friday at Scott & White Memorial Hospital in Temple. A fourth victim was expected to be released later in the day. At the military's request, the hospital said, it would not make the wounded or their families available for media interviews.

Investigators searched Lopez's home on Thursday and questioned his wife, who declined to comment in Spanish when reached by phone by The Associated Press.

Lopez walked into a base building around 4 p.m. Wednesday and began firing a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol. He then got into a vehicle and continued shooting before entering another building on the Army post. He eventually was confronted by military police in a parking lot, Milley said.

As he came within 20 feet of a police officer, the gunman put his hands up but then reached under his jacket and pulled out his gun. The officer drew her own weapon, and the suspect put his gun to his head and pulled the trigger a final time, Milley said.

The base's commander praised the actions of

the female police officer but declined to release her name.

Milley also said authorities were first alerted to the rampage when two soldiers who had been shot managed to dial 911, and that a base chaplain shielded soldiers with his own body before smashing window glass to allow them to flee the area.

Lopez bought the weapon he used in the attack at Guns Galore in Killen — the same store, just off the base, where Army psychiatrist Nidal Hasan purchased an FN 5-7 tactical pistol that he used it to kill 13 people and wound more than 30 others in a November 2009 shooting on the base.

After that assault, which marked the deadliest attack on a domestic military installation in U.S. history, the military tightened base security nationwide.

Lopez grew up in Guayanilla, a town of fewer than 10,000 people on the southwestern coast of Puerto Rico, with a mother who was a nurse at a public clinic and a father who did maintenance for an electric utility company.

Glidden Lopez Torres, who said he was a friend speaking for the family, said Lopez's mother died of a heart attack in November.

Lopez joined the island's National Guard in 1999, and he served on a yearlong peacekeeping mission in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula in the mid-2000s. He enlisted with the Army in 2008, and arrived at Fort Hood in February from Fort Bliss, a Texas post near the Mexico border.

Suzie Miller, 71, a property manager who lived in the same Killen apartment complex as Lopez, said few people knew him and his wife well because they had just moved in a few weeks ago.

"I'd see him in his uniform heading out to the car every morning," Miller said. "He was friendly to me and a lot of us around here."

Andrew Cuomo identified one of the wounded as Maj. Patrick Miller, an Iraq War veteran from Allegany County in western New York.

Cuomo told The New York Times that Miller joined the Army after graduating in 2003.

He was shot in the abdomen, according to relatives, and is in stable condition.

Miller was deployed to Iraq for the first time in March 2004 for a year. He was then a second lieutenant and the commander of

“He’s assured me he’s OK, but until I get a visual and say, ‘OK, you’re OK,’ he’s not OK.”

Renee Powell wife of wounded Sgt. Jonathan Westbrook

of a platoon of medics that included Army Spc. Jude Uchendu. "He worked hard," said Uchendu, who left the military in 2009. "He was always out there for his soldiers, and a good leader, too."

Miller earned master's degrees in business and public administration from Syracuse University in 2009, according to his Facebook page.

In New Orleans, Renee Powell Westbrook identified another of the wounded as her husband, Sgt. Jonathan Westbrook.

Westbrook told the AP that her husband's injuries do not appear to be life-threatening and that the Army would fly her to Texas on Friday.

"He's assured me he's OK, but until I get a visual and say, 'OK, you're OK,' he's not OK," she said. "They train them to downplay things."

another," said Betty Goodwin, Muntean's niece.

Carlos Lazaney: El Nuevo Dia, a newspaper in Puerto Rico, identified another of the victims as Lazaney, 38, a Puerto Rico native who lived in Tampa, Fla.

Little is known about Lazaney as yet; no rank has been published.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser noted that he had been stationed in Hawaii at Schofield Barracks.

He had served as a supply sergeant with the 57th Military Police

Company, 728th Military Police Battalion at Schofield Barracks, said Joshua Adams, who served in the same company.

The Army has not yet confirmed the names of the slain soldiers. Meanwhile, in New York, Gov.

MILITARY

Lawmaker warns Pentagon on base closures

Stars and Stripes

Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin on Thursday warned the Army not to try to bypass Congress to close bases, according to political website The Hill.

Levin, D-Mich., said that any attempt to circumvent Congress would set back an already tenuous Base Realignment and Closure commission process "by many, many years," according to

the report.

"If our Army or any of the other services proposes something in the budget which is not compliant with the BRAC process, in other words front-running the BRAC process, it will be will be triply difficult to get a BRAC process going," Levin told Army Secretary John McHugh at an Armed Services Committee hearing.

The Pentagon for a third year in a row has proposed a new round of base closures in 2017. Defense

officials say the Pentagon already has 25 percent excess capacity and the military will continue to get smaller.

But Congress once again signaled that it has no intention of approving new closures, which are politically unpopular in Congress because any district that loses a base often takes a significant economic hit.

This year, Pentagon officials have suggested they have the authority to close bases on their own

and don't necessarily have to go through BRAC to do so.

"If we don't get authorizations for BRAC 2017, you might see some bases listed in the budget request for 2016," Assistant Army Secretary for Installations Katherine Hammack said Wednesday. "Because at this point in time, I don't have the money to run the bases the way they should be run. "And it is not appropriate due diligence on my part to continue in this manner," Hammack added.

"If I can't run the buildings appropriately, if I can't appropriately support soldiers, then I am going to have to do something to ensure that I am not spreading an ever-thin budget across a base that I can't afford."

McHugh, who is a former congressman, said base closures would only occur with congressional authorization of a new BRAC round, although he did also note "certain flexibilities" the military had to reduce excess facilities.



Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

An F-35 Joint Strike Fighter test aircraft flies over Fort Worth, Texas.

F-35's operating expense estimate to decline, weapons-buying official says

By TONY CAPACIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will decrease its \$1.1 trillion estimate for the cost of supporting Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter jet over a 55-year lifespan, the top U.S. weapons buyer said Thursday.

"It will drop to a number that's not trivial but is not as much" a reduction "as I would like," Frank Kendall, the Defense Department's undersecretary for acquisition, said at a Bloomberg Government breakfast in Washington.

While debate over the aircraft, the costliest U.S. weapons system, has focused mostly on the price to develop and build the fighter, Pentagon agencies also have disputed its long-term operating costs, from spare parts to repairs.

Kendall declined to elaborate on the reduced 55-year estimate by the department's independent cost-assessment office, which will be released later this month

in its next unclassified Selected Acquisition Report. Until then, the official projection is the \$1.1 trillion formulated by that office three years ago.

By contrast, the Pentagon's F-35 program office estimates that the fleet will cost \$857 billion to operate and support over its lifetime.

On the separate cost of developing and producing a planned fleet of 2,443 F-35s, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in February that its projection is \$390.4 billion, as adjusted for inflation over the years the plane is produced. The Pentagon's latest estimate by the same measure is \$391.2 billion, about a 1.1 percent reduction from an earlier calculation.

That's still a 68 percent increase from a 2001 estimate the included 409 more planes.

"It's frustrating to me that eight years into production, we still have a fair amount of development to go, and I don't want people to lose focus on that," Kendall said today. Kendall has previously described

the simultaneous development and production of the F-35 as "acquisition malpractice."

Kendall said that his focus is on insuring that Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, the biggest U.S. contractor, continues to lower production costs.

Before the award of an eighth production contract, "I want to see specific progress," working with the F-35 program office to identify some milestones "that will give us an indicator of where we are."

Kendall said he also wants to see "active progress" on the next version of software the Marine Corps needs to declare operational its first F-35 models by July 2015 as well as a final version of war-fighting software. "We still have a lot of work to do," he said.

Progress on software testing and structural durability for the Marines' F-35B model "will factor into the details" on the eighth contract, which may include actions that Lockheed must complete in order to receive increased orders, he said.

DOD sends Congress \$36B budget wish list

By ROXANA TIRON
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has sent Congress a \$36 billion wish list for equipment and operations that aren't in the Pentagon's official budget for the coming fiscal year.

The list, compiled by the military services at the request of the House Armed Services Committee, was obtained Thursday by Bloomberg News. The Army sought \$10.6 billion more than the Pentagon's proposed budget for fiscal 2015, followed by the Navy's \$10 billion and the Air Force's \$8 billion.

The results may shape the next defense authorization measure, which the committee plans to start working on at the end of this month. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, the California Republican who heads the House committee, this year revived a practice that started in the mid-1990s by soliciting the "unfunded requirements" lists from the military branches.

They had become a way for the military brass to lobby their favorite programs over the heads of their civilian superiors, until then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates all but banned them.

In submitting the new list requested by McKeon, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said that he was asking for more money. "I'm not a fan of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "do not recommend funding any of these additional items" unless Congress provides more money than the total in President Barack Obama's budget plus his request for additional funds, which already has been rejected by Republican budget-writers.

The Marine Corps, which is

part of the Department of the Navy, submitted an unfunded requirements list of about \$2.5 billion, which includes five Lockheed Martin Corp. F-35C Joint Strike Fighters and one F-35 in the B variant to replace the combat loss of six Harrier aircraft.

Army highlights

- \$1.3 billion for facility upkeep and modernization;
- \$1.5 billion for base support and readiness;
- \$1.4 billion for aviation assets including 23 Boeing re-manufactured Apache helicopters, two Boeing CH-47 Chinook helicopters and 28 Sikorsky Black Hawk choppers.

Navy highlights

- Requests for aircraft spare parts;
- Increased activity at depot maintenance facilities;
- An additional 22 Boeing EA-18 G electronic attack; aircraft and three Boeing C-40 aircraft;
- \$4 million to expand the service's program using trained dolphins to detect mines;
- A request by the Navy and Marine Corps of \$15 million to research and develop a midair refueling capability for V-22 aircraft built by Boeing and Textron Inc.'s Bell Helicopter unit.

Air Force highlights

- \$153.8 million to improve its nuclear force program;
- \$200 million for combat search and rescue helicopters;
- \$372 million for 2 F-35s and 12 General Atomics MQ-9 drones.

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MILITARY

Lawmakers urge Navy to continue sale of tobacco

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are pushing back against a Navy review to potentially ban the sale of tobacco products on Navy and Marine Corps facilities, saying it violates servicemembers' "rights."

Last month, Cmdr. Tamara Lawrence, a Navy spokeswoman, confirmed Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus is taking a new look at tobacco use across the service. A Navy official, who spoke to Stars and Stripes on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on the topic, said one option on the table is banning tobacco sales on bases and ships.

Instead of making unilateral decisions that encroach on the rights and personal freedoms of our servicemen and women, Secretary Mabus should focus resources on preserving the readiness of our Navy and maintaining our national security. I will continue to work to protect the rights of our American patriots who dedicate their lives to defending our freedom, securing our homeland, and protecting our democracy," said Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C., a member of the House Agricultural Committee from one of the leading tobacco-producing states, in a news release Friday.

"The fact that a ban on sales of a legal product is even being considered is absurd and just another example of this Administration's desire to regulate an important part of our lives," Hudson said.

On Thursday, Hudson and 17 other members of Congress sent a letter to Mabus urging him to abandon the review. They said that further efforts to curb tobacco use by troops aren't important enough to justify the cost and effort.

"Given the current fiscal climate, the strain on the Navy to conduct global operations, and the impending reduction to the size of the fleet and the number of sailors and Marines, it is difficult to justify the continued focus on an issue that impacts a continually shrinking segment of the service," they said. "As we struggle to meet global challenges, we fail to see why new resources should be spent on paying for nicotine replacement therapy products instead of addressing the readiness, operations, and maintenance that have been deferred and directly impact the Navy's ability to carry out their mission."

Hudson joined Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., and Rep. Tom Rooney, R-Fla., in submitting an appropriations request to bar funding for the review or other efforts to ban tobacco sales or use

List of signatories

The following signed the letter to Navy Secretary Ray Mabus:
Rep. Richard Hudson, R-N.C.
Rep. Andy Barr, R-Ky.
Rep. Howard Coble, R-N.C.
Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C.
Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C.
Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-N.C.
Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C.
Rep. Ralph Hall, R-Texas
Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan.
Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C.
Rep. Patrick J. McHenry, R-N.C.
Rep. Mike McIntyre, D-N.C.
Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C.
Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-S.C.
Rep. Robert Pittenger, R-N.C.
Rep. Tom Rice, R-S.C.
Rep. Scott Rigell, R-Va.
Rep. Hal Rogers, R-Ky.

in the military. Other lawmakers support the Navy initiative.

"We applaud your ongoing efforts to help our sailors and Marines break nicotine addiction and avoid the lifelong health complications and deaths associated with tobacco use. We urge you to do everything in your capacity to address this issue for our military men and women, including moving forward with the proposal to stop the sale of tobacco aboard all naval bases and ships," Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., Richard Durbin, D-Ill., Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, Jack Reed, D-R.I., and Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, wrote in a March 28 letter to Mabus.

On Monday, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel suggested he would favor a ban on tobacco at all military installations.

"I don't know if there's anybody in America who still thinks tobacco is good for you," Hagel told reporters at the Pentagon in response to a question about the Navy review. "We don't allow smoking in any of our government buildings. Restaurants, states, and municipalities have pretty clear regulations on this. I think in reviewing any options that we have as to whether we in the military through commissaries [or] PXs sell or continue to sell tobacco is something we need to look at. And we are looking at it. And I think we owe it to our people," he told reporters at the Pentagon.

Hagel noted said dealing with tobacco-related health issues costs the Defense Department more than a billion dollars per year and said the human costs of smoking must be considered.

"Now the dollars are one thing. But the health of your people — I don't know if you put a price tag on that. So I think it does need to be looked at and reviewed," he said.

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PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Aerial artistry

Italy's national acrobatics flying team entertained Americans and Italians during a brief demonstration over Aviano Air Base on Friday. Freccia Tricolori is based at nearby Rivolto Air Base and performs at air shows around the world. It's become a tradition for the team to provide a brief demonstration of its abilities over Aviano. The brief demonstration with MB-339 jets included precision-flying techniques and individual maneuvers.



Asia leaders look to boost unity

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Southeast Asian defense leaders pointed to Russia's recent annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula as one example of why the Pacific nations must be more unified in the face of territorial disputes, U.S. officials said Thursday at the close of a three-day meeting.

In private sessions, the ministers talked about the ripple effects that such disputes and sovereignty violations can have and noted that there is strength in unity, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the talks publicly.

Territorial claims by China in the East and South China seas have escalated tensions in the region, rattling Pacific nations such as Singapore and Malaysia. And Beijing's recent declaration of an air defense zone over disputed is-

lands controlled by Japan in the East China Sea, and its new rules to regulate fishing in a huge portion of the South China Sea, have deepened concerns that its rise as a regional power could spark a confrontation.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel hosted the three-day gathering of the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations, largely in an effort to discuss ways the countries can better cooperate and communicate in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. Hagel told reporters Thursday that one of the ideas the group would pursue was Singapore's proposal to use its Changi Naval Base as a crisis coordina-



Hagel

tion center.

During the meeting, however, some of the ministers noted NATO's role in bringing nations together in the wake of the Crimean annexation, which has triggered economic and other sanctions against Russia. The officials said that while not all the Asian ministers agreed, the issue fueled conversations about how much the Asia Pacific nations should work together and how significant a role ASEAN should play.

Hagel later said that he told the ministers that the U.S. was "increasingly concerned about the instability arising from the territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The rights of all nations must be respected."

The Honolulu gathering was the first time the U.S. has hosted an ASEAN meeting, and Hagel called it "an important milestone" in America's effort to put more focus on the Pacific region.

Veterans see jobless rate fall in March

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added jobs at a solid pace in March and hired more in January and February than previously thought. Friday's government report sent a reassuring signal that the economy withstood a harsh winter that had slowed growth.

The economy gained 192,000 jobs in March, the Labor Department said Friday, slightly

below February's revised total of 197,000. Employers added a total of 37,000 more jobs in January and February than previously estimated.

The overall unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.7 percent. Among all veterans, the rate was 6 percent, down from 6.3 percent in February. Among veterans of the current wars, the rate dropped substantially, from 9.2 percent in February to 6.9 percent in March — the lowest since

November 2008.

A half-million Americans started looking for work last month, and most of them found jobs. The increase in job-seekers is a sign that they were more optimistic about their prospects.

"We're back to where we were before the weather got bad," said John Connally, economist at LPL Financial. "It's a nice, even report that suggests the labor market is expanding."

NATION

Buying health insurance no longer year-round

By **CONNIE CASS**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Here's more fallout from the health care law: Until now, customers could walk into an insurance office or go online to buy standard health care coverage any time of year. Not anymore.

Many people who didn't sign up during the government's open enrollment period that ended Monday will soon find it difficult or impossible to get insured this year, even if they go directly to a private company and money is no object. For some, it's already too late.

With limited exceptions, insurers are refusing to sell to individuals after the enrollment period for HealthCare.gov and the state marketplaces. They will look out the young and healthy as well as the sick or injured. Those who want to switch plans also are affected. The next wide-open chance to enroll comes in November for coverage in 2015.

It's a little-noted consequence of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul, which requires nearly all Americans to be insured or pay a fine and requires insurers to accept people with health problems.

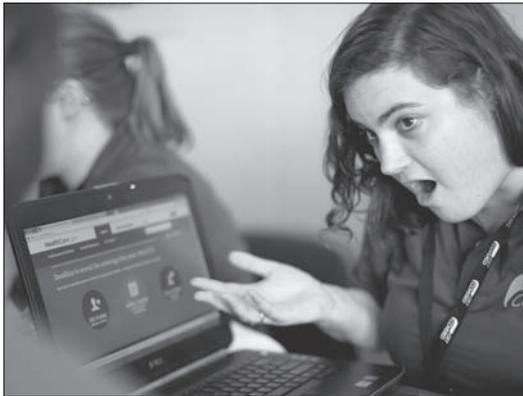
"I have people that can buy insurance, but the companies shut them down. They won't take the applications," insurance broker Steve Biobak of Frackville, Pa., said. "We're a free country. You should be able to buy anything anytime you want."

Those who act now may still be able to get in, depending on where they live. Following the lead of the government marketplaces, some companies are extending off-marketplace sales for a week or a month to help people who hit insurers trying to enroll by this week's deadline. Rules vary from state to state.

After those extensions, eligibility for coverage during 2014 is guaranteed only for people who experience certain qualifying life events, such as losing a job that provided insurance, moving to a new state, getting married, having a baby or losing coverage under a parent's health plan.

The federal law doesn't prevent companies from selling policies to everyone all year. But insurers consider it too risky now that the law prohibits them from rejecting people in poor health.

"If you didn't have an open enrollment period, you would have people who would potentially enroll when they get sick and die and enroll when they get better," said Chris Stenrud, spokesman for insurer Kaiser Permanente. "The only insured people would be sick people, which would make insurance unaffordable for everyone."



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Elizabeth Rich helps a man sign up for coverage under the Affordable Care Act at Swope Health Services in Kansas City, Mo., on Monday.

Biobak, whose NICA Benefits company helps people buy insurance in New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania, said he learned only a couple of weeks ago that insurers were cutting off new policies.

"It's lousy communication out there," he said. "If we don't know, my God, how do they expect other people to know? It's terrible."

A survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation in mid-March found that 6 out of 10 people without insurance weren't aware of the marketplace deadline on March 31. The Obama administration, insurance companies and nonprofit groups scrambled to spread the word, often with messages that focused on the cost savings available to many people through the government marketplaces.

There wasn't much public discussion about people who prefer to buy policies outside the marketplaces, sometimes finding better deals or options more to their liking.

Health and Human Services spokesman Aaron Albright pointed to a cryptic note on the HealthCare.gov website: It says "in some limited cases some insurance companies may sell private health plans outside the marketplace and outside open

enrollment" that satisfy the law's coverage mandate. It doesn't say how to find any companies doing that. Albright had no further comment.

Gary Claxton, a health law expert at the Kaiser Family Foundation, said it's "highly unlikely" that companies will offer such coverage after the deadline window fully closes. Some do still offer temporary plans, lasting from a month to a year. But those plans don't cover pre-existing conditions and don't get buyers off the hook for the law's tax penalty.

Nate Purpura, spokesman for eHealthInsurance.com, which sells policies from 200 companies across the nation, said at this point he knows of none planning to offer major medical insurance after this month, except to people with qualifying life events.

For people trying to get off-marketplace plans through an open enrollment extension, some insurers are selling them through April 15, and others through the end of the month. Purpura said eHealth will offer such plans in at least some areas of these states: Arizona, California, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Utah, Virginia and Washington state.

House GOP takes aim at health law

By **ERICA WERNER**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans renewed their election-year assault on President Barack Obama's health care law Thursday, their opposition undimmed just days after Obama celebrated news that more than 7 million Americans had signed up for coverage under the law.

The GOP-led chamber voted 248-179 to change the law's definition of full-time work from 30 hours per week to 40 hours per week. The result would be that fewer workers would get employer-sponsored health coverage and hundreds of thousands more people would be uninsured, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Republicans, backed by the Chamber of Commerce and other business groups, said the change would restore the traditional definition of full-time work while providing needed relief to businesses that are struggling with increased costs from the health care law. Businesses say they are being forced to cut worker hours, to limit full-time jobs and to drop health coverage because of the law, which requires businesses with 50 or more full-time workers to provide health coverage or to pay penalties.

It was the House GOP's 52nd vote to change, repeal or otherwise uproot Obama's health law, and the measure faced certain death in the Democratic-controlled Senate. Eighteen Democrats joined with all Republicans in approving the bill, named the Save American Workers Act of 2013.

In rancorous debate on the House floor, Democrats accused Republicans of being obsessed with attacking the health law, while Republicans ridiculed Democrats for trying to change what they called a commonly understood definition of full-time work.

Senate committee approves release of CIA torture report

By **BRADLEY KLAPPER**
AND **STEPHEN BRAUN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee has voted to release parts of a hotly contested, secret report that harshly criticizes CIA terror interrogations after 9/11, and the White House said it would instruct intelligence officials to cooperate fully.

The result sets the stage for what could be the fullest public accounting of the Bush administration's record when it comes to waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation techniques." The panel voted 11-3 Thursday

to order the declassification of almost 500 pages of the 6,300-page review, which concludes the harsh methods employed at CIA-run prisons overseas were excessively cruel and ineffective in producing valuable intelligence.

Even some Republicans who agree with the spy agency that the findings are inaccurate voted in favor of declassification, saying it was important for the country to move on.

"The purpose of this review was to uncover the facts behind the secret program and the results, I think, were shocking," Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the committee chairwoman, said.

"The report exposes brutality that stands in sharp contrast to our values as a nation. It chronicles a stain on our history that must never be allowed to happen again. This is not what Americans do."

The intelligence committee and the CIA are embroiled in a bitter dispute related to the three-year study. Senators accuse the agency of spying on their investigation and deleting files. The CIA says Senate staffers illegally accessed information. The Justice Department is reviewing competing criminal referrals.

