

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas



MICHEL EULER/AP

Security officers escort hostages after a standoff with terrorists at a kosher market in Paris on Friday.

TERROR IN PARIS

French police kill 2 massacre suspects and ally, ending double hostage crisis around capital » Page 10

Gunmen held hostages at printing plant, store in separate standoffs

Official: Brothers came out shooting before being killed

Schools put under lockdown, residents urged to stay indoors

US training Iraqi troops amid weapons, ammo deficits

By LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

CAMP TAJI, Iraq — Years after the U.S. military tried to create a new army in Iraq — at a cost of more than \$25 billion — American trainers have returned to help rebuild the country's fighting force.

But this time, things are different. With the Iraqis dependent on their own logistics, there's a shortage of weapons and ammunition available for training. For the time being, soldiers at Camp Taji are restricted to shouting "bang bang" to simulate firing during exercises. And, mindful of how Iraqi troops fled their positions last June during a major offensive by Islamic State extremists, U.S. trainers have added some new elements to boot camp.

"We are giving classes on the will to fight," explained Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston, who

'We are giving classes on the will to fight.'

Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston on training Iraqi troops

previously instructed Iraqi troops in 2006 and 2007 and is now overseeing the U.S. training program. There is also more focus on training senior officers.

The new U.S. program, which began late last month, aims to give 5,000 Iraqi soldiers basic weapons and tactics training within six to eight weeks. The U.S. military hopes to eventually build a force capable of mounting counter-offensives against the Islamic State group, which

has taken control of large swaths of northern and western Iraq.

But a day at Camp Taji, where a small group of reporters was allowed access to the program this week for the first time, highlighted the challenges.

On a training ground, five Iraqi army recruits awkwardly gripping AK-47s approached a wooden building, kicking down a piece of a door that had been propped up in its entrance. Two U.S. trainers coached them on where to direct their weapons, while a few yards away, an American soldier banged a hammer against a metal pole to simulate the sound of enemy fire.

"There's a bare minimum of equipment," said Capt. John Cumbie, one of the U.S. trainers. He said that's not necessarily because it doesn't exist but because of the hurdles in getting weapons and gear to the right place due to the complexity of the Iraqi bureaucracy and an underdeveloped logistics system.

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Movies: 'Selma' actor digs deep in MLK portrayal » Page 16

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“What people are concerned about is not cleavage, but that a bunch of cultural hooligans are in charge of making approvals.”

— Businessman Ren Zhiqiang on China’s censoring of a popular television series to crop out images of women’s bosoms

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4. Air Force restricts travel to Paris in wake of terrorist attack
5. Overseas commissaries hit with critical food shortages

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Science & Medicine

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MILITARY

Leaders for POW/MIA effort named

By **TRAVIS J. TRITTEN**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—The Defense Department on Friday appointed leadership for a new command that will replace the dysfunctional, scandal-prone agencies now in charge of recovering the nation’s war dead.

Rear Adm. Mike Franken, a former Navy legislative director who is new to the recovery efforts, will be interim commander until a civilian director is chosen in about six months, defense officials said. Maj. Gen. Kelly McKeague, the commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and a top leader of existing recovery operations, was named the interim deputy director.

Filling the positions is another step toward an ongoing consolidation of JPAC and the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office into a single organization, which was ordered by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in March and will likely continue into 2016.

More than 83,000 Americans are still missing from past conflicts, and the agencies have drawn criticism for only recovering about 72 remains annually. During the past two years, they also have riled surviving families and have been charged with widespread mismanagement and botched recovery efforts.

McKeague has said he hopes to increase the number of annual recoveries to about 125 by 2018. The newly appointed leaders planned to give news Friday on the progress to families and MIA groups, who will be asked to help name the command before it officially stands up in about two weeks.

Defense officials said working more closely with the families of the missing will be a key mission for the new command, which will have a temporary headquarters in Washington until a permanent location is chosen next year.

Much of the work has yet to be done and the transition from JPAC and DPMO is expected to take about one more year. Franken and McKeague will build the new command with input from DOD working groups that began meeting last year.

The groups comprise volunteers from JPAC, DPMO, the Armed Forces DNA identifica-



WAYNE HANSEN/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Denetra Reilly, with the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, digs in an established excavation grid in Thua Thien-Hue province, Vietnam, in 2012.

Hagel: Interim chief ‘highly qualified’

Stars and Stripes

Rear Adm. Michael Franken, interim director of the new, unified agency responsible for recovering and identifying the remains of missing servicemembers, has held a number of leadership roles during his military career.

He has been commander of Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa; vice director for strategy, plans, and policy at U.S. Central Command; commander of Destroyer Squadron 28; commander of Task Group 152 for the Eisenhower Strike Group; and U.S. Pacific Command division chief in the Joint Staff’s joint operations directorate.

Franken was hand-picked by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to be interim director of the new agency, according to defense officials.

In a statement, Hagel described Franken as “a highly qualified leader who has a strong operational and policy background.”

Defense officials said Franken is not new to standing up organizations. After the Sept. 11,



Franken

2001 terrorist attacks, he helped establish “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s operational think tank that deals with classified missions. He also was the first commander of the destroyer USS Winston S. Churchill.

A senior defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss the organizational changes, said that Franken’s biggest handicap as he enters the job is his lack of familiarity with the MIA identification-and-recovery mission and related operations.

“I have much to learn,” Franken acknowledged in a written statement provided to reporters.

The search for a permanent director is under way. According to officials, which means Franken may have little time to get up to speed and to make changes before he is replaced.

tion laboratory, and other military personnel, according to the DOD.

Last fall, the department’s inspector general warned that poor leadership and a hostile work environment in the current MIA accounting agencies could transfer to the new command.

Efforts to root out those cultur-

al problems are being weighed, DOD said. But Franken and McKeague have not yet determined what safeguards will be in place to ensure the current problems do not continue, according to defense officials.

There are already plans to review the recommendations of working groups staffed by em-

ployees of the agencies mired in dysfunction and scandal.

“We are going to take another look at those working groups,” a senior defense official told Stars and Stripes. “Adm. Franken is going to assess whether that was the right path.”

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY DEAN J. KOEFLER, THE (TACOMA, WASH.) NEWS TRIBUNE/AP

Soldiers from the 615th Engineer Company from Fort Carson, Colo., play video games Tuesday at Camp Blackjack, an Ebola monitoring-and-quarantine facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

After shortened Ebola mission, soldiers make most of isolation

By ADAM ASHTON

The (Olympia, Wash.) Olympian

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash.—Aside from the obvious, the Army has two big concerns for the troops it sent to a temporary quarantine at Joint Base Lewis-McChord on their way home from an Ebola-fighting mission in West Africa.

The first is that they don't come down with a cold or flu bug after jumping climates from Africa to the Puget Sound area.

The second is keeping them busy for three weeks of routine monitoring that's required to ensure they have not contracted the deadly Ebola virus.

"We do not want idle hands. We've got it planned out right until we leave," said 1st Sgt. Scott Legg, 39, the senior enlisted leader in a 100-soldier Army construction unit that arrived at JBLM on Jan. 2 after a two-month mission in Liberia.

He and his soldiers are eager to go home to Colorado. In the meantime, they're trying to make the most of a mandatory isolation period designed to keep them away from civilians during the virus' 21-day incubation period.

"We're taking advantage of this time to catch up on a lot of administrative work," said Capt. Ryan Horton, commander of the construction troops in the 615th Engineer Company at Fort Carson, Colo.

JBLM is one of five domestic military installations hosting troops coming back from West Africa. It's housing quarantined troops in World War II-era barracks that most recently were used for summer-time ROTC exercises.

The barracks were warm this week when the Army brought reporters from The News Tribune to the base for a tour of the containment area. Troops get three hot meals per day brought to them from a nearby dining facility. Food scraps are discarded in sealed bins and are hauled away by a solid-waste service company.

"Everything is monitored very closely," said 1st Sgt. Robert Sarver, one of the soldiers from JBLM's 593rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command who is overseeing the camp.

Inside a fenced-off area called Camp Blackjack, soldiers spend their days on health checkups, team sports, classes, exercise and video games. The Wi-Fi works well, and they have all the time they need to communicate with their families.

They just can't leave the fence until they wait out the quarantine. In that sense, it's a lot like the stations in Kuwait that troops pass through on their way to combat in Iraq or Afghanistan. Civilians have even started sending care packages.

JBLM began preparing the barracks in October when the Pentagon ramped up its deployments to West Africa, aiming to build Ebola treatment cen-



Maj. Bart Gillum of Madigan Army Medical Center takes the temperature of a soldier Tuesday at Camp Blackjack.

ters that could be used to fight a virus that claimed 8,000 lives in 2014.

Horton's company deployed to build roads and facilities for aid workers. His soldiers expected a nine-month deployment but were able to come home early because the Liberian government has sped up construction with its own contractors.

The engineers left Fort Carson on short notice after families and soldiers took classes to learn how Ebola is spread.

The protocol the Army developed to keep soldiers healthy remains in effect at Camp Blackjack. Visitors must stay 3 feet away from anyone who has spent time in West Africa. No one shakes hands with another person.

Visitors are encouraged to use hand antibacterial liquids frequently. Small bottles of hand sanitizer are stacked up at nearly every doorway.

Twice per day, doctors from Madigan Army Medical Center visit the camp to check the temperatures of Horton's soldiers, the second group of quarantined troops to pass through JBLM since October. The first group was much smaller, with 16 people.

If any soldiers were to display Ebola symptoms, they would be removed from the camp and taken to another controlled site at Madigan. That would trigger enhanced monitoring of the rest of the soldiers in the camp.

But the engineers did not visit known contaminated areas in Liberia, and are considered "low to no risk" of contracting Ebola.

"We have almost no concern about them having Ebola," said Maj. Jon Messenger, an Army medical officer who's supervising some of the care for soldiers coming back from Liberia. "Realistically, we're going to be giving out a lot of cold medicine for the next few weeks."

Submariners in video scandal face big penalties

By MICHAEL MELIA

The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn.— Sailors involved in the secret video recording of female officers in the dressing area of a U.S. Navy submarine will face "significant penalties," the admiral in charge of the submarine force said Thursday.

A dozen sailors are under investigation in the scandal aboard the USS Wyoming, one of the first American submarines to have female officers.

"What some people thought was a high-schoolish prank was a serious sexual offense, with significant penalties," Vice Adm. Michael Connor said.

The recording and distribution of the videos are a setback for the high-profile introduction of mixed-gender crews on submarines, which had been one of the last areas of the armed forces closed to women before the Navy reversed a ban in 2010. More than 50 women are serving aboard submarines, a female officer in Connecticut became the first woman assigned to a Los Angeles-class attack sub last week, and the Navy is expected soon to introduce enlisted female submariners as well as officers.

The recording took place in

a changing area that is used by male and female officers aboard the Wyoming, a nuclear-armed submarine based at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in Georgia. Typically, female officers put up a sign to indicate when the shower area is in use by women.

Connor, who was visiting Connecticut on a change-of-command ceremony aboard a Groton-based submarine, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the biggest concern is that the recordings did not come to authorities' attention until recent months, even though they had been taken a year ago and shared among a number of sailors. He said it happened despite the Navy's best efforts to prepare the submarine-force culture for coed crews.

"Out of a force of 17,000 people we have a very small number of folks who didn't get it and they're going to learn," Connor said during a talk earlier in the day at a veterans' hall in Groton.

Twelve sailors are being investigated for the creation and distribution of the recordings, according to Lt. Cmdr. Robert Crosby, a Navy spokesman. He said the investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service has been completed and military lawyers are reviewing how to proceed with prosecution.

Tester: Navy's fixes won't much help littoral ship

By TONY CAPACIO

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The upgrades to the Littoral Combat Ship approved by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel won't make it significantly less vulnerable to battle damage, according to the Pentagon's top weapons tester.

"Notwithstanding reductions to its susceptibility" compared with the design of the first 32 ships, "the minor modifications to the LCS will not yield a ship that is significantly more survivable," Michael Gilmore, the Pentagon's director of operational testing, said in an emailed statement.

Hagel approved a Navy proposal last month to buy 20 modified ships after 2019 with improved armor, sensors and weapons. The decision was a reprieve for Lockheed Martin Corp. and Austal Ltd., which make different versions of the ship designed for missions in shallow, coastal waters. Gilmore's assessment is likely to increase congressional scrutiny of a vessel that's already viewed with some skepticism by lawmakers.

In January, Hagel had truncated the original program at 32 ships, now valued at \$23 billion, while ordering the Navy to study options including modifications or a completely new ship design. He cited "considerable reservations as to whether this is what our Navy will require over the next few decades."

Before Hagel's decision, Gilmore gave him a classified assessment reviewing the options sought by a Navy spokesman. The task force canvassed fleet commanders for ways to improve a vessel that's been criticized as lacking firepower and the ability to survive an attack.

Gilmore's assessment didn't include a recommendation, and he "went out" in a position on which alternative would best serve the fleet or should be pursued," he said in the emailed statement. "The decision is the prerogative of the Secretary of Defense."

In Gilmore's statement, provided by his spokesman, Air Force Maj. Eric Badger, the weapons tester outlined his conclusions without offering details.

WAR ON TERRORISM

US eyes new ways to help Iraq security forces

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is looking at ways to increase its aid to the Iraqi security forces, including help with ways to counter roadside bombs and buildings rigged to explode, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman, said Thursday.

But he said it's still unclear when the Iraqi troops will be ready to mount an offensive against Islamic State militants who have control of portions of northern and western Iraq.

Speaking to reporters in his office, Dempsey said the U.S. will help with "some kind of broad counteroffensive" when Iraq is able to conduct the military assault and any needed reconstruction afterward.

Dempsey spoke after meeting with Israeli military chief Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz, for more than an hour.

"We're working with Iraq's military and civilian leaders to determine the pace at which we will encourage them and enable them to do a counteroffensive," Dempsey said. "So when the government of Iraq finds itself ready not only to conduct the military operations necessary to recapture their territory but also to follow it with the humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, then they will wish to us, initiate some kind of broad counteroffensive."

In the meantime, he said, the coalition has kept up "a drumbeat, a steady, building pressure" on Islamic State insurgents.

The U.S. has kept up a persistent bombing campaign against militant targets in Iraq and Syria, launching airstrikes on seven locations in Iraq on Wednesday.

Asked about Iran's military operations in Iraq, which have included airstrikes, Dempsey said Iraqi leaders have kept the U.S. informed about Iranian activities against the Islamic State group.

So far, he said, those operations haven't threatened U.S. troops or their mission. But if that changes, he said, the U.S. will adjust its military campaign plan.

"If it is a path that ties the two countries more closely together economically or even politically, as long as the Iraqi government remains committed to inclusivity of all the various groups inside the country, then I think Iranian influence will be positive," said Dempsey, adding that the U.S. is watching the relationship very carefully.

A key requirement for continued U.S. support is that Iraqi



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALES/AP

Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin E. Dempsey talks with Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz before their joint news conference at the Pentagon on Thursday.

‘We’re working with Iraq’s military and civilian leaders to determine the pace at which we will encourage them and enable them to do a counteroffensive.’

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey
Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman

leaders work to make the Shiite-dominated Iraqi government more inclusive and beef up efforts to reach out to the Sunni tribes. The deep sectarian divide fueled the advances of the Islamic State militants across Iraq earlier this year as grievances led some to align with the extremists.

To date, Dempsey said that several hundred Sunni tribesmen have been brought into the Iraqi security forces. In addition, he said that several thousand new Iraqi troops have been trained as U.S. training facilities in Irbil and

Anbar province get underway. Two other training locations are planned and should be operating in the coming weeks.

He said officials have been looking at what more they could do to help the Iraqis and are talking about improving their ability to find and destroy improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents. He said the U.S. wants to help the Iraqis reduce their casualties.

Roadside bombs were one of the most deadly threats that faced U.S. and coalition troops fighting during the Iraq War.

Training: Building leadership throughout ranks is a priority

FROM FRONT PAGE

The battalion he is training was meant to be using Soviet-made Doushka machine guns on their exercise on Wednesday morning, but none were to be found. While driving between bases, Grinston received a call from an Iraqi commander who said he could deliver 20,000 training rounds for M-16 rifles.

"It makes a big difference to morale if you can feel that weapon going," said Lt. Col. Sean Ryan, an Army public affairs officer. But do the soldiers have the M-16s? "They still need more," he said.

During a morning session on Wednesday, 80 soldiers practiced on just two M1A1 Abrams tanks. The tanks belonged to the Iraqi 9th Division, whose soldiers are based here at Camp Taji and deploy to some of the country's worst flash points — Anbar, Baiji, Samarra.

While some of the division's tanks are in action, many have been lost in combat or abandoned to the enemy, said Capt. Yassin Saleh, an Iraqi trainer at the camp. He estimates that only half the 140 U.S. tanks provided to the division in 2011 are still available to the Iraqis.

The loss of so much equipment to the enemy raises concerns about rearming Iraq's army, but U.S. officials say safeguards are in place for current stocks of weaponry.

Camp Taji, about 20 miles north of Baghdad, was once home to tens of thousands of U.S. troops, but today just 175 soldiers from the Army's Fort Riley, Kan.-based 1st Infantry Division — the "Big Red One" — are based here. Their mission is part of a \$1.2 billion American train-and-equip program.