As a result of Thursday's vote, the CIA will start scanning the

report's contents for any passages that could compromise national security. That has led to fears in the committee that a recalcitrant CIA might sanitize key elements of their investigation, and demands for President Barack Obama to ensure large parts of the report aren't blacked out.

Obama, said Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colo., should "hold onto the redaction pen, himself."

White House press secretary Jay Carney on Thursday restated Obama's support for declassifying the document and said intelligence officials would be instructed to conduct the work quickly. CIA spokesman Dean Boyd said his

agency would "carry out the review expeditiously," but suggested the process may be difficult.

The report was produced exclusively by Democratic staffers. It concludes among other things that waterboarding and other harsh techniques provided no key evidence in the hunt for Osama bin Laden, according to congressional aides and outside experts familiar with the document.

Feinstein and other senators also have cited a series of misleading claims by the CIA over the years about the effectiveness of the program, including in statements the agency made to President George W. Bush and Congress.

NATION

County considered buying up homes in mudslide area

By PHUONG LE

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A decade before a colossal landslide buried a Washington community, county officials considered buying up people's homes there to protect them from such a disaster.

A 2004 Snohomish County flood-management plan said the cost of buying Oso properties and removing residents from the path of a potential slide "would be significant, but would remove the risk to human life and structures."

But after weighing several options, the county instead recommended a project to shore up the base of the unstable hillside above the community about 55 miles north of Seattle, according to documents first reported by The Seattle Times.

A huge log wall was eventually built to reduce landslide and flood risks. But it wasn't enough to hold back the square mile of dirt, sand and silt that barreled down the hillside March 22, leveling homes and killing at least 30 people.

Some area residents and their family members say they knew nothing of the landslide danger or home-buyout proposals.

"There's never been any document that we've seen regarding that," said Irene Kuntz, whose sister Linda McPherson died in the landslide.

Kuntz said her father bought land in the area in 1940, and he "never was given any notice that it was in danger." Her son's home also was destroyed in the slide.

The Darlington woman said she didn't know whether they would have taken a buyout if offered.

A message left with Snohomish County Public Works director was not immediately returned. Heidi Amrine, a spokeswoman for the Joint Information Center for the landslide, said Thursday: "We don't have anyone who can address that right now."

Geologic reports noted previous landslides in the area and warned of a potential disaster.

In 2004, county officials evaluated three options, including voluntarily buying out properties at the base of the hillside that collapsed nearly two weeks ago.

The county based its options in part on a report by a consultant, GeoEngineers, who wrote that the landslide posed a "significant risk to human lives and private property, since human development of the flood plain in this area has steadily increased since the 1967 event."

GeoEngineers had warned in a 2000 draft study about "catastrophic failure," saying the river at the base of the landslide-prone hill was actively cutting into the slope.

That study, authored by Tracy Drury, weighed five alternatives, including buying out all the properties in flood-plain area and moving the Stillaguamish River about 2,000 feet from the slide. The cost of land purchases was estimated to be \$1.6 million.

But the consultant said the likelihood that all property owners would be willing to sell was low, and so recommended a preferred option of providing "storage areas" in the flow path of the river to trap sediment from the slide. That option included buying out some properties.

The county ultimately recommended implementing a project to stabilize the slope. While technically feasible, the plan noted that "stabilizing any large slide such as this is a difficult task."

A 1,300-foot crib wall was built in 2006.

Meanwhile, the number of confirmed deaths in the mudslide increased Thursday to 30, and the county medical examiner's office released two more victims' names: Gloria Halstead, 67, and Jovon E. Mangual, 13, both of Arlington.



STEPHANIE S. CORDLE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

A strong storm Thursday sent a tree through a home and its garage, landing on a car, in Belleville, Ill.

Hail, rain pummel several Midwest, southern states

By JIM SALTER and JIM SUHR

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Thunderstorms were crawling across a large swath of the Midwest and South on Thursday, spawning suspected tornadoes in Missouri and Texas, and slamming several states with large hail and heavy rain that prompted a handful of water rescues.

Four people were injured in Texas when a suspected tornado destroyed a farmhouse and a mobile home Thursday night near Merit, about 40 miles northeast of Dallas. Hunt County Sheriff Randy Meeks said the injuries weren't life-threatening, though he didn't have details.

Storms pummeled the North Texas college city of Denton with

hail as large as baseballs, leading to reports of broken windows and other damage. The National Weather Service in Tulsa noted reports of hail up to the size of ping pong balls and strong wind gusts.

Arkansas saw smaller hail, and falling tree limbs knocked out power in western parts of the state.

The heaviest rainfall was tapering off about midnight, though flash-flood warnings will remain in effect through daybreak in eastern Missouri, southern Illinois and Indiana, and western Kentucky because of runoff from the torrential rains, according to the National Weather Service.

No injuries resulted from the twister that hit University City just west of St. Louis shortly before

5:30 a.m., damaging about 100 homes in winds that reached up to 110 mph, weather service meteorologist Jayson Gosselin said.

That system also carried heavy rain. Up to 5 inches fell in parts of Missouri, prompting flash flooding that damaged dozens of homes and forced at least two water rescues.

In University City, a densely populated area, the city opened a shelter for evacuees. Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency.

Rainfall was heavy over much of Missouri and western Illinois. The National Weather Service said portions of Johnson County, Mo., had more than 5 inches of rain, causing flash flooding that forced evacuation of some homes in the Warrensburg area.

Geologists: 'No question' rock slides could hit Utah homes

By ANNIE KNOX

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — More cliff-top rocks similar to ones that killed a middle-aged couple when they smashed into their home near Zion National Park could come loose, Utah geologists warn.

A 375-foot-high sandstone slab near the former rock slide now threatens to crash, shatter and flatten homes below, according to the Utah Geological Survey report released Thursday.

When it comes to hazards of falling rock, "some are annoying, some are deadly," said Ed Lund, a senior scientist at the Utah Geological Survey. "And

we're dealing with one of the deadly ones here."

There's "no question," said the report, that future rock falls will hit Rockville, population 250. The report comes from a team of state geologists who surveyed the December wreckage and nearby cliffs on foot and from a helicopter.

Rockville Mayor Tracy Dutton declined an interview but said in an email that the town would use the report to help current residents and potential homeowners there understand the risks.

The warning comes less than two weeks after at least 30 people were killed by a mudslide in Washington state.

In mid-December, officials re-

counted, an explosive boom sent up a cloud of dust just before dinner time on a Thursday evening, killing the couple and crushing their small chalet, garage and the front half of a Hyundai SUV.

Other looming rock masses and crags could unhinge at any moment, Lund said, tumbling down onto a string of homes in and around Rockville, about 250 miles south of Salt Lake City.

Residents should pack and move, they caution, or understand that they could die if they choose to stay.

Rockville faces higher risk than neighboring Springdale and La Verkin because the canyon walls taper in there, forcing homes to huddle closer to cliffs.



TOM SMART, THE (SALT LAKE CITY) DESERT NEWS/AP

Officials survey the boulders from a rock slide that crushed a home and killed two people in Rockville, Utah, in December.

NATION

'Cuban Twitter' heads to congressional hearing

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of the U.S. government agency that secretly created a "Cuban Twitter" communications network designed to undermine the communist government in Cuba is expected to testify next week before a senator who thinks the whole idea was "dumb, dumb, dumb." The congressional hearing could resolve key questions around the clandestine program, including whether the Obama administration adequately informed lawmakers about its plans.

Administration officials on Thursday defended the program, saying it had been "debated" by Congress and wasn't a covert operation that required White House approval. But two senior Democrats on congressional intelligence and judiciary committees said they had known nothing about the effort.

An Associated Press investigation found that the network was built using secret shell companies and financed through a foreign bank. 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 social media platform.

The program aimed first to build a Cuban audience, mostly young people. Then the plan was to push them toward dissent.

But the Cuban users of the network, called ZunZuneo, were not aware it was created by the U.S. Agency for International Development, overseen by the State Department. They also did not know that American contractors running the program were gathering personal data about them, in the hope that the information might be used someday for political purposes.

U.S. law requires written authorization of covert action by the president.

USAID's top official, Rajiv Shah, was scheduled to testify on Tuesday before the Senate Appropriations State Department and foreign operations subcommittee on the agency's budget. The subcommittee's chairman, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., called the project "dumb, dumb, dumb" in an appearance Thursday on MSNBC.



RAMON ESPINOSA/AP

Students gather behind a business to check their smartphones in Havana on Tuesday.



AP

David Letterman announced his retirement during Thursday's taping of the "Late Show with David Letterman."

Letterman leaving 'Late Show' in 2015

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — David Letterman's departure from the late-night realm won't just end an unmatched run on television. It also will close the book on an era reaching almost to the birth of TV.

During a taping of Thursday's edition of "Late Show," Letterman startled his audience with the news that he will step down in 2015, when his current contract with CBS expires.

He specified no end date, saying he expects his exit will be in "at least a year or so, but sometime in the not too distant future — 2015, for the love of God, (band leader) Paul (Shaffer) and I will be wrapping things up."

What he'll be wrapping up is three decades on the air — the longest tenure of any late-night talk show host in U.S. television history — since he launched "Late Night" at NBC in 1982.

Legal pot hasn't curbed Colo. black market

By SADIE GURMAN

The Associated Press

DENVER — A 25-year-old is shot dead trying to sell marijuana the old-fashioned, illegal way. Two men from Texas set up a warehouse to grow more than they would ever need. And three people buying pot in a grocery store parking lot are robbed at gunpoint.

While no one expected the state's first-in-the-nation recreational sales would eliminate the need for dangerous underground sales overnight, the violence has raised concerns among police, prosecutors and pot advocates that a black market for marijuana is alive and well in Colorado.

"It has done nothing more than enhance the opportunity for the black market," said Lt. Mark

Comte, of the Colorado Springs police vice and narcotics unit. "If you can get it tax-free on the corner, you're going to get it on the corner."

It's difficult to measure whether there has been an increase in pot-related crimes beyond anecdotal reports because no one at either the federal or state levels is keeping track of the numbers of killings, robberies and other crimes linked directly to marijuana.

Pot advocates say the state is in a transition period, and while pot-related crimes will continue, they will begin to decline as more stores open and prices of legal marijuana decline.

"It's just a transition period," activist Brian Vicente said. "Marijuana was illegal for the last 80 years in our state, and there are

some remnants of that still around. Certainly, much like alcohol, over time these underground dealers will fade away."

Sales are due to begin in June in Washington, where authorities will be watching for similar cases.

"There's going to be a black market here," said Cmdr. Pat Slack of the Snohomish Regional Drug/Gang Task Force, which covers an area outside Seattle.

Under Colorado's voter-approved law, it is legal to possess up to an ounce of marijuana. Authorities are concerned that means illegal dealers and buyers believe they can avoid prosecution. These dealers and their customers also tend to be targets, if robbers know they are flush with cash.

Phoenix murder defendant accused of fatally choking, beating cellmate

By PAUL DAVENPORT

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — A Phoenix man who told police he killed his 12-year-old half brother last month because he "just felt like killing" is now accused of fatally stabbing a cellmate, authorities said Thursday.

Andrew Ward, 27, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder in the Wednesday night killing of cellmate Douglas Walker, 33, in a Maricopa County jail in Phoenix, the Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Walker was stabbed in the eyes with a golf pencil, the statement said. His throat was cut with a plastic playing card, he

was beaten and his head was smeared with peanut butter. Paramedics later discovered that his breathing passages were obstructed by a plastic bag and a peanut butter sandwich that was forced down Walker's throat, the Sheriff's Office said.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio said at a news conference Thursday that despite Ward's reported indifference in the killing of his half brother, psychiatric experts had evaluated him when he was brought to jail and cleared him.

Ward immediately admitted to detectives that he had choked and beaten Walker, the statement said. "Ward told sheriff's detectives that he had no regrets for the attack," it said.



Ward



Walker

WORLD

EU urged to prepare more sanctions options

By ELENA BECATOROS
AND NATALIYA VASILEVA
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Britain's foreign secretary on Friday urged European Union partners to develop possible further sanctions against Russia "if they become necessary," while the top Russian diplomat ridiculed Ukraine's interim government as a Western puppet.

"The West has taken on a role of the master of Ukraine's fate while the country's fledgling government has not shown much independence so far," said Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

He blamed the crisis in Ukraine on the government's lack of respect for the citizens' rights and interests of other Ukrainian regions.

At the EU meeting in Athens, officials continued to worry about the large Russian military force on Ukraine's border.

"It is really, really important that Russia shows that it is serious about de-escalation by moving troops back," EU foreign policy



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP

Britain's Foreign Secretary William Hague speaks to the press Friday before an informal meeting of foreign ministers in Athens, Greece. The officials planned to discuss the crisis in Ukraine as well as Syria.

chief Catherine Ashton said as she arrived for the meeting.

The EU has already imposed sanctions against Russia.

"It's very important for us to remain strong and united about the sanctions that we have implemented against individuals in Russia and Crimea and to prepare more far-reaching measures if they become necessary," Brit-

ish Foreign Secretary William Hague said. No decision would be made at the two-day session in Athens, he added.

"This moment isn't the moment for phase three of sanctions, but they have to be ready," Hague said, "because the situation remains very dangerous; it remains very tense."

The crisis in Ukraine tops the

agenda at the informal foreign ministers' meeting, which will also discuss Syria.

EU finance officials said earlier this week that the sanctions were already slowing the Russian economy.

Evangelos Venizelos, the Greek foreign minister, said the EU ultimately wanted a political solution to the Ukraine crisis.

"Sanctions are an instrument. (But) for us the target is always the respect of the international law," he said.

Meanwhile, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Friday that all the Ukrainian servicemen stationed in Crimea were allowed to leave for mainland Ukraine, but 8,000 military men stayed and applied to join the Russian army.

Russia annexed the Black Sea peninsula in March following a referendum called just two weeks after the Russian forces had overtaken the region. Ukraine and the West have rejected the vote and the annexation.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin and his officials said the Russian deployment to Crimea

was within limits set by a deal with Ukraine on a Russian navy base in Crimea. But Moscow has never admitted that the thousands of troops that flooded the peninsula, seizing the airports and blocking the Ukrainian military at their bases, were Russian. They wore no markings, but some of them drove armored personnel carriers with Russian number plates.

Shoigu argued that Crimea faced "a threat to civilian lives and the threat of a seizure of the Russian military infrastructure by extremist organizations," so Russia "took decisive actions" and "beefed up security of Russian military infrastructure in Crimea." He stopped short of giving details, but said the military "managed to prevent bloodshed."

Shoigu dismissed as "improper and provocative" claims that the Russian army has mistreated Ukrainian servicemen. Several senior Ukrainian officers including a military base commander were briefly detained by the Russian forces and kept in custody for several days.

S. Korea saves 3 sailors from North after ship sinks

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Rescuers recovered the bodies of two North Korean sailors, pulled three survivors and were searching for 11 others missing after their cargo ship sank off South Korea's coast early Friday, the coast guard said.

The Mongolian-flagged ship was carrying 16 North Korean crewmembers when it sent a distress signal in international waters about 80 miles south of the southern port city of Yeosu, South Korea's coast guard said in a statement.

Three people were rescued and told investigators they escaped from the ship as it was tilting with its freight being pushed to one side.

South Korean coast guard officers said high waves and strong wind were reported in the area where the 4,300-ton ship sank. It was carrying iron ore to China

from the North Korean port city of Chongjin.

The coast guard said it mobilized 13 vessels and six aircraft to search for the missing crew. Bad weather was still hampering rescue operations, according to the coast guard officers.

It was not immediately known how South Korea will handle the rescued North Korean sailors. Seoul usually repatriates North Korean sailors found drifting in South Korean waters if they want to return home.

All three rescued sailors were taken to a hospital on the southern South Korean island of Jeju, and none of them was in life-threatening condition, the coast guard statement said.

The Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war as the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. On Monday, the rival Koreas fired hundreds of artillery shells into each other's waters in a flare-up of animosities.

Baghdad.

Hours later, a roadside bomb struck a military convoy, killing an army intelligence officer and a soldier near the city of Samarra, 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Other police officials said a bomb at an outdoor market in eastern Baghdad killed two shoppers and wounded eight.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

From The Associated Press



NO HAN GUAN/AP

A woman with a relative aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines plane rests near candles in a prayer room in Beijing on Friday.

New tools used in recorder search

By NICK PERRY
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — The search for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet entered a new stage Friday when navy ships deployed stingray-shaped sound locators in a remote stretch of the Indian Ocean in an increasingly urgent hunt for the plane's data recorders before their beacons fall silent.

Officials leading the multinational search for Flight 370 said there was no specific information that led to the underwater devices being used for the first time, but that they were brought into the effort because there was nothing to lose.

An arduous weekslong hunt has not turned up a single piece of wreckage that could have led the

searchers to the plane and eventually to its black boxes, which contain key information about the flight.

Beacons in the black boxes emit "pings" so they can be more easily found. The beacons' batteries last about a month.

"No hard evidence has been found to date, so we have made the decision to search a sub-surface area on which the analysis has predicted MH370 is likely to have flown," Cmdr. Peter Leahy, the commander of military forces involved in the search, said in a statement.

Two ships with sophisticated equipment that can hear the pings made their way Friday along a 150-mile route investigators hope may be close to the spot Flight 370 entered the water after it vanished

March 8 on a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing.

The head of the joint agency coordinating the search acknowledged that the search area was essentially just a best guess — and noted time is running out to find the coveted data recorders.

"The locator beacon will last about a month before it ceases its transmissions — so we're now getting pretty close to the time when it might expire," Angus Houston said.

The Australian navy ship Ocean Shield towed a ping locator from the U.S. Navy, and the British navy's HMS Echo, which is equipped with similar gear, looked for the black boxes in an area investigators settled on after analyzing hourly satellite pings the aircraft gave off after it disappeared.

Attacks on Iraqi army, marketplace kill 6

BAGHDAD — Iraqi officials said separate attacks targeting the military and a marketplace in Baghdad have killed six people, including members of the security forces.

Police officials said the first attack took place on Friday morning, when three mortar shells slammed into a military base in the town of Musayyib, killing two soldiers and wounding nine. Musayyib is about 40 miles south of

MILITARY

By MATTHEW HAY BROWN

The Baltimore Sun

Growing up, when Alex Pownall watched his father, he saw a man who loved his job.

John Pownall has served 20 years in the military, the last 12 as a recruiter for the Maryland National Guard. He was sent to defend Andrews Air Force Base after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and advised the Afghan National Army in 2011 and 2012.

"He looked forward to drill, and he came home happy," Alex Pownall said.

So when Alex turned 17 last year, he needed no convincing. He joined the Maryland National Guard in October and is waiting to finish high school so he can go to boot camp.

Pownall is one of several sons and daughters who have enlisted in the Maryland guard in recent years to serve alongside their parents. The guard has about 6,000 members; the influx of offspring has brought the number of children serving with their parents to about two dozen.

Increasingly, war is a family business. Military veterans are more likely than the general population to be related to other servicemembers, and Americans are twice as likely as younger Americans to have an immediate family member who served, the Pew Research Center reported in 2011.

The Maryland recruits speak of being inspired by the service of being eager to have some of the same experiences, and of hoping to be able to serve alongside them. They join the military with an intimate understanding of the commitment they're making: They've grown up seeing mothers and fathers go to war.

While the U.S. has withdrawn its forces from Iraq and plans to pull out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, the Maryland guard continues to deploy around the world — members now are serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Kosovo, Kuwait, the Horn of Africa, South Korea and at the U.S.-Mexican border.

The sons and daughters are joining at a time when military service is the province of a shrinking minority. Americans. During World War II, most of the male population of fighting age enlisted. During the Vietnam War, a draft meant that, theoretically, any American man could be called to serve. But in the all-volunteer military, less than 1 percent of the population has fought in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Lance Newby finds such trends troubling not only for the military, but for society as a whole. Newby, the director of maintenance for the Maryland guard and joined the military 33 years ago reinforced the values of integrity, honesty and selflessness his parents taught him at home.

"If you're not getting that today at home and you don't go into the military, where do you learn it?" he asks.

Newby's 22-year-old daughter, Jordyn, enlisted on Sept. 11, 2011 — the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. She is serving in the guard while studying psychology at Towson University and participating in ROTC at Loyola University Maryland.



PHOTOS BY DOUG KAPUSTIN/Special for The Baltimore Sun

Master Sgt. Mark Bagley is surrounded by his kids, Whitley Tobei, Lucas Bagley, and Markee Bagley — all recruits of the Maryland National Guard. The Maryland National Guard reports an unusually high number of children of members enlisting this year to serve alongside parents. Mark Bagley says of his family: "We don't like being apart from each other."

For some recruits, the military is the family business



Staff Sgt. Jason O'Hare provides instruction to recruits in formation.

Military veterans are more likely than the general population to be related to other servicemembers, and older Americans are twice as likely as younger Americans to have an immediate family member who served, the Pew Research Center reported in 2011.

"Obviously, I've been a Guard kid my whole life," Jordyn Newby said. "I mean, it's like home, almost."

For families, serving together can also mean deploying together. In 2012, Sgt. 1st Class Lester Parks Sr. and his son, 1st Lt. Lester Parks Jr., left together for Afghanistan. The Baltimore natives serve with the 115th Military Police Battalion, which spent a year in Kandahar providing security and training the Afghan National Police. The older Parks lives in Newark, Md., the younger in Leesburg, Va. They say they saw more of each other in Afghanistan than they do stateside.

"When you deploy, you are all a family and you look after each other," said the younger Parks, the battalion's military intelligence officer. "But to have your father with you just adds something a little more special."

"It's also nice just to see him every day, even if it is only for a couple minutes."

Parks, the battalion's logistics noncommissioned officer, said being on the deployment with his son meant worrying less about him.

Master Sgt. Mark Bagley has three children in the Maryland National Guard. Pfc. Lucas Bagley, 19, announced his enlistment in 2012. In February, he flew to Puerto Rico to practice jumping out of airplanes. Pfc. Markee Bagley, 21, enlisted last January to become a military police officer. While her brother was away, Markee was called up during the snow emergency to help drive police and emergency responders around Hagerstown, Md. Their stepister, Pvt. Whitley Tobei, 17, enlisted in October.

Mark Bagley joked that the family is a "freakshow close" — "We don't like being apart from each other" — and his children laughed and nodded in agreement.

A recruiter, he said he meets his quotas without needing to volunteer his family — but their service does help him talk to families of prospective recruits who have reservations about the sacrifice and risks involved in military service.

"I'm still a parent," he said. "I tell them, 'I understand your concern. I have kids in here."

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Roark, also a recruiter, said he told his son what the military did for him — but didn't pressure him to enlist. "He's a young man," Roark said. "The choices that he makes are going to be his choices... I can only lead my son so far. At some point there, he's not going to take any more direction from me."