The U.S. soldiers now must adjust to being guests, rather than running the show, as they often did from 2003 until 2011, when the U.S. military withdrew.

In a morning briefing on Wednesday, Staff Sgt. Timothy Barratt, reminding a group of trainers that things have changed.

"We're not here to fight anymore," he told the American soldiers. "We're only rolling on amber. But you do have the right to defend yourself and your buddy. Measure the amount of force necessary and protect all equipment." "Remember, we are on an Iraqi base," added Grinston. "Just relax. No scare tactics. Pay attention to

what you are doing."

The soldiers here are among about 1,800 U.S. advisers across the country, a number that is expected to expand to 3,000 in the coming weeks, as the current four training locations increase to as many as eight.

The "will to fight" classes aren't the only new element of the instruction. The Iraqi government has requested more training for officers and commanders. The training program for regular soldiers has a sharpened focus on building leadership throughout the ranks and on teaching troops how to complete a mission when a leader has been killed or wounded. It was a collapse in the army's leadership that triggered the evaporation of four Iraqi army divisions in June.

‘We are trying to ... change it up a little bit so they can get a bit more confidence in their leaders.’

Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston

Grinston said that even with the imposition of the Iraqi military, he wouldn't have done the same. Grinston said that even with the imposition of the Iraqi military, he wouldn't have done the same. Grinston said that even with the imposition of the Iraqi military, he wouldn't have done the same.

time around. The problem, he believes, was that after U.S. forces withdrew, training was not properly maintained.

"We are trying to do the best we can and just change it up a little bit so they can get a bit more confidence in their leaders," he said.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has pledged to cut corruption in the army and has retired dozens of senior leaders, but there is a long way to go. Some Iraqi officers argue that whatever training the soldiers receive, the Iraqi army will remain weak at the core, thus do deep structural changes are made.

First Lt. Mohammed Hashim Mohammed, who is learning to be a trainer for the 15th Division, a new Iraqi army unit, said corruption was widespread in the Ministry of Defense.

"Even today, you have to pay to be promoted," he said. "But we are trying to correct the mistakes that have happened."

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MILITARY



VECTOR CALZADA, EL PASO (TEXAS) TIMES/AP

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald, left, speaks during a news conference Thursday outside the El Paso VA Healthcare System in El Paso, Texas, as acting El Paso VA Director Peter Dancy looks on.

VA head visits Texas clinic where psychologist was shot, vows support

By Emily Wax-Thibodeaux
The Washington Post

With a promise to ramp up security, Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald on Thursday visited the El Paso VA clinic where an agency psychologist was fatally shot by an Iraq war veteran who had worked at the clinic.

"The entire Veterans Affairs family is here to show their empathy for the employees here and the veterans here that we care so much about," McDonald said. "I'm here to talk to employees today and to tell them that whatever support they need, they will get."

Peter Dancy, acting director of the El Paso VA Health Care System, said the facility would in-

crease security, instigating more thorough identification checks, when it reopens on Friday.

VA psychologist Timothy Fjordbak, 63, was shot and killed Tuesday on the fourth floor of the El Paso clinic, FBI Special Agent Doug Lindquist said. The shooter, Jerry Serrato, 48, then "went to the third floor, and that's where he took his own life," Lindquist said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs said it was providing grief counseling and other help to staffers, veterans, servicemembers and their families Thursday at El Paso Community College and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday inside the center.

The increased security will involve VA police checking the identity of all people entering

and randomly checking bags and parcels. The procedures will be in place until further notice, according to the agency.

Serrato worked for VA as a desk clerk in 2013.

According to an FBI tweet, Fjordbak had filed a complaint against Serrato in October 2013 after an incident at a grocery store. "Mr. Serrato approached Dr. Fjordbak, who did not recognize him, and he made a verbal threat," Lindquist said. He said Serrato said, "I know what you did and I will take care of that," something to that effect.

Lindquist said the incident and subsequent complaint were the only connections authorities have found between the victim and the shooter.

Obama skips VA hospital in Phoenix visit

By Bob Christie
The Associated Press

PHOENIX—President Barack Obama angered some veterans Thursday when he chose not to visit the troubled Phoenix Veterans Affairs hospital at the center of a nationwide wait-time scandal while in town for a speech.

Obama's motorcade drove right past the facility on the way to the high school where he delivered his speech on the housing recovery.

A small group of veterans were among an eclectic collection of Obama protesters and supporters across from Central High School.

Vietnam-era veteran Jesus Miramon was wearing his old U.S. Army dress uniform and holding a sign saying "do not hate vets

today" as he waited for Obama to arrive.

"It is true that he should not be hating a vet today, he should be showing us a little love today," Miramon said. "His presence will be enough, even if he doesn't say anything, it would be enough. But he should show us some kind of respect."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama was in Phoenix to discuss a different topic, the housing recovery. But he said he is committed to fulfilling the nation's promises to veterans and his new Veterans Affairs secretary made the troubled Phoenix facility one of his first stops once he took over at the agency in July. He also said that there have been

personnel changes and reforms to ensure the hospital is doing a better job of caring for veterans.

"So we're pleased with the pace of reforms that have been put in place," he said, while noting more needs to be done in Phoenix and other VA facilities. "We've made a covenant with our veterans, and this president is determined to make sure that we uphold it."

House speaker John Boehner said Thursday that a major veterans bill enacted over the summer has not fixed what he called a "broken system."

"We call on the president to offer a long-term vision for reforming the systemic problems at the VA," Boehner said. "We've yet to see it."

Pentagon to seek 20 percent less in war funding

By Tony Capaccio
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will request about \$51 billion in war funding for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, a 20 percent reduction from the \$64 billion Congress approved this year and the least since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, officials and congressional aides said.

The Overseas Contingency Operations funding, as it is known, will be sent to Congress in addition to basic defense spending of about \$534 billion when President Barack Obama offers his proposed fiscal 2016 federal budget on Feb. 2, according to the officials and aides, who asked not to be identified before the details are made public.

While the decline in war funding largely reflects the continued withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan — from the 10,600 now there to half that planned by the end of the year — it remains enough to draw questions about why the Defense Department shouldn't pay to fight wars as part of its basic mission.

"The continuing drawdown in Afghanistan is not having a proportionate effect on" the war budget because it's "being used for a lot of things other than Afghanistan," said Todd Harrison, a defense budget analyst with the nonpartisan Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments in Washington.

"It's a budgetary shell game for getting around" the caps imposed by the automatic spending cuts known as sequestration, Harrison said in an email.

News of the planned decrease in war spending damped today's

gains for defense stocks.

The shares have proved resilient in the face of Defense Department spending cutbacks. A Bloomberg Intelligence gauge of the four largest Pentagon contractors — excluding Boeing Co., whose civilian airplane business is larger than its military unit — surged 30 percent in 2014, outstripping the 11 percent increase for the Standard & Poor's 500 index.

Sequestration cuts are scheduled to resume again in fiscal 2016, after a two-year break, unless Congress overturns them. Obama's base defense budget for the coming year assumes about \$34 billion more than the cap would permit.

Money requested for overseas contingency operations is exempt from sequestration.

The \$51 billion request would be for military operations and does not include money from the fund that goes to the State Department and Department of Veterans Affairs. The previous low was \$17 billion in fiscal 2002, the second year of war funding.

Over the years, the Pentagon and Congress have added items less directly related to waging war, even as each chastises the other over the practice.

"The use of war funding expanded to cover issues with only tenuous links to combat operations," Emil Maine and Diem Salmon wrote in an essay on the website of the Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based policy group. They said the fund shouldn't be used as "a safety valve to cover defense spending shortfalls" and should be phased out.

Mechanical issue delays frigate's deployment

NORFOLK, Va. — after a series of delays pushed back its departure date.

The USS Kauffman left Naval Station Norfolk on Friday for a six-month deployment off

Central America. The ship was originally scheduled to leave Virginia on Wednesday, but bad weather delayed it by a day. The Thursday departure was delayed by a mechanical issue with its anchor windlass, which hoists the anchor.

From The Associated Press

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NATION

House approves Keystone pipeline legislation

By DINA CAPPIELLO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House overwhelmingly passed a bill Friday authorizing the Keystone XL oil pipeline, despite a renewed pledge by the White House to veto the legislation after a Nebraska court removed a major obstacle.

The House on Friday approved the measure 266-152, with 28 Democrats voting in support.

It was one of the first pieces of legislation considered by the Republican-controlled Congress and the 10th vote the House had taken since July 2011 to advance the \$7 billion project, which would carry tar sands oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries.

“We shouldn’t be debating it, we should

‘We shouldn’t be debating it, we should be building it.’

Kevin McCarthy
House majority leader

was first proposed in 2008.

The Senate has a test vote on Monday with enough support to pass an identical bill.

Hours before the House vote, Nebraska’s highest court tossed out a lawsuit challenging the pipeline’s route, an obstacle the White House said it needed removed to make a decision.

The White House veto threat was based

partly on the outstanding Nebraska case. Obama has said he needed the state court ruling before deciding whether the cross-border pipeline is in the national interest.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, following the court’s decision, renewed a call for Obama to reconsider his promise to veto the measure.

“Today’s ruling provides the perfect opportunity for the president to change his unproductive posture on this jobs project and reverse his veto threat,” McConnell said. “The president now has every reason to sign it.”

In a statement, a White House spokesman said the court’s decision will have no effect on the president’s plan to veto the bill.

“Regardless of the Nebraska ruling

today, the House bill still conflicts with longstanding executive branch procedures regarding the authority of the president and prevents the thorough consideration of complex issues that could bear on U.S. national interests, and if presented to the president, he will veto the bill,” said deputy press secretary Eric Schultz in a statement.

In the face of a veto threat, Democrats called the bill a waste of time Friday.

Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., the top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said building the pipeline would increase reliance on Canadian tar sands oil and reverse the strides to reduce the pollution blamed for global warming.

“We get all the risk,” he said, “while the oil companies will reap all the rewards.”

Obama-GOP alliance on trade raises hopes for new agreements

By CHARLES BABINGTON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Trade pacts create odd politics. That’s why advocates hope new trade agreements might advance this year despite tensions between the Republican-run Congress and the Democratic White House on so many other issues.

President Barack Obama, like presidents of both parties before him, wants renewed authority to negotiate complex, multinational trade deals that Congress can approve or reject, but not amend. This “trade promotion” or “fast track” authority is crucial to keep critics on the left and the right from attacking killer amendments.

Many Republicans favor freer trade, while many liberal groups vehemently oppose it, claiming it encourages companies to send U.S. jobs overseas. These fault lines are creating new and rare sniping between Obama and countless activists who have considered him a political hero.

Dozens of these activists — along with several Democratic lawmakers — crammed a Capitol Hill news conference Thursday to condemn “fast track” authority as a freeway to U.S. job losses, environmental wrongdoings by trade partners, riskier imported foods and drugs, and many other woes.

Even “the root causes of Ferguson” in the Missouri suburb where a fatal police shooting led to national angst and protests — “lie in the shutdowns in St. Louis,” which stem from deals like the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, said Larry Cohen, president of the Communications Workers of America.

“This is the biggest coalition on trade ever,” Cohen said of the combined efforts of groups focused on the environment, food safety, organized labor, generic drugs, religious outreach, world hunger and many other causes. “One target is the long-debated

Trans-Pacific Partnership deal involving the United States and 11 other nations, including Japan but not China. The liberal coalition, however, says its main goal is to thwart trade promotion authority, or TPA, for Obama and future presidents. That would nix the Pacific plan and all other large U.S. trade proposals nearly impossible.

Obama acknowledges the challenge of persuading a Congress full of Republicans who intensely dislike him and Democrats whose pro-labor, pro-environment constituents don’t want “another NAFTA.”

“Some of those same anti-trade impulses are more ascendant in the Republican Party than they might have been 20 years ago,” the president told the pro-trade Business Roundtable last month.

And many Democrats, he said, “have legitimate complaints about some of the trend lines of inequality, but are barking up the wrong tree” by primarily blaming trade deals for flat wages and lost manufacturing jobs.

Republican Rep. Pat Tiberi of Ohio, who chairs the Ways and Means subcommittee that handles trade, echoes Obama’s point. Big advances in world technology, “not some person in some village in Mexico,” have eliminated huge numbers of U.S. manufacturing jobs, he said in an interview Thursday.

“Ninety-six percent of the people around the world who are buying things are outside the United States. And we need to have access to those people,” he said.

Some Republican lawmakers say they’re so angry at Obama, especially for acting unilaterally on issues like immigration, that they don’t want to give him a victory on trade. Tiberi says that’s short-sighted.

“I’m very unhappy with the president,” he said, “but I think the greater good here is jobs.”



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., speaks on Capitol Hill last month in Washington. Boxer said Thursday she won’t seek re-election after her 4th term.

Calif. senator to retire after 4 terms

By KEVIN FREKING
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Barbara Boxer’s decision not to seek re-election to a fifth term provides a rare opening for ambitious California Democrats who have been waiting patiently to move up the political ranks.

Boxer, 74, and her Senate colleague, Dianne Feinstein, 81, won election to the Senate in 1992 and have pretty much had a lock on their jobs for as long as they have wanted to keep them. Another venerable Democrat is Gov. Jerry Brown, 76, who was just sworn in for a record fourth term, including two in the 1970s and the 1980s.

“The number of Democratic rock stars that have been sitting on the bench is becoming longer and longer,” said Michael Trujillo, a Democratic strategist based in Los Angeles. “Now, I think a lot of these folks are ready to bring their brand to a larger stage.”

Among the Democrats who might try to succeed Boxer: Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, a former San Francisco mayor; state Attorney General Kamala Harris; former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; and Tom Steyer, a retired San Francisco hedge fund billionaire who sought to make climate change an issue in the midterm elections.

While lauding Boxer in prepared statements, none of the potential candidates indicated a possible Senate run.

Democratic Reps. Loretta Sanchez and Adam Schiff are also considered names to watch.

Boxer made it clear she felt no pressure to make room for a new generation of Democrats.

“I don’t think it’s fair to say because you reached a certain age, it’s time to retire,” she said during a telephone call with reporters.

Still, she said she wanted to announce her decision early enough in the election cycle to give poten-

tial successors plenty of time to organize.

“I don’t know if one person will come forward or 15 will come forward,” Boxer said.

Boxer has been a staunch supporter of abortion rights, gun control and environmental protections. She has said she is most proud of the vote that she cast against the war in Iraq, but also told reporters Thursday that she wished she had done more to galvanize opposition.

“It just weighs on me,” she said.

Political observers say Boxer’s work to protect the environment is one of her legacies. Boxer authored legislation that has designated more than 1 million acres of land in California as wilderness, a classification that generally does not allow for motor vehicles, new roads and mining. She also led efforts to prevent oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

NATION

Legal debate over gay marriage may soon be reviewed

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has quietly engineered a dramatic increase in the number of states that allow gay and lesbian couples to wed. That increase also has raised the chances the justices soon will settle the legal debate.

Some justices expressed reluctance about deciding the issue when more than half the country prohibited same-sex unions. With Florida joining in this week, 36 states allow them, nearly twice as many as just three months ago.

The growth hasn't come from an outpouring of public support expressed in voting booths or state legislatures but from the high court's surprising refusal last October to review lower-court rulings in favor of same-sex marriages or to block them from taking effect.

The justices now face a situation in which just 14 states prohibit such unions, a number that may give comfort to a court that does not like to be too far ahead of the country. Three earlier seminal rulings that outlawed state-backed discrimination — in education, on interracial marriage and in criminal prohibitions against gay sex — were issued when a similar number of states still had the discriminatory laws on their books.

"There's no question that they knew what they were doing in October. They knew the implications of what they were doing," said Roberta Kaplan, the lawyer who represented New Yorker Edie Windsor in her successful Supreme Court challenge in 2013 to part of the federal anti-gay marriage law, the Defense of Marriage Act.

The Supreme Court again is considering whether to hear a gay marriage case, and another factor has raised the likelihood the jus-

tices will do so. In November, the federal court of appeals based in Cincinnati became the first, and so far only, appellate court to uphold state bans on same-sex marriage. Plaintiffs from Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee are asking the court to reverse that decision.

The justices met in private on Friday to consider adding new cases to their late April argument session, and a decision could be announced soon. Meanwhile, a panel of federal appellate judges in New Orleans heard arguments Friday on anti-gay marriage laws in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

The other states that continue to enforce same-sex marriage bans are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Missouri (except in Kansas City and St. Louis), Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Justice Antonin Scalia forecast what would happen when he dissented from the court's decision in the Windsor case in June 2013.

Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his majority opinion that the decision was not intended to resolve the question of whether states could prevent same-sex couples from marrying. But Scalia predicted the courts soon would apply Kennedy's words to strike down state bans on gay marriage.

"How easy it is — indeed, how inevitable — to reach the same conclusion with regard to state laws denying same-sex couples marital status," Scalia said.

It did not take long for him to be proven right. The first ruling after the Windsor decision came six months later in Utah, followed by a deluge in every region of the country.

Opponents of same-sex marriage have fought a mostly losing battle to get judges to defer to voters and elected lawmakers who enacted laws and constitutional amendments in many states defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Security increased at Boston trial

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Extraordinary security measures are being taken during the federal death penalty trial of accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the most scrutinized U.S. terror case in years.

Vehicles from Homeland Security line up bumper-to-bumper in front of Boston's federal courthouse while others periodically circle the block. Boston police officers patrol the perimeter on foot, and a dark special operations van is stationed near the entrance. In the harbor nearby, armed U.S. Coast Guard boats ply the waters,

and inside the court building officers with dogs roam the hallways.

Tsarnaev, 21, faces the death penalty if convicted for his role in the twin bombings at the Boston Marathon finish line in April 2013, which killed three people and wounded more than 260 others. Tsarnaev also is charged in the slaying of an MIT police officer in the days after the bombing.

The U.S. Marshals Service, which oversees courthouse security, declined to comment on measures for the trial and a Boston police spokesman said his department is not aware of any credible threats.



LM OTERO/AP

A worker carries oil well piping in Sweetwater, Texas, which is bracing for layoffs and budget cuts.

Texas city's hopes for oil boom fade

By EMILY SCHMALL
The Associated Press

SWEETWATER, Texas — Just two years ago, this Texas town known mostly for its annual rattlesnake roundup seemed to be on the brink of a transformation.

Expecting a huge influx of oil workers, local leaders spent tens of millions of dollars to improve the courthouse, build a new law-enforcement center and upgrade the hospital. Hotels, truck stops and housing subdivisions were to follow, all catering to truck drivers and roughnecks.

Sweetwater envisioned becoming a major player in the hydraulic-fracturing boom, thanks to its location atop the Cline Shale, once estimated to be the nation's largest underground petroleum formation.

But those ambitions are fading fast as the plummeting price of oil causes investors to pull back, cutting off the projects that were supposed to pay for a bright new future. Now the town of 11,000 awaits layoffs and budget cuts and defers its dreams.

"Here we are trying to figure out: Is this a six-month problem or is it all over?" said Greg Wortham, head of the Cline Shale Alliance, a private group founded to prepare the region for the oil workers.

Industry observers say what's happening in the Cline — a 10-county area on the eastern edge of Texas' Permian Basin oil field — signals a contraction in shale development nationwide.

"Sweetwater and the Cline are like the first domino falling," said Karr Ingham, an Amarillo-based economist focused on Texas energy. "Cline Shale development and all of the marvelous benefits are in the process of being significantly interrupted."

Sue Young, economic development director in neighboring Mitchell County, agreed: "The frenzy is gone."

Back in 2012, Oklahoma City-based Devon Energy triggered a flurry of leasing activity when it projected that the Cline held 30 billion barrels of oil, dwarfing both the Bakken Shale formation in North Dakota and the Eagle Ford

Shale in South Texas combined. Wortham, at the time Sweetwater's mayor,

"The frenzy is gone."

Sue Young
Mitchell county economic development director

to receive \$31 million in upgrades, and an extended-stay hotel is under construction.

Sweetwater and surrounding Nolan County are no strangers to

the oil industry's boom-and-bust cycle. They turned to wind energy in 2001. Today, the nearby mesas have one of the world's largest wind farms, generating abundant electricity and giving local officials millions of dollars in tax revenue to put toward new development.

But no one foresaw the steep oil decline of 2014. As recently as June, the University of Texas at San Antonio projected that the Cline Shale would bring \$20 billion to the region by 2022.

These days, even the biggest oil-industry boosters are nervously eyeing the partially finished hotels, truck stops and mostly vacant industrial park, wondering if they are doomed to fail.



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NATION

Sources: US did not hack North Korea

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government was not responsible for sustained electronic attacks that crippled North Korea's Internet infrastructure last month, just after President Barack Obama promised that his administration would respond to the hacker break-in at Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc., two senior U.S. officials told The Associated Press.

The Obama administration has been deliberately coy about whether it caused North Korea's outage, which affected all the nation's Internet connections starting the weekend of Dec. 20. But the two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to openly discuss the issue, acknowledged to the AP that it was not a hack operation.

It was not immediately clear even within the administration whether rogue hackers or other governments disrupted North Korea's networks. The networks are not considered especially robust since they rely on a single provider, China's United Network Communications Group Co. Ltd., the state-owned provider in neighboring China. North Korea's service was sporadic starting Dec. 20, then collapsed entirely for nearly 10 hours two days later in Washington, D.C., with no enduring whodunit.

"It looks more like the result of an infrastructure attack than an infrastructure failure," said James Cowie, chief scientist at Dynamic Network Services Inc., of Manchester, N.H., who studied the outages. "There's nothing

'There's nothing you can point to that says it has all the hallmarks of an attack by a nation state. It could have been anybody.'

James Cowie

Dynamic Network Services Inc.

you can point to that says it has all the hallmarks of an attack by a nation state. It could have been anybody."

Within the U.S. government, contingents have debated privately whether to acknowledge that the U.S. played no role in North Korea's disruptions or remain silent to avoid detailed conversations about U.S. capabilities and policy on offensive cyber operations, which are considered highly classified.

The disclosure denying U.S. involvement was intended to convey how seriously the administration considers offensive cyberattacks, intended to be used only in the most serious cases and consistent with the State Department's admonitions for foreign governments to always preserve access to the Internet for all citizens, one of the officials said.

Sony Pictures chief executive Michael Lynton told the AP in a new interview that he never knew whether the U.S. government electronically attacked North Korea as retaliation for the break-in at his company.

The government hinted earlier this year, on Jan. 2, that it wasn't involved in the North Korea outages, but its intended message was too understated to be recognized as an outright denial. When the White House announced new economic sanctions against North Korea for what it called a "destructive and coercive cyberattack" against Sony, Obama spokesman Josh Earnest described the sanctions as "the first aspect of our response." In other words, the government was saying its initial response was coming 11 days after the mysterious attacks crippled North Korea's networks.

As late as Thursday, Obama's homeland security adviser, Lisa Monaco, declined to say whether the U.S. was behind the North Korea outages. Speaking at a cybersecurity conference in New York, Monaco would not answer a question from the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, Preet Bharara, whether the administration was responsible and agreed it could be helpful to be ambiguous about the consequences of hacking American targets.

"I'm not going to comment, and I never would, on operational capabilities," she said. "But you want to be able to have a number of tools in your toolbox and reserve them for use."

FBI Assistant Director Joseph Demarest, head of the cyber division, added: "You have to be able to reserve some ability for your capabilities, your methods, in a way that protects that capability going forward."

Sony had 'no playbook' for studio hack

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The network was crippled. Days before Thanksgiving, Sony Pictures employees had logged onto computers that flashed a grim message from a hacker group calling itself Guardians of Peace. Soon personal information for tens of thousands of current and former workers was dumped online, including Social Security numbers and the purported salaries of top executives. Five Sony-produced movies, including the unreleased "Annie," appeared on file-sharing websites. Thousands of private, and sometimes embarrassing, emails hit the Internet.

"They came in the house, stole everything, then burned down the house," Michael Lynton, the movie studio's CEO, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday. "They destroyed servers, computers, wiped them clean of all the data and took all the data."

More than six weeks later, the studio's network is still down — and is expected to remain so for a few weeks, as techs work to rebuild and get it fully back online. In that time, Sony has been thrust into the geopolitical spotlight as the target of an unprecedented corporate cyberattack that the United States has attributed to North Korea. In a wide-ranging interview Lynton talked about the isolation and uncertainty created by the attack and the unique position the company

found itself in, in a case that's undoubtedly being closely watched in boardrooms around the world.

"We are the canary in the coal mine, that's for sure," Lynton said. "There's no playbook for this, so you are in essence trying to look at the situation as it unfolds and make decisions without being able to refer to a lot of experiences you've had in the past or other peoples' experiences. You're on completely new ground."

In the early hours of the hack, workers scrambled to find ways to communicate with the studio's 7,000 employees and keep the business running. Some dug through basement boxes for old BlackBerry's so they could email securely and others turned up long-unused check cutters so workers and vendors could get paid by paper check. A close-knit senior management team of 10 to 15 people relied initially on word of mouth, an emergency notification system and town hall meetings to disseminate information and calm fears. Managers were told to be visible during commissary mealtimes and gathered with 80 to 90 employees at a time at buildings across the lot to offer updates.

"People relied on each other and it's a good thing they relied on each other, because there wasn't a lot of assistance coming out of the community, except for the FBI," Lynton said.

Bridal store at center of Ebola scare closing

Akron Beacon Journal

AKRON, Ohio — Ebola is claiming its first casualty in Akron.

The Akron bridal shop at the center of last year's local Ebola scare is closing after frightened customers never returned.

Coming Attractions Bridal & Formal began notifying customers this week that the store will quit taking new orders at the end of the month.

The bridal shop plans to stay open at least on a limited basis until all orders are filled, likely by sometime in May, manager Kayla Litz said.

The store closed for several weeks in October when it was notified Texas nurse and Akron native Amber Vinson tested positive for the deadly viral disease several days after visiting the shop with her bridesmaids.

Even after reopening in early November, business remained slow, Litz said.



PHIL MASTURZO, AKRON (OHIO) BEACON JOURNAL/AP

Coming Attractions Bridal & Formal Shop owner Anna Younker, right, talks with Nicole Jones about her daughter's wedding dress in Akron, Ohio, on Wednesday. The bridal shop linked to an Ebola survivor is closing because Younker says it lost significant business and has been stigmatized.

"There's still that stigma," she said on Wednesday. "People don't even want to tell anyone they got their dress here. It's the 'Ebola store.'"

Owner Anna Younker estimates sales fell more than 50

percent compared with the previous year.

"It's like our store has cooties," she said.

The store lost at least \$100,000 because of the closure and canceled orders, said Younker, who

has owned the business for 21 years. The losses weren't covered by her insurance, which excludes bacterial or viral illnesses.

Younker doesn't have plans to reopen the business under a new name or in a new location.

Obama wants community college to be free for all

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama wants publicly funded community college available to all Americans, proposing to make higher education as free and universal as high school.

Obama is calling for the government to pay for the first two years of community college for those who keep their grades up.

Administration officials aren't revealing the initiative's cost and say funding details will come in the president's budget. It would have to pass a spending-averse Republican Congress.

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden plan to speak on the proposal Friday at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville, Tenn.

The White House estimates 9 million students could participate and save an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year. That suggests an annual cost in the tens of billions of dollars.

NATION

Automakers unveil new technology at annual trade show

By **KIMBERLY PIERCEALL**
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Self-driving cars garner much of the attention, but in reality, we're years away from tooling around in something like Knight Rider's KITT. Coming sooner to a car near you: smart-phone apps on dash displays, cruise control that adapts to cars around it, remote engine starting and more.

At International CES in Las Vegas this week, 10 automakers and numerous suppliers unveiled technological features that will find their way into cars in the distant and not-so-distant future. Here's a look at some of their wares.

Your car will think. It will react. It will learn.

"This car will take responsibility," said Dieter Zetsche, leader of Mercedes-Benz, as he introduced the company's luxury self-driving concept car of the future.

If that sounds a bit scary, like the prologue to a film in which machines overtake mankind, companies supplying the brains and eyes for these robocars say it's for our own good. Cars already do

some of these things, really. Anti-lock brake systems, cruise control and parallel parking assistance are steps toward taking our hands completely off the wheel.

There are 1.2 million traffic-related deaths globally each year, according to the World Health Organization; 32,719 of them were in the U.S. in 2013. As automakers point out, your self-driving car won't get drunk, tired or distracted. And they could return something many other gadgets have taken away: time.

First, "the car has to become self-aware. It has to be able to see and understand what's happening around it," said Jen-Hsun Huang, co-founder and CEO of Nvidia, which introduced a superfast processor at the show and has been working with Audi to develop digital systems and in-car digital displays.

Audi touted a road trip that its A7 piloted prototype — piloted because there still needs to be a driver behind the wheel to ensure nothing goes awry — took from Silicon Valley to Las Vegas for the show, without incident, "driven" by chosen journalists sitting behind the wheel.



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Visitors use the Autonomous Experience Simulator at the Visteon booth Thursday at the International CES in Las Vegas.

But laws that would allow such autonomy aren't quite ready; neither are answers to questions such as: Can someone sue a driverless car if it's in a crash? If it can't avoid a crash, how will it decide what or whom to crash into? Can a car be hacked and, if so, how can it be protected?

Carmakers and suppliers admit there's still quite a bit they and their cars are learning. For now, though, your car might be able to know:

■ Where you're shopping: Ask Chevrolet's OnStar system for directions to the nearest Dunkin' Donuts, and you might receive a coupon. The carmaker has partnered with the doughnut chain, Priceline.com and the Speedway brand of gas stations for opt-in

promotions.

The service can mine data in the car to offer advice on systems that might be close to failing, like a near-dead battery or a fuel system malfunction.

■ What's on your smartphone: Being able to plug one's smartphone into a dash display seems obvious with so many plug-and-play options elsewhere, but it hasn't been easy in cars until now. Apple's Car Play and, eventually, Android's version will let a driver can plug in their devices and view their songs, apps and maps on the in-car display.

■ How to talk to your smartphone or smartwatch: Hyundai's Blue Link system now includes a smartphone app that lets car owners start the car remotely, lock or

unlock it, find their car within a mile using GPS tracking (such as in a big parking lot), send a destination to the car's navigation system and send alerts. Have a teenage driver in the house who's borrowing the car? Your car, via your phone, will tell you if the car was started after curfew or if it was traveling above a certain speed limit.

■ What's happening around it: That red light? That slow car up ahead? Adaptive cruise control available in cars soon will be so advanced that the machines will sense when a car ahead is slowing down and safely change lanes to zoom around (on the driver's signal). If a car up ahead stops or there's a red light, the car will come to a halt.

'Back to the Future' car in legal battle 30 years later

By **DAVID PORTER**
The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — As "Back To The Future" celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, there's a legal tussle over the futuristic car that provided the guts for the flying time machine used by Michael J. Fox in the classic 1985 film.

Maverick automaker John Z. DeLorean's eponymous creation co-starred in the 1985 movie as it transported Marty McFly back to the 1950s to engineer his parents' meeting — and, in a 1989 sequel, to a 2015 world that featured flying skateboards, automated dog-walkers and self-tying jackets.

Now, DeLorean's widow, Sally, claims in a federal lawsuit that Texas-based DeLorean Motor Company has been illegally using the DeLorean name to sell hats, pens, notebooks, key chains and other items, and has illegally licensed the name and images to other companies including Nike, Mattel, Urban Outfitters and Apple. The company has never been formally affiliated with the one DeLorean started.

The Texas company "has improperly and illegally appropriated for its own use Mr. DeLorean's legacy, including the DeLorean Identity, together with intellectual property," she alleges.

The suit claims the company has plans to manufacture an electric version of the car, which it says would be illegal because the car's design belongs to John DeLorean's estate.

In addition to seeking to stop the company from continuing to use the trademarks, the suit seeks damages as well as the



RICARD DREW/AP

Cast members of the "Back to the Future" movies appear on the NBC "Today" television program in October 2010 in New York to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the film. Posing with a replica of the DeLorean car are, from left, Lea Thompson, Christopher Lloyd, Mary Steenburgen, Michael J. Fox, director Robert Zemeckis and Huey Lewis.

company's profits derived from their use. Through its attorney, the company has denied all claims and asserted it has the right to the trademarks.

The two sides have a settlement conference scheduled for next month.

John DeLorean was an automotive innovator who began his career at General Motors and is credited by some with creating America's first "muscle" car, the Pontiac GTO, in the mid-1960s. He left GM in the early 1970s to launch his own company and

eventually produced the DMC 12, referred to simply as "the DeLorean," a sleek, angular car with gull-wing doors and an unpainted stainless-steel exterior.

Only about 9,000 of the cars were produced before DeLorean's company went bankrupt in the early 1980s, but the car's look and cult following helped land it a role in the "Back To The Future" films. According to the Internet Movie Database, the car was chosen because it would plausibly look like a spacecraft to people in the 1950s flashback scenes.

DeLorean died in New Jersey in 2005 at age 80 after years of court battles that included a highly publicized drug trial in the 1980s in which he was acquitted of conspiring to sell millions of dollars of cocaine. His former estate in the rolling hills about 40 miles west of New York City was converted into a golf course by developer Donald Trump in 2004. Sally DeLorean lives in New Jersey with her daughter.

Attorney R. Scott Thompson, who represents Sally DeLorean, said John DeLorean bought his company's trademarks, images and other intellectual property during the company's bankruptcy proceedings. The lawsuit alleges that in 2004, he gave the owners of the Texas company permission to make a small modification to the car's user manual, and they acknowledged that DeLorean owned the intellectual property.

"There is definitely no written agreement" relinquishing the trademarks, Thompson said, adding, "to the extent that any written agreement exists, it says the opposite."

WORLD

At least 7 dead in terror clashes in Paris

By LORI HINNANT
AND SAMUEL PETREQUIN
The Associated Press

PARIS — With explosions and gunfire, security forces ended a three-day terror rampage around Paris, killing the two al-Qaida-linked brothers who staged a murderous rampage at a satirical newspaper, and an associate who seized a kosher supermarket to try to help them escape.

It was the worst terror spree France has seen in decades. At least seven people were killed on Friday — the three terrorists and at least four hostages — two days after 12 people were massacred in the newspaper attack. Sixteen hostages were freed on Friday, one from the printing plant and 15 from the grocery store.



Said Kouachi

The fate of a fourth suspect — the wife of the supermarket attacker — remained unclear, and Paris shut down a famed Jewish neighborhood amid fears that a wider terror cell might launch further attacks. France's interior minister warned his shaken nation to remain "extremely vigilant."