Pvt. Nick Loder, Roark's 18-year-old son, calls enlisting in 2012 "a great decision," because of the action — he jumped with Lucas Bagley at Camp Santiago in Puerto Rico — and the bonds he has formed with fellow soldiers now dispersed throughout the world.

Serving with a parent can be a mixed blessing.

"I'm constantly Col. Newby's kid," Jordyn Newby said. "I can wait until he retires, so maybe that will stop some."

"But it's been really great, because if I do something and I'm not sure it's really right, instead of making myself look like a fool, I can say, 'Dad, is this right?' Am I doing this wrong?"

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Student who sued parents picks a college

NJ LINCOLN PARK — A New Jersey honor student who had sued her parents for financial support has chosen a college.

Rachel Canning announced on Facebook that she plans to attend Western New England University as a biomedical engineering major and has won a \$56,000 scholarship.

A university spokeswoman told the newspaper Tuesday that Canning was accepted into the private school in Massachusetts, but school officials would not comment Wednesday to The Associated Press nor say whether Canning's getting a scholarship.

Canning had claimed her parents "threw her out when she turned 18. But they claimed she voluntarily left their Lincoln Park home in October because she didn't want to abide by their household rules."

She dropped her suit last month and returned home.

Dog escapes Texas backyard, gets to Ohio

OH HAMILTON — A small dog that escaped its fenced-in yard in Texas was found outside a southwest Ohio animal shelter, and its owners have no idea how he traveled more than 1,000 miles in a few days.

The 3-year-old Chihuahua-Dachshund mix named Corbin dug a hole under a fence in his backyard in Killeen, Texas, on March 25. He was found last Saturday tied to a bench outside the animal shelter in Hamilton, about 30 miles north of Cincinnati.

A surveillance camera at the Animal Friends Humane Society in Hamilton recorded a woman leaving Corbin at the shelter late Friday night. The staff found Corbin's owners thanks to a microchip.

"They called my wife and she told me that they found our dog, but she didn't sound happy about it," said Corbin's owner, Mike Seitz. It asked if he was OK and she told me he was fine. I then asked where the shelter was and she said, "Hamilton — not Hamilton, Texas, but Hamilton, Ohio."

Anger management required for mayor

WA CASTLE ROCK — The mayor of Castle Rock is required to take anger management classes for violating the courtesy code at a City Council meeting when he raised his voice against the police chief, who asked for more money for ammunition.

The council in the southwest Washington town voted last week to admonish Mayor Paul Helenberg for the tirade against Chief Bob Heuser at a December budget discussion. The Association of Washington Cities investigated a complaint and recommended that Helenberg take two-hour anger management classes.

The mayor said he was caught off-guard by a discrepancy in budget numbers but admitted the

THE CENSUS

6 The number of crosses to be removed from the roof and spires of a century-old former Catholic church so the now-vacant Gothic structure can be used as a mosque. More than 200 people signed an online petition calling on the Syracuse, N.Y., Landmark Preservation Board to deny an application by North Side Learning Center, the church's new owner, to remove the crosses and to build a six-foot chain-link fence. The board voted Thursday to allow the Muslim group to perform the alterations.



KYLE GREEN, THE (BOISE) IDAHO STATESMAN/AP

Wookiee's day off

Dressed as Chewbacca from "Star Wars," Christian Eschen holds the hand of his daughter, Lily, 4, as they make their way to the lift during a spring party last Sunday at Bogus Basin Mountain, north of Boise, Idaho. The party originally was planned to celebrate the final day of skiing for the season, however, due to recent snowstorms, Bogus Basin has decided to keep regular springtime mountain operations until Sunday.

way he presented himself was wrong. He apologized to the police chief and the council.

Police: 4 forcibly tattoo man they held hostage

PA PHILADELPHIA — Police said four people forcibly tattooed their roommate with racial slurs and obscene images while holding him hostage for three days in a Philadelphia basement.

The two men and two women, who range in age from 19 to 27, are charged with aggravated assault, reckless endangerment, kidnapping and related counts.

Police said the victim, 52, called 911 on Tuesday and told investigators he was held against his will in the basement of a home in the Mayfair neighborhood where he lived with the four suspects. The man said he was beaten and tattooed by three of them.

Police said the victim's lower arms were covered with nearly a dozen offensive tattoos. Investigators said his hands were badly bruised and swollen and his eyes, legs, ribs and torso also were

bruised.

City beer sales bill headed to governor

TN NASHVILLE — A bill to allow local governments to obtain permits to sell beer is headed for Gov. Bill Haslam's desk after being approved by the House on Thursday.

The measure sponsored by Republican Rep. Ryan Hayes of Knoxville was passed on 78-8 vote. The Senate voted 27-4 in favor of the bill last month.

The bill seeks to codify the wide practice of municipal facilities like golf courses selling beer after a recent state attorney general's opinion found that state law limited permits to private entities.

Dad says he'll remove tree house in front yard

PA SELLSGROVE — A central Pennsylvania man said he will soon dismantle a partially constructed tree house he was building for his daughter. John Carlson of Sellsingrove said that he received a notice giv-

ing him 30 days to remove the structure.

The Sellsingrove Zoning Board told Carlson in June that the 8-foot-by-6-foot wooden structure violated the borough's zoning laws.

Carlson started building the tree house in May on a stump in his front yard for his daughter's 11th birthday. He appealed to Snyder County Court, which backed the zoning board in January.

Carlson said he's disappointed with the outcome, but the experience was a good life lesson for daughter Samantha because "we stood up for what we believed."

2nd try fails to override cougar hunting-ban veto

NE LINCOLN — Nebraska lawmakers failed for a second time Thursday to override Gov. Dave Heineman's veto of a bill that would ban mountain lion hunting.

The 28-21 vote drew an angry response from the bill's sponsor, Sen. Ernie Chambers, who believed he had secured the 30 senators required to push the

measure into law.

Chambers blasted senators as "sniveling, knock-kneed, pigeon-toed cowards," for bowing to pressure from hunting groups that oppose the bill. The second override attempt came one day after senators fell six votes short on their first try.

Burns at two Civil War sites scheduled

VA RICHMOND — Smoke rising from two areas of the Richmond National Battlefield Park over the next week will not be the work of overzealous Civil War re-enactors.

Instead, the National Park Service said it plans two prescribed burns to maintain the landscape as it was when soldiers from the North and the South fought at the battlefields 150 years ago.

The first burn involves about 40 acres of park property at Malvern Hill in suburban Richmond. That burn is scheduled for Wednesday. The other burn entails about 20 acres in Cold Harbor, which is located in Hanover County.

From wire reports

NATION



PHOTOS BY JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Tom Schlafly, co-founder of the brewery that produces the Schlafly brand of beers, poses for a photo inside Schlafly Bottleworks on March 12 in Maplewood, Mo. Schlafly has been in a trademark dispute with his aunt, conservative activist Phyllis Schlafly.

Battle brews over name

Famed conservative Phyllis Schlafly's family in dispute over beer trademark

BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — To many older Americans, the Schlafly name is most closely associated with Phyllis Schlafly, the conservative commentator known for her campaign to defeat the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s.

A younger generation knows Schlafly as the brand of an up-and-coming St. Louis brewery co-founded by Schlafly's nephew.

Now the federal agency that oversees trademarks is being asked to wade into a dispute within the prominent family to decide whether Schlafly is primarily a last name or a commercial brand that deserves legal protection.

With a growing national profile and new owners who might want to expand, the brewery started by Tom Schlafly more than two decades ago is seeking a trademark that would give it the exclusive right to use the Schlafly name to sell craft beer. But Phyllis Schlafly has asked the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to deny the request, lest any implied association with beer sully her 60-year political career.

"There are tens of millions of Americans who oppose alcohol," said Andrew Schlafly, a New Jersey lawyer who represents his mother in the matter. "Certainly alcohol has a connotation that is the opposite of conservative values."

Phyllis Schlafly, now 89, lives in a St. Louis suburb and continues to lead the Eagle Forum, the group she created to prevent ratification of the proposed constitutional amendment on women's rights. These days, the forum fights issues such as same-sex marriage and federal education standards.

Her official biography touts Phyllis Schlafly as a "leader of the pro-family movement" and "successful opponent of the radical feminist movement." Her daily, syndicated radio commentaries are heard on more than 500 stations. She's written 20 books and continues to produce a monthly newsletter and a syndicated newspaper column.

Phyllis Schlafly, who is not involved in the beer company, did not respond to several telephone messages seeking comment. Andrew Schlafly said his mother, who like her beer-making nephew



Tom Schlafly stands inside the gift shop at Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood, Mo.

is a lawyer, was speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference last week and was not available for an interview. She is a Schlafly by marriage, not birth: Her late husband was a brother of Tom Schlafly's father.

Andrew Schlafly has filed his own papers opposing the trademark. So has brother Bruce, an orthopedic surgeon in St. Louis. Each petition asserts that the word Schlafly when standing alone "has no usage or meaning other than as a surname."

Phyllis Schlafly's petition says supporters commonly assume she's connected to the beer company. Bruce Schlafly said his pa-

rtnered 56,000 barrels of beer in 2013, making it the 44th largest craft brewery in the country, according to industry tallies.

As the company explores entry into new markets, the new ownership group decided to take steps to protect its brand.

"If we're going to make a significant investment and build the brewery, we want to add this," Tom Schlafly said in an interview at his downtown law office overlooking the Gateway Arch. "The bigger you are, the more likely you are to have other people copy you."

Opposition to the trademark may not be limited to members of Schlafly family. Anheuser-Busch has been given an extension through early April to file its own protest. Spokeswoman Lisa Weser said the makers of Budweiser have yet to decide on the issue but are keeping their options open.

Tom Schlafly declined to discuss the legal issues raised in the trademark dispute. He said the flap has not spilled over into a full-blown family feud and that he remains friendly with his aunt and cousins, whom he typically sees once or twice per year at holiday gatherings or weddings.

Nor does Tom Schlafly want to insert his business into a political squabble.

"She has fans and critics," he said. "I want to list to both of them. The last thing I want to do is antagonize her followers because I hope they drink Schlafly beer, too."



NATION

Choosing prison



PHOTOS BY DAVID EULLIT/Kansas City Star

Roy Murphy, sits in February incarcerated at the Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center in St. Joseph, Mo.

After a hasty decision, man waiting for freedom

By DUGAN ARNETT
The Kansas City Star

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — On a recent weekday morning, in the bland confines of St. Joseph's Western Reception, Diagnostic and Correctional Center, Inmate 168989 takes a seat in a plastic chair in the visitors' center.

His name is Roy Murphy. He's 43, thin, with close-cropped hair. He's got tattoos crawling down one arm, more on his fingers. He's soft-spoken, almost inaudible at times, and at the moment, he's having second thoughts about this interview.

He is the guy, after all, who wanted to go to prison.

This briefly made him something of an Internet sensation. Last December, he told a judge that he had demanded money from a St. Joseph convenience store clerk for the sole purpose of getting himself sent back to prison. The story hit regional newspapers; the Huffington Post wrote a snarky recap of the case.

But an obvious question was ignored: How does a man reach the point in which prison seems like a more attractive option than freedom?

"I don't know what I was thinking," Murphy says. "It was just one of those things where I kind of gave up."

And then he drops the bomb.

The truth is, now that he's here — he doesn't want to be.

He grew up in Diamond, Mo., a town of about 900 located 40 miles north of the Arkansas border.

At age 3, he was adopted and would go on to enjoy what he considers a fairly normal childhood. He roamed the rural expanse, spending his time camping or heading

down to the creek.

Education was never a real priority. He made mostly F's in school, and by ninth grade, he'd dropped out.

His father tried to talk some sense into him. But like many teenage boys, he was hard-headed, in no hurry to take advice.

By 16 or 17, he'd committed his first burglary, and by 19, he was serving his first prison term. During the course of the next two decades, he would spend a total of nearly 14 years in prison, according to his incarceration record.

Upon his various releases, he often struggled to find stability, never quite landing on his feet.

"There's all kinds of bad places to go and

hang out and do whatever," Murphy says. "But when you're trying to do the right thing and stay out of trouble, it's really hard. It's hard to be a dependable worker when you don't have any place to stay. It's hard to find a job when you don't have any place to do your laundry."

Still, by last November, things seemed to be looking as promising as they had in a long time.

In the year and a half since his last release in July 2012, Murphy had mostly managed to avoid trouble — a 91-day jail stint on an old DUI charge notwithstanding. He had bounced around a bit, spending time in Joplin, where he helped build a new Taco Bell on Main Street after the tornado hit, and in a small town in southeast Kansas.

After meeting Brady Rodgers, a Platte City minister who also owns the local Comfort Inn, he had decided to ditch his plans to return to Joplin, where old acquaintances and habits waited.

Rodgers had taken a liking to him, offering him a maintenance job at his hotel and a temporary place to stay.

But at the end of his second week on the job, the ice storm hit.

After working a shift at the hotel on Nov. 21, he decided to head to St. Joseph to see his sister. When the storm hit, he was stuck in St. Joseph without a place to stay. Because his sister's live-in boyfriend was on parole and therefore couldn't have contact with other ex-convicts, he said, he couldn't stay there. He didn't have an ID, which meant he couldn't get a bed at a shelter.

He took stock of his situation, and it didn't look promising. His free stay at the hotel was about over, and he was still three weeks away from his first full paycheck,

“I don't know what I was thinking. It was just one of those things where I kind of gave up.”

Roy Murphy

which he would need to afford a place of his own. Thanks to the ice, he knew he wouldn't be able to make it to work, so likely another job was down the drain.

In hindsight, he said, he would have done things differently. Like call his boss, explain the situation, and then maybe the two of them could have figured something out.

Instead, he couldn't look beyond the box he seemed to be in.

So the next day, he left his sister's house walked to a nearby convenience store.

He'd come up with an option that wouldn't occur to most people. He'd get himself arrested.

Once inside, he approached the clerk behind the counter. He asked for all the money in the register. He didn't threaten her. He didn't carry a weapon.

She told him to leave; later, she would say she was less scared than confused. When she picked up her cellphone, he told her to go ahead and call the police.

Ten minutes later, St. Joseph Police Department officers arrested him.

Joshua Bachman, Murphy's public defender, considers it one of the more bizarre cases of his career, but he doesn't describe it as unheard of.

"Life inside the institution and life outside the institution, they both have their challenges," Bachman said. "And for an individual that has learned how to adapt to the difficulties inside the institution, but not necessarily the outside life, it can be difficult."



Roy Murphy was arrested in November 2013 after walking into a convenience store and asking for the money in the cash register without a weapon or threatening the cashier.

VIDEO GAMES



MCT

As one of the cursed, players explore a mysterious and majestic world in search of salvation in "Dark Souls II." As in the first "Dark Souls," dying happens frequently, but this time around, it's not always the player's fault.

Bigger, and a bit boring

Expanded world, limited respawning of 'Dark Souls II' stifles fun of original game

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

When "Dark Souls II" was announced, fans of the cult favorite were united in joyous celebration, until producers Tomohiro Shibuya and Yui Tanimura dropped the dreaded "A" word on fans, announcing that the game would be more "accessible" to new players.

The "Dark Souls" series had become legend among role-playing aficionados for its punishing — but fair — difficulty level and modern take on old-school game design philosophy. It was the antithesis of what the word "accessible" has come to mean in the gaming industry. That one word caused fans not a small amount of unease and generated a lot of questions.

Would "Dark Souls II" be stripped of its unique features? Would the storyline be told through a series of cut scenes, rather than picked up through play? Worst of all, would the difficulty level be lowered to appeal to a wider group of gamers?

Now that "Dark Souls II" is out, I can safely say ... somewhat. "Dark Souls II" retains some of the greatness of the past two games, but it fumbles some key aspects that the previous title got perfect.

When talking about the "Souls" series, it's impossible to ignore how difficult the games are. No matter your level of skill, you will never make it through a "Souls" title without dying. A lot. The entire game

revolves around incremental progress built upon learning from your mistakes in combat and taking your time picking through the levels.

You would die, but it would be your fault. Maybe you ran, rather than carefully walked, through a doorway and got hit by an arrow trap. Maybe you took on one enemy too many before healing. Death in "Dark Souls" is an inevitability, but what kept players from getting frustrated and losing interest in the endless cycle of death and rebirth was that when you died, you had nobody to blame but yourself.

This is not always the case in "Dark Souls II." There will be times where enemies break through walls, and attack through pieces of what is supposed to be solid scenery. Largely, these things are glitches and will most likely be patched as time goes on. Some of the things that make "Dark Souls II" more unfairly challenging are design elements, though.

As in the past game, bonfires act as a refueling station for healing items. The downside to using a bonfire is that all the enemies will respawn. This is an important part of the "Dark Souls" experience, because respawning enemies allow for recovery of souls (an item that acts as leveling up points and currency) that are lost when the inevitable occurs.

"Dark Souls II" enemies respawn, but when you kill some enemies a certain amount of times, they disappear for good.

In theory, this is to help advanced players make it through areas faster, without the need to fight irrelevant enemies. What it actually does is make players have to walk through largely empty areas to get to a spot where they can actually find an enemy. It kills the danger element and replaces it

with boredom — not a good tradeoff.

It also ends up being unnecessary, due to the second major change in the "Souls" formula, the change in the world. The world of "Dark Souls II" is enormous, and one of the dreaded concessions made to accessibility was to make the bonfires warp points between areas.

Gone are the days of being trapped in the bowels of a hellish

It's impossible to ignore how difficult the "Dark Souls" games are. No matter your level of skill, you will never make it through a "Souls" title without dying. A lot.

dungeon, having no option but to fight your way through to the surface. Now, if an area is challenging, you can just leave at any time you want. It's a minor change that ends up changing the entire balance of the levels and removes the oppressive feel of "Dark Souls."

Sadly, the warp system really isn't optional, as the

only way to level up is tied to a nonplayer character at the beginning of the game. If players could level up at any bonfire, as before, seasoned players could just ignore the warp system altogether.

The last real negative of the new game is the much-discussed visual imbalance. Some areas of the game are quite ugly to look at, while other areas are much better looking than any area in the first "Dark Souls." But it's important to note that none

Overall grade: **B**

of the slow-down that plagued the first "Dark Souls" is present in the sequel. I will take a slightly uglier world over having to deal with the five frames-per-second of Blighttown, an area that was notorious for its poor performance in the original game.

Those are the negatives of the game. The positives very closely mirror that of "Demon's Souls" and "Dark Souls." The feeling of excitement and relief when you finally conquer an area that was annihilating your hours earlier is still here. The sense of exploration is still here, as there are secrets crammed into nearly every nook and cranny of the "Dark Souls" world. The unique online play that allows you to summon help on the fly is still intact, and the online community is the best in the world. You will still want to shut the game off forever before muttering under your breath and picking up the controller again.

This is still very much a "Dark Souls" game. If you're okay with some jank in your role-playing games and if you're willing to play it knowing there are some things that need patching, then I absolutely recommend giving this a shot.

It doesn't quite live up to the highs of the previous game, but even being the second-best entry in the series makes it one of the best games on the market today.

Bottom line: Buy it if you like challenge and unique experiences, and you hate tutorials.

Platforms: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC
Online: darksoulsii.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

LIFESTYLE

PAINT & PINT

Social painting a popular pastime at bars, art studios

By KATHY MATHESON
The Associated Press

The Fox and Hound pub in downtown Philadelphia boasts all the fixings of a standard sports bar: huge TVs, numerous beers on draft and a menu filled with burgers, wings and nachos.

So what are all the easels and canvases for? Welcome to Paint Nite, an opportunity to tap your inner Van Gogh. Just order a drink, put on a smock and lighten up a bit as a friendly instructor takes you step-by-step through the brush strokes of a landscape, still life or skyline.

But be sure to reserve your spot ahead of time. The two-hour event, like more than a dozen others held weekly in Philadelphia, often sells out.

The experience known as social painting is seeing explosive growth in cities across the country as people seek to imbibe and relax while rediscovering their creative side.

"It's been crazy," said Laura Romaine, assistant manager of Painting with a Twist, another paint-and-sip business in the city. "They're banging down the door to come in here and paint."

Not an artist? Join the club. The crowds include couples on dates, co-ed group outings, bachelorette parties and the simply curious. Many can't remember their last encounter with a palette.

Yet something clearly resonates. Painting with a Twist opened its BYOB studio in Philadelphia's funky South Street area in October and already is looking for a second location downtown, Romaine said.

The Louisiana-based company, which of-

fers lessons as well as private painting parties, had 126 franchises nationwide as of last year — more than double its total in 2011, officials said.

And Paint Nite, which started with one event at a Boston bar in March 2012, has grown in two years to 55,000 people attending 1,100 events per month in the U.S. and Canada, co-founder Sean McGrail said.

The company has been adding 10 cities a month and just started its first overseas operation in Sydney, he said. Next up: Johannesburg and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Paint Nite has also allowed artists like Andrea Vann, 26, to quit unrewarding day jobs and focus full time on their passion. The business operates on a revenue-share model with its licensees, and the hosting pubs and restaurants get extra patrons out of the deal.

Vann, who served drinks in bars for years, now teaches her craft there and creates new artwork on the side. As one of two Philadelphia licensees, she also runs the financial end of her operation, which has included hiring help to keep up with demand.

"When I saw this job, I couldn't believe it because it seemed way too good to be true," Vann said.

On one recent night at Fox and Hound, Vann humorously walked a group of 40 through the creation of "Heavenly Stream," an ethereal depiction of a forest in autumn.

First, she made the budding Renoirs pledge not to whine about how badly they paint or how they screwed up the size of the tree trunk. And, she warned, don't even think about asking her to fix a "mistake."

There are no mistakes at Paint Nite. Well, except for the occasional brush in a beer glass,



PHOTOS BY MATT SLOCUM/AP

Paint Nite supplies include paint, brushes and a relaxing drink. Events such as this two-hour gathering March 25 at the Field House sports bar in Philadelphia are becoming commonplace in cities across America. Participants get a small canvas, brushes, paints and an easy two-hour lesson.



Artist Andrea Vann helps Julie Maletz, of Philadelphia, with her painting on March 25.

which often sits next to the plastic water cup used to rinse brushes.

Allison Meng, who works in customer service for a transportation company, said she took the art excursion because she wanted to "step outside my boundaries."

"It was a challenge for me, but I really did enjoy it," Meng said. "I don't have an artistic bone in my body."

Some said they came to shake up their night life — to "drink creatively," as the Paint Nite motto says.

Yet Romaine suggested that perhaps participants are attracted to the idea of doing something tactile, making an object they can touch and take home.

"People don't do a lot of things with their hands anymore," she said. "We're all on screens all day."



There are no mistakes at Paint Nite. Well, except for the occasional brush in a beer glass, which often sits next to the plastic water cup used to rinse brushes.