Cherif Kouachi

The four attackers had ties to each other and to terrorism that reached back years and extended from Paris to al-Qaida in Yemen. They epitomized Western authorities' greatest fear: Islamic radicals who trained abroad and came home to stage attacks.

Said and Cherif Kouachi, the brothers who attacked newspaper Charlie Hebdo on Wednesday, came out with their guns blazing Friday evening after an all-day hostage siege at a printing plant northeast of Paris, a French police official said. They were killed and their hostage was freed, authorities said.

An accomplice, Amed Coulibaly, took at least five hostages Friday afternoon at a kosher grocery in Paris — then died in a nearly simultaneous raid there, said Gael Fauriol, the satirical newspaper's editor. Several people were rescued from the Porte de Vincennes grocery store. Police said at least four hostages there were killed.

France has been on high alert since the massacre Wednesday in Paris at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo that left 12 people dead. Behind that attack were Cherif Kouachi, 32, and his 34-year-old brother Said.

The next day, a gunman shot a policewoman to death in a gunfight just south of Paris. Police later identified the gunman as Coulibaly, who had been a co-suspect with Cherif Kouachi in a court case involving terrorism that never made it to trial.

The Kouachi brothers led police on a chase around northeast



Photos by AP

A security officer directs released hostages as forces stormed a kosher market to end a hostage situation in Paris on Friday.



Children are escorted from the Henri Dunand school onto a bus to be taken to a safe location to be picked up by their parents in Dammartin-en-Goele.

France, robbing a gas station Thursday and stealing a car Friday morning before seizing hostages at a printing plant in Dammartin-en-Goele, a small industrial town near Charles de Gaulle airport.

Friday afternoon, explosions and gunshots rang out and white smoke rose outside as a police SWAT team clambered onto the roof.

Audrey Taupenas, spokeswoman for the town near the Charles de Gaulle airport, said the brothers had died in the clash.

"They said they want to die as martyrs," Yves Albarello, a local lawmaker inside the command

post, told French television station i-Tele.

Minutes before the storming, Coulibaly had threatened to kill his hostages if French authorities launched an assault on the two brothers, a police official said.

Trying to fend off further attacks, the Paris mayor's office shut down all shops along Rosiers Street in the city's famed Marais neighborhood in the heart of the tourist district. Hours before the Jewish Sabbath, the street is usually crowded with shoppers — French Jews and tourists alike.

The street is also only a kilometer (half a mile) from Charlie Hebdo's



A hooded police officer aims from a rooftop in Dammartin-en-Goele, northeast of Paris.

offices.

At the kosher grocery near the Porte de Vincennes neighborhood in Paris, the gunman burst in shooting just a few hours before the Jewish Sabbath began, declaring "You know who I am," the official recounted. The attack came before sundown when the store would have been crowded with shoppers.

Paris police released a photo of Coulibaly and his wife, Hayet Bounddiene, who the official said was his accomplice.

Several people wounded when the gunman opened fire in the grocery store were able to flee and get medical care, the official said.

One hundred students were locked down in nearby schools and the highway ringing Paris was closed.

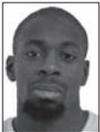
Cherif Kouachi was convicted of terrorism charges in 2008 for ties to a network sending jihadis to fight U.S. forces in Iraq.

A Yemeni security official said his 34-year-old brother, Said Kouachi, is suspected of having

fought for al-Qaida in Yemen. Another senior security official said Said was in Yemen until 2012.

Both officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of an ongoing investigation into Kouachi's stay in Yemen.

Both brothers were also on the U.S. no-fly list, a senior U.S. counterterrorism official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to discuss foreign intelligence publicly.



Coulibaly

The satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo had long drawn threats for its depictions of Islam, although it also satirized other religions and political figures. The weekly paper had caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, and a sketch of Islamic State's leader

was the last tweet sent out by the irreverent newspaper, minutes before the attack.

Eight journalists, two police officers, a maintenance worker and a visitor were killed in the newspaper attack, including the paper's editor. Charlie Hebdo plans a special edition next week, produced in the offices of another paper.



Bounddiene

Authorities around Europe have warned of the threat posed by the return of Western jihadis trained in warfare. France counts at least 1,200 citizens in the war zone in Syria — headed there, returned or dead.

WORLD

Signals heard in Java Sea search for plane

The Associated Press

PANGKALAN BUN, Indonesia — Underwater ping-like sounds were heard Friday in an area where searchers are scouring the Java Sea for the crashed AirAsia plane, but it was unclear if they were coming from the all-important black boxes, an official said.

The signals were picked up intermittently, but no metal was detected at the location, said Suryadi B. Supriyadi, the National Search

and Rescue Agency's operational director.

Nurchayho Utomo, a National Commission for Transportation Safety investigator, said the sounds could not be confirmed.

A day earlier, photos and video confirmed that part of the plane's tail had been found on the seabed — the first major wreckage seen since Flight 8501 went down Dec. 28 with 162 passengers and crew on board.

The cockpit voice and flight

data recorders are located in the rear, but Supriyadi said the pings were heard about half a mile from the site of the tail. It was possible the signals were coming from another source.

Officials were hopeful that the black boxes remained in the plane after the impact, and plan to hoist the tail from the seabed.

They are key to helping investigators understand what caused the Airbus A320 to go down about halfway into its flight from Surabaya,

Indonesia, to Singapore.

The last contact the pilots had with air traffic control indicated they were entering stormy weather. They asked to climb from 32,000 feet to 38,000 feet to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission because of heavy air traffic above them. Four minutes later, the plane dropped off the radar.

Four additional bodies were recovered Friday — two of them still strapped in their seats on the

ocean floor — bringing the total to 48. Officials hope many of the remaining corpses will be found inside the fuselage, which has not yet been located by divers. Several large objects have been spotted in the area by sonar.

Though the water is relatively shallow at about 100 feet deep, this is the worst time of year for a recovery operation because of monsoon rains and wind that create choppy seas and blinding silt from river runoff.



RAMON ESPINOSA/AP

Cuban pride

Children dressed as Cuban revolutionaries attend a caravan tribute Thursday marking the 56th anniversary of the original street party that greeted a triumphant Fidel Castro and his rebel army in Regla, Cuba. Castro and his rebels arrived in Havana via caravan on Jan. 1, 1959, after toppling dictator Fulgencio Batista. The revolutionary leader and former president has not spoken publicly on the historic Dec. 17th U.S.-Cuba detente.

Censors strike again as China bans bosoms in popular TV show

By DIDI TANG

The Associated Press

BEIJING — At the end of December, a popular television series chronicling China's most famous empress suddenly went on a four-day hiatus. When it returned on New Year's Day, the low-cut necklines and squeezed bosoms had vanished.

Instead, the screen was filled with close-up shots showing only the heads of the female characters in the period piece, which depicts the seventh-century Tang Dynasty, an era when a woman's beauty was defined partly by plumpness. No one has claimed responsibility for the awkward cropping, but it is widely believed to be the work of the country's prudish

censors.

The changes have drawn a wave of mockery from the public fed up with ham-handed censorship. Chinese have lit up social media with complaints and jokes, with some posting cropped photos of celebrities and drawings that add in the missing cleavages to show the absurdity of the cuts.

"It was not a public issue, but has become one after shameless officials wielded their powerful administrative powers," Ren Zhiqiang, a businessman who has been outspoken on social issues, wrote on his microblog. "What people are concerned about is not cleavage, but that a bunch of cultural hoodlums are in charge of making approvals."

Calls to the State Administra-

tion of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television were unanswered Thursday and Friday. The administration does not always issue its decrees publicly, issuing its orders instead directly to publishers and producers.

In recent years, the regulating agency has issued a series of edicts, saying TV programming should be wholesome and avoid smutty material that would corrupt social morals. It has banned plots that involve one-night stands, wife-swapping, female protagonists falling in love with more than one man and the use of sex in military espionage.

Bizarrely, authorities have also banned plots with time travel, a move they say is aimed at preserving historical integrity.

Ukraine: Separatists' rocket attacks on rise

By PETER LEONARD

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukrainian military officials said Friday that four soldiers were killed in one day as separatists intensified shelling of government positions ahead of peace talks expected in the coming week.

The press office for military operations in eastern Ukraine said army outposts were targeted 50 times by small arms fire, mortars and rockets during the past day.

Intensification in hostilities comes one month after a renewed truce led to a marked lull in the fighting that broke out in the spring.

An AP reporter heard rockets being fired Thursday evening into the separatist stronghold of Donetsk — an indication that government forces are also likely breaching the cease-fire. Separatist authorities in Donetsk said Friday that a hospital building was struck by artillery fire earlier in the week, but that there

were no casualties.

Leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France are expected to meet Thursday in Kazakhstan to consider solutions to the conflict. The talks, not yet confirmed, will be seen as an attempt by Moscow to seek a softening of EU sanctions imposed last year in response to its annexation of Crimea and its perceived material support of separatist forces in Ukraine.

In a signal of possible softening of positions in Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Thursday that there are "some limited positive signs on the Russian side."

On the ground in the Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk regions, there have been indications of mounting tensions in recent days. Ukrainian military press spokesmen have reported an uptick in shelling by separatists and the resumption in the use of Grad and Uragan multiple rocket launchers. At least four villages were hit by Grad rockets Thursday, officials said.

7 kids reunite with parents lost in Nigeria uprising

By IBRAHIM ABDULAZIZ

AND MICHELLE FAUL

The Associated Press

YOLA, Nigeria — Seven children have been reunited with parents lost in the chaos of attacks in Nigeria's northeastern Islamic insurgency but hundreds more remain alone, officials say of youngsters who have no idea if their families are alive or dead.

"There is this fear that some of those unaccompanied children might have lost their parents during the insurgents' attack on their villages," said Sa'ad Bello, the coordinator of five refugee camps hosting scores of lonely children in Yola, capital of Adamawa state.

He was optimistic that more reunions will come as residents return to towns the military has retaken from extremists in recent weeks. "There will be more

reunions when normally fully returns," he told The Associated Press in an interview this week.

More than 10,000 people have been killed in the past year and more than 1 million people are displaced within Nigeria because of the 5-year insurgency, according to the Washington-based Council for Foreign Relations. Hundreds of thousands of others have sought refuge across borders.

Executive secretary Haruna Hamman Furo of the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency said some children may have lost parents among thousands who fled into neighboring Cameroon, and officials are encouraging them to return home.

Bello said they have been able to reunite only seven children, working with the International Committee of the Red Cross, but 138 remain alone.

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OPINION

Military service can combat inequality

By BENJAMIN LUXENBERG

A student at my alma mater, Brandeis University, recently asked me to speak to her school group about my postmilitary experiences, specifically my time studying in China and Germany and now at Harvard University. There was one major problem with this request: I'd graduated five years ago, and she skipped most of what has defined my adult life — the four years I served in the Marine Corps.

A large swath of America shares this student's disinterest in military service. Among elected officials, prior military service is at 20 percent, an all-time low. Fewer than 1 percent of these leaders have children who grew up to don the uniform. Similarly, 10 percent of Ivy League graduates choose to serve, according to the book "AWOL: The Unexcused Absence of America's Upper Classes from Military Service — and How It Hurts Our Country."

Social leaders of tomorrow will be found among the children of our elected officials and Ivy League alumni. Yet, as a society, expect so few of them to join the military. Instead, those most likely to serve are the children of those who have already done so. Inadvertently, America is forging a military caste, separate from the larger electorate and distinct from its future leaders. This growing civil-military gap is both a byproduct of and contributor to increased social stratification. But the divide in military service is only one of many symptoms.

Social and economic inequality in America has risen to heights not seen in almost a century. Economic gains are largely captured by the wealthy, while the middle class stagnates and economic mobility dwindles, economist Thomas Piketty writes in "Cap-

If more of society's privileged served in uniform, we would foster leaders from more spheres who know firsthand the rewards of caring for their fellow citizens.

ital in the Twenty-First Century." The Pew Research Center has shown that American communities are increasingly segregated not only by wealth but also by political affiliation.

With decreased exposure to opposing political views, tolerance shrinks. A once fluid and free-wheeling American society is petrifying as opportunity evaporates and people exist in political echo chambers of their own creation. While the government searches for policies to stanch the middle class' decline and to rebuild trust among Americans, the solution may be simpler: foster and incentivize increased military service.

The military is perhaps America's last bastion of social and economic equality. The salaries of those at the top are much closer to those at the bottom, relative to the corporate world. Senior officers live on the same bases — in the same communities — as junior enlisted personnel, and their children go to school together.

Military values are bound up in day-to-day customs such as "officers eat last," or the lowest rank is cared for first and the highest rank last. America needs leaders who embody ideals like these. If more of society's privileged served in uniform, we would foster leaders from more spheres — military, business, government — who know firsthand the rewards of caring for their fellow citizens. Because of past military service, more corporate executives would perhaps be duty-bound not only to

shareholders but to their employees.

Widespread military service also could help rebuild trust among Americans. The military provides constant and intense exposure to diverse backgrounds. Where else do people work with, live among and mortally depend on such a varied community on a 24/7 basis? The shared hardships forge unbreakable bonds of brotherhood and sisterhood. Those perspectives follow veterans throughout life, humanizing people with opposing views.

Historically, the military has served as a vehicle for social change. In the aftermath of World War II, the GI Bill helped create America's middle class. The integration of African-Americans into the military played a role in solidifying and extending the gains of the civil rights movement. And 2011's formal repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" probably will be seen as a watershed moment for the acceptance of the LGBT community.

With an all-volunteer military here to stay, the time has come for society's most privileged to realize that the burden of service can no longer fall on some unknown "other." The burden lies on each of us, and on our children and grandchildren. Our military has long served as our great equalizer and our melting pot.

Let us turn to it again.

Benjamin Luxenberg, who served in the Marines from 2009 to 2013, is pursuing an MBA and a master's in public policy at Harvard University. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

A wealth of info about your new Congress

By ANN McFEATHERS
 Tribune News Service

Isn't the new Congress exciting! Weren't the lawmakers adorable raising their hands to be sworn in! Isn't America filled with hope and great expectations!

What? We're not? According to CNN, 37 percent of us are convinced Republican control of the Senate and the House will bring fresh air into the overheated Washington atmosphere. Alas, 47 percent of our grumpier cohorts are gloomier than ever, predicting another year of bipartisan bickering, bumptious behavior and boundless sumbrry between the GOP leaders and the White House.

In the spirit of getting to know our political leaders, here are a few interesting tidbits you may throw around at your next cocktail party or group getting together.

For only the second year in history, half of our lawmakers in Washington are millionaires. Not surprisingly, this is far more than the national average, although not as much as you might think. The Boston Consulting Group, which certainly knows wealth when they see it, says that of 1 every 16 U.S. households is now worth at least a million dollars.

Furthermore, the BCG forecasts that the assets held by all segments above \$1 million is projected to grow by at least 7.7 percent per year through 2018.

That is somewhat depressing to me. I feel I am not doing my part. But at least we can be proud that the members of Congress are pulling their weight. (But here's something even more disconcerting: The



New York Republican Elise Stefanik is the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. She is 30.

MIKE GROLL/AP

United States has 4,754 households that are worth more than \$100 million each.)

Another fact is that members of Congress are 66 times more likely than average Americans to be lawyers. And for the Senate Democrats, the figure is 112 times, according to the American Bar Association. That great publication The Economist reflected that "this may explain why America has so many laws, and why some are longer than War and Peace." The Economist may have exaggerated a little. One of our longest laws, Obamacare, has 381,517 words while the Oxford World Classics' edition of "War and Peace" has 561,093 words. However, the regulations that go with Obamacare total about 11,588,500 words, give or take a few.)

While you may be hearing about the new generation of politicians, this Congress is older than the nation in general. Twenty-five percent are 65 or older compared with 14 percent of Americans. Fifty-three percent of the new members are 50 or older.

More women are coming to Washington, but it's not a lot. The new Congress is 1.6 times as likely to be male as Americans in

general; 18 percent of the new members are women.

But more women are breaking into Republican ranks. Republican women in Congress now number 28, up from 23. And they are more diverse. Utah has its first African-American female Republican in Congress, Mia Love, a Mormon who nonetheless ran off to Connecticut for her college education. New York Republican Elise Stefanik is the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. She is 30. (Harvard, naturally.)

Fourteen of the 74 brand new members of Congress have Ivy League degrees, but only one new member, Joni Ernst, Iowa Republican, got into Congress in part by boasting of her experience castrating pigs after being graduated from Iowa State University. The pig connotation will follow her forever.

The Pew Research Center says the new Congress is more religious than the rest of us. While 1 out of 5 Americans says he/she is "unaffiliated" when it comes to religion, only one member, Krysten Sinema, D-Ariz., did not offer a religious affiliation. Fifty-five percent of senators and 58 percent of representatives are Protestants. Twenty-six percent of senators and 32 percent of representatives are Catholics. More than 92 percent of the 535 members of Congress are Christian, with seven who are pastors.

So clearly they believe in the messages of loving thy neighbor as thyself and charity beginning at home.

Perhaps it will be a year of the Golden Rule replacing my way or the highway.

Ann McFeathers is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

OPINION

Satirists accept the price of pens held high

BY MICHAEL CAVNA
The Washington Post

“I prefer to die standing up than live on my knees.”

Those were the last words of Stéphane Charbonnier, the editor of the French satirical publication *Charlie Hebdo*, who on a brutal Wednesday morning in Paris did, in effect, die standing up. Charbonnier — who as a cartoonist went by the nickname “Charb” — was among the 12 people, including three other cartoonists, who were slain by masked gunmen who struck during an editorial meeting at *Charlie Hebdo*'s offices.

What Charb's rallying cry speaks to, really, is a decision — the decision for provocative commentators. Today, as much as ever, each true satirist makes a choice: How far will I go to stand up for my commentary?

Where, in other words, does each cartoonist draw the line when drawing potentially “blasphemous” lines?

A cultural war over how to comment on Islamic extremists has been raging for at least a decade, since Danish newspaper editor Flemming Rose commissioned cartoonists in 2005 that sparked what he calls the Muhammad “Cartoon Crisis.” The most incendiary of those cartoons was a drawing, by Kurt Westergaard, of a Muslim man wearing a bomblike head wrap.

“It was Westergaard's image that would change my life,” Rose wrote in his book “A Tyranny of Silence,” as he, before Charbonnier, became a figure in what he calls “the tension between respect for cultural diversity and the protection of democratic freedoms.”

While in Washington in November to promote his book, Rose told me that he wasn't calling for cartoonists to publish “images of the Prophet Muhammad.” Rather, he encouraged honesty about self-censorship. “I understand that people feel intimidated,” Rose said. “I think we should be honest about it. We should not [apologize] it away to be polite. We mock all religions, but we give special treatment to one religion right now. I'm just talking about honesty so we know what we're really about.”

Charbonnier did not give special treatment, but it's important to remember that *Charlie Hebdo* journalists aren't the first to die in attacks related to cartoons involving Islam. By Rose's estimation, more than 100 people died in violence that was at least partly sparked by Muhammad cartoons drawn by Westergaard and Lars Vilks, who himself fended off a home intruder seeking to kill him over his editorial art.

Westergaard and Vilks, as commentators, made their choice, and paid a price for it.

Over the next decade, many satirists found themselves facing the question: How bold do I want to be amid this clash of free expression and Islamic extremism? In 2010, for instance, “South Park” creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone attempted to depict, even satirize, Muhammad before Comedy Central reportedly demanded changes. Those episodes drew a threat from the extremist group RevolutionMuslim.com, which in turn prompted at least 17 Pulitzer-winning cartoonists to sign a letter condemning the threat. “Freedom of expression is a universal right,” wrote the cartoonists, adding: “We reject any group that seeks to silence people by violence or intimidation.”

The “South Park” controversy also led Seattle artist Molly Norris to create an “Everybody Draw Muhammad Day!” cartoon as a show of support. In the face of the resulting global furor, though, Norris told me just days later that she was disowning the campaign. She visited a mosque, tried to soften her stance, went into hiding and changed her name at the FBI's request — and became a target for execution by the Yemeni-American cleric Anwar al-Awlaki. By year's end, “Norris” emailed me with two simple words: “Fatwas suck.”

Norris, as a satirist, did not fully realize when she set pen to paper just how much she was sacrificing. She made one decision as a cartoonist, then quickly reversed it. And when “Everybody Draw Muhammad Day!” came, some of the letter-signing Pulitzer winners chose to participate, while others did not. Each, even while supporting free expression, faced a very individual decision.



Nik Kowars, a Washington-based political cartoonist, was once jailed for a short time in his native Iran over his satire. “I could have been murdered in 2003 by another group of radical Islamists,” Kowars tells me, “and the support I got from my colleagues at Cartoonists Rights Network International, and the Canadian cartoonists, saved my life.”

India-based cartoonist Kanika Mishra — who, like Kowars, has received the Cartoonist Rights Network's Courage in Editorial Cartooning Award — received death threats when she satirized a religious leader in her country. “I never thought that somebody would really go to that extent in the name of religion and kill people,” Mishra tells me of the Paris attack. “But I was wrong and living in denial.”

Kowars and Mishra saw firsthand the risks of satire, even as the intimidation escalated. They both hail *Charlie Hebdo* journalists as freedom-of-speech heroes and denounce the “cowardly” and “insecure” killers.

Rose, the Danish editor, sees one way forward: “I know that from my own life in the Soviet Union: If you want to dilute the

frear and the threat, you need more people to challenge it,” he told me last fall. “They (opponents) cannot come after millions.”

So now, in the immediate aftermath of the *Charlie Hebdo* killings, will enough pens come forward to challenge the sword? With “Je Suis Charlie” (“I am Charlie”) as an instant symbol and call to rolled-sleeve arms, can the threat be diluted by many satirists each making the same individual choice?

“I stand with *Charlie Hebdo* and support them wholeheartedly,” Mishra says. “Let's hold our pens high.”

“Cartoonists all around the world should denounce such actions, and I'm waiting to see moderate Muslim leaders condemn this massacre,” Kowars says. “Today, in solidarity with our colleagues, we are all Charlie. Je Suis Charlie.”

Kowars, like a true cartoonist, then amplifies his point with a metaphor: “A cartoonist is like a canary in a coal mine. If there's not clean and clear air to breathe, everybody's going to die.”

Michael Cavanaugh is The Washington Post's “Comic Riffs” columnist and a cartoonist.

Drawn into the global mission to defend freedom

BY CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

Suddenly, satire is the great issue of our time.

Last month, North Korea's Stalinist dictatorship launched a cyberattack, accompanied by threats of physical violence, against the makers and distributors of a silly film that dared to violate the cult of personality surrounding Kim Jong Un, according to the FBI. Pyongyang's alleged hack succeeded, at least temporarily, in blocking the movie's release.

And on Wednesday, there was the slaughter of 12 people in Paris, mostly staff members of *Charlie Hebdo*, a weekly newspaper that delighted in mocking the Prophet Muhammad, who were gunned down by masked men crying “Allahu Akbar” and “We have avenged the prophet.”

It turns out that such political joksters take big risks, bigger than perhaps even they realize or anticipate — and the repercussions affect us all.

Yet it is vitally important that the United States and all other Western democracies rally to their unequivocal defense.

If freedom means anything, it means freedom of expression. The very expression that some might find irresponsibly

real, offensive or even blasphemous. In the realm of art and ideas, pretty much nothing is, or should be, sacred, lest we head down the slippery slope to censorship, or self-censorship.

Obviously as that principle might seem, Western politicians have been a bit wobbly about it in recent times. In September 2012, when Islam extremists rioted across the Middle East, ostensibly because they took offense at a crude Internet video mocking Muhammad, *Charlie Hebdo* fired back by making fun of Muhammad in its own pages. The French foreign minister accused the editors of pouring “oil on the fire.” President Barack Obama's spokesman questioned the publication's “judgment.”

To be sure, both officials quickly added that *Charlie Hebdo* had a right to publish what it wanted and that no mere publication or video could justify violence.

Yet their mixed messages unavoidably implied that the rioters had a valid point, which is never something you want to imply — at least not if you understand how dangerous it is to give violent extremists a veto over what your citizens can and cannot say.

Here's an irony: Americans and Europeans have spent much of the past year and a half debating how to rein in the potential

threat that the National Security Agency's electronic surveillance poses to privacy and freedom. Yet in that time, the worst actual assaults on freedom of expression in the West have been carried out by the totalitarian, nuclear-armed North Korean state and, now, in Paris, by Islamist terrorists — that is, the very people against whom the NSA is supposed to protect.

In fact, if you wanted to fault the “surveillance state” for anything, in light of these events, it might be for being insufficiently comprehensive.

The Paris massacre reminds us once again that there are real threats to democracy, from states and organizations that regard freedom itself as evil, and that Western democracies need strong intelligence, police and military institutions, appropriately restrained by law, to counter those threats.

Ultimately, though, security and law enforcement cannot substitute for clarity about our own values.

Fortunately, there has been some progress on that front. Perhaps learning from the futility of his administration's equivocations about the Muhammad video in 2012, Obama responded forthrightly to the Korean siege by cyberattacks. “If somebody is able to intimidate us out of

releasing a satirical movie, imagine what they start doing once they see a documentary that they don't like or news reports that they don't like.”

Ordinary Americans, too, eventually roused themselves to assert their rights, despite the (admittedly implausible) threats of North Korean-backed violence. They went to see “The Interview” in art-house theaters or ordered it online.

Of course, these demonstrations of civil courage were trivial in comparison with the routine bravery *Charlie Hebdo*'s editorial director, Stéphane Charbonnier, practiced in the exercise of his fundamental human right to make fun of all religions. He did this in spite of constant death threats, one bombing and not-so-subtle official pressure to cool it, so as not to inflame the extremists.

“Everyone is driven by fear, and that is exactly what this small handful of extremists who do not represent anyone want — to make everyone afraid, to shut us all in a cave,” he said in 2012.

Stéphane Charbonnier persisted in acting on those beliefs right up until Wednesday, when he lost his life for them.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Technicians rescue cat from car grille

TX GRAPEVINE — Technicians at a Dallas-area dealership have done it again when it comes to rescuing live animals trapped in vehicles. Workers at Park Place Lexus in Grapevine saved a kitten from an SUV after the driver heard meowing under the hood.

Crews on Dec. 26 located the cat behind a heat shield near the grille. Service manager Rod Moreno said workers could see the cat lodged near a vent. Moreno said the vent was cut out and the cat was removed safely.

An employee adopted the stray. A Park Place Lexus mechanic in 2011 extricated a red-tailed hawk from a car grille. The driver stopped to report a bird flew into the front of his car. Technicians thought the hawk was dead — until it blinked.

Actor joins fight to free ice cream shop bear

PA HALLAM — Ricky Gervais joined the fight to free a female bear that's been an attraction at a central Pennsylvania ice cream shop for nearly two decades.

The actor and creator of "The Office" encouraged Facebook followers to sign a petition seeking Little Ricki's release into a wild-life sanctuary. Gervais said having Ricki caged outside the shop near Hallam is heartbreaking.

Four local residents and the nonprofit Animal Legal Defense Fund sued last week for the animal's release. They said the enclosure, with a fenced-in concrete pad and large shed, is inadequate.

Shop owner James McDaniel Jr. said that the outcry has pushed him toward letting Ricki go.

Man tells police, 'Everyone drives drunk'

NJ VINELAND — Authorities said a southern New Jersey man cited for drunken driving on New Year's Eve claimed he shouldn't be charged because it's a time when "everyone drives drunk."

Vineland police said that city resident Daniel Pratts was stopped about midnight after a police officer saw him go through a stop sign.

After Pratts allegedly performed poorly in roadside sobriety tests, he was taken to police headquarters for processing. While there, he allegedly told another officer "it's New Year's Eve, everyone drives drunk."

Pratts also was cited for refusal to take a breath test and reckless driving.

Man fined \$300 in ambush of TV reporter

PA SCRANTON — An 18-year-old man who grabbed a television reporter's arm and yelled obscenities during a live broadcast must pay a \$300 fine plus \$163 in fees after pleading guilty Wednesday to a harassment charge.

Police said former Lackawanna College student Tyrone Parker

THE CENSUS

5½

The length in feet of a snake that wound up in a toilet at an office building, and officials in San Diego are trying to figure out how. Stephanie Lacsa told authorities she noticed the water level in the toilet was higher than usual when she went to the second-floor restroom Tuesday. When she plunged it, a snake popped up and flicked its tongue. She ran out, taped the door shut and called Animal Services. The Columbian rainbow boa was taken to an animal care facility and bit a handler.



BEV HORNE, (ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILL.) DAILY HERALD/AP

School's out, time to fly

Anna Gorski, 16, enjoys a day off from school as instructor Tim Hunckler helps her at IFly in Naperville, Ill., as frigid temperatures impacted the suburbs of Chicago on Wednesday.

ran up to WNEP's Stacy Lange during the November news report and yelled a profane phrase that's been used periodically by people ambushing television reporters during the past year.

Unflustered, Lange continued with her report about Scranton's budget.

Man gets back ring lost in ocean 35 years ago

CA SAN FRANCISCO — A San Francisco Bay Area man who lost a ring while surfing in the ocean 35 years ago had it returned to him by a treasure hunter.

Robert Fowler was 17 when he was surfing off a Marin County beach and his gold high school class ring slipped off his finger. He didn't think he'd see the ring again.

Two weeks ago, Larry Feurzeig found the ring — which bore the initials of Fowler and a Marin County high school engraved inside. Through alumni records, Feurzeig found Fowler and emailed him to meet in front of a San Francisco grocery store. Fowler got his ring back. Feurzeig got a bottle of champagne.

Court tosses conviction due to 'Dixie' song

ID BOISE — The Idaho Court of Appeals vacated a black man's sex crime convictions against two white female teenagers because the prosecutor interjected race in closing arguments by quoting lyrics from the Confederate anthem "Dixie."

All three judges agreed that Canyon County Deputy Prosecutor Erica Kallin erred in citing a song praising what the judges called pernicious racism, and that it might have influenced the jury.

In April 2013 James D. Kirk, then 45, was sentenced to 20 years in prison after the jury found him guilty of committing lewd conduct against a 17-year-old girl and sexually battering a 13-year-old girl.

Canyon County spokesman Joe Decker said the county will retry the case if the Idaho Attorney General doesn't appeal the Dec. 19 appeals court ruling.

Lawmaker stands by housing comments

MD ANNAPOLIS — An Anne Arundel Coun-

ty councilman is standing by his comments that people shouldn't live in his jurisdiction if they can't afford it.

Councilman John Grasso said people seeking government assistance are "freeloaders" who often use their children "as a crutch to describe laziness."

Grasso spoke Thursday with Annapolis paper The Capital following a Monday council meeting during which he said he had no sympathy for people who had testified about how they've benefited from affordable housing.

Looking at one resident, he said: "My heart doesn't go out to you — it just doesn't."

At the meeting, the council passed a measure limiting where affordable housing can go in the county.

Grasso said those seeking assistance need to work harder, save their money, and if they can't afford to live in the county, they shouldn't.

Univ. of Colorado to offer fully online degree

CO BOULDER — The University of Colorado plans to offer its first fully online

bachelor's degree this fall.

The Daily Camera reported that CU will start by offering an online psychology degree program and hopes to add at least 25 online degree programs in the next three years, including master's degree programs.

CU doesn't plan to create a separate online entity but will instead offer more online offerings at each of its campuses taught by its regular faculty.

100-year-old leads exercise classes

MN ST. PAUL — A 100-year-old exercise instructor says the secret to longevity is an attitude of gratitude.

St. Paul resident Lauretta Taggett celebrated her triple-digit birthday this week.

Taggett said she doesn't let her age slow her down — she's been an exercise instructor for the past 15 years.

Jana Kyser, the property manager at the senior apartment complex where Taggett lives, said there's a piece of wisdom she's learned from Taggett: "Honey, don't ever let your hair go gray."

From wire reports

HEALTH & FITNESS

Balls can amp up a fitness routine

By LESLIE BARKER/The Dallas Morning News

The same universal go-to that kids play with works just as well as a go-to for exercising adults: a ball.

From a hail-size golf ball to those big of stability balls you see rolling around a gym floor, any size or type can be a workout asset.

"You can use a ball with any exercise and get strength and cardio together," said Addison, Texas, personal trainer Melissa Spoonst, barely able to contain her enthusiasm. "Throw an 8-pound med ball in your hand while you're doing a crunch and you'll torch it. You can do squats, you can lunge with a ball!

"That's the lure," she said. "It's fun."

Although Karl Knopf's book "Therapy Ball Workbook" has therapy in its title, he echoes Spoonst's adjective when describing the benefits of anyone using balls to work out.

"It's a fun tool that augments an existing program," he said. "Use bigger ones for conditioning and stabilization, smaller for hard-to-reach massage places."

"With some of these, you feel like you're a kid again," Spoonst said. "There's something about taking this ball and throwing it against the wall or slamming it down on the ground. It's such a powerful release."

She believes so firmly in them that she keeps a selection in her green Kia to take to clients' homes.

"I have tiny ones that weigh 4 pounds and 20-pound squishy ones made of leather," she says. "You pick up that medicine ball and chuck it against the wall for a minute and you are dying."

Here are some specific ways to use balls designed for exercise or those you can snatch from your kid's toy chest.



Personal trainer Melissa Spoonst demonstrates a med-ball toe-touch.

PHOTOS BY LARA SOLT, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS



Med-ball lunge

Med-ball crunch



Med-ball slam



Pushup



Medicine balls

The advantage: "They enhance and engage more of your body in whatever exercise you're doing," Spoonst said. "Another thing I like is that you have to pay attention. You're engaging so much more of your body, and you're engaged. You don't just sit on a machine."

Exercise No. 1: Med-ball toe-touch

Lie on your back with legs extended, holding a 6- to 8-pound med ball close to your chest. As you raise your legs, extend your arms, lifting your torso as you reach your medicine ball toward your feet. Lie back down.

Do three to four sets of 20 crunches.

Exercise No. 2: Med-ball lunge

Hold an 8- to 10-pound medicine ball in front of you. As you put one foot forward, bring the ball over your head and reach to the side. "You're holding it away from your body, which does something for your core and arms," Spoonst said.

Do three to four sets of 16 lunges.

Exercise No. 3: Med-ball crunch

Holding an 8-pound med ball, lie on the floor. As you raise your legs and your arms, alternate tapping the ball on the ground from side to side. Or for more stability, bend your knees, keeping your heels on the floor while you do the side-taps.

Do 10 per side; repeat two to three times.