Paint Nite participants work on their sunsets during a March 25 event at the Field House sports bar in Philadelphia.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Walk away from excess running

Researchers say years of extreme exercise could increase risk of heart disease

By EDWARD M. EVELD
The Kansas City Star

If running 15 miles a week is heart healthy, running 45 miles a week gives you a cardiovascular system three times as clean and strong, right?

A new study sounds a serious alarm about such thinking, adding to a growing body of research on the topic of excessive endurance exercise.

You've heard of the runner's high. Researchers now want you to hear about runner's plaque — coronary artery plaque.

In short: Running super-long distances for many years might backfire on you.

"Years of extreme exercise efforts appear to erase some benefits you get from moderate exercise, so that your risk of heart disease, of dying of coronary disease, is the same as a sedentary person," said James O'Keefe, preventive cardiologist at St. Luke's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

O'Keefe said the study found that men who were marathon runners for 25 years had 62 percent more plaque buildup in their coronary arteries than men who were sedentary but were similar to the runners in other respects, including age.

And the increased quantity of plaque in the marathoners' arteries included both hard, or calcified, plaque and the more dangerous soft, fatty plaque. The latter is the kind that can be predisposed to rupture and cause a heart attack.

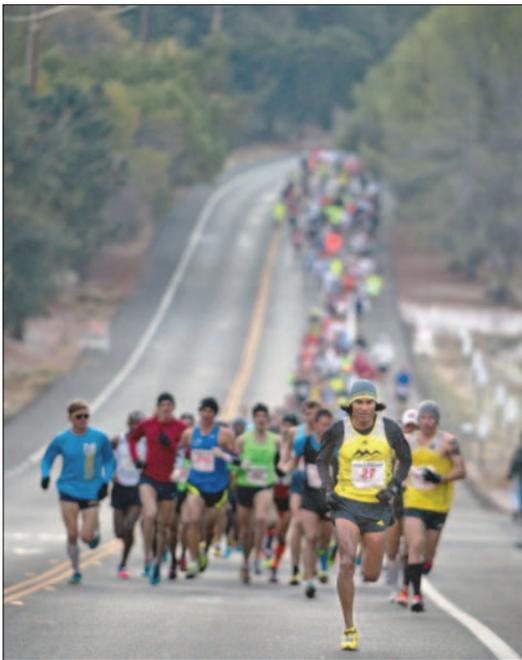
O'Keefe is co-author of the paper in the latest issue of *Missouri Medicine*, the journal of the Missouri State Medical Association. The study was conducted by Robert Schwartz and colleagues at the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation.

An unwavering advocate of exercise and its health benefits, O'Keefe said the new study adds weight to the idea that the potent benefits of exercise are "dose dependent."

That is, the right amount matters. Being sedentary is unhealthy. Regular, moderate exercise bestows long-term benefits.

While logging huge numbers of miles and running marathons can keep you thinner, lower your risk for type 2 diabetes and offer other benefits, it appears the subsequent wear and tear on the heart is a potential drawback, O'Keefe said.

The study's marathoners, who had run at least one 26.2-mile race a year for 25 years, had a lower weight, resting heart rate and body mass index than the non-runners.



JOSE LUIS VILLEGAS, THE SACRAMENTO BEAUMONT

According to a new study conducted by the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, excessive running over long periods of time could lead to plaque buildup in coronary arteries, putting you at risk for heart disease or a heart attack.

The average age of both groups was in the 50s.

That works out well for the 3-milers — keep doing that, O'Keefe said — but it's cautionary news for marathoners and

ultra-marathoners, at least those who have been at it for years.

Two years ago, in a report published in the journal *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, O'Keefe and fellow authors cited evidence

that extreme endurance training might cause structural damage to the heart, making it stiff and enlarged. That paper showed that moderate running distances two to five times a week at moderate speeds offered the best health benefits, and that even 15 minutes a day of physical activity was helpful.

Eladio Valdez, coach of the Runner's Edge training group in the Kansas City area, said he is aware of recent research about the potential ill effects of years of long-distance running, and last year he held a clinic for his clients on the topic.

"I told my runners, 'We can't ignore this research,'" he said.

While such studies don't offer definitive answers yet, Valdez said, the research is "sobering," and he encourages his long-distance runners to see their cardiologist and to consider a scan.

Running fewer miles also reduces overuse injuries, and he has seen clients gravitate to more moderate regimens.

"Moderation may be the answer in running, as with everything else in life," he said.

A runner for more than 30 years, Valdez has cut back his miles from about 40 a week to 20 to 25. He plans on running one more marathon this fall — the 25th anniversary of his first marathon — and then no more.

O'Keefe worries that some people will use the findings to argue against exercise. But they would be ignoring the overwhelming evidence that being sedentary is clearly dangerous for the heart, he said.

Most people will never have the super-exercisers' issues. For every person who is over-exercising, there are 19 people not getting enough exercise, O'Keefe said.

Running about 15 to 20 miles a week provides optimal health benefits, O'Keefe said. Or walking can provide benefits, from 2 miles a day to as much as 40 miles a week. Virtually all types of exercise and activities can also be protective, but moderation is best for long-term benefits, he said.

"So this really knocks the props out from under anyone with the excuse 'I just don't have enough time' or 'I've never been an athlete,'" O'Keefe said. "You can train up to be the most ultra-fit endurance athlete ever, but that's not what's required for longevity. Moderate exercise is."

Actresses bring attention to 'oil pulling' trend

By MELISSA SCHUPMANN
The Kansas City Star

You know that oil you've got stored in your pantry — the one you use to cook with? It turns out it could be used for something else, entirely. But be warned: It's a trend that doesn't sound too tasty.

In recent weeks, actresses Gwyneth Paltrow and Shailene Woodley have brought attention to "oil pulling," a new beauty trend that has ancient roots.

"I just started 'oil pulling,' which is when you swish coconut

oil (around in your mouth) for 20 minutes, and it's supposed to be great for oral health and making your teeth white," Paltrow told *E!* News. "It's supposed to clear up your skin, as well."

In an interview with *Into the Gloss*, a website dedicated to beauty, Woodley, a self-proclaimed environmentalist, told the site: "You can do something called 'oil pulling' where you swish coconut or sesame oil in your mouth when you wake up and spit it out. It's amazing! It really makes your teeth whiter, because the plaque on your teeth is

not water soluble, it's fat-soluble. So the lipids have to dissolve in fats, which is why oil works in your mouth."

The practice apparently originated from ancient Ayurvedic Indian natural medicine, which claimed oil pulling was a remedy for oral diseases.

But don't throw away your toothbrush just yet — very little research has shown that oil pulling is the miracle-worker that some claim.

An article on says that while the practice isn't particularly harmful, it may not be as benefi-

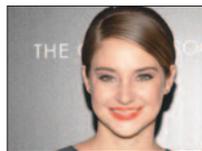
cial, either.

"(Oil pulling) should not be used to treat oral disease such as gum disease or tooth decay," Michelle Hurlbut, an associate professor of dental hygiene, told *The Huffington Post*. "It's more of a preventive rinse that could be used adjunctively with your regular mouthcare routine."

The bottom line: If you've got 20 minutes to spare and a strong stomach, swish away. If not, your usual brushing routine should suit you just fine. Just don't forget to floss.



Gwyneth Paltrow



Shailene Woodley

MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Sara Evans

Slow Me Down (RCA Nashville)

The cover of Sara Evans' new album depicts her in front of a giant clock above the title "Slow Me Down" — an ironic statement for a country star releasing only her second album in nine years.

Taking her time benefits Evans in one way: "Slow Me Down" ranks with such past gems as 2005's "Real Fine Place" and 2000's "Born To Fly," two of Evans' best, and most successful, albums. She also profits from working with one producer, Mark Bright, who also co-produced "Real Fine Place" with Evans, a move away from the multiple producers found on Evans' disappointing 2011 release, "Restless."

Bright adds inventive and engaging arrangements to such standout cuts as "Sweet Spot" and "You Never Know." Evans' maturity also informs her new songs.

Judging from the strength of her new work, Evans should ignore her own advice and speed up recording efforts on the next round.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press



Kylie Minogue

Kiss Me Once (Warner Bros.)

Another year, another Kylie Minogue album. The wheel hasn't been reinvented, nor should anyone expect it to be at this point. These anticipating Minogue's latest album and her recent signing to Jay Z's Roc Nation management to exhibit some overwhelming artistic maturation or chameleon-esque identity overhaul, haven't been following her career for the past 14 years or so. While many artists in the business have needed to reinvent their image and personas each time they return to the spotlight in order to survive, Minogue has consistently released one album after another of habit-forming pop confessions, without changing her image too drastically.

— Ryan Lathan
PopMatters.com

Chasing the muse

Foster the People sought inspiration, not hits, on follow-up

By CHRIS TALBOT
The Associated Press

Mark Foster's favorite hit songs are the ones written without thought given to eventual chart potential. So when it came time for him to pen the smash follow-up to his band Foster the People's unexpected out-of-left-field 2011 hit "Pumped Up Kicks," he didn't even bother to try.

"I feel like trying to write a song in order to be a big hit is just not something I'm interested in because it's not going to come from an authentic place of expression," Foster said. "I've heard a lot of bands try to do that type of thing on their second record, especially if they happen to have a hit or a couple of hits on their first, and a lot of times the stuff ends up sounding like Budweiser commercials, you know? We don't make music for that reason. We're not the corporation of Foster the People. We're a band."

The tsunami-like experience of having a multiplatinum, Grammy-nominated hit had left the trio feeling unmoored as they completed touring behind their debut. They weren't sure exactly where they wanted to go, but directly to the studio wasn't it.

"Fame is such a weird concept... bassist Cubbie Fink said, 'It's sort of intangible... Really it's a bizarre process to be striving for something, attain it, then have the whole world around you change — but you're still kind of the same in the middle of it.'"

So Foster and Fink traveled the world for inspiration for the 11 songs that would go on to make up "Pumped Up Kicks 2: The Sequel" which was released on March 14. And drummer Mark Pontius hunkered down at home, processing the experience in a different way.

Foster returned from his travels with song sketches, half-finished ideas and a general concept of where he wanted to go. The band moved into a home in Malibu, Calif., that had a studio and sorted everything out with Grammy-winning producer Paul Epworth, who co-wrote and produced some of the masterful tracks on Adele's "21," in-

cluding "Rolling In the Deep." Epworth also produced some of Foster the People's gold-selling 2011 debut, "Torches."

The Malibu location — among the toniest in the U.S. — crystallized everything for Foster. He had just returned from visiting North Africa and the Middle East, where he encountered people who live a simpler subsistence lifestyle, and the juxtaposition resonates on "Supermodel."

"It's really about, I guess, the difference between the culture that we live in in L.A. and looking at the rest of the world and seeing how other people live with the focus on kind of just community, communication, real connections, social media and how social media is affecting our culture now," Foster said. "I think it's looking at isolation in the U.S. and that being something that's kind of growing, and comparing that to other cultures that are really very in tune with how people have been returned for thousands of years."

His experiences aren't just reflected thematically. Sounds he heard are woven into the album's gauzy dream pop, adding a flavor — and a challenge — he hadn't initially expected. For instance, album opener "Are You What You Want to Be?" — with its 6/8 time signature and Dadaist lyrics — leans heavily on sounds he heard while in Morocco.

"I think that's the fun part, really letting that wild animal in the room, then trying to catch the tail," Foster said. "Once you have the tail, it's going to pull you where it's going to pull you. That's the spirit of this album."

Foster the People frontman Mark Foster says he's more interested in authentic expression than a big hit to follow the band's 2011 smash single, "Pumped Up Kicks."

Jack Plunkett, Invision/AP



Foster the People

Supermodel (Columbia)

Let's save everyone a lot of trouble. If you're looking for "Pumped Up Kicks 2: The Sequel" on Foster the People's new album, "Supermodel," it's not there. There's nothing even close.

That's not a failure on Foster the People's part, just their statement of purpose. The pepiness of "Pumped Up Kicks," which was arguably the song of the summer of 2011, camouflaged the tale of a schoolkid getting ready for a murderous rampage. On "Supermodel," they sound more like vampire Weekend than that band that had everyone singing about out-running bullets.

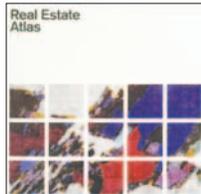
Mark Foster and friends incorporate Afro-

pop, new wave and '90s alternative in a variety of combinations throughout most of the album, maintaining an upbeat but edgy vibe. One of the singles, "Coming of Age," sounds like New Order meets New Radicals. Another single, "Best Friend," adopts the same lyrical-musical disconnect that "Pumped Up Kicks" used, talking about a strung-out best friend while an '80s synth-funk party breaks out behind it.

It actually becomes quite an engaging party game throughout "Supermodel" to try to filter out all the various influences that helped shape a song. The raging sprawl of "A Beginner's Guide to Destroying the Moon" could net you everything from Boston to Silversun Pickups.

On "The Truth," Foster seemingly debates himself, using both a Bowie-esque baritone and a soaring falsetto to navigate a "world that's so broken." It's the most potent sign on "Supermodel" that Foster the People isn't content with just having something to say — they want to say it in the most engaging way possible.

— Glenn Gamboa/Newsday



Real Estate

Atlas (Domino)

Real Estate's third album, "Atlas," differs little from its predecessors: It rolls along to gentle waves of strummed acoustic guitars and a latticework of trebly, picked electric ones, and the vocals are wistful, understated, and comforting. Although the sound will be familiar, to fans of Real Estate and of the Ridgewood, N.J., band's forefathers such as the Feelies, Galaxie 500, or the easygoing side of Yo La Tengo, Atlas still impresses. It's unsunning but confident, dreamy but precise, leisurely but densely textured.

The opening trifecta of the shimmering love song "Had to Hear" the nostalgic "Past Lives" and the jangly, perky "Talking Backwards" demonstrates a tight sense of songcraft for a band that still luxuriates in a drifting interplay of guitars. Real Estate might not break new ground on "Atlas," but it builds something deeply satisfying.

— Steve Kline
The Philadelphia Inquirer



The War on Drugs

Lost in the Dream (Secretly Canadian)

"Lost in the Dream" is an elegant, triumphant album and perhaps the pinnacle of the ambient Americana sound Adam Granduciel and Kurt Vile invented with "Wagonwheel Blues" and Vile's "Constant Hitmaker." It's an alternate universe in which '80s Bruce Springsteen began using synthesizers to approximate dream states for anthems like "Born in the USA" and "Dancing in the Dark" instead of using them in service of pop melodies. "Wagonwheel Blues" took the indie world by storm with its re-appropriation of classic rock. "Lost in the Dream" is a perfection of that sound. The War on Drugs continue to recreate classic rock in their own image and in doing so they created a classic album of their own.

Eric Goldberg
PopMatters.com

GADGETS & CHARTS

Apply spring cleaning to social media as well

By SCOTT KLEINBERG
Chicago Tribune

I don't believe you should wait for spring to clean up your social media, but it's as good a time as any.

Passwords. Comments. Privacy. Good social media means staying on top of all of these things across all of your accounts.

Resolve to take better care of your social media starting today with these spring cleaning tips. Once you've completed them, your accounts will shine as though they were just started yesterday.

- **Clean up your passwords.** Social media accounts, from the ones you use every day to the ones you hardly use, should have secure passwords. Different passwords for each platform. No birthdays, no addresses and no trace of your ZIP code. And please, whatever you do, don't use your ATM pin.

- **Clean up your comments.** There's this rash of spam on Facebook where so-and-so's Aunt Matilda made \$83 just for going to a certain link. No one cares about Aunt Matilda, but you should care about how these posts look on your social media accounts. Don't leave them there. Delete. Hover over the right side of the comment you want to remove until the "x" appears. Click and you'll instantly feel better. And cleaner.

- **Clean up your privacy.** In keeping with the spring cleaning theme, privacy is like the dirt be-

tween the bathroom tiles — you never realize how much there is until you get in there and scrub.

The good thing is, scrub once and it will stay clean for a while. Rather than focus on one general area, I advise logging into each platform, go to the settings menu and make sure everything is how you want it. There's nothing under these menus that's hard to understand, it's just a lot to navigate — especially where Facebook is concerned.

- **Clean up your followers and friends.** It's typical to just hit the "add friend" or "follow" button without giving much thought who you're following. You should be more in control of that, though, because quality friendships matter in social media.

- **Clean up your avatars.** Your avatar — the face associated with your account — says a lot about you. For example, people who don't add avatars to Twitter and go with the generic egg are called Twitter eggs. They are often associated with people who are lazy and spammy. Don't be an egg. Make sure every account has a good avatar that best showcases you and your brand. You can use the same one for all your social media or pick and choose. Just choose something.

And there you go. You can probably accomplish most of this in an hour or so. Put on some good tunes, grab a snack and start cleaning.

Next up: Your closets. Sorry, that will probably take more than an hour.

GADGET WATCH



ADVA Soft/MCT

The Handy Photo 2.0 is an all-encompassing photo editing app for iOS and Android devices.

Activity monitor, phone app get thumbs-up

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

My friends helped me to test this week's gadgets.

The new activity monitor from Shine is a wearable device that is as accurate as can be for tracking activity, sleep and calories.

It looks cool and can be worn several ways. I suspect the most popular will be attaching it to a shoe or clothing with a magnetic clip. Other options include a sportband that makes it look like a wristwatch.

My wife agreed to test the activity monitor on her active lifestyle, which includes teaching high school, freelance photography and frequent trips to the gym.

She mainly used the device attached to her shoe or with the sportband on her wrist.

The device works with the Shine app (iOS and Android). Just set your height, weight and desired activity level, and it calculates your points.

Within the app, you tap on the points to see steps taken, calories burned throughout the day and miles walked.

She compared the amount of calories burned and miles walked to what her treadmill said and found it to be accurate. The calories burned is based on your basal metabolic rate plus your activity, so the Shine will tell you the total number

of calories you burn in a day, not just the activities' calories. It monitors your sleep as well, and you can connect online through the app with others using the device.

She liked the device overall, but after wearing the sportband, she said it felt weird to have them on two. It does have a way to tell time, but it's not easy to access that function.

Online: misfitwearables.com; The Shine is \$119.95. Necklace or leather bands are \$49.95

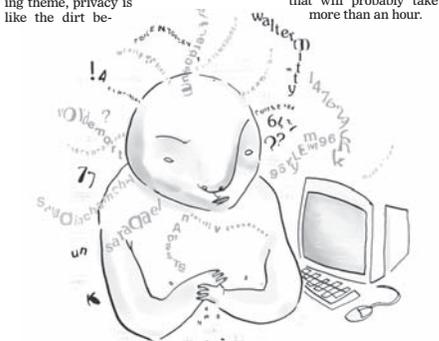
The Handy Photo 2.0 app by ADVA Soft — which is an all-encompassing photo editing app for iOS and Android handheld devices — also got a trial from a friend.

Handy Photo has more features than most photo apps out there. It edits images up to 36 megapixels and supports JPG and RAW file formats.

The interface is easy to use. Either take or open a photo from your camera roll and tap the upper right corner of your screen for the different editing functions. Options are tone and color; retouch, clone stamp, move me, filers, textures, magic crop and frames.

The "move me" function allows you to select one part of a photo and move it within the photo or even to another photo.

Online: adva-soft.com; available at iTunes and Google Play stores at \$1.99



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for April 1:

1. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams
2. "All of Me," John Legend
3. "Let It Go," Idina Menzel
4. "Dark Horse," Katy Perry (feat. Juicy J)
5. "Talk Dirty," Jason Derulo (feat. 2 Chainz)
6. "The Man," Aloe Blacc
7. "Pompeii," Bastille
8. "#SELFIE," The Chainsmokers
9. "Turn Down For What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
10. "This Is How We Roll," Florida Georgia Line (feat. Luke Bryan)

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from March 24-30:

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. John Legend, "All of Me"
3. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Various Artists, "Let It Go"
6. Aloe Blacc, "The Man"
7. Beyoncé, "Drunk In Love"
8. The Chainsmokers, "#SELFIE — Original Mix"
9. Lorde, "Team"
10. Pharrell Williams, "Happy from Despicable Me 2"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for April 1:

1. "Frozen"
2. "American Hustle"
3. "Saving Mr. Banks"
4. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
5. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"
6. "A.C.O.D."
7. "12 Years a Slave"
8. "Dallas Buyers Club"
9. "Gravity"
10. "Veronica Mars"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer rank the Top 10 games for April:

1. "Dark Souls II," PS3, 360, PC
2. "Titanfall," Xbox One, PC
3. "Hearthstone," PC
4. "Smite," PC
5. "Towerfall: Ascension," PS4, PC
6. "South Park: The Stick of Truth," PS3, 360, PC
7. "Shadowrun: Dragonfall," PC
8. "Luftrausers," PS3, Vita, PC
9. "The Walking Dead Season 2, Episode 2: A House Divided," PS3, 360, PC, iOS
10. "Mercenary Kings," PS4, PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for April 1:

- ANDROID
1. Smash Hit
 2. Bingo by IGG
 3. God of Light
 4. Slots Fairytale: FREE SLOTS
 5. Clash of Lords 2
- Top 5 free apps for April 1:
- APPLE
1. Microsoft Word for iPad
 2. Microsoft Excel for iPad
 3. Microsoft PowerPoint for iPad
 4. Boom Beach
 5. Microsoft OneNote for iPad

— Compiled by MCT

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Family alters young adults' job picture

By ANN BELSER
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Young, married men are more likely to be in the labor force than are women who are single or living with a partner, but marital status has no relationship to whether young women are working.

The presence of children in the home is what changes it all for women.

If a young woman has a child living with her — whether she is married, unmarried with a partner or single — she is more likely not to be employed. For men, the opposite was true — children drove them to work.

Those were some of the findings by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics from a longitudinal study of Americans born in the early 1980s, as the government agency seeks to understand the factors that affect a generation of citizens and its relationship to the job market.

In 1997, the bureau found a co-

hort of 9,000 people who were 12 to 17 years old — born between 1980 and 1984 — and interviewed them for the first time. The latest round of data comes from the group's 15th round of interviews conducted in 2011 and 2012 and focused on the year they turned 27.

What the researchers found was that the women in the group — all of them are among the generation called millennials — tended to be more educated by the time they were 27 than were the men. The young people who did finish college worked an average of 4.5 jobs from when they were 18 through when they were 22 — and they were out of the labor force less than a third of the time.

"I was surprised by the amount of work effort they all seem to be putting in," said Heidi Hartmann, the president of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, a Washington, D.C., policy group.

Thirty-two percent of the women held bachelor's degrees while 23.9 percent of men had finished college. Meanwhile, a slightly higher percentage of men (9.3 percent) were high school dropouts than women (8.1 percent).

Even among those who started college, women were more likely to graduate. Seventy percent of the women in the group started college, with 46 percent of them receiving a bachelor's degree by the time they were 27. For men, 61 percent started college with 39 percent finishing their degree by the time they were 27.

There also was a disparity of educational attainment along racial lines. While 71 percent of white respondents dropped out of high school, 12.4 percent of black 27-year-olds had, as had 13.6 percent of Hispanics. On the other end of the educational scale, whites were more than twice as likely to have finished college (32 percent) than blacks

(15.3 percent) or Hispanics (14.5 percent).

As with every generation before them, the arrival of children made a huge difference in the lives of the millennials.

Men and women without children were found in the labor force at almost the same rate, with men at a rate of 79.1 percent and women at 80.6 percent. For people with children, men's labor force participation rate was 86.4 percent and women's was 71.7 percent.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 7)	\$1,4049
Dollar buys (April 7)	€0.7188
British pound (April 7)	\$1.70
Japanese yen (April 7)	¥101.00
South Korean won (April 7)	₩1,030.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6575/€0.6033
Canada (dollar)	1.0982
China (Yuan)	6.2123
Denmark (Krone)	5.4504
Egypt (Pound)	4.9724
Euro	\$1.3694/€0.7302
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7574
Hungary (Forint)	232.40
Israel (Shekel)	3.4794
Japan (Yen)	103.67
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2821
Norway (Krone)	5.9981
Philippines (Peso)	44.96
Poland (Zloty)	3.4034
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2601
South Korea (Won)	1,052.13
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8930
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.53
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1134

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

MARKET WATCH

April 3, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-0.45
	16,572.55
Nasdaq Composite	-38.72
	4,237.74
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.13
	1,888.77
Russell 2000	-11.69
	1,181.12

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	44/37
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.63

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Saturday's US temperatures

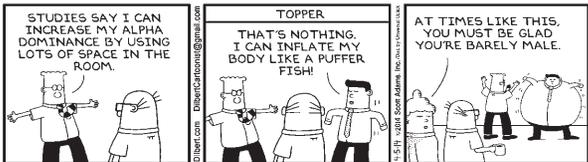
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	66	45	Cir	Fort Wayne	50	32	PCldy	Louisville	56	38	Cir	Pocatello	51	33	Cldy	Sioux City	54	25	Cldy
Ablene, Tex	66	44	Cir	Cheyenne	51	31	Cir	Fresno	71	47	PCldy	Lubbock	63	41	Cir	Portland, Maine	47	34	Rain	Sioux Falls	50	22	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	49	36	Cir	Chicago	49	30	Cir	Goodland	60	32	Cir	Macon	74	55	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	55	45	Rain	South Bend	47	31	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	59	35	Cir	Cincinnati	55	35	Cir	Grand Junction	54	35	Cir	Madison	51	27	Cir	Providence	56	39	Cir	Spokane	53	32	Cir
Albuquerque	60	42	PCldy	Cleveland	45	35	Cldy	Grand Rapids	43	28	PCldy	Medford	63	40	Cir	Pueblo	58	32	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	53	31	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	54	38	PCldy	Colorado Springs	56	32	Cldy	Great Falls	49	31	Cir	Memphis	64	45	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	72	57	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	59	31	Cir
Anchorage	43	29	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	77	60	PCldy	Green Bay	45	24	Cir	Miami Beach	83	72	PCldy	Rapid City	58	27	PCldy	St. Louis	62	45	Cir
Ashville	64	43	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	71	55	PCldy	Greensboro, N.C.	70	52	Cir	Midland-Odessa	69	48	PCldy	Roanoke	62	52	Cir	Tallahassee	79	63	Rain
Atlanta	68	50	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	52	35	Cir	Harrisburg	57	44	PCldy	Milwaukee	47	31	Cir	Richmond	71	54	Cir	Tampa	82	66	Cir
Atlantic City	58	43	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	50	33	Cir	Hartford	54	37	Cir	Mpls-St. Paul	44	20	Cir	Rochester	43	35	Cir	Tucson	73	49	Cir
Austin	67	45	Cir	Corpus Christi	72	62	Cldy	Helena	54	33	Cir	Missoula	52	31	Cir	Rockford	51	28	Cir	Wichita Falls	66	41	PCldy
Baltimore	63	46	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	67	45	Cir	Idaho Falls	84	71	Cir	Mobile	84	71	Cir	San Antonio	69	54	Cir	Wichita Falls	66	41	PCldy
Baton Rouge	67	56	Rain	Dayton	51	33	Cir	Houston	65	54	Rain	Montgomery	72	54	Cir	San Diego	68	58	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	57	44	PCldy
Bilings	52	34	Cir	Daytona Beach	83	62	Cldy	Huntsville	66	43	Cir	Nashville	62	40	PCldy	St. Louis	56	34	Cir	Youngstown	44	35	Cir
Birmingham	69	45	PCldy	Denver	52	31	Cir	Indianapolis	52	33	Cir	New Orleans	69	61	Rain	St. Petersburg	82	68	PCldy				
Bismark	50	25	PCldy	Des Moines	55	28	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	67	47	Cir	New York City	56	40	PCldy	St. Thomas	85	75	Cir				
Bismark	54	34	PCldy	Detroit	49	31	PCldy	Jacksonville	61	41	Cir	Newark	59	41	Cir	Salem, Ore.	55	45	Rain				
Boston	54	38	Cir	Duluth	39	18	PCldy	Juneau	41	22	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	69	59	PCldy	Salt Lake City	55	45	Rain				
Bridgeport	56	40	PCldy	El Paso	72	50	Cir	Kansas City	59	30	Cir	North Platte	58	25	PCldy	San Jose	69	54	Cir				
Brownsville	78	65	Cir	Elkins	53	34	Cir	Key West	74	53	PCldy	Oklahoma City	56	37	PCldy	San Jose	69	54	Cir				
Buffalo	42	33	Cir	Erie	40	33	Cir	Knoxville	64	46	Cir	Omaha	59	29	PCldy	San Jose	69	54	Cir				
Burlington, Vt.	44	37	Rain	Eugene	56	45	Rain	Lake Charles	68	56	Rain	Orlando	86	64	Cir	San Francisco	65	50	Cir				
Caribou, Maine	44	30	Snow	Evansville	59	36	Cir	Lansing	43	28	PCldy	Paducah	58	35	Cir	San Jose	68	46	Cir				
Casper, Wyo.	53	30	PCldy	Fairbanks	39	16	Cir	Las Vegas	71	50	PCldy	Pendleton	57	38	Cir	Santa Fe	57	33	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	78	63	Cir	Fargo	50	22	PCldy	Lexington	55	37	Cir	Peoria	52	30	Cir	Sioux Falls	50	21	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	60	44	PCldy	Flagstaff	48	27	Cir	Lincoln	63	24	PCldy	Philadelphia	57	45	PCldy	Savannah	78	64	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	71	53	Cir	Flint	46	28	PCldy	Little Rock	66	42	PCldy	Phoenix	79	56	Cir	Seattle	54	43	Cir				
				Fort Smith	66	38	PCldy	Los Angeles	69	53	Cir	Pittsburgh	48	38	Cir	Shreveport	67	46	Cir				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 100, Laredo, Texas
Lo: Thu., 5, Stanley, Idaho

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Lovers' quarrel
- 5 Cat's dogs?
- 9 Billboards
- 12 Hawaiian city
- 13 Wings
- 14 Spot on a domino
- 15 Birthright barter
- 16 Green stone
- 17 Zsa Zsa's sis
- 18 Jeanne —
- 19 Help
- 20 Physical
- 21 Overactor
- 23 Tennis tactic
- 25 Bicycle seat style
- 28 Macaroni noodles
- 32 Surrounded by
- 33 Father of Mr. Spock
- 34 Buffer
- 36 Past
- 37 Jewel
- 38 Conclusion
- 39 Chopping spree?
- 42 Prohibit
- 44 "Spare tire" material
- 48 Coach Parseghian
- 49 Mickey's creator
- 50 Corporate symbol
- 51 Scully or Diesel
- 52 Hebrew month
- 53 Elliptical
- 54 Request
- 55 TV trophy

DOWN

- 1 Lean-to
- 2 Tower city
- 3 Controversial
- 4 Uncertain
- 5 Word with pants or party
- 6 Jai follower
- 7 Walk like a duck
- 8 Witness
- 9 Pinnacle
- 10 Prima donna
- 11 Unwanted email
- 22 Point of view
- 24 Game show
- 25 Tavern
- 26 "What Kind of Fool —?"
- 27 Affirmative action?
- 29 Raw rock
- 30 Symbol of intrigue
- 31 Firmament
- 35 Preserve for
- 36 With tenderness
- 39 Coffee
- 40 Writer Leon
- 41 Cold and wet
- 43 Astronaut
- 45 Zero, to Venus and Serena
- 46 "— in Calico"
- 47 Brazen
- 49 Teensy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-5

CRYPTOQUIP

HBESK PA JTEB SMTS JDPJRD
 ADDR TASDU QUPJEBQ
 VPGJHSDU JUPVDKPKUK PB

SMLOS SPDK: GDOT-MHUSK.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ACTOR BALDWIN GOT SO SKILLED AT SMOOTHING WOOD THAT HIS NEW NICKNAME BECAME ALEC-SANDER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Students must forge into real world

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John Panasiwicz, General Manager, Pacific
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By ANNE MICHAUD

Newsday

Stop me if you've heard this one. What did the college graduate say to his friends? "I have a degree in liberal arts. Would you like fries with that?"

Even though the job market is improving, many recent graduates are struggling to find work — and, equally pertinent, work in their field of study. That has led to more scrutiny of "outcomes" at colleges and universities, which are anxious to demonstrate in measurable ways that their graduates can succeed. What have they learned? Did they get jobs? How much do they earn?

These aren't questions just for individual families, but for a country that is backing gazillions each year in federal student loans. Is our investment paying off, or are more political science majors serving up soy lattes?

College-placement officers are all-too-aware of the scrutiny, and the smart ones are taking action to make sure students on campus — such as cooperative education and internships — are growing and are even placing more American students overseas to work, in response to employer desires for globally competent workers.

At The College of Saint Rose in Albany, N.Y., for example, it has instituted programs for graduation for that quintessential of liberal arts graduates, the English major. Saint Rose began this requirement in 2007. One undergraduate managed social media for a local credit union.

A Saint Rose official has said the school feels a deep responsibility to make sure students don't leave after graduation feeling as if they've been set adrift.

Internships have long been customary for business majors, but now "students in all majors are seeing the value in obtaining practical work experience in their field prior



TV GREENLEES, DAYTON DAILY NEWS/MCT

Miami University students, including freshman engineering student Chloe Gessner, center, learn about creating resumes and cover letters during a workshop.

to graduation," said Scott N. Maynard, director of the career center and cooperative education at Mississippi State University. He spoke on behalf of the national Cooperative Education & Internship Association.

Students are looking to offset college expenses and set themselves apart in the job market, Maynard said. "Experience is one of the key factors employers look to."

Cooperative education, like internships, is expanding. Co-ops integrate work into the student's academic program, with work assignments ranging from a summer to 2.5 years. Unlike many internships, co-ops are paid and often lead to job offers after graduation. Co-ops were formerly the province of engineers, but business and industry co-op programs are flourishing.

Maynard said the real-world training can make for more engaged students who "contribute more to classroom discussion and usually make better graduates."

All of this practicality is encouraging, but

it would be a mistake to neglect more abstract qualities like critical thinking and the ability to deal with ambiguity. Andy Lockwood, who runs Lockwood College Consulting in Glen Head, says employers want graduates who make eye contact, articulate ideas and can put down a cellphone.

"A lot of that is nonacademic," Lockwood said. "It's unfair to put the entire burden for skill development on colleges. Kids need to be proactive, speak in class, talk to professors, learn communication skills."

I agree. As much as society might benefit from colleges taking an unforced high school graduate and moving her along a conveyor belt into the world of work — with the help of internships and co-ops — that's not realistic. Ultimately, students have to determine to make opportunities for themselves. Or grab a spatula and start flipping.

Anne Michaud is interactive editor for Newsday Opinion and a member of the Newsday editorial board. Readers may send her email at anne.michaud@newsday.com.

Dietary committee's unpalatable agenda

By E.C. PASOUR JR.

When the federal Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee met last month in Washington, most Americans were unaware of the proceedings. But all Americans should know that the committee's agenda may give them indigestion, as the government increases control over what they eat.

Every five years, the federal departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services convene the DGAC. The mission is clear: to make sound nutritional recommendations based on the best scientific research. But in recent years, the dietary committee's activities and recommendations have gone far beyond that, to the point of vegan zealotry.

Food nutrition guidelines have taken a back seat to "sustainability," "green practices," "the long-term health of the planet" and other green dreams. As a result, the committee increasingly pushes for all Americans to seek locally sourced, organic, plant-based diets.

The committee's recommendations are used to calculate food allowances for the U.S. military, the food stamp program, the Women, Infants and Children program, and the national school lunch program. This will reduce food options for millions of low-income families and students.

The committee agenda may also negatively affect farmers, ranchers, food processors, grocers and many others. Higher food prices will further exacerbate the hardship to those struggling. Reform is

clearly in order.

The committee's current agenda is driven by leaders such as Kate Clancy, of the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture. In a recent committee presentation, Clancy advocated vegetarianism in order to achieve sustainability in the face of climate change. Clancy's proposal drew rave reviews from committee member Miriam Nelson, nutrition professor at Tufts University and founder of the Strong Women Initiative, which seeks "social change by empowering women to be agents of change in the area of nutrition, physical activity and obesity prevention."

The committee needs to stick to its mandate of providing nutritional and dietary information and guidelines for the general public. Moreover, such open advocacy needs to be balanced with more practical considerations, especially from those with actual experience growing and producing food.

The guidelines should be based on the best available scientific and medical knowledge currently available. They should not be based on questionable studies and biased information carefully cherry-picked by the committee to support preconceived views.

The guidelines also should be thoroughly evaluated and streamlined — taking into account not only nutritional and health considerations, but food cost and consumer choice as well. Regional diversity also should be respected, not ignored. That means: hush puppies, black-eyed peas and sweet-potato pies are not to be scoffed

at, just because our urbane know-it-alls in Washington don't approve of such foods.

Like most of the federal bureaucracy, the committee lacks accountability and transparency. Reform can start by opening its subcommittee meetings to the public and broadcasting them online. Likewise, all research cited by the committee should be made public from day one, and not kept under lock and key until the committee has submitted its final report.

These common-sense reforms are long overdue but may not be enough to control the committee's agenda. Meanwhile, taxpayers and legislators should be asking some hard questions.

The federal government is hardly the sole source of nutrition information. In the Internet age, such information abounds from multiple sources. Do Americans really need the committee to tell them that a high-fat, high-sodium diet is bad, that a balanced diet is good and too many calories on a daily basis can lead to problems? Do we really need Washington to dictate what we eat?

Elimination of the committee is probably asking too much of an administration that adds new federal bureaus and entitlements, even in a recession. But a future administration might consider putting the committee on a starvation diet.

E.C. Pasour Jr. is a research fellow at The Independent Institute in Oakland, Calif., former emeritus of agricultural and resource economics that adds new federal bureaus and entitlements, with Randall Rucker, of "Plowshares & Pork Barrels: The Political Economy of Agriculture." This column first appeared on MCT Forum.

OPINION

FCC should pull plug on merger of media titans

By CATHERINE RAMPPELL
The Washington Post

Can we block a merger just because the two companies involved are jerks?

I bet you know which merger I'm thinking of: the one where America's most hated company wants to join forces with America's second-most hated company (Time Warner Cable and Comcast, in no particular order).

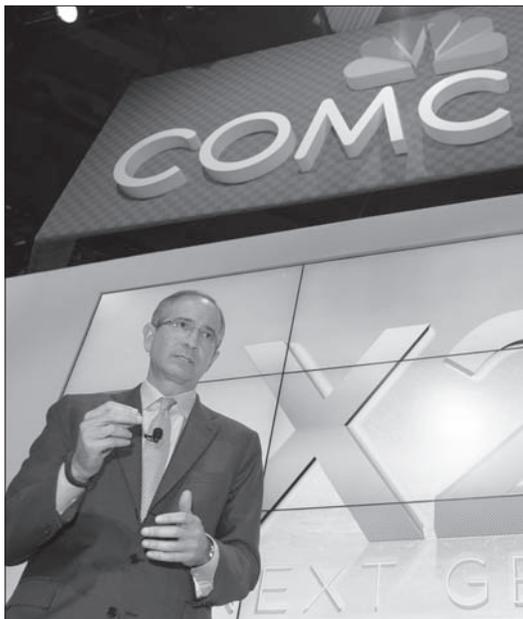
Don't just take my word for it, though I did have to reset my Comcast modem three four times while writing this column. Consumers are more likely to swear while on the phone with their TV provider than with almost any other company they call, according to an analysis of 1.2 million customer call recordings conducted by Marchex. And in pretty much every ranking of customer service, satisfaction or reputation, Comcast and Time Warner Cable clock in at last place or very close to it.

The American Customer Satisfaction Index, for example, tracks opinions of hundreds of companies. In 2013, the only company that customers hated more than these two — across all industries, mind you — was the Long Island Power Authority. (And it would have been hard to surpass the power authority in repugnance, given that it left thousands of New Yorkers without electricity for weeks after Hurricane Sandy and then sent them bills anyway.)

Consumer Reports National Research Center's annual telecommunications service survey, MSN Money-Zogby Analytics' Customer Service Hall of Shame and YouGov's BrandIndex likewise all effectively flunk Comcast and Time Warner Cable.

When I've asked Comcast representatives about these abysmal ratings, they say they've invested millions in improving the "customer experience" through shorter appointment windows or a more functional TV menu interface. Comcast representatives also repeatedly tout another survey, from J.D. Power & Associates, that supposedly documented Comcast's improvement.

But look at J.D. Power's "overall satisfaction" and "customer service" ratings, and you'll find that, for both residential Internet and television services, both Comcast/Xfinity and Time Warner Cable scored either the lowest grade possible or, at best, were deemed "about average." (Note also that J.D. Power seems to be the laxest grader out of there; it scores companies on a scale of one to five, with five being the best,



Comcast Corp. CEO Brian Roberts appears at The Cable Show 2013 convention in Washington on June 11, 2013. Comcast, the nation's biggest cable provider, plans to swallow runner-up Time Warner Cable in a \$45 billion deal that would give Comcast about 30 percent of pay TV customers.

but acknowledges that it never actually assigns a rating below two.)

If you think profanities are abundant on Comcast and Time Warner's customer service calls, check out the expletive excess on Yelp, Facebook and other social media. In the immortal words of the actor and Twitter celebrity Patrick Stewart: "All I wanted to do was set up a new account

with @TWCable_NYC but 36hrs later I've lost the will to live."

All signs point to the fact that cable companies, and especially these particular cable companies, are among the worst firms Americans deal with, at least in part because local monopolies have no incentive to treat their customers humanely. How, then, could increasing their market

power possibly be good for consumers?

Consumer watchdog groups are certain that it would not be.

"When you put two bad companies together, they don't remain equally bad. They get worse," said Harold Feld, of Public Knowledge, a consumer advocacy group. "And there's a multiplier effect. Instead of just bad plus bad, you get badness squared."

OK, I realize regulators usually block mergers for antitrust reasons, not for demonstrable contempt for consumers. But there are indeed reasons to be concerned about the anti-competitive consequences of a Comcast-Time Warner merger, even though the firms keep emphasizing that they compete for few households. For example, Comcast owns NBCUniversal; with a bigger presence, Comcast might have a greater incentive to charge competitors such as DirecTV more for NBC programming in order to raise rivals' costs and thereby drive more consumers to Comcast. Or the newly combined company might use its greater bargaining power to keep out, or at least extract more money from, companies that offer competing video-on-demand services that rely on Comcast for delivery (such as Netflix).

Time Warner and Comcast, of course, argue that their marriage would be unambiguously "pro-consumer" and would "generate significant cost savings and other efficiencies." But they have also effectively acknowledged that those alleged efficiencies wouldn't be passed on to consumers. During a conference call shortly after the merger announcement, a Comcast executive told reporters, "We're certainly not promising that customer bills are going to go down or even increase less rapidly."

This should be enough to concern the antitrust regulators at the Justice Department. But remember that the Federal Communications Commission, which must also approve the merger, has a broader mission beyond just trust-busting: Regulators there are supposed to judge whether mergers are "in the public interest" before waving one through (or at least imposing conditions on it). Traditionally "public interest" has included factors including competition, localism and diversity. Perhaps a solid record of screwing over millions of customers should be a consideration, too.

Rampell, a former economics reporter for The New York Times, writes a twice-weekly column for The Washington Post.

These spring chickens don't belong on our dinner plates

By JENNIFER O'CONNOR

I recently came across a food article that suggested celebrating the change of seasons by dishing up a roasted "spring chicken." Seriously? I would no more eat a spring chicken than I would eat the Easter Bunny. Here's why.

Back in October 1990, I volunteered to "babysit" for my friends' animals while they were out of town. These were no friendly dogs in need of a walk. The family companions were chickens — an entire flock of them.

I knew nothing about chickens or birds in general, for that matter. My sole qualification was that I was available to spend a week at this country farm. But how hard could it be to feed a few dozen chickens for a week?

My pals assured me that I was in for a pleasant surprise. I was convinced that the just what I needed to get away from the fact that I was working for free.

But off they went — and with no cable television or Internet in their house, I headed to the barnyard to kill some time.

What I found there could have been called the "Real Housewives of Farm County." There were loud birds, shy birds, pushy birds, hilarious birds. Within minutes, it was clear that cliques counted and that I was still an outsider to some and a novelty to others.

One inquisitive hen walked right up to me and looked me straight in the eye in careful assessment. The grain in my hand must have helped me to pass muster, because she led me across the yard and "introduced" me to her crew.

Most were decidedly unimpressed. However, one hen, whom I dubbed Hailey, took an abiding interest in my socks, which were covered with orange polka dots. She rubbed her beak across them and followed me around the yard. I found it mildly amusing.

I was still trying to wrap my head around

how unexpectedly complicated and interesting the whole flock was. I spent the day enjoying the sun and reading, watching the chickens gossip and hunt for snacks in the grass, squabble and make up, take dust baths and snuggle under each other's wings.

That evening, after putting the birds to bed safe inside the barn, I hung my load of laundry out on a clothesline. The next morning, both polka-dotted socks were missing. The door to the barn was shut, and I hadn't seen any of these birds actually fly.

They had been rescued from factory farms or had fallen off transport trucks, so their bodies were unnaturally heavy, and many had crippled feet from spending their early lives in wire battery cages. Some struggled to get around. Yet the socks were nowhere to be seen. Where were my socks?

It took me most of the morning to find them. It still seems unreal to me, but

Hailey had somehow absconded with the pair, laid an egg and carefully wrapped the socks around it. I stood there with my mouth agape while she watched me with a very real look of pleading in her eyes. She wanted those socks and was imploring me to walk away. So I did.