Exercise No. 4: The med-ball slam

Holding a med ball, extend your arms above your head. Slam the ball to the ground; pick it up and repeat until you're too tired to do even one more.

You can also play catch with a med ball.

Stability balls

The advantage: Despite their name, their relative instability helps strengthen the core, whether used for just sitting at a desk or for crunches, Spoonst said.

Exercise No. 1: Plank

Hold on to the ball with elbows straight but not locked and your torso at an angle. Or rest your forearms on the ball with your legs extended.

Do three times, holding each for 20 seconds.

Exercise No. 2: Pushup

"This is a very, very difficult exercise," Spoonst says. Engage your core, then put your hands on top of the ball. Bend your elbows and lower; then straighten. Or put your feet on the ball and your hands on the floor while you bend your elbows and touch your nose to the floor.

Do 10 to 12; repeat three times.

Exercise No. 3: Bridge pose

Lie on your back with your legs outstretched and feet on the stability ball. With forearms on the ground, raise your glutes. Hold for a breath or two, then slowly lower.

Do 12 to 15; repeat three times.

Exercise No. 4: Wall squats

Stand up straight and put the ball between you and a wall. Bend your knees. Hold the pose for 30 seconds; release and repeat two more times. Or slowly stand up and sit down, up and down slowly 12 times; do three sets.

Gilroy, Calif.-based author Knopf does offer one warning: "Make sure you're doing this in an area where it's safe," he said. "The biggest chance of getting hurt is falling off the exercise ball and hitting your head on the TV."

Tennis balls

The advantage: "It's soft and pliable and easy to find," Knopf said.

Exercise No. 1: Foot massage

Stand up straight, placing the ball under the ball of your foot. Breathe deeply as you roll it slowly around your entire foot, including the sides, Knopf said.

Repeat with the other foot. If you have trouble with balance, sit in a chair or use a wall for support.

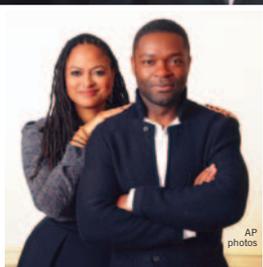
Exercise No. 2: Hamstring massage

Place one or two balls in a sock. Sit straight in a chair or on the floor as you roll the balls under your thigh, controlling pressure as you shift your weight.

Exercise No. 3: Inner thigh toner

Lie on your back, knees bent and feet flat on the floor. Place the ball between your thighs. Engage your abs as you quickly squeeze your legs together. Release, but don't let the ball drop until you're finished with your sets.

MOVIES



‘He was able to capture the essence of my dad’

David Oyelowo earns praise for portrayal of MLK

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK
Los Angeles Times

Shortly before actor David Oyelowo began shooting the part of Martin Luther King Jr. in the new historical drama “Selma,” he set out on a video-hunting mission.

Oyelowo was searching for something that would help him get under the skin of his subject — that would go beyond the polished statue of photo ops and speech clips — when the longtime King ally Andrew Young handed him a piece of unseen footage.

In it, the civil rights leader could be viewed letting his guard down with friends and allies as they toured for their campaign of economic equality; the candid material, it turns out, was shot just weeks before King was gunned down.

“When Dr. King was being interviewed by the press, there was a certain demeanor, a dignified presence, he felt the need to project,” said the Nigerian-British Oyelowo.

“But with this, he was just there, not putting on any of that — eating fried chicken, belching, laughing with his friends, being the prankster, the guy’s guy. And that was huge for me. It was finally a chance to see the man behind the iconography.”

Landing like a firework in the midst of nationwide protests over the shooting of several unarmed black men, “Selma” eschews the cradle-to-grave conventions of a biopic in favor of something more fresh and specific.

Director Ava DuVernay’s film centers on three critical, sometimes-bloody months in 1965 when King and Southern Christian Leadership Conference leaders sought to organize the Selma-to-Montgomery march in segregated Alabama. In focusing tightly on King’s approach — which involved drawing attention to the cause with media-friendly incidents that, he hoped, would galvanize President Lyndon B. Johnson to press for the Voting Rights Act — “Selma” examines the strategies as much as the speeches.

In so doing, the film etches a King who’s engaging in monumental work without treating him like a monument. For the first major film ever to feature King as a lead character, moviegoers get a different civil rights leader than they might be familiar with. Oyelowo plays the man with a wide range of modes. He has an oratorical gravitas in key sermons, yes, but also a quiet defeatism when confronted by his wife about infidelity and a scrappy fighting spirit in backroom church planning sessions.

And, it should be noted, they get a different kind of actor through which to see him. The 38-year-old Oyelowo is a performer with outspoken views on race and Hollywood; a debonair Oxford-born Brit far from the Atlanta-raised pastor he’s bringing to life; and a man with such a strong Christian bent he says he believed God chose him to play this role.

“We wrapped the second of July, and Michael Brown was killed on the ninth of August,” Oyelowo said. “I’m at one screening and I’m standing there 30 minutes after the verdict that Darren Wilson wasn’t going to be indicted in Ferguson. People watching this film think we made it after Ferguson. King was cut down because they knew what impact his message would have and how it

would completely change this country, and here we are with this movie able to talk his strategy of love in the face of hate.”

Oyelowo said to convey that message he sought to pull back the curtain, a kind of in-

spiration through demystification.

“What’s this guy like at home with his wife and kids?” Oyelowo said. “He’s not talking in a vibrato about taking out the trash. Where are his doubts, his guilt, his need to walk away? Those are the reasons to do a film about Dr. King. Because otherwise, there is documentary footage and books. You don’t need this movie.”

At the same time, Oyelowo said, he wanted to avoid the tics of fact-based acting, in which mannerisms and other physical manifestations can stand in for more subtle performance skills. “What I tried to do was embody, not do an impersonation or an impression.”

That approach seemed to work for those who can judge it best — the people who knew and studied King. When the long-serving Congressman John Lewis (D-Ga.), one of the so-called Big Six Civil Rights leaders who was instrumental in Selma, came to the film’s Atlanta set one day, he sat in the back of a church and found himself confounding a real past with a constructed present.

King, he believed, was preaching in front of him. “When they stopped filming, I walked up to David and hugged him, and we

both started crying,” Lewis said. “Everyone around us thought we lost our mind.”

DuVernay said she found herself doing double-takes in the edit room. “I would look at some of the stuff he was doing, and there didn’t seem to be a shred of David in it except his body, and even that changed,” she said, alluding to the weight the actor added and movements that more closely resembled King’s.

Martin Luther King III offered the most potent endorsement. “He was able to capture the essence of my dad.”

Oyelowo first read Paul Webb’s “Selma” script in 2007. The movie took a wide path to the screen; despite producers who included Brad Pitt and eventually Oprah Winfrey, versions with Steven Spielberg, Paul Green-

grass and Lee Daniels all failed to get off the ground, until Oyelowo helped bring on DuVernay last year. The film was financed independently via the French sales company Pathe; Paramount came aboard later to distribute it.

The film is not officially endorsed by the King family, though members have been supportive (speeches were written by the filmmakers and not licensed from the King archives). And despite being virtually unknown in 2007, Oyelowo, a devout Christian who will often pray on sets, said he heard a voice tell him that he would play the role.

“I knew that voice, because it was the same voice that told me to marry my wife, the same voice that told me to give names to my children before they were even conceived,” he recalled. “This is how God has spoken to me in the past. And it’s what kept me going even though directors at the time didn’t want me.”

‘What I tried to do was embody, not do an impersonation or an impression.’

David Oyelowo

Top: David Oyelowo, second from left, stars as Martin Luther King Jr. in “Selma.” Oyelowo, above with “Selma” director Ava DuVernay, wanted to show all facets of the civil rights leader in the film. “Where are his doubts, his guilt, his need to walk away,” he says.

MOVIES

'Taken 3' brings unexpected journey to an end for the cast



By JOHN ANDERSON
Newsday

Nobody thought there'd be a "Taken 3."

"I never thought there'd be a 'Taken 2!'" said Maggie Grace who, as the daughter of Liam Neeson's resourceful ex-CIA agent Bryan Mills, has been through a lot, including one of the more successful — and surprising — recent franchises in a contracting movie universe.

"I think they thought the original would go direct to DVD," she said. "We were blown away when it became this juggernaut. There had been a shake-up at the studio; in Japan, it was already online then they saw what they had."

What the original had was a bona fide actor — Neeson, at its center, along with a virtually irresistible action-thriller plotline — invincible father tries to save virginal daughter from sex slavers. The fact that Neeson's character, Bryan, ex-government operative and security expert, could do just about anything except keep his own family out of the clutches of homicidal Albanian evil doers was not something that seemed to bother audiences, who were caught up in the action, revenge plot and Neeson's imposing physicality.

"It's better not to study the details too closely," laughed Famke Janssen, who plays Bryan's wife, Lenore, and has had her own run of luck with franchises ("X-Men," for instance, in which she plays Jean Grey/Phoenix). Lenore's luck, on the other hand, runs out in "T3": Bryan is framed for her death, and while hunting down the real killers has to elude the authorities, who include Forest Whitaker.

In addition to Neeson's initial denials that a second sequel would be made, there were the customary discussions, which Janssen said went on for a long time. "I think even between 'Taken' 1 and 2 there was a lot of talk," she said. "I was one of the last ones to know and got into it late. And I'm not in it very long."

The women of "Taken" have not had an easy time of it. Lenore, for instance, was hung on a chain and left to bleed to death in "2." Kim was abducted, abused and humiliated in "1." Grace said not much has changed in "3."

"I love playing strong women in other things," said Grace, who was a longtime cast member of "Lost." "But this remains the character we built and picks up where we left her. She's always going to be an ingenue in many ways. Besides, 'Taken' is an emotional journey, and the heart of the film is the relationship between father and daughter."

"Taken" came out in 2008, and Janssen thinks the country was in sync with Bryan Mills' thirst for vengeance.

"I think it hit a chord with a lot of Americans," she said. "Especially given the timing. There was nothing they could do about these horrible attacks, and they could live vicariously through a man who was avenging the kidnapping of his daughter, who was going out on a limb and being extremely proactive. I think people felt a little paralyzed at the time and they could identify with this guy."

For Grace, much of the series' appeal has to do with Neeson himself. "I really think having a substantial actor at the center of the movies is a huge part of the success," she said. "He's not a predictable action hero; he's an actor's actor, and as Bryan Mills you can see it costs him something... It's really about his weaknesses more than his strengths. He's just a soulful person."

Both women had kind words for their co-star. "Aside from being great to work with, he's a generous, warm person," Grace said. "This is the final film, and it's more like ending a TV series that's gone on for a long time; the cast members are all very. It's been a blessing in my life."

Janssen agreed. "He's really redefined what an action star is, by becoming one at age 60," she said. "Up [until] 'Taken,' it wasn't common to see someone in that age category do movies like this. He's an extremely gifted actor who's done a lot of different types of roles. Now he's enjoying a new type of career."

Liam Neeson's list ... of movies

The "Taken" franchise has gotten a lot of mileage out of being built around a serious actor, one who never seemed inclined toward Hollywood stardom, never mind success as an action hero. But both have come to Liam Neeson, the 6-foot-4 Northern Ireland-born star, whose career dates back to the '70s and who early on appeared in a slew of U.K. film and television productions. Once Steven Spielberg offered Neeson the lead in "Schindler's List," the actor never looked back.

The following are among his pivotal on-screen moments:

"Darkman" 1990

Sam Raimi cast Neeson as the horribly disfigured victim of gangland violence, a scientist who uses his research into artificial skin to recreate himself and wreak vengeance on his assailants.

"Schindler's List" 1993

Neeson earned an Oscar nomination for his portrayal of Oskar Schindler, the industrialist credited with saving 1,200 Jews during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

"Michael Collins" 1996

Neeson earned a Golden Globe nomination and the best actor prize at the Venice Film Festival for playing the controversial Irish Republican hero.

"Kinsey" 2004

As celebrated sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, Neeson showed range, comedic timing and self-effacing humor in what remains a funny, informative, and to-no-small-degree-sexy movie.

"The Grey" 2011

This plane-crash story starred Neeson as a survivalist and huntsman who becomes his fellow roughnecks' only hope when their plane goes down in the middle of uncharted Alaskan tundra.

Newsday

Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen and Maggie Grace reprise their roles in "Taken 3." Grace plays Kim, daughter of Neeson's character, ex-covert operative Bryan Mills (pictured). She owes much of film series' appeal to Neeson. "I really think having a substantial actor at the center of the movies is a huge part of the success," she said.

VIDEO GAMES



Let's play! These popular titles are fun, highly addictive and kid-friendly

By Tom Ham/Special to The Washington Post

The past year has been an amazing time for video gamers — even the younger ones.

All three of the major consoles hit their strides, and we got our hands on the games that we really wanted to play.

But year-end reviews tend to focus on games that carry a mature rating. In other words, they seem to ignore the great games that don't involve exploding heads and profanity.

So here's a rundown of games that you can play with kids and not worry about nightmares.

'Disney Infinity: Marvel Super Heroes' (2.0 Edition)

Publisher: Disney Interactive Studios

Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Nintendo Wii U, Xbox One and PlayStation 4

Rating: Everyone
The sequel to last year's hit game puts players in the world of Marvel superheroes.

The main campaign is split into three storylines, or play sets. The first has players as Avengers trying to defeat Loki.

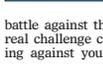
In the second, you are Spider-Man trying to defeat the Green Goblin. The third storyline has you playing as the Guardians of the Galaxy as you try to defeat Ronan and his minions. Just as before, gamers can play two ways: play set and toy box. Play set is more structured and uses the figures in a more linear fashion. Toy box is your virtual sandbox, where players can create their own worlds and various game types. The game is highly addictive and a whole lot of fun. Thankfully, your figures from last year's game are compatible with 2.0.

'Super Smash Bros.'

Publisher: Nintendo of America

Platform: Wii U
Rating: Everyone
You've waited patiently. You've played it on your N64, GameCube, Wii and 3DS. Now the fighting game makes its appearance on the Wii U.

With more than 50 fighters, this Smash is Nintendo's biggest. You can choose to battle against the game, but the real challenge comes from playing against your friends. Super



Smash supports up to eight people at a time locally as well as online gameplay. Beautiful visuals, dynamic arenas and the addition of Amiibo figures totally change the way the game is played.

'Little Big Planet 3'

Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment America
Platform: PlayStation 4

Rating: Everyone
When the evil Newton releases Titans onto the world of Bunkum, it's up to Sackboy and his new friends to take him down and prevent the destruction of their creative sandbox.

LBP3 continues the addicting gameplay that fans love by giving players all the customization tools necessary to build complex yet incredibly fun levels and worlds. What's cool is that you can play your creations locally or with friends online.

On the PlayStation 4, players are treated to incredibly detailed textures and lighting effects. It all looks amazing.

'Child of Light'

Publisher: Ubisoft
Platform: Xbox 360, Xbox One, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Wii U and PC

Rating: Everyone
In this visually stunning game, players take on the role of Aurora as she ventures into the realm of

Lemuria to help restore its sun, moon and stars. Along the way, the Dark Queen, Umbra, will pit you against her evil minions and put obstacles in your way. With your

trusty sidekick, Igniculus, you can slow down attacks, help allies and pick up helpful items during your journey. Ubisoft calls this game a "poetical poem." We call it wonderful.



'Mario Kart 8'

Publisher: Nintendo of America

Platform: Nintendo Wii U
Rating: Everyone

Everyone's favorite kart racer is back, this time in HD glory. This Mario Kart sports new racing circuits, new characters and new items for your arsenal. A new feature in MK8 is anti-gravity racing. On certain tracks,

your karts can ride on walls and on ceilings. The true stars of the game are the tracks themselves — 32 in all. You might get nostalgic racing through tracks from previous versions of the game. Some go all the way back to the Super Nintendo Entertainment System. MK8 supports four players locally and as many as 12 players online. This by far is the best Mario Kart yet.

'Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare'

Publisher: Electronic Arts
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, Xbox One, PlayStation 4 and PC

Rating: Everyone
Part action and part strategy, the incredibly popular smart-

phone game has made the jump to consoles, and the result is pretty awesome. Players can choose to play either as zombies or plants. Each team has four classes,

including your basic infantry unit and more support and offensive units. After picking their class of unit, players are treated to three addictive, multiplayer modes, where your shooting skills are put to the test. As many as 24 players can be in a game at the same time online! As an added bonus, the downloadable content for this game is free. Pretty cool.



'Never Alone'

Publisher: E-Line Media
Platform: Xbox One, PlayStation 4 and PC

Rating: Everyone
This unique platforming game is truly special. A big game publisher didn't make it, instead, it was produced by a small company in conjunction with the Alaska Native community. The game was created not only to help share

the culture of its people but also to expose players to experiences they probably would never otherwise encounter. As a young girl named Nuna, players embark on an adventure across eight chapters in which she must find out the cause of a never-ending blizzard. Along the way she will face enemies, solve puzzles and interact with wildlife. What's great about this game is that while players are having fun, they'll be learning about an indigenous people. Coupled with beautiful visuals and a great soundtrack, this title is not to be overlooked.

'Forza Horizon 2'

Publisher: Microsoft Game Studios
Platform: Xbox One and Xbox 360

Rating: Everyone
If you ever had dreams of racing exotic sports cars through France and Italy, look no further than Forza 2. You take part in a

virtual driving festival where you try to complete various racing events and challenges. Your rewards? Only some of the most expensive sports and classic cars on the planet! There are more than 200 cars in the game, including the beautiful Lamborghini Huracan and the classic Mini Cooper. Play solo or with eight of your



friends online. The open road is yours for the taking.

'Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze'

Publisher: Nintendo of America

Platform: Wii U
Rating: Everyone

Everyone's favorite gorilla returns in his latest platforming

adventure, and for the first time, he's making an appearance on the Wii U. When Donkey Kong Island is turned into an icy wasteland, it's up to Donkey Kong

and his family to save the day. Gameplay is spread across five islands, each filled with obstacles and bosses. Two new playable characters, each with special moves, adds to the fun and depth of the game. As one would expect, the visuals are top-notch and the level design is genius.

'NBA 2K15'

Publisher: 2K Sports
Platform: Xbox 360, PlayStation 3, PC, Xbox One and PlayStation 4

Rating: Everyone
Looking for this year's best sports simulation game? 2K

Sports' basketball game raises the bar for realism and gameplay — to the point that it will make you think you're watching the real thing. 2K15 features 5,000 new player anima-

tions, including signature moves of some favorite players. You'll see Kobe Bryant's fadeaway and LeBron James' power dunk. The result is jaw-dropping. A key new feature is the ability to scan your face and put it on a player (Kinect or PlayStation camera required). Throw in music curated by Pharrell Williams, and this game is nothing but net.



LIFESTYLE



With 93-year-old Holocaust survivor Josef Scher holding her hand, Robin Zell Benveniste of Delray Beach, Fla., holds still as tattoo artist David Robinowitz inks the Hebrew word for "remember" on her arm.

PHOTOS BY MARK RANDALL, SUN SENTINEL/TNS



Marked to remember

Home care nurse gets tattoo to honor patients who survived the Holocaust



Benveniste gets a hug from Scher after the tattoo.

By RANDALL P. LIEBERMAN
Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.

Robin Zell Benveniste, 49, has found a special way to honor Holocaust survivors.

Benveniste, of Delray Beach, Fla., is a registered nurse who has worked with between 50 and 100 Holocaust survivors during the past three and a half years as a home health care nurse.

During this time, Benveniste — who says she is a “passionate about providing quality nursing care to all of her patients” — has become heavily involved in helping the Holocaust survivors she works with.

Benveniste said that helping Holocaust survivors had also become a passion for her family, including husband, Mark Benveniste, and her children — Jessica (22), Erica (19) and Jeremy (13) Zell. They are all members of Congregation B'nai Israel in Boca Raton, Fla.

As such, Robin sent both of her daughters to Poland and Israel as part of the March of the Living Holocaust educational tours in the past few years and did all she could to help the Holocaust survivors she works with.

Still, when Holocaust survivor Helena Herman, of Boynton Beach, Fla., died last year, Robin Benveniste had a deep feeling of grief that she wasn't doing enough for the Holocaust survivors in her life.

Robin and Mark Benveniste went searching online and found a group called the Zachor Holocaust Remembrance Foundation — founded in 2009 by Ben Lesser of Las Vegas — which is dedicated to providing Holocaust education in schools and community groups.

The Benvenistes also learned through Zachor of many second- and third-generation Holocaust survivors who were getting tattoos to honor their ancestors.

Robin Benveniste loved this idea and decided to get a tattoo of the Hebrew word “Zachor” (which is translated as “Remember”) on the inside of her left arm as a way of showing support for all the Holocaust survivors in her life and as a pledge to never forget to pass on their Holocaust stories.

When Mark Benveniste searched online for quality tattoo artists in their area, the name David Robinowitz came up, as working for A Stroke of Genius Tattoos in Boca Raton. With a name like Robinowitz, the Benvenistes figured he was Jewish. They were right.

When the Benvenistes met Robinowitz for the first time, the three had instant rapport and recently, Robinowitz inked the tattoo Robin wanted on her arm. Robinowitz donated his services to the cause.

Robin Benveniste said: “It is critical to remember each and every story of our Holocaust survivors and to pass these stories on ‘L'dor V'dor’ — from one generation to another. Very soon, there won't be any Holocaust survivors left and we will have to pass on their stories for them. My personal philosophy is to ‘Pay It Forward,’ and this is my way of doing that for the survivors.”

Mark Benveniste added: “I am honored to be married to such a beautiful person who takes caring for Holocaust survivors in such a personal way.”

Robinowitz commented: “I am honored to have participated in this event. As a Jewish tattoo artist, tattooing kind of goes against the old traditions of the religion. So, it was great to do this today because I am Jewish and trying to increase how much the Jewish community embraces the art of tattooing.”

Present at the tattooing was Holocaust survivor Josef Scher, 93, of Pompano Beach, Fla., a family friend of the Benvenistes though not a client of Robin's. Scher held Robin's hand throughout the 15-minute procedure.

Said Scher, a survivor of seven concentration camps: “I've never seen anything like this. It's very emotional. It takes me back to what I went through in 1940. I never forget any of those details. It's a wonderful thing what Robin is doing.”

Lesser watched the entire event via telephone and was brought to tears how his foundation was honored. Lesser said: “This is a historical day and may start a trend.”

Lesser has a started an “I Shout Out” website (www.i-shout-out.com) for anyone who wants to take a stand against intolerance, injustice, racism or bullying. Lesser is looking to get six million “Shout Outs” against intolerance in honor of the six million Jews killed in the Holocaust.

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

US unemployment rate at 6-year low

By Christopher S. Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States capped its best year for hiring in 15 years with a healthy gain in December, and the unemployment rate reached a six-year low. The numbers support expectations that the United States will strengthen further this year even as overseas economies stumble.

The Labor Department said Friday that employers added 252,000 jobs last month and 50,000 more in October and November combined than it had previously estimated. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.6 percent from 5.8 percent in November. The rate is at its lowest point since 2008.

Yet wage growth remains weak. Average hourly pay slipped 5 cents in December. And the unemployment rate fell partly because many of the jobsless gave up looking for work and so were no longer counted as unemployed.

American businesses have

been largely shrugging off signs of economic weakness overseas and continuing to hire at healthy rates. The U.S. economy's steady improvement is especially striking compared with the weakness in much of the world.

Europe is barely growing, and its unemployment rate is nearly double the U.S. level. Japan, the world's third-largest economy, is in recession. Russia's economy is cratering as oil prices plummet. China is straining to manage a slowdown. Brazil and others in Latin America are struggling.

Fears about significantly cheaper oil spooked investors earlier this week before financial markets recovered. But most economists remain optimistic that lower energy prices will benefit U.S. consumers and many businesses and will give the American economy a further boost.

The improving jobs picture has healed some of the deep scars left by the Great Recession. The number of people who have been

unemployed for more than six months fell 27 percent last year. And the number working part time who would prefer full-time work dropped 12 percent.

Still, much healing remains to be done. To keep up with population growth since the recession began, the economy would need to create 4.9 million additional jobs, according to the Brookings Institution. Average hourly pay is barely staying ahead of inflation.

Economists do expect more healing to occur this year. Tumbling oil and gas prices have put more money into consumers' pockets, enhancing their ability to spend. Goldman Sachs estimates that the additional spending on restaurants, auto dealers and other goods and services will lead to the creation of 300,000 more jobs this year than if oil prices remained at their June levels.

Spending at retail stores and restaurants rose in November

by the most in eight months, an early sign that Americans are already spending some of the savings they are enjoying on gas-pump prices.

Car sales jumped 6 percent last year to the highest level since 2006, according to Autodata Corp. Analysts forecast that sales will reach 17 million this year, near the record of 17.3 million set in 2000. That is expected to lead to more jobs at automakers, parts suppliers and dealers.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 12)	\$1.1202
Dollar buys (Jan. 12)	€0.8263
British pound (Jan. 12)	\$1.55
Japanese yen (Jan. 10)	¥117.00
South Korean won (Jan. 12)	₩1,066.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5119/0.6614
Canada (dollar)	1.1874
China (Yuan)	6.2116
Hong Kong (dollar)	0.7531
India (Rupee)	72.186
Japan (Yen)	119.08
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2942
Norway (Krone)	1.6754
Philippines (Peso)	44.85
Poland (Zloty)	3.61
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7544
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3368
South Korea (Won)	1,090.03
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0188
Thailand (Baht)	32.86
Turkey (Lira)	2.2917

(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., excluding British pounds in Germany), check your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 8, 2015

Dow Jones Industrials	323.35
	17,907.87
Nasdaq composite	85.72
	4,736.19
Standard & Poor's 500	36.24
	2,062.14
Russell 2000	20.15
	1,196.12

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.25
Federal funds market rate	0.01
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.60

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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	36	22	Cir	Fort Wayne	10	8	Cir	Louisville	25	18	Cir	Pocatello	39	27	Cir	Sioux City	26	11	Cir
Ablene, Tex	36	31	Cir	Cheyenne	46	22	PCldy	Fresno	61	46	Cir	Lubbock	46	27	PCldy	Portland, Maine	25	9	Cir	Sioux Falls	19	2	Cir
Akron, Ohio	10	4	Cir	Chicago	14	10	Cir	Goodland	48	15	Cir	Macon	47	29	Cir	Portland, Ore.	46	39	Cir	South Bend	12	10	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	19	16	PCldy	Cincinnati	19	15	Cir	Green Bay	40	23	Cir	Madison	13	8	PCldy	Providence	22	12	Cir	Spokane	34	28	Cir
Albuquerque	48	32	Cir	Cleveland	11	6	Cir	Grand Rapids	15	11	Cir	Medford	52	38	Cir	Pueblo	56	20	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	21	19	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	19	7	Cir	Colorado Springs	55	24	Cir	Great Falls	32	16	Cir	Memphis	33	25	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	35	19	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	32	24	Cir
Ames, Iowa	32	26	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	43	24	Cir	Green Bay	40	23	Cir	Miami Beach	75	70	Cir	Rapid City	36	8	Cir	St. Louis	64	58	Cir
Anchorage	32	26	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	46	31	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	34	18	Cir	Midland-Odessa	38	30	Cir	Reno	54	32	Cir	Tallahassee	54	39	Cir
Ashville	35	18	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	43	24	Cir	Hartford	17	10	Cir	Milwaukee	13	11	PCldy	Richmond	31	17	Cir	Tampa	65	55	Cir
Atlanta	26	8	Cir	Concord, N.H.	21	3	Cir	Harrisburg	23	8	Cir	Missisquoi	31	22	Cir	Roanoke	29	17	PCldy	Tellico	26	19	Cir
Atlantic City	23	8	Cir	Corpus Christi	42	38	Rain	Helena	35	23	Cir	Missoula	31	22	Cir	Rochester	15	13	Cir	Topeka	33	21	PCldy
Austin	55	28	Snow	Dallas-Ft. Worth	38	34	Cir	Honolulu	81	66	PCldy	Mobile	33	33	Cir	Rockford	13	10	PCldy	Tucson	68	46	PCldy
Baltimore	22	11	Cir	Dayton	12	10	Cir	Houston	42	37	Cir	Montgomery	45	29	Cir	Sacramento	60	45	PCldy	Tulsa	58	46	Cir
Baton Rouge	47	36	Cir	Daytona Beach	64	59	Cir	Huntsville	37	25	Cir	Nashville	30	21	Cir	St. Louis	28	22	Cir	Tupelo	35	25	Cir
Billings	25	14	Cir	Denver	50	22	PCldy	Indianapolis	16	15	Cir	New Orleans	48	43	Cir	St. Petersburg	64	58	Cir	Waco	26	19	Cir
Birmingham	40	28	Cir	Des Moines	22	12	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	42	30	PCldy	New York City	19	16	Cir	St. Thomas	79	75	PCldy	Wichita	34	23	Cir
Bismarck	11	29	Cir	Detroit	9	8	Cir	Jacksonville	56	46	PCldy	Newark	22	15	Cir	Salerno, Ore.	46	40	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	22	11	Cir
Boise	29	9	Cir	Duluth	8	8	Cir	Janeau	38	28	Cir	Newark, Va.	32	22	Cir	Salt Lake City	42	30	Cir	Wilmington, N.C.	38	29	Cir
Boston	23	13	Cir	El Paso	46	33	Cir	Kansas City	30	21	PCldy	North Platte	35	12	Cir	San Angelo	38	32	Cir	Wichita Falls	38	29	PCldy
Bridgeport	12	12	Cir	Elkins	17	9	Cir	Key West	71	57	Cir	Oklahoma City	37	28	Cir	San Antonio	37	35	Snow	Wilkes-Barre	14	9	Cir
Brownsville	42	40	Rain	Erie	42	18	Snow	Knoxville	34	18	Cir	Omaha	26	12	PCldy	San Diego	64	56	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	22	11	Cir
Buffalo	15	14	Snow	Fairbanks	48	41	Cir	Lake Charles	46	38	Cir	Orlando	67	56	Cir	San Francisco	59	50	Cir	Youngstown	10	4	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	17	14	Cir	Fargo	25	22	Cir	Lansing	12	6	Cir	Paducah	28	25	Cir	San Jose	63	46	PCldy				
Caribou, Maine	7	10	Cir	Fairbanks	45	4	Cir	Las Vegas	62	46	Cir	Pendleton	35	28	Cir	Santa Fe	46	27	Cir				
Casper, Wyo.	37	21	Cir	Fargo	10	8	Cir	Lexington	23	14	Cir	Phoenix	17	15	PCldy	St. Marie	11	1	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	42	30	Cir	Flagstaff	41	26	Rain	Lincoln	28	12	Cir	Philadelphia	22	12	Cir	Savannah	49	35	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	27	13	Cir	Flint	14	5	Cir	Little Rock	33	27	Cir	Phoenix	70	52	Cir	Seattle	48	42	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	37	20	Cir	Fort Smith	36	27	Cir	Los Angeles	64	54	Cir	Pittsburgh	11	8	PCldy	Shreveport	41	31	Cir				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tu., 80, Palm Springs, Calif.
Lo: Tu., -38, Estcourt Station, Maine



VIETNAM

AT

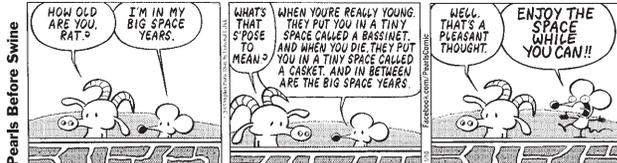
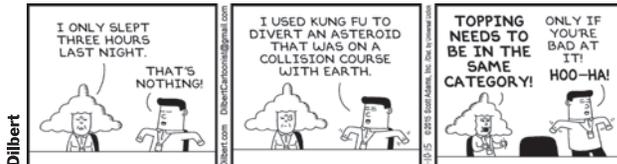
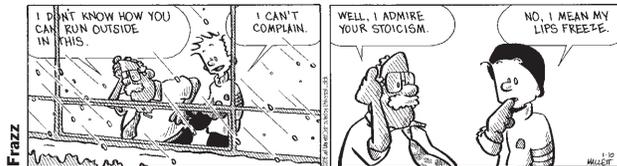
50



Explore **STARS AND STRIPES** new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: stripes.com/vietnam50



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 Foot part
 - 5 Little, at La Scala
 - 9 Donkey
 - 12 "Get lost!"
 - 13 "Two and a Half Men" role
 - 14 Caustic solution
 - 15 Pile
 - 16 Reply to "Shall we?"
 - 17 Inseparable
 - 18 Eli's alma mater
 - 19 Heavy weight
 - 20 "Damn!"
 - 21 Bear hair
 - 23 Commotion
 - 25 By word of mouth
 - 28 Aspen or cottonwood
 - 32 Get drunk
 - 33 Poor
 - 34 Give
 - 36 Carve
 - 37 Greek consonant
 - 38 Scrooge's cry
 - 39 Courage
 - 42 Go downhill
 - 44 Reverbate
 - 48 Before
 - 49 Secondhand
 - 50 Roe provider
 - 51 Time of your life
 - 52 Merriment
- DOWN**
- 1 Hardly ruddy
 - 2 Actress Perlman
 - 3 Brat's stocking stuffer
 - 4 1998 Sandra Bullock movie
 - 5 Meager
 - 6 Bread spread
 - 7 Quick 40 winks
 - 8 Come — (inducements)
 - 9 Soothing plant
 - 10 Harmonization
 - 11 Hunt for
 - 22 Extreme
 - 24 Sultry Summer
 - 25 Kimono closer
 - 26 Sleep phenom
 - 27 Cleo's slayer
 - 29 Waikiki necklace
 - 30 Billboards
 - 31 Reuben holder
 - 35 Fight
 - 36 In the same place
 - 39 Equipment
 - 40 Craving
 - 41 Prepared to drive
 - 43 Ship part
 - 45 — En-tai
 - 46 "Gilligan's Island" cast member
 - 47 Probability
 - 49 "Yechh!"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-10 CRYPTOQUIP

TI SEJMA IMAU EMZZSFUBU
 IMAJTITBU ZTOTJSAR GMWJW,
 GBMGOB ZTVQJ ESOO QJBZ
 QSAATWMF'W VSAATWMFW.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: A COUPLE OF MEN DIGGING STARTED HAVING A TIFF, BUT IT ABRUPTLY TURNED INTO A SHOVELING MATCH.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals P