I stopped eating chicken that week and, not long afterward, eggs as well. I could no longer dissociate the wings, legs and breasts that used to be on my plate from Hailey and the other hens. Soon, I switched to eating completely vegan.

Chickens — like other animals — are far more complex than we tend to imagine, with social lives as involved and active as our own. Mother Nature gives us plenty to celebrate each spring. There's no need for us to condemn these gentle beings to death.

Jennifer O'Connor is a senior writer for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals foundation. This column originally appeared on MCT Forum.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFS

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL American League CLEVELAND INDIANS -- Agreed to terms with C. George Kontos...

OAKLAND ATHLETICS -- Viced the March 29 option of INF Jake Elmore...

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEW YORK METS -- Placed Off Chris Young on the 15-day DL...

CHICAGO BULLS -- Waived F Erik Murphy...

FOOTBALL National Football League BUFFALO BILLS -- Announced Mary Wilson is the controlling owner...

CINCINNATI BENGALS -- Signed S Darrel Greening...

GREEN BAY PACKERS -- Re-signed FB Jimmy Graham to a one-year contract...

HOUSTON TEXANS -- Re-signed CB Elton Roberts...

MIAMI DOLPHINS -- Signed WR Kevin Norbury to a one-year contract...

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS -- Signed S Patrick Chung...

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS -- Signed C Jordan Lucas...

TENNESSE TITANS -- Agreed to terms with OL Eric Olsan...

WASHINGTON REDSKINS -- Signed QB Colt McCoy...

NATIONAL HOCKEY NHL -- Suspended Montreal D Douglas Murray for three games...

MONTREAL CANADIENS -- Recalled D Marc Staal...

NEW YORK ISLANDERS -- Assigned D Marc Canturi from Bridgeport (AHL) to Stockton (ECHL)...

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER MLS -- Rescinded the fine and one-game suspension for red cards to Portland D Michael Harrington...

BOSTON COLLEGE -- Named Jim Larranaga men's basketball coach...

LOUISIANA TECH -- Agreed to terms with men's basketball coach Michael White...

MISSOURI -- Suspended Junior F Zach Pataky for one game...

NORTH CAROLINA -- Announced J.B. Buntin as Michael McCracken's replacement...

ST. JOHN'S -- Granted F Chris Oberlander a one-year buyout option...

ANNOUNCED -- Hopes Max Hooper has been granted a buyout...

ANNOUNCED -- Released basketball G Quincy Wheeler has decided to transfer.

AAP spotlight

April 5 1927 -- Johnny Weissmuller breaks his own 200-meter freestyle record...

College basketball

NCAA Men's tournament

FINAL FOUR AT AT&T Stadium Arlington, Texas National Semifinals Saturday, April 5

Men's NIT

Championship Thursday, April 3

Championship Series (Best-of-three) Siena 61, Fresno State 57

Saturday, April 5 Fresno State (21-17) vs. Siena (19-18)

CIT

Championship Thursday, April 3

Championship Series (Best-of-five) Murray State 65, Yale 57

NCAA Women's tournament

FINAL FOUR Ashville, Tenn. National Semifinals Saturday, April 5

Notre Dame (36-0) vs. Maryland (28-0) UNC (38-0) vs. Stanford (33-3)

National Championship Tuesday, April 8

Women's NIT

Championship Saturday, April 5

Rutgers (27-5) vs. UTEP (29-7)

Auto racing

NASCAR Sprint Cup schedule

x-n-ponents race Feb. 10 -- x-Sprint Unlimited (Denny Hamlin)

Feb. 20 -- x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Matt Kenseth)

Feb. 28 -- x-Budweiser Duel 2 (Denny Hamlin)

March 2 -- Daytona 500 (Dale Earnhardt Jr.)

March 2 -- The Profit on CNBC 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Kevin Harvick)

March 9 -- Kobalt auto, Las Vegas (Brad Keselowski)

March 16 -- Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Carl Edwards)

March 23 -- Ford EcoBoost 300, Fontana, Calif. (Kyle Busch)

March 30 -- STP 500, Ridgeview, Va. (Kurt Busch)

April 6 -- Duck Commander 500, Fort Worth, Texas

April 12 -- Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.

April 20 -- Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va.

April 27 -- Aaron's 499, Talladega, Ala.

Pro soccer

MLS

Table with columns: Eastern Conference (W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA) and Western Conference (W, L, T, Pts, GF, GA)

College hockey

NCAA Division I tournament

NORTHEAST REGIONAL At Worcester, Mass. Thursday, March 27

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Boston College, Denver

MIDWEST REGIONAL At St. Paul, Minn. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Michigan State, Minnesota State

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL At Reno, Nev. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Oregon, Utah State

PACIFIC REGIONAL At San Jose, Calif. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Michigan State, Boston College

WEST REGIONAL At St. Paul, Minn. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Minnesota State, Michigan State

ATLANTIC REGIONAL At Charlotte, N.C. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Virginia Tech, Wake Forest

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL At Reno, Nev. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Oregon, Utah State

PACIFIC REGIONAL At San Jose, Calif. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Michigan State, Boston College

MIDWEST REGIONAL At St. Paul, Minn. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Michigan State, Minnesota State

NORTHEAST REGIONAL At Worcester, Mass. Thursday, March 27

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Boston College, Denver

WEST REGIONAL At St. Paul, Minn. Friday, March 28

CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday, March 29 Minnesota State, Michigan State

Tennis

Monterrey Open

Thursday At Sierra Madre Tennis Club Monterrey, Mexico

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Second Round Julia Rogers, United States, def. Alle Kleckley, Canada, 6-2, 6-2

First Round Nicole Gibbs, United States, 6-4, 6-2

First Round Maria Sanchez, def. Coco Vandeweghe, United States, 6-3, 6-2

First Round Maria Sanchez, def. Chuang Chia-hung, Taiwan, and Eva Hrdinova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 10-5

First Round Lukiša Kumtsh, Thailand, and Karolina Pliskova (4), Czech Republic, def. Lukka Kumtsh, Thailand, and Miki Miyamura, Japan, 6-3, 6-3

First Round Tímea Babos, Hungary and Olga Govortsova (1), Belarus, def. Asia Muhammad and Aliie Will, United States, 7-5, 7-5

Family Circle Cup

Thursday At the Family Circle Tennis Center, Furman University, Columbia, S.C.

Surface: Green Clay-Outdoor

Third Round Sara Errani (2), Italy, def. Peng Shuai, China, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (5)

Second Round def. Tiana Pereira, Brazil, 6-2, 6-3

Second Round def. Venus (14), Russia, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-3

Second Round def. Eugenie Bouchard (6), Canada, def. Venus Williams (11), United States, 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-4

Second Round def. Katkovsk (4), Germany, def. Sabine Lisicki (4), Germany, 6-1, 6-2

Second Round def. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, def. Elena Svitolina, Ukraine, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-3

Second Round def. Jelena Jankovic (2), Serbia, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-4

Second Round def. Lucie Safarova (9), Czech Republic, def. Samantha Stosur (7), Australia, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4

Second Round Maria Erakovic, New Zealand, and Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain, def. Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan and Peng Shuai (1), China, 6-2, 6-4

Second Round Raquel Kopsch-Jones, United States, and Abigail Spears (3), United States, def. Petkovc, Croatia, 6-4, 1-6, 1-6

Second Round def. Chan Hao-ching and Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan and Francesca Schiavone, Romania, and Maria Kirilenko, Russia, 6-3, 4-6, 10-8

Kraft Nabisco Championship

Thursday At Mission Hills Country Club, Dinah Shore Tournament Course, Rancho Miramar, Calif.

Par: 72. Length: 7,110 yards. 5738 Par 72 (36-36)

4th- and 5th-round leader Michelle Wie 33-66 -6

Michelle Wie 33-66 -5

4th- and 5th-round leader Michelle Wie 33-66 -6

Michelle Wie 33-66 -5

Michelle Wie 33-66 -6

Boxing

At Tokyo, Akiyoshi Wasei vs. Odion Zaleta, 12, for Yagashi's WBC flyweight title

At Tokyo, Akiyoshi Wasei vs. Odion Zaleta, 12, for Hernandez's WBC junior flyweight title

At Las Vegas, Gilberto Ramirez vs. Lorenzo 10, super middleweights

At MGM Grand, Las Vegas, Timothy Bradley vs. Chastin Williams 12, for Bradley's WBO welterweight title

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College baseball

Thursday, March 27 At Worcester, Mass. Worcester State vs. Boston College

Friday, March 28 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Saturday, March 29 At San Jose, Calif. Michigan State vs. Boston College

Sunday, March 30 At Reno, Nev. Oregon vs. Utah State

Monday, March 31 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Tuesday, April 1 At San Jose, Calif. Michigan State vs. Boston College

Wednesday, April 2 At Reno, Nev. Oregon vs. Utah State

Thursday, April 3 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Friday, April 4 At Worcester, Mass. Worcester State vs. Boston College

Saturday, April 5 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Sunday, April 6 At San Jose, Calif. Michigan State vs. Boston College

Monday, April 7 At Reno, Nev. Oregon vs. Utah State

Tuesday, April 8 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Wednesday, April 9 At Worcester, Mass. Worcester State vs. Boston College

Thursday, April 10 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Friday, April 11 At San Jose, Calif. Michigan State vs. Boston College

Saturday, April 12 At Reno, Nev. Oregon vs. Utah State

Sunday, April 13 At St. Paul, Minn. Minnesota State vs. Michigan State

Monday, April 14 At Worcester, Mass. Worcester State vs. Boston College

Houston Open

Thursday Houston Open, The Tournament Par: 7,441. Par 72 (36-36)

Par: 7,441. Par 72 (36-36)

First Round Bill Haas 30-65 -7

Charlie Hoffman 30-65 -7

Keegan Bradley 34-72 -6

Justin Rose 34-72 -6

Jordan Spieth 34-72 -6

Patrick Reed 34-72 -6

Jimmy Kneadler 34-72 -6

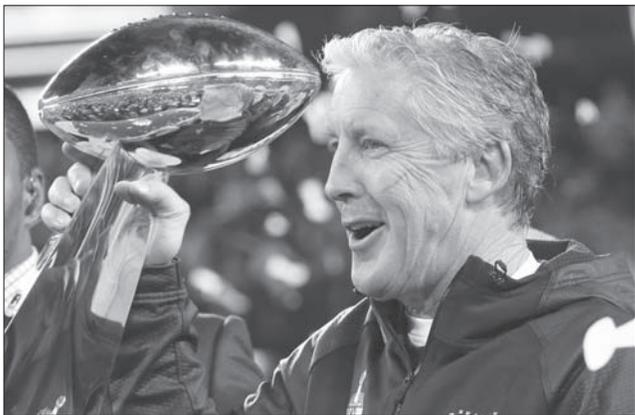
Justin Rose 34-72 -6

Jordan Spieth 34-72 -6

Patrick Reed 34-72 -6

Jimmy Kneadler 34-72 -6

SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Seattle coach Pete Carroll holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the Seahawks' Super Bowl win over the Denver Broncos in East Rutherford, N.J. The Seahawks called a news conference for Friday morning and reports they have reached a contract extension with Carroll. The NFL Network reported Thursday night, citing a "source," that Carroll and the Seahawks had reached agreement on a contract extension. Carroll's original five-year deal with Seattle was set to expire after the 2014 season.

Briefly

Seattle, Carroll reach deal

The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks called a news conference for Friday morning amid a report they have reached a contract extension with coach Pete Carroll.

The NFL Network reported Thursday night, citing a "source," that Carroll and the Seahawks had reached agreement on a contract extension. Carroll's original five-year deal with Seattle was set to expire after the 2014 season.

The Seahawks' announcement did not specify the nature of the news conference and team officials would not confirm the report of an extension for Carroll.

In other NFL news:

■ The Buffalo Bills have acquired receiver Mike Williams in a deal with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The trade comes a little over a week after Williams ran into off-field trouble. He was allegedly stabbed in the leg by his brother, Eric Baylor, who has since turned himself in to police.

■ The Tennessee Titans have told Chris Johnson they are releasing him after six seasons to avoid paying the \$8 million the running back is due in pay in 2014, and the final three seasons left on the \$53.5 million contract he signed in September 2011.

The Titans announced Johnson has been told he will be released Friday. The decision comes before they start their offseason program Monday.

■ The Baltimore Ravens and tight end Owen Daniels have reached agreement on a 1-year contract, pending a physical.

The 32-year-old ex-Texas A&M Daniels rejoins former Houston head coach Gary Kubiak, who became

Baltimore's offensive coordinator during the offseason.

■ The Chicago Bears say safety Chris Conte had shoulder surgery in late March and will likely be out at least until the start of training camp.

The team said Thursday the recovery period is four to five months.

■ The Cincinnati Bengals signed strong safety Daniele Manning on Thursday, three days after his release by Houston.

Manning started the first six games last season before suffering a season-ending injury to his right knee. He became an unrestricted free agent on Monday.

■ Veteran fullback John Kuhn has re-signed with the Green Bay Packers, coming to terms on a one-year deal, agent Kevin Gold says Thursday.

Kuhn, 31, joined the Packers in 2007 when he was claimed off waivers from Pittsburgh. He's played in 107 regular-season games as a Packer and has become a fan favorite for his workingman's approach to the game. He's also one of quarterback Aaron Rodgers' closest friends on the team.

■ The New England Patriots have signed safety Patrick Chung. Chung returns to the Patriots after spending last season with the Philadelphia Eagles. He had played his previous four seasons with New England after being drafted in the second round in 2009.

Wake Forest hires Manning from Tulsa

Danny Manning is leaving Tulsa to take over as Wake Forest's basketball coach. Athletic director Ron Wellman announced the hiring on Friday.

Manning attended high school in nearby Greensboro before becoming an All-American at Kansas, leading the Jayhawks to the 1988 national championship and playing 15 years in the NBA.

Manning was 38-29 with two postseason berths in two seasons at Tulsa. His hiring ends Wake Forest's two-week search for a replacement for Jeff Bzdelik, who resigned after four mostly unremarkable seasons.

Schumacher showing signs of progress

GRENOBLE, France — Michael Schumacher is now showing "moments of consciousness and awakening," more than three months after suffering serious head injuries in a skiing accident, the retired Formula One star's manager said Friday.

Schumacher, 45, fell while skiing in France on Dec. 29 and hit the right side of his head on a rock, cracking his helmet. Doctors operated to remove blood clots from his brain, but some were left because they were too deeply embedded.

Schumacher's condition stabilized after he was placed in a drug-induced coma. In late January, doctors at a hospital in the French city of Grenoble began the process of withdrawing sedatives to try to wake him up.

"Michael is making progress on his way," Schumacher's manager, Sabine Kehm, said in a statement Friday. "He shows moments of consciousness and awakening."

"We are on his side during his long and difficult fight, together with the team of the hospital in Grenoble, and we keep remaining confident," Kehm said.

FSU under federal investigation for Title IX violations

By KAREEM COPELAND
The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State University is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education for possible Title IX violations in its response to sexual violence complaints.

USA Today first reported the investigation by the Office for Civil Rights. It stems from a complaint filed with it by the accuser in quarterback Jameis Winston's sexual assault case.

No charges were filed by State Attorney Willie Meggs against the Heisman trophy winner.

"Our client is particularly gratified by the OCR's decision to investigate and look for discrimination and find remedies to it," the accuser's lawyer Baine Kerr said, "because her primary goal, from the beginning, has been affecting change that will make women at Florida State safer on campus."

Winston was accused of sexual assault from an incident in Dec. 2012. Police decided not to press charges in Dec. 2013. The OCR will investigate all sexual assault complaints at the university during the last three years.

The accuser received a letter from the university in February stating that it met with Winston on Jan. 23 to investigate possible Code of Conduct violations. Winston led the Seminoles to the national championship on Jan. 6.

"We can confirm that we have been notified of the OCR investigation; however, due to federal and state privacy laws the university cannot comment," university spokesman Browning Brooks said in a statement.

The OCR tells schools that

"Conduct may constitute unlawful sexual harassment under Title IX even if the police do not have sufficient evidence of a criminal violation. In addition, a criminal investigation into allegations of sexual violence does not relieve the school of its duty under Title IX to resolve complaints promptly and equitably."

It is unclear if the accuser will pursue a civil case against Winston or the university. Her family accused the Tallahassee Police Department of delaying the investigation and discouraging her from going forward with the case because of the public attention it would receive. Tallahassee police have defended their handling of the case.

A civil case can still be filed after the OCR investigation.

The woman told police she had been drinking at a bar with friends and went home with a man she didn't know. She said the alleged assault took place at an off-campus apartment, but she couldn't remember where it was.

A month later, she identified her alleged attacker as the quarterback. Winston's attorney Tim Jansen said the sex was consensual.

Kerr confirmed a Deadspin.com report that football players Chris Casher and Ronald Darby were recently charged with violations of the school's Code of Conduct. Both Casher and Darby told police they witnessed the sex between Winston and the accuser. Casher told police that he attempted to join, but was told to leave by the accuser.

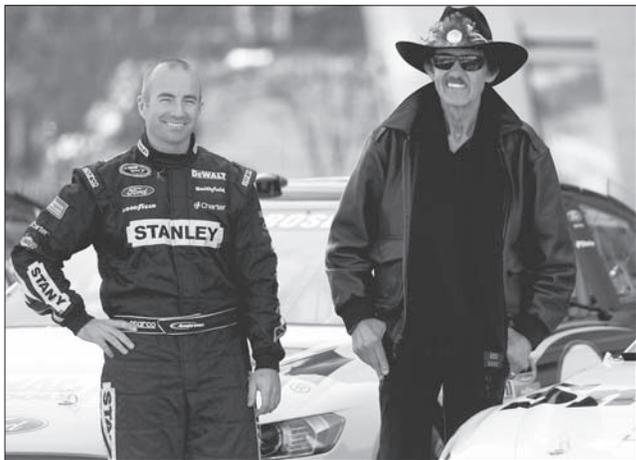
Punishments under the code include expulsion from the school. Darby is a starting cornerback on the team.



PHIL SEARS/AP

Florida State University is under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education for possible Title IX violations in its response to sexual violence complaints against quarterback and 2013 Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston, above.

AUTO RACING



JEFF SINGER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Marcos Ambrose, left, joined Richard Petty Motorsports in 2012 to drive the No. 43 car made famous by Petty, right, who won 200 races and captured seven NASCAR Cup points titles. It has been 15 years since the legendary No. 43 Ford has been in the winner's circle.

RPM off to a strong start after offseason upgrades

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

Richard Petty, N.C., still mourning the death of his wife, skipped the short trip to Martinsville Speedway to watch his team compete.

At the track a little over an hour south of Petty's famed race shop, his two drivers set out to capture a victory in honor of the late Lynda Petty and their boss, "The King."

Marcos Ambrose and Aric Almirola fell short of driving their way into Victory Lane on Sunday. But for just the fourth time in 77 races as teammates, both Richard Petty Motorsports drivers finished inside the top 10.

Ambrose led 22 laps en route to his season-best finish of fifth and Almirola was eighth. It marked the second time in three races the duo both finished inside the top 10, and showed that RPM has turned a corner in its bid to recapture some of its glory days.

"We have a brand here as our race team and it is Richard Petty Motorsports and it is 'The King' and all that he has accomplished. We want to live up to that," Almirola said. "We want to get back to those successful ways that they have had for so many years. Obviously we have been through some tough times and we are clawing our way back to where we need to be and we see the light now."

Petty, a Hall of Famer, won 200 races and seven championships for Petty Enterprises. The orga-

"This is the one place I have come to drive a race car that made me feel like part of the family."

Aric Almirola
Richard Petty Motorsports driver



nization has won just three races since John Andretti's 1999 victory and had a 10-year losing streak. The organization has not won since 2012, but an offseason commitment from sponsor Smithfield helped RPM add personnel and invest in equipment, testing, and research and development.

Those gains have been evident through the first six races of the season. Ambrose is 14th and Almirola is 26th, in part because of two accidents Almirola was involved in. Each driver has two top-10 finishes. Ambrose has two top fives and Almirola finished a career-best third at Bristol.

It's the best start in seven Sprint Cup seasons for Ambrose and it comes a year after Almirola raced out of the gates, when RPM was ill-equipped to have both teams competing at the same level.

Ambrose credits the increased commitment to testing and the development of his relationship with crew chief Drew Blickensderfer, who joined RPM in late 2012, and spent this past offseason making personnel moves that have

strengthened the team. Almirola has a new crew chief in Trent Owens, Petty's nephew, who guided Kyle Larson in the Nationwide Series last season at Turner Scott Motorsports. "He was being courted by a few other teams, but we were able to get it done and we got him over here on our team and I feel like we stole the best crew chief out of the Nationwide garage," Almirola said.

"If RPM can sustain this performance, win a race or two and maybe even a berth in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship, the drivers believe it would be a significant paycheck to Petty."

"This is the one place I have come to drive a race car that made me feel like part of the family," Almirola said. "That is the way they run their operation and race team. It has been a family run business since the '40s and '50s and it is still that way today. Richard comes in here and puts his arm around everybody and makes them feel like they are a part of the Petty family."

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Duck Commander 500 at Fort Worth, Texas.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m. Sunday Central European Time.

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 501 miles, 334 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch won to complete a Cup-Nationwide weekend sweep.

Last week: Stewart-Hass' Kurt Busch won at Martinsville for his 25th victory, taking the lead from Jimmie Johnson with 10 laps to go. Busch snapped an 83-race victory drought.

Fact fact: The record for the most races at the start of the season without a repeat winner is 10 in 2000.

Next race: Southern 500, April 12, Darlington Raceway, Darlington, S.C.

Online: www.nascar.com
—The Associated Press

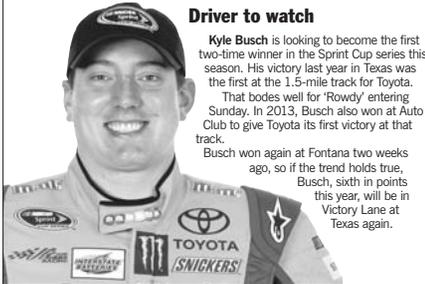
Driver standings

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	227
2. Matt Kenseth	218
3. Carl Edwards	217
4. Jeff Gordon	216
5. Jimmie Johnson	209
6. Kyle Busch	189
7. Brad Keselowski	188
8. Joey Logano	187
9. Austin Dillon	179
10. Ryan Newman	174
11. Paul Menard	168
12. Denny Hamlin	165
13. Brian Vickers	165
14. Marcos Ambrose	162
15. Tony Stewart	154
16. A.J. Allmendinger	152
17. Clint Bowyer	150
18. Greg Biffle	149
19. Kyle Larson	148
20. Kurt Busch	146

Driver to watch

Kyle Busch is looking to become the first two-time winner in the Sprint Cup series this season. His victory last year in Texas was the first at the 1.5-mile track for Toyota. That bodes well for 'Rowdy' entering Sunday. In 2013, Busch also won at Auto Club to give Toyota its first victory at that track.

Busch won again at Fontana two weeks ago, so if the trend holds true, Busch, sixth in points this year, will be in Victory Lane at Texas again.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 in Fort Worth.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2:30 a.m. Saturday Central European Time.

Track: Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch won at the track for the sixth time in the series. He also won the Sprint Cup race.

Last race: Kyle Larson raced to his first Nationwide victory March 22 at Fontana. Next race: VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero 200, April 11, Darlington Raceway, Darlington, S.C.

Online: www.nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

Next race: Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, April 13, Streets of Long Beach, Long Beach, Calif.

Last week: Team Penske's Will Power won the season-opening race in St. Petersburg, Fla., holding off Ryan Hunter-Reay. Power has won four of the series' last six races.

Online: www.indycar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Bahrain Grand Prix at Sakhir, Bahrain.

Track: Bahrain International Circuit (road course, 3.36 miles).

Race distance: 191.53 miles, 57 laps.

Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel won for the second straight year, easily beating Lotus' Kimi Raikkonen.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won the Malaysian Grand Prix, beating teammate Nico Rosberg in the Mercedes team's first 1-2 finish since 1995.

Next race: Chinese Grand Prix, April 20, Shanghai International Circuit.

Online: www.formula1.com

OTHER RACES

WORLD OF OUTLAYS Sprint Car: Saturday-Sunday, Calisto Speedway, Calistoga, Calif. Late Model: Illini 100, Saturday, Farmer City Raceway, Farmer City, Ill. Online: www.worldofoutlays.com

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB
Silver Crown, Super Classic, Sunday, Terre Haute Action Track, Terre Haute, Ind. Sprint Car: Saturday, Lawrenceburg Speedway, Lawrenceburg, Ind. Online: www.usacracing.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: North Carolina Education Lottery 200, May 16, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Last year: Defending series champion Matt Crafton won the rain-delayed race at Martinsville for his fourth career victory. Darrell Wallace was second.

Online: www.nascar.com

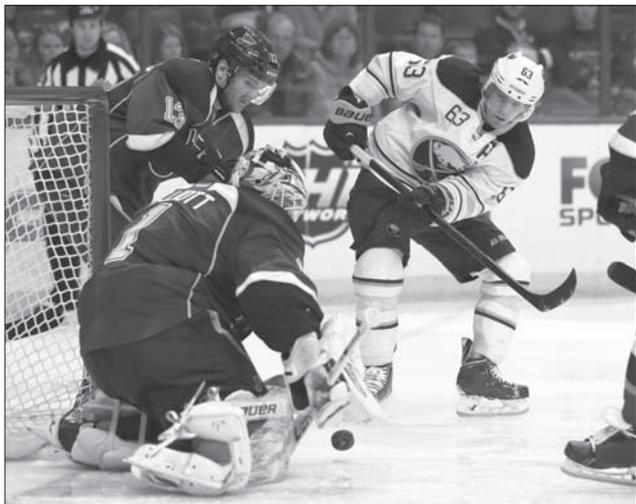
NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: NHRA Four-Wide Nationals, April 11-13, zMAX Dragway, Concord, N.C.

Last week: Alexis DeJoria won in Funny Car and Erica Enders-Stevens topped the Pro Stock field in Las Vegas for the second female double in NHRA history. Tony Schumacher won in Top Fuel for his division-record 73rd win and eighth at Las Vegas.

Online: www.nhra.com

NHL



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

St. Louis goalie Brian Elliott, front, makes a save on a shot by Buffalo's Tyler Ennis, right, as St. Louis' Carlo Colaiacovo watches during the third period of Thursday's game in St. Louis. The Blues won 2-1.

Roundup

Blues set club mark

St. Louis earns franchise-record 52nd win

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Brian Elliott was oh so close to another shutout. He settled for another win.

Elliott stopped 24 shots, and the St. Louis Blues beat the Buffalo Sabres 2-1 for their franchise-record 52nd victory.

"Two points is a lot more valuable than the '0' on the scoreboard," Elliott said. Maxim Lapierre and Brenden Morrow scored as St. Louis improved to 14-2-0 in their last 16 games against Buffalo. The franchise's previous record for wins in a season belonged to the 1999-2000 Blues, who won 51 games on their way to their last Presidents' Trophy.

Elliott improved to 18-5-2 overall and 10-1 at home this season. He was coming off a 1-0 win at Pittsburgh when he had 33 stops.

St. Louis (52-17-7) also moved into a tie with Boston for the most points in the league with 111. The Bruins lost 4-3 to Toronto in overtime.

"It's in back of our minds a little bit," Elliott said about the Presidents' Trophy. "We definitely want to be the best. It's all about keeping your head down and working and carrying that momentum into the playoffs."

Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 3 (OT): Nazem Kadri scored 2:51 into overtime, giving host Toronto the win.

Brad Marchand, Milan Lucic and Patrice Bergeron scored for Boston, which lost back-to-back games for the first time since Feb. 26 and March 1. Chad Johnson made 27 saves.

Avalanche 3, Rangers 2: Tyson Barrie scored in the final minute of regulation for host Colorado, then scored again in the shootout.

Semyon Varlamov had 29 saves for Colorado, which has won five in a row. Varlamov also stopped each of New York's attempts in the shootout.

Blackhawks 3, Wild 2 (SO): Marian Hossa scored the lone goal in the shootout as host Chicago stopped a three-game losing streak.

Chicago goaltender Corey Crawford made 25 saves through overtime, and then stopped all three Minnesota attempts in the shootout. Hossa connected on the Blackhawks' second attempt in the tiebreaker by powering a shot through Ilya Bryzgalov.

Blue Jackets 2, Flyers 0: Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 37 shots for his fourth shutout of the season, leading visiting Columbus to its first win in Philadelphia.

James Wisniewski and Brandon Dubinsky scored for the Blue Jackets, who were in Philadelphia since the franchise's inception in 2000.

Penguins 4, Jets 2: Paul Martin returned after an 18-game absence and scored the winner to host visiting Pittsburgh eliminate Winnipeg from playoff contention.

Martin, who was out with a broken hand, made it 3-2 with a power-play goal at 7:42 of the third period.

Hurricanes 4, Stars 1: John-Michael Liles had a goal and two assists to lead host Carolina to the win.

Liles, Eric Staal and Justin Faulk scored during a run of three goals in a 4:36 span of the second period.

Flames 4, Lightning 1: Kari Rimo had 31 saves for visiting Calgary, and Mike Cammalleri and Kevin Westgarth scored 15 seconds apart in the first period.

Calgary's Curtis Glenross scored twice in the final two minutes, including an empty-netter with 16 seconds left.

Sharks 2, Kings 1: Joe Pavelski and Logan Couture scored second-period goals and host San Jose clinched home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs by beating Los Angeles.

Antti Niemi made 26 saves and the Sharks overcame a first-period deficit to move within a point of Anaheim for first place in the Pacific Division. The Ducks still have two games in hand and the inside track on the top spot.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Boston	77	52	18	7	111	246	165
x-Montreal	77	43	27	7	93	200	152
x-Tampa Bay	77	36	35	6	82	227	205

Metropolitan Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Pittsburgh	77	43	30	5	103	271	191
N.Y. Rangers	77	43	30	5	101	218	187
x-Philadelphia	76	38	38	9	87	213	213

Wild Card	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	76	36	36	4	86	205	215
Columbus	76	30	40	7	85	212	203

Toronto	78	38	32	8	84	227	244
Washington	76	34	29	13	81	217	231
New Jersey	76	32	28	16	80	186	198
Carolina	77	32	11	79	152	112	112
Ottawa	76	32	30	14	78	219	252
N.Y. Islanders	76	31	30	10	72	212	250
Florida	77	27	42	8	62	184	254
Buffalo	76	21	46	9	51	146	226

Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-St. Louis	76	52	17	7	111	243	169
x-Columbo	76	45	26	6	104	233	206
x-Chicago	77	43	19	15	101	251	202

Pacific Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Anaheim	76	59	18	8	108	247	193
x-San Jose	78	49	20	9	107	239	189
x-Los Angeles	78	45	27	6	96	164	164

Wild Card	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	77	39	28	11	80	191	184
Dallas	76	38	11	88	220	216	216

Phoenix	77	36	28	13	86	207	218
Vancouver	77	34	32	11	78	185	209
Winnipeg	78	34	32	10	78	189	210
Nashville	76	33	32	11	77	190	229
Calgary	77	31	37	7	71	127	127
Edmonton	77	26	42	9	61	190	257

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss, x-clinched division

Thursday's games

Colorado 2, St. Louis 2, SO
 San Jose 2, N.Y. Rangers 2, SO
 Columbus 2, Philadelphia 0
 Carolina 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT
 Toronto 4, Boston 3, OT
 Carolina 4, Dallas 1
 St. Louis 2, Buffalo 1
 Pittsburgh 4, Winnipeg 2
 San Jose 2, Los Angeles 1

Friday's games

Chicago at Columbus
 Washington at New Jersey
 Buffalo at Detroit
 Calgary at Florida
 Edmonton at Phoenix
 Nashville at Anaheim
 Philadelphia at Boston
 Colorado at St. Louis
 Washington at N.Y. Islanders
 Winnipeg at Toronto
 Detroit at Montreal
 Dallas at Tampa Bay
 San Jose at Dallas
 New Jersey at Carolina
 Pittsburgh at Minnesota
 Los Angeles at Vancouver
 Nashville at San Jose

Saturday's games

St. Louis at Chicago
 Dallas at Columbus
 N.Y. Islanders at Calgary
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
 Pittsburgh at Colorado
 Anaheim at Edmonton

Sunday

Blue Jackets 2, Flyers 0
 Columbus 0 1 1-2
 San Jose 0 2 0-2
 Second Period—1, Columbus, Wisniewski (Letestu, Yutkin), 17:07 (pp).

Third Period—2, San Jose, 18:26 (pp), 16 (Atkinson, Wynn), 32:00 (pp).
 Philadelphia 10-17-10-37
 Second Period—1, Philadelphia, Columbus 1 of 4; Philadelphia 0 of 4
 Goalies—Columbus, Bobrovsky 28-19 (5 shots-19 saves); Philadelphia, Mason 31-18-7 (27-25).
 A—15,981 (18,541), T—2,26.

Sharks 2, Kings 1

Los Angeles 1 0 0-1
San Jose 0 2 0-2
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Nolan (Sant, Morin), 11:05 (pp).
Second Period—2, San Jose, Burns 23 (Couture, pp), 23 (Couture, pp), San Jose, Couture 21 (Marieau, Wnipeg), 12:13.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 10-9-8-27
Goalies—Los Angeles, Niemi 38-15-27 (27-25).
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles—1 (Couture), 1 (Couture).
Goalies—San Jose, Jones 11-6-0 (21 shots-19 saves).
 A—10,100 (15,000), T—2,221.

Blues 2, Sabres 1

Buffalo 0 0 1-1
St. Louis 0 1 1-2
First Period—1, St. Louis, Lapierre 8 (Rosen, pp), 1:59.
Third Period—2, St. Louis, Morrow 13 (Smyth, pp), 18:08 (pp), Buffalo, Hodgson 18 (Ernis, Lemie), 19:04 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 3-10-12-25. St. Louis 6-10-12-28.
Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 1 of 4.
Goalies—Buffalo, Liewen 13-3-0 (28 shots-19 saves).
Goalies—St. Louis, Elliott 18-9-2 (25-24).
 A—16,146 (19,150), T—2,19.

Hurricanes 4, Stars 1

Dallas 0 1 0-1
Carolina 0 3 1-4
Second Period—1, Carolina, Faulk 19 (Liles, Dwyer), 2:30, 2, Carolina, Faulk 15 (Terry, Faulk), 6:32 (pp), 3, Carolina, Faulk 2 (Terry, Faulk), 7:06 (pp), 4, Dallas, Seguin 34 (Nichushkin, Daley), 9:44.
Third Period—1, Carolina, Nash 10 (Bellemore), 7:40.
Shots on Goal—Carolina, 13-10-11-34. Carolina 8-11-13-32.
Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 3.
Goalies—Dallas, Lehtonen 30-19-10 (16 shots-13 saves).
Goalies—Carolina, Nash 16-15. Carolina, Khudobin 18-12-1 (34-33).
 A—15,730 (18,680), T—2,225.

Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 3 (OT)

Boston 1 0 2-3
Toronto 2 1 0 1-4
First Period—1, Toronto, Ranger 5 (D'Amico, Reilly), 6:00, 2, Boston, Marchand 23 (Bergeron), 6:56, 3, Toronto, Bozak 18 (Kessel, Franzen), 19:48.
Second Period—4, Toronto, van Riemsdyk 30 (Kessel), 1:52.
Third Period—3, Boston, Lucic 22 (Krejci, Barkowski), 5:03, 6, Boston, Bergeron 28 (Marchand, Reilly), 12:31.
Overtime—7, Toronto, Kadri 19 (Franzen, Gardiner), 11:07.
Shots on Goal—Boston 11-9-11-38. Toronto 10-11-5-31-21.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 0 of 2, Toronto 0 of 3.
Goalies—Toronto, C. Johnson 17-3-2 (31 shots-27 saves). Toronto, Bernier (27-25), Reimer 12-13-1 (822, 22, 11, 10).
 A—15,049 (18,619), T—2,225.

Flames 4, Lightning 1

Colorado 2 0 2-4
Tampa Bay 0 1 0-1
First Period—1, Colorado, Cammalleri 25 (10-2), 2, Calgary, Westgarth 4 (Breen), 10:35.
Second Period—3, Tampa Bay, Palat 20 (Carle, Callahan), 15:56.
Third Period—4, Calgary, Glenross 11 (Cammalleri, Russell), 18:04 (pp), Calgary, Glenross 12, 19:44 (en).
Shots on Goal—Calgary, 8-10-7-25. Tampa Bay 5-11-12-32.
Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of 2, Tampa Bay 0 of 3.
Goalies—Calgary, Morrow 15-14-3 (32 shots-11 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 37-13 (24-21).
 A—17,495 (19,204), T—2,225.

Blackhawks 3, Wild 2 (SO)

Minnesota 1 0 1 0-2
Chicago 1 1 0-3
Chicago won shootout 1-0
First Period—1, Minnesota, Coyle 11 (Gourdon, Smith), 14:15.
Second Period—2, Chicago, Smith 11 (Sant, Leddy), 2:29.
Third Period—3, Chicago, Bickell 11 (Morin), 2:45, 4, Minnesota, Haula 4 (Fornberg), 18:06.
Shootout—Minnesota 0 (Parise, Neal, Nuru, Romaniuk, Noll), Chicago 1 (Sharp, NG, Hossa, G. Smith), NG.
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 10-6-12-27. Chicago 5-10-8-3-26.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 1; Chicago 0 of 2.
Goalies—Minnesota, Bryzgalov 9-8 (28 shots-24 saves). Chicago, Crawford 30-15-10 (27-25).
 A—21,791 (19,717), T—2,235.

Penguins 4, Jets 2

Pittsburgh 1 1 2-4
Winnipeg 0 1 1-2
First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Bennett 3 (Crosby, J Jokinen), 12:44.
Second Period—2, Pittsburgh, Oroskin 7 (Wheeler, Byfuglien), 2:52, 3, Pittsburgh, Morrow 11 (Wheeler, Byfuglien), 18:47.
Third Period—Adams 5 (Stempniak), 5:42.
Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh, Martin 3 (Neal, Crosby), 7:42 (pp), 6, Pittsburgh, Gibbons 5, 15:24.
Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 8-6-7-21. Winnipeg 6-3-15-31.
Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 1 of 2; Winnipeg 0 of 3.
Goalies—Pittsburgh, Fleury 37-18-14 (15 shots-13 saves). Winnipeg, Pavelec 21-26-12 (31-24).
 A—10,104 (15,000), T—2,221.

Avalanche 3, Rangers 2 (SO)

N.Y. Rangers 0 0 2-2
Colorado 0 1 0-3
Colorado won shootout 1-0
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Lajoore 4 (Zuccarello, Pouliot), 2:10.
Second Period—Colorado, Benoit 7 (Mitchell, O'Reilly), 5:07, 2, Rangers 7 (Stapaney, Klein, Girard), 15:30.
Third Period—1, Colorado, Barrie 11 (Stesny, E. Johnson), 19:08.
Shots on Goal—Colorado 9 (Zuccarello, NG, St. Louis, NG, Richards, NG), Colorado 1 (Barrie, O'Reilly, NG, Landeskog), NG.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 3-15-3-31. Colorado 9-7-16-37.
Goalies—Colorado, S. Ng 18-13-3-37. Rangers 8-15-3-30.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lindqvist 31-24-13 (37 shots-24 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 39-14-5 (31-29).
 A—16,721 (18,007), T—2,423.

NFL SCOREBOARD

American League

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

Thursday

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Chicago Cubs, Pittsburgh Pirates, and other teams.

National League

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Washington, Miami, Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Colorado, and Arizona.

Chicago

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Pittsburgh, Chicago White Sox, Houston, Tampa Bay, Toronto, Oakland, Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Colorado, and Arizona.

Thursday's games

Kansas City at Detroit, pgo, rain. Minnesota 10, Chicago White Sox 9. Boston 4, Baltimore 3. Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 2. Oakland 3, Seattle 2, 12 innings. Pittsburgh 7, Pittsburgh 2. St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 5. Miami 8, Colorado 5. Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 2. San Francisco 6, Arizona 5. Baltimore at Detroit. St. Louis at Boston. Minnesota at Cleveland. Chicago White Sox at Kansas City. Texas at Toronto. Texas at Tampa Bay. Seattle at Houston. Seattle at Oakland. Philadelphia at Washington. Philadelphia at Chicago Cubs. Arizona at Colorado. Kansas City at L.A. Dodgers. St. Louis at Pittsburgh. Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets. San Diego at Miami.

Yankees 4, Astros 2

New York Yankees 4, Houston Astros 2. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Saturday's games

Minnesota 6, Cleveland 0. Pittsburgh 5, Tampa Bay 0. Baltimore 6, Toronto 0. Detroit 0, Percollo 0. Chicago White Sox (Danks 0-0) at Kansas City (Fernandez 1-0) at Oakland (Lincecum 0-0). L.A. Angels (Skaggs 0-0) at Houston (Justin Verlander 0-0) at Boston (Buchholz 0-0). Los Angeles (Martinez 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Price 1-0). Cincinnati (Coco 1-0) at N.Y. Mets (Gea 0-0). Pittsburgh (Lincecum 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Samarzija 0-0). San Francisco (Bumgarner 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-0). Atlanta (Teheran 0-1) at Washington (Lincecum 0-0). St. Louis (Kelly 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Lirio 0-0). Milwaukee (Werth 0-0) at Boston (Buchholz 0-0). New York Yankees (Cashner 0-0) at Miami (Fernandez 1-0). St. Louis (Carruthy 0-0) at Colorado (De La Rosa 0-1).

Sunday's games

Minnesota (Nolasco 1-1) at Cleveland (Masterson 0-0). Pittsburgh (Lirio 0-0) at Houston (Feldman 1-0). Detroit (Tillman 0-0) at Detroit (Verlander 0-0). Milwaukee (Gallardo 1-0) at Boston (Clayton 0-0). Texas (Darvish 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Gardner 0-0). Chicago White Sox (Sale 1-0) at Kansas City (Mullins 0-0). Los Angeles (Weaver 0-1) at Houston (Feldman 1-0). St. Louis (Ramirez 1-0) at Oakland (Gray 0-0). Cincinnati (Simon 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Cohan 0-0). Atlanta (Kennedy 0-1) at Miami (Eaton 0-0). Atlanta (Awood 1-0) at Washington (Strasburg 0-0). St. Louis (Gallardo 1-0) at Boston (Lester 1-0). St. Louis (Wainwright 1-0) at Pittsburgh (Villanueva 0-0). Arizona (Miley 1-1) at Colorado (Anderson 0-1). San Francisco (McCain 0-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 1-0).

Calendar

May 14-15 - Owners meetings, New York. May 5 - Amateur draft, July 15 - All-Star game, Minneapolis.



Mariners second baseman Robinson Cano reacts after striking out during the tenth inning Thursday's game against the Athletics.

Mariners second baseman Robinson Cano reacts after striking out during the tenth inning Thursday's game against the Athletics. The game ended in a 1-0 victory for the Mariners.

Giants 8, Diamondbacks 5

San Francisco Giants 8, Arizona Diamondbacks 5. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Cardinals 7, Reds 6

St. Louis Cardinals 7, Cincinnati Reds 6. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Twins 10, White Sox 9

Minnesota Twins 10, Chicago White Sox 9. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 3

Boston Red Sox 4, Baltimore Orioles 3. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Nationals 8, Mets 2

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Washington Nationals and New York Mets.

Mariners 8, Rockies 5

Seattle Mariners 8, Colorado Rockies 5. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Angels 5, Yankees 4

Los Angeles Angels 5, New York Yankees 4. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Reds 6, Cardinals 7

Cincinnati Reds 6, St. Louis Cardinals 7. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Twins 10, White Sox 9

Minnesota Twins 10, Chicago White Sox 9. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 3

Boston Red Sox 4, Baltimore Orioles 3. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Nationals 8, Mets 2

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Los Angeles Angels 5, New York Yankees 4. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Reds 6, Cardinals 7

Cincinnati Reds 6, St. Louis Cardinals 7. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Twins 10, White Sox 9

Minnesota Twins 10, Chicago White Sox 9. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 3

Boston Red Sox 4, Baltimore Orioles 3. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

BECK DEFENBAC/AP

AP/WIDE WORLD

AP/WIDE WORLD

Washington

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Washington Nationals and New York Mets.

Mariners 8, Rockies 5

Seattle Mariners 8, Colorado Rockies 5. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Angels 5, Yankees 4

Los Angeles Angels 5, New York Yankees 4. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Reds 6, Cardinals 7

Cincinnati Reds 6, St. Louis Cardinals 7. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

Twins 10, White Sox 9

Minnesota Twins 10, Chicago White Sox 9. Game recap including pitching and batting stats for both teams.

AP/WIDE WORLD

AP/WIDE WORLD

AP/WIDE WORLD

AP/WIDE WORLD

AP/WIDE WORLD

MLB

AL roundup

Yankees get boost from rookie Solarte

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Rookie Yangervis Solarte had three hits in his first major league start and Derek Jeter drove in a run to give the New York Yankees their first win this season, 4-2 over the Houston Astros on Thursday night.

Solarte singled during a two-run third inning that put New York up 2-1. He doubled in the fifth and scored on a single by Jeter to make it 3-1.

Houston cut the lead to one in the bottom half before Solarte came through again, this time with a single that drove in Ichiro Suzuki.

Solarte also had a nifty defensive play at third when he grabbed a liner hit right at him by Jose Altuve for the third out in the eighth.

Ivan Nova (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits in 5½ innings. David Robertson, who took over as closer for Mariano Rivera, pitched a perfect ninth for his first save.

Houston starter Brett Oberholzer also went 5½ innings, allowing five hits and three runs.

Red Sox 4, Orioles 2: David Ortiz had three of visiting Boston's 12 hits off Wei-Yin Chen, and the Red Sox got an effective pitching performance from Felix Doubront and four relievers.

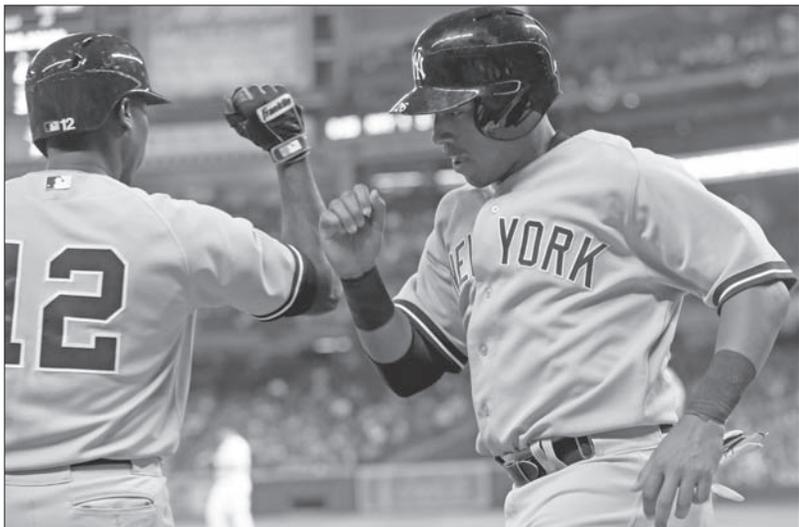
Xander Bogaerts also had three hits for the Red Sox, who took two of three in the season-opening series between AL East rivals. Boston finished with 14 hits, 12 of them singles.

Matt Wieters had three hits for the Orioles, and Chris Davis had two hits and scored twice.

Rays 7, Blue Jays 2: Chris Archer threw six solid innings, Evan Longoria hit a three-run homer and host Tampa Bay split a four-game series with Toronto.

Archer (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits in his first start since he agreed to a \$25.5 million, six-year deal Wednesday. The contract includes club options for 2020 and 2021 that could raise the value to \$43.75 million.

Longoria tied Carlos Pena for first on the Rays' career home run list with 163 on his seventh-inning shot off Esmil Rogers



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Yankees rookie Yangervis Solarte, right, knock arms with teammate Alfonso Soriano after scoring from third base on a Carlos Beltran bases-loaded sacrifice fly Thursday during the third inning against the Astros in Houston.

that put Tampa Bay ahead 7-2.

Twins 10, White Sox 9: Chris Colabello had a career-high six RBIs, Oswaldo Arcia hit a go-ahead triple and visiting Minnesota avoided a season-opening sweep.

Trailing 9-8 heading into the ninth, the Twins scored twice off Chicago closer Matt Lindstrom (0-1), who blew his first save chance in two opportunities. Trevor Plouffe hit a tying RBI single with two outs before Arcia's triple off the wall in center gave Minnesota a 10-9 lead.

Glen Perkins picked up his first save after surrendering Minnesota's lead Wednesday. He got Paul Konerko to ground to third to end the game, giving manager Ron Gardenhire his 999th career win.

Caleb Thielbar (1-0) allowed Marcus Semien's go-ahead homer in the eighth.

Athletics 3, Mariners 2 (12): Coco Crisp homered leading off the bottom of the 12th inning to lift Oakland past Seattle.

Crisp, who scored the tying run with two outs in the eighth inning, hit a tower-

ing home run off Seattle reliever Hector Noesi (0-1) on an 0-1 pitch. The ball landed just above the out-of-town scoreboard in right field. It's the sixth game-ending hit of Crisp's career.

Yoenis Cespedes and Sam Fuld also drove in runs for Oakland, which rallied from two runs down for its first walkoff win of the season.

Drew Pomeranz (1-0), the fifth A's pitcher, worked one scoreless inning for the win.

NL roundup

St. Louis holds on to beat Cincinnati

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The St. Louis Cardinals overcame another long delay and two homers from Todd Frazier on Thursday, holding on to beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-6 and take two of three in their season-opening series.

The first pitch was delayed 3 hours, 42 minutes because of rain. The Cardinals then emerged from their two-game hitting slump by knocking Homer Bailey (0-1) out of the game in the fifth inning. Jhonny Peralta homered to get it going.

Lance Lynn (1-0) gave up Jay Bruce's two-run homer and Frazier's solo shot during five innings.

Giants 8, Diamondbacks 5: Angel Pagan hit a three-run home

run in his team's five-run eighth inning as San Francisco rallied to beat host Arizona in a game that was halted briefly in the top of the first due to a swarm of bees in the outfield.

Paul Goldschmidt and Mark Trumbo each hit two-run home runs and Arizona led 5-3 after seven, but the Giants teed off on reliever Will Harris (0-1) in the eighth to take three of four games from the Diamondbacks.

Nationals 8, Mets 2: Tanner Roark recovered from a shaky first inning as an emergency starter in place of ailing Jordan Zimmermann as visiting Washington rallied past New York for an opening three-game sweep.

Ryan Zimmerman tied his career high with four hits. Roark (1-0) got just two swings

and misses in the first two innings and fell behind in a 30-pitch first. He wound up allowing just the two runs and six hits in six innings with three walks and five strikeouts.

Wheeler (0-1) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Marlins 8, Rockies 5: Giancarlo Stanton singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the eighth inning, capping a comeback to help host Miami beat Colorado.

Casey McGehee had two hits and three RBIs for the Marlins, who scored 27 runs while winning three of four games in the season-opening series.

The Marlins were 1-for-15 with runners in scoring position for the afternoon before Christian

Yelich made the score 5-11 in the eighth with a two-out RBI single off Matt Belisle (0-1).

A.J. Ramos (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth. Steve Cishek followed with a scoreless ninth for his 31st consecutive converted save opportunity, and his second this year.

Cubs 3, Pirates 2: Jason Hammel pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning as visiting Chicago edged Pittsburgh for their first win of the season.

Hammel (1-0) allowed a run, struck out five and walked one in 6½ innings to help the Cubs avoid their worst start in 17 years.

Emilio Bonifacio went 2-for-4 and scored twice to continue his torrid start. The Chicago center fielder hit 11-for-16 (.688) during the opening three-game series.



AL BEHRMAN/AP

St. Louis Cardinals relief pitcher Trevor Rosenthal, left, is congratulated by catcher Yadier Molina after they defeated the Cincinnati Reds 7-6 Thursday in Cincinnati. Rosenthal recorded his second save of the season.

NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



SUE OGOROCKI/AP

Thunder guard Russell Westbrook, left, goes up to shoot as Spurs forward Tim Duncan defends during the first quarter of an Thursday's game in Oklahoma City. The Thunder won 106-94.

Roundup

Thunder stop Spurs' winning streak at 19

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant's rare streak of games with at least 25 points continued, and San Antonio's run of 19 straight wins came to a halt.

Another streak might mean more than both of them — Oklahoma City's season sweep. Durant scored 28 points and Russell Westbrook scored 27 to help the Thunder defeat San Antonio 106-94 on Thursday night in a showdown of the top two teams in the Western Conference. Oklahoma City won all four games against the Spurs this season, and this was the most lopsided result.

"That's a big thing," Westbrook said. "When you have a team that's a good basketball team — they're the No. 1 team in the West, and we want to be the best team, you've got to beat the best. I think we did a great job of that tonight."

Serge Ibaka added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Thunder, who trail San Antonio by three games with eight remaining.

Durant scored at least 25 points for the 39th consecutive game, the longest streak since Michael Jordan did it 40 consecutive times during the 1986-87 season. He

reached 25 on a free throw with 3:31 remaining, drawing a roar from the crowd.

Patty Mills scored 21 points and Kawhi Leonard and Tim Duncan each added 17 for the Spurs.

Mavericks 113, Clippers 107: Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points, Jose Calderon added 19 and visiting Dallas beat Los Angeles for the first time this season.

Blake Griffin had 25 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists in his first triple-double of the season for the Clippers, who had won 17 of their previous 19, including four straight. They beat the Mavs in their first three meetings of the season, coming from behind each time.

A night earlier, the Clippers came back from a 17-point deficit to beat Phoenix on the road, clinching their second straight Pacific Division title and third consecutive playoff berth.

Samuel Dalembert and Monta Ellis added 12 points each, and Vince Carter had 16 for the Mavs, who won their third straight on a road while battling Memphis for the eighth and last Western Conference playoff spot.

The Mavericks led by 11 twice in the first half.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	
x-Toronto	40	34	.541	2B
x-Brooklyn	39	36	.520	13 1/2
New York	37	38	.493	15 1/2
Boston	23	52	.307	20 1/2
Philadelphia	22	53	.293	27

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	
y-Miami	52	22	.703	
x-Washington	49	25	.662	9 1/2
Charlotte	37	38	.493	15 1/2
Atlanta	22	49	.312	20 1/2
Orlando	21	54	.280	21 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	
y-Indiana	43	23	.697	—
x-Chicago	43	32	.573	9 1/2
New Orleans	41	45	.479	12 1/2
Detroit	27	48	.360	25 1/2
Milwaukee	14	61	.187	38 1/2

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	
y-San Antonio	59	17	.776	—
Houston	49	25	.662	9
Dallas	45	31	.592	14
Memphis	44	31	.587	14 1/2
New Orleans	32	43	.427	26 1/2

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	
x-Oklahoma City	49	19	.743	—
Portland	49	27	.645	7
Golden State	37	37	.500	17 1/2
Denver	33	42	.440	22 1/2
Utah	32	43	.427	26 1/2

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	
y-L.A. Clippers	54	23	.701	—
Golden State	46	29	.613	7
Phoenix	44	31	.587	9
Sacramento	37	48	.438	26
L.A. Lakers	25	50	.333	28

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Thursday's games
Oklahoma City 106, San Antonio 94
Dallas 113, Clippers 107

Friday's games
Denver at Memphis
Indiana at Toronto
Orlando at Charlotte
Detroit at Brooklyn
Philadelphia at Boston
Minnesota at Miami
Cleveland at Atlanta
Washington at New York
Chicago at Phoenix
New Orleans at Utah
Oklahoma City at Houston
Phoenix at Portland
Sacramento at Golden State
Dallas at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's games
Minnesota at Orlando
Chicago at Washington
Brooklyn at Philadelphia
Charlotte at Cleveland
Boston at Detroit
Toronto at Milwaukee

Sunday's games
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers
Dallas at Sacramento
Atlanta at Indiana
Denver at Houston
Memphis at San Antonio
Ish at Golden State
Oklahoma City at Phoenix
New Orleans at Portland

Thursday
Thunder 106, Spurs 94

San Antonio Leonard 35 0-0 17, Duncan 5-18 7-8 17, Spillier 1-5 0-0 2, Parker 3-10 0-1 6, Green 4-9 1-2 11, Diaw 0-0 1-2 2, Ayres 1-2 0-0 2, James 0-1 0-0 0, Minnesota 12-0 2-0 10 38-89 12-94

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 11-26 6-6 28, Ibaka 9-11 1-2 11, Perkins 0-0 0-0 0, Westbrook 10-20 6-27, Robertson 2-0 0-0 5, Butler 1-5 1-2 4, Adams 2-4 1-2 5, Collison 1-2 2-4, Jackson 0-8 0-14, Fisher 1-3 3-6, Lamb 1-1 0-0 2, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 40-80 20-23 100

San Antonio 24 27 20 23-94
Oklahoma City 22 26 32 26-106

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 9-22 (Mills 5-7, Green 2-5, Leonard 1-3, Bellinse 1-2), Parker 0-0, Diaw 0-0 2, Oklahoma City 6-18 (Jackson 2-2, Robertson 1-1, Fisher 1-3, Butler 1-4, Westbrook 1-4, Durant 0-0), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—San Antonio 49 (Duncan 8), Oklahoma City 49 (Barnes 12), Assists—San Antonio 18 (Parker, Leonard 3), Oklahoma City 18 (Westbrook 8), Total Fouls—San Antonio 18, Oklahoma City 16, Technicals—Duncan, Perkins, Westbrook, A—18,203 (08:02)

Mavericks 113, Clippers 107

DALLAS — Marion 2-3 3-4 11, Nowitzki 10-18 2-26, Dalembert 2-6 0-6, Calderon 8-13 0-19, Ellis 4-12 3-4 12, Carter 6-12 0-16, Harris 2-6 0-0 6, Wright 4-7 0-8, Crowder 2-3 1-2 5, Blair 0-2 2-2. Totals 41-87 20-20 100

L.A. CLIPPERS — Barnes 2-9 1-2 6, Griffin 9-23 7-25, Jordan 9-12 8-21, Paul 7-14 2-2 17, Collin 3-7 1-4 6 2-0 10 4-12, Davis 2-4 0-4, Dudley 0-4 0-0 0, Bullock 0-1 0-0, Totals 38-81 25-107

Dallas 32 26 28 27-113
L.A. Clippers 26 30 25 26-107

Three-Point Goals—Dallas 14-22 (Harris 4-7, Nowitzki 4-7, Calderon 3-5, Harris 4, Ellis 1-5, Crowder 0-1), L.A. Clippers 6-27 (Redick 2-6, Collison 2-6, Barnes 1-6, Paul 1-2, Bullock 0-4, Dudley 0-1), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Dallas 53 (Nowitzki 11), L.A. Clippers 49 (Jordan 15), Assists—Dallas 24 (Griffin 11), Total Fouls—Dallas 21, L.A. Clippers 20, A—19,222 (19:06)

Buzz: Comparisons to Walker inevitable

FROM BACK PAGE

After that, the Huskies (30-8) would have to beat Kentucky or Wisconsin on Monday night to win championship No. 4.

"Finish it off and Napier will secure a spot in history — alone."

"I just want to go out there, like I always say, and be myself," Napier said. "At the end of the day, he (Walker) took that team to a national championship and I want to do the same. But, I'm going to do it a different pathway and I'm going to be myself."

"That path is similar to Walker's has led to the comparisons. Walker was — well, still is — a slender point guard who was part scorer, part facilitator, beyond-his-size rebounder, defensive menace, clutch shooter."

The description fits Napier well.

A 6-foot-1 senior, he could have left the program after UConn was barred from the NCAA tournament last season for failing to meet academic standards. He stuck it out instead and returned to lead UConn with 18.1 points per game, 5.9 rebounds (tied with DeAndre Daniels), 4.9 assists and 17 steals.

Clutch? Napier hit the game-winning shot at the buzzer to beat Florida — the Gators' last loss before running off 30 straight wins — and scored nine of his 24 points in UConn's overtime victory over Saint Joseph's in the Huskies' NCAA tournament opener.

Napier also is an 86 percent free-throw shooter and at his best when the game is on the line, making all nine of his attempts — three huge ones in the closing seconds — in UConn's Final Four-earning win over Michigan

State in the East Region final.

Napier is arguably the best player among these Final Four teams.

"Shabazz is a great player, a great leader and that's the one thing I see: he's an extension of me," UConn coach Kevin Ollie said. "I asked him to do a lot. Not only to be a facilitator, but score out of necessity when we get down to the thick of the thing, the thick of a moment when he needs to make a play."

That's where Napier may be the most like his mentor.

During Walker's junior season, he hoisted the Huskies on his back, scoring an almost-unthinkable 130 points during the five days of the Big East tournament, and kept it going by practically willing UConn through the NCAA tournament.

Napier has taken the Huskies through similar run. He bounced back from a missed buzzer beater in regulation to wear out Saint Joseph's in overtime; scored 25 against Villanova; had 19 points, five rebounds and five assists in a win over Iowa State; sent the Huskies to the Final Four with a 25-6 4 performance that included three huge free throws with 30 seconds left against the Spartans.

"Everybody says I want five guys in double figures," said former UConn coach Jim Calhoun, who recruited Napier to Storrs. "The best guy should take the most shots and that's what we do. You see a guy not having quite a sure shot, give it to Shabazz, let him make a play."

Just like Kemba.

AP Sports Writer Steve Reed in Charlotte and Pat Eaton-Robb in Storrs, Conn., contributed to this story.



SETH WENIG/AP

Connecticut's Shabazz Napier, left, goes up to shoot past Michigan State's Adreian Payne during the East Region final in New York.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Minnesota prevails over SMU for NIT title

By **MIKE FITZPATRICK**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Richard Pitino held his 3-year-old daughter in his arms as his Minnesota team cut down the net at Madison Square Garden. “Richard, get up there!” yelled his famous father, Rick, the Hall of Fame coach at Louisville. First, the kid had others in mind. “The assistants!” he shouted back.

Spoken like a coach who listened closely at the dinner table eating up every last lesson.

Austin Hollins hit a tiebreaking three-pointer with 46.1 seconds left and Minnesota won the NIT championship Thursday night, beating SMU 65-63 to give the Pitino family its latest postseason tournament title.

Hollins scored 19 points and Andre Hollins had 14 for the Golden Gophers (25-13), who took home the trophy for the third time. They also won the National Invitation Tournament in 1993 and '98, though the second one was vacated because of an NCAA rules violation involving player eligibility.

“We made some big-time plays,” Richard Pitino said. “Austin made a big-time three. We gutted it out. That is a very good team. They’re a really good team. They deserve to be in the NCAA tournament. I’m really proud of our guys. I’m so happy for our seniors.”



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Minnesota's Austin Hollins holds up part of the net after Minnesota defeated SMU 65-63 in the final of the NIT on Thursday in New York. Hollins was selected as the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

With Rick Pitino sitting — sometimes standing — right near his son's bench, Minnesota made up for a blowout loss to Stanford in the NIT final two years ago and finished with a flourish in

its first season under 31-year-old Richard Pitino.

“I think it's one of the highlights of my life,” Rick Pitino said on the court after giving his boy a hug. “He's a brilliant young man.”

After dad was knocked out of the NCAA's last week when the defending champion Cardinals were beaten by rival Kentucky in the Sweet 16, it was left to the younger Pitino to bring home a

title in April.

That's exactly what he did, defeating SMU and Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown — old enough to be his grandfather.

“Got to give a lot of credit to Richard and his team,” Brown said. “They were really well prepared. Got down seven and I thought he got their kids to dig in a little bit. We didn't handle prosperity very well. Had some terrible turnovers in the guts of the game, and I think it turned the game around.”

Andre Hollins hit three of four free throws in the final 16.3 seconds to help keep Minnesota in front. Mathieu scored all 13 of his points in the second half and finished with seven assists for the Gophers.

Austin Hollins shot 8-for-12, including 3 of 6 from behind the arc, and was selected the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

“Ah, man it feels great,” he said. “It's a blessing to be able to finish the season on a win. Few teams get to do that.”

The 73-year-old Brown has turned things around in two seasons at SMU, and his latest recalculation project was the favorite going into the NIT after being one of the last teams snubbed by the NCAA tournament.

“I'm proud of my team,” Brown said. “We picked ourselves up and we competed at the highest level against quality teams and gave ourselves a chance to win.”

Wildcats' Randle comes home

By **DAVE SKRETTA**
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Kentucky coach John Calipari might as well have built a pipeline to Texas during the recruiting season, or at least found a nice place to rent somewhere between Dallas and Houston.

As the Wildcats prepare to play Wisconsin in the Final Four on Saturday night, three of their most prominent players — bruising forward Julius Randle and twin guards Andrew and Aaron Harrison — are basically heading home, eager to play in front of hundreds of family and friends.

“It's just added motivation that it's in Dallas,” said Randle, who grew up just down the interstate from AT&T Stadium, “but any kid wants to play in the Final Four. I don't care if it's on the moon. You want to play in the Final Four. But for it to be in my hometown, it's special.”

Randle remembers doodling on a piece of paper in study hall in high school when he learned that the Final Four had been awarded to the glitzy new football stadium that Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was raising.

“It's kind of weird. It's just what I asked for,” Randle said. “I was in study hall and I didn't have anything to do, and I found out it was here, the national championship, Dallas. It's just where I wanted to be and it's always been my goal.”

Randle wound up being a big reason why the Wildcats are still playing. He finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds against Michigan, making several key



Florida (36-2) vs. Connecticut (30-8)
AFN-Sports
Midnight Saturday
Central European time



Wisconsin (30-7) vs. Kentucky (28-10)
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Sunday
Central European time

Randle, who starred at Prestonwood Christian Academy, a program in Plano, helping the school win three state titles. Randle was also a member of the Texas Titans, an elite AAU program, and his mother played basketball at Texas-Arlington.

Kentucky's Julius Randle will get to play in front of family and friends at the Final Four on Saturday in his home town of Dallas.

MICHAEL CONROY/AP



plays on both ends of the floor in the closing minutes of a game that sent Kentucky to the Final Four.

“I just wanted to make sure I did whatever I could to get back there,” said Randle, who has averaged a team-leading 15.1 points and 10.7 rebounds for the Wildcats.

“Back there” is home for

SPORTS



End of the streak
 After winning 19 in a row, Spurs
 lose to Thunder | **NBA, Page 30**

The buzz about



Shabazz

UConn's Napier
 finds own path
 as team leader

By JOHN MARSHALL
 The Associated Press

Shabazz Napier can shoot, drive and dish, hit big shots, pick off passes, carry a team down the stretch of a game and a season.

Sounds an awful lot like another recent Connecticut star: Kemba Walker.

Playing with the poise and confidence he learned from his mentor three years ago, Napier has followed Walker's footsteps but created his own path while leading the Huskies back to the Final Four.

"He's really smart, knows when to go, when to pass," Florida coach Billy Donovan said Thursday from Cowboys Stadium. "I think he understands the length and time of a game. He's played a lot of minutes over his career, he's been in big events and big venues."

Walker had one of the great runs in college basketball history, leading the Huskies through five wins in five days in the Big East tournament and a carry-them-on-my-back trip through the NCAA tournament.

On that team was a confident freshman point guard who was still willing to ask questions, taking his opportunities when they arose, learning what he didn't know from Walker and the other Huskies. Napier played in every game that season, averaging 23 minutes, 7.8 points and three assists.

Flash forward three years and Napier has another title in his sights.

UConn must first get through Florida (36-2), the tournament's top overall seed, in one national semifinal Saturday night at Cowboys Stadium.

SEE BUZZ ON PAGE 30



Connecticut guard Shabazz Napier celebrates during the closing seconds of the East Region final against Michigan State. The Huskies won 60-54 for a spot in the Final Four.

RICHARD MESSINA, HARTFORD COURANT/MCT



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■ Kentucky's Randle excited about playing in hometown, Page 31

Yankees top Astros for first victory of season

MLB, Page 29

With 52nd win, Blues set franchise record

NHL, Page 27