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Tennis

Qatar Open

Thursday
At the Khalifa International Tennis & Squash Complex
Dasha, Qatar
Purse: \$1,150 million (WT50)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
David Feder (6), Spain, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, 6-2, 6-2
Ivo Karlovic (7), Croatia, def. Novak Djokovic (4), Serbia, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-4
Tommy Berdych (3), Czech Republic, def. Richard Gasquet (6), France, 6-2, 6-1
Andrea Seppi, Italy, def. Zdenek Kopal, Croatia, 7-5, 6-4

ASB Classic

Thursday
At ASB Bank Tennis Centre Auckland, New Zealand
Purse: \$250,000 (Ind.)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Barbora Zlahovaova Styravova (4), Czech Republic, def. Coco Vandeweghe (7), United States, 6-4, 7-5
Veronika Zvonarova (1), Denmark, def. Julia Garsja, Germany, 6-4, 6-4
Cecilia Stepanovic (3), United States, def. Elena Vesnina, Russia, 6-2, 6-4
Lauren Davis, United States, def. Urszula Radwanska, Poland, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1

Brisbane International

Thursday
At Queensland Tennis Centre Brisbane, Australia
Purse: \$Mn, \$494,100 (WT50)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Men
Sergiy Stakhovych (3), Ukraine, def. Mikhail Kukushin, Kazakhstan, 5-7, 6-4
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), Australia, def. Lukasz Kubot, Poland, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-3
James Duckworth, Australia, def. Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3
Rainer Schickler (1), Switzerland, def. John Millman, Australia, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

Women
Sergiy Stakhovych (3), Ukraine, def. Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, 6-4, 6-2
Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, def. Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, 6-4, 6-2
Carla Suarez Navarra (7), Spain, 6-1, 6-3
Alisa Kleybanova (1), United States, def. Alia Kudermetova, Russia, 7-5, 7-5
Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Kika Kanepi, Estonia, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3

Shenzhen Open

Thursday
At Longgang Tennis Center Shenzhen, China
Purse: \$500,000 (Ind.)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Zheng Saisai, China, def. Larina Diyas (4), Kazakhstan, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2
Simona Halep (1), Romania, def. Vera Zvonarova, Russia, 3-2, retired
Alisa Kleybanova (1), Romania, def. Aleksandra Krunic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-2
Petra Kvitkova (2), Czech Republic, def. Tereza Smitkova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4

Chennai Open

Thursday
At SDAT Tennis Stadium Chennai, India
Purse: \$458,400 (WT50)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Roberto Bautista Agut (3), Spain, def. Peter Gojowczyk, Germany, 6-3, 6-2
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), Australia, def. Tatsuma Ito, Japan, 6-7 (1), 6-2, 6-0
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), Australia, def. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 6-4, 6-2
Aljaz Bedene, Slovenia, def. Feliciano Lopez (2), Spain, 6-4, 6-4

AP spotlight

Jan. 10
1982 Joe Montana's third touchdown pass to the Rams a 6-yarder to Dwight Clark, with 51 seconds remaining in the second half, helped the Rams defeat the Dallas Cowboys in the NFC wild-card game.
1998 Michelle Kwan receives eight perfect 6.0s out of nine marks for artistry in the free skate to 12th place in the U.S. Figure Skating Championship in three years.

College football

Bowl schedule
Saturday, Dec. 20
New Orleans Bowl
Louisiana Tech vs. Nevada 3
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Utah State 21, UTEP 17
Las Vegas Bowl
Utah 45, Colorado State 30
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
At Boise
Air Force 38, Western Michigan 34
Carolina Bowl
At Montgomery, Ala.
Bowling Green 33, South Alabama 28
Monday, Dec. 14
Miami Beach Bowl
Miami 55, BYU 49
Tuesday, Dec. 23
Boca Raton (Fla.) Bowl
Marshall 52, Northern Illinois 23
Pointsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Navy 17, San Diego State 16
Wednesday, Dec. 24
Bahamas Bowl
At Nassau
Western Kentucky 49, Central Michigan 48

Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Rice 30, Fresno State 26
Friday, Dec. 25
Holiday Bowl
Louisiana Tech 35, Illinois 18
Quick Lane Bowl
At Detroit
Rutgers 40, North Carolina 21
St. Petersburg (Fla.) Bowl
North Carolina 34, UCF 27
Saturday, Dec. 27
Military Bowl
At Annapolis, Md.
Virginia Tech 33, Cincinnati 17
At El Paso, Texas
Arizona State 36, Duke 31
At San Antonio, Texas
At Shiprock, La.
South Carolina 24, Miami 21

At Brox, N.Y.
Penn State 37, Colgate 30, OT
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Southern Cal 45, Nebraska 42
Monday, Dec. 29
At Brooklyn, N.Y.
Texas A&M 35, West Virginia 37
Russell Athletic Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Clemson 40, Oklahoma 6
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Arkansas 31, Texas 7

Tuesday, Dec. 30
Musica City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Notre Dame 31, LSU 28
At Charlotte, N.C.
Georgia 37, Louisville 14
Posters Farm Bowl
At Santa Clara, Calif.
Stanford 34, Maryland 27
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Outback Bowl
At Atlanta
TCU 42, Mississippi 37
At Orlando, Fla.
At Orlando, Fla.
Boise State 36, Arizona 29
Orange Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Georgia Tech 49, Mississippi State 34

Thursday, Jan. 2
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Wisconsin 39, Auburn 27
Cotton Bowl Classic
At Arlington, Texas
Michigan State 42, Baylor 41
Citrus Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Missouri 33, Minnesota 17
At Pasadena, Calif.
Playoff semifinal: Oregon 59, Florida State 20

Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Playoff semifinal: Ohio State 42, Alabama 35
Friday, Jan. 2
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Houston 35, Pittsburgh 34
TaxSlayer Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Tennessee 45, Iowa 20
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio, Texas
UCLA 40, Kansas State 35
Cactus Bowl
At Tucson, Ariz.
Oklahoma State 30, Washington 22

Saturday, Jan. 3
Medal of Honor Bowl
At Charleston, S.C.
American vs. National
College Football Championship
At Arlington, Texas
Ohio State 31 vs. Oregon (13-1)
FCS playoffs
Championship
Saturday, Jan. 3
At FCS Dallas Stadium
Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (14-1) vs. Illinois State (13-1)

Pro football

NFL playoffs
Wild-card playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 3
CAROLINA PANTHERS at Seattle
Carolina 21, Arizona 10
Baltimore 30, Pittsburgh 17
Sunday, Jan. 4
4 Indianapolis 30, Cincinnati 10
Dallas 24, Detroit 20
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 10
Baltimore Ravens (wild card) at Denver Broncos
Carolina at Seattle
Sunday, Jan. 11
Dallas at Green Bay
Indianapolis at Denver
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Sunday, Jan. 18
NFC
AFC

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 25
At Glendale, Ariz.
Team Irvin vs. Team Carter
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 8
At Glendale, Ariz.
AFC champion vs. NFC champion

NFL injury report
NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (NFL), is as follows: Not to play: DNP - Did not practice; LIMITED - Limited participation in practice; OUT - Full participation in practice.
BALTIMORE RAVENS at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Ravens: DNP: TE Owen Daniels (not injured) related to Tommy Smith (injury) related to DNP: T Eugene Monroe (ankle). FULL: DT Timmy Jernigan (ankle). PART: RB Matt Prater (TE).

ATLANTA BRAVES at GREEN BAY PACKERS - Cowboys: DNP: T Doug Free (ankle), LB Anthony Hitchens (ankle), LB Richard McMillan (knee, concussion), DT Terrell McClain (knee, concussion), DT Jerry McCoskey (ankle), QB Tony Romo (back), QB Matt Ryan (ankle), RB Jason Hanna (knee), DT Nick Hayden (shoulder), RB Matt Jones (ankle), RB Matt Jones (ankle), RB DeMarco Murray (hand), PACKERS: DNP: TE Brandon Bostick (illness), WR Jordy Matthews (ankle), WR Aaron Rodgers (calf), LIMITED: CB Davon House (shoulder), CB Josh Sitton (toe).

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RE LeGarrette Blount (illness), WR Julian Edelman (concussion), RB Jonas Gray (ankle), WR Brandon Leland (concussion), FULL: QB Tom Brady (ankle).
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS - PANTHERS: DNP: WR Philly Brown (shoulder), LT DT Star Lotulelei (toe), LIMITED: SE Thomas Deoud hamstring, CB Melvin White (ankle), FULL: LB A. Klein (ankle), RB Chris Carson (toe).
REPORTS
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at DENVER BRONCOS - COLTS: DNP: LB D'Qwell Jackson (not injured related), LB Henoc Muamba (back), Greg Toler (ankle), LIMITED: LB Jerrell Freeman (abdomen), WR Andrew Mack (ankle), WR Andrew Jackson (hamstring), LB Erik Skoville (ankle), FULL: C A.Q. Shipley (ankle), BRONCOS: LIMITED: LB Brandon Marshall (toe), FULL: S David Bruton Jr. (concussion, neck), T Paul Cornick (toe), G Orlando Franklin (concussion), QB Peyton Manning (knee), G Will Montgomery (knee), CB Aki Myles (Achilles), WR DeMarquis Thomas (ankle, finger), TE Julius Thomas (ankle), RB Juwan Thomas (knee, hip, knee), S T. Ward (neck), CB Kayvon Webster (shoulder).

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Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BOSTON RED SOX - Named Rich Gedman hitting coach and Bob Kipper pitching coach for Pawtucket (IL). Kevin Youkilis (toe) and Andrew Bailey (ankle) hitting coach for Portland (EL). Paul Abbott (ankle) hitting coach for Lowell (WV). Jason Varitek (ankle) hitting coach for Salem (Carolina). Walter Brantley (ankle) hitting coach for Greenville (SAL). Lance Carter (ankle) hitting coach and Iggy Sauerbrey hitting coach for Lowell (WV) and Junior Ortiz (ankle) hitting coach for the Red Sox (Carolina).
TEXAS RANGERS - Agreed to terms with INF-OF Emilio Bonifacio on a one-year contract. Assigned OF Jordan Kanas for assignment.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS - Assigned 2B Ryan Janney from the Los Angeles Angels for 3B Kyle Kubitzka and RHP Nate Hayashi from the Los Angeles Angels.
COLORADO ROCKIES - Named Duane Eddy hitting coordinator, Darryl Scott pitching coordinator, and Mike Quaque (PCL). Jerry Weinstein supervisor, Fred Cooney hitting coach, and Jeff Sauerbrey hitting coach for Modesto (CAL). Warren Schaeffer manager, and Kevin Sweeney (SAL) hitting coach for New Britain (EL). Fred Neri hitting coach, Frank Strony hitting coach, Brandon Emanuel pitching coach for Boise (NWL).

ANGLES DOGGERS
Naomi Rodriguez, senior director, external affairs and community relations. Agreed to terms with pitcher Sean Santos on a minor league contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS - Named Paul Menhart minor league pitching coordinator, Spin Williams senior advisor for player development, and Mike Mitchell pitching coach for Syracuse (IL). Tommy Scholtz, on-field conditioning coordinator, life skills coordinator and Jerad Head hitting coach for Fort Worth (TEX). Jason Brand Emanuel pitching coach for Boise (NWL).

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OLYMPICS/SPORTS BRIEFS



STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

Harvard and Yale football teams compete at Harvard Stadium in Cambridge, Mass., this past November. The U.S. Olympic Committee picked Boston on Thursday as its bid city for the 2024 Summer Games. The city will be presented to the International Olympic Committee for a vote in 2017. Boston's bid enlists the area's 100 colleges and universities — and their existing and envisioned athletic facilities — as potential hosts for Olympic venues.

USOC gives Boston nod

Once thought an underdog, city beats out San Francisco, Los Angeles and Washington for right to bid on '24 Games

By EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

DENVER — Once the shock subsides, the work begins.

Boston was considered something of a long shot by insiders when the U.S. Olympic Committee whittled its list of candidates to bid for the 2024 Games down to four a few months ago.

The leadership team, largely unknown outside of New England, along with the compactness of the city, the politics and the protesters made Boston look like an underdog compared to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington.

Turned out, some of those so-called deficiencies turned into positives in the eyes of the USOC board members. The leader, John Fish, is a can-do businessman who gets the Olympics' vision. The compactness looks more like a plus than a minus under the International Olympic Committee's newly revised, less-is-more template for the games. The politics and protesters — well, any city that undertakes this sort of endeavor will run into those issues.

Now begins a 32-month march toward the selection in September 2017.

Here are five of the biggest hurdles Boston and the USOC have to clear if they want to bring back the Summer Games back to the United States for the first time since 1996.

The shock: So many Olympic insiders across both oceans con-

sidered San Francisco the sexiest choice and didn't know nearly as much about Boston, which actually has a lot of the same qualities as the Bay Area. So, there was some head scratching going on when the pick was made. The good news for the USOC is that almost everyone in America's Olympic family will galvanize behind the choice, especially after CEO Scott Blackmun and chairman Larry Probst have a chance to explain their thinking, both privately and publicly, starting at a news conference Friday.

Who are you?: The bid process gives a city a chance to introduce itself to the world. Rome, already declared as a candidate, won't have too big a challenge there, and neither will Paris, if it gets into the running. Boston is more of a blank slate when you move outside North America. The cradle of the American Revolution, a city steeped with history and education, it has always had a reputation of being a bit provincial. Now, it has to open its arms to the world and tell IOC members why they should entrust their most important event to the city.

Internal politics: The protest group, No Boston Olympics, is hardly the first to pop up in the history of bids. But give them credit — they're motivated and organized. They call the Olympics a money drain, and history has proven them right: Initial cost estimates traditionally double or

triple by the time the torch arrives. Is Boston big enough, and is the spin machine good enough, to either drown out the protesters or effectively rebuke their claims?

External politics: Every move made over the next two years by the USOC — or the U.S. government, for that matter — can have an impact on Boston's bid. The deconstruct of Chicago's last-place finish in the fight for 2016 placed much of the blame on dysfunctional USOC politics that made a U.S. bid inherently unlikable, even if the Windy City itself looked pretty good. A new leadership team has spent years trying to smooth that out and has been given signals that things are better. One more thing: If a city in Africa, a continent that has never hosted the Olympics, makes a surprise bid, everything changes. The chance to give South America its first Olympics with Rio's 2016 bid was another factor that doomed Chicago.

The money: The operating budget is less than \$5 billion, the overall budget — when you factor in infrastructure and other improvements — will be a lot more than that. Somebody has to pay for it all and it won't be the federal government. The government's longstanding prohibition on funding always puts on a U.S. bid a bit behind other cities, whose governments do pick up healthy portions of the tab. It's nothing that can't be overcome, but always a factor when the votes are being lined up.

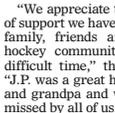
Briefly

North Stars standout JP Parise dead at 73

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — J.P. Parise, a Minnesota North Stars standout who helped Canada beat the Soviet Union in the landmark Summit Series in 1972, has died. He was 73.

Parise died Wednesday night at his home in suburban Prior Lake, the Parise family said Thursday in a statement. He was diagnosed with lung cancer a year ago and was in hospice care.



Parise

"We appreciate the outpouring of support we have received from family, friends and the entire hockey community during this difficult time," the family said. "JP was a great husband, father and grandpa and will be greatly missed by all of us."

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman issued a statement calling Parise "a consummate player, teacher and administrator in the game" and recognizing Parise's "commitment and passion for the NHL" living on through son Zach, a star for the Minnesota Wild.

Tressell, Snyder selected to College Hall of Fame

DALLAS — Former Ohio State coach Jim Tressell and Kansas State coach Bill Snyder have been selected for induction to the College Football Hall of Fame.

Heisman Trophy winner Ricky Williams of Texas and Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth were also selected to the class of 15 players and two coaches announced Friday by the National Football Foundation.

Tressell was 106-22 in 10 seasons as coach of Ohio State, including a national championship in 2002. He was forced to resign after the 2010 season after he withheld information from the school and NCAA about possible violations by some of his players, who traded memorabilia and equipment for tattoos.

Snyder orchestrated one of the greatest turnarounds in college football history at Kansas State. He is 187-94-1 in 23 seasons with the Wildcats.

Ex-Dolphins player swims 9 miles after fall

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Former Miami Dolphins fullback Rob Konrad swam nine miles back to shore after falling off his boat while fishing off the South Florida coast.

The U.S. Coast Guard reports that Konrad had gone fishing alone Wednesday after being dropped off at a Boca Raton dock. Friends became concerned after

he didn't meet them for dinner, and the Coast Guard later sent a helicopter to look for him.

The Coast Guard said Konrad apparently fell off the 36-foot boat, which had been on auto pilot. Unable to get back to the boat, Konrad began swimming toward shore. He made it some time after 4 a.m. Thursday and contacted the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Officials say the 38-year-old was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was treated for possible hypothermia.

After playing four years at Syracuse, Konrad was drafted by the Dolphins in 1999 and played for the team until 2004.

In other NFL news: ■ Chicago Bears cornerback Tim Jennings told an officer he was running late for a parent-teacher conference when he was stopped for speeding on an Atlanta area freeway, according to a police report released Thursday.

Jennings, 31, was charged with DUI, speeding and reckless driving and has bonded out of jail in suburban Atlanta following his arrest Wednesday. Police have said Jennings was driving a 2015 Mercedes 99 mph in a 65 mph zone just before noon that day in moderate traffic on Interstate 85.

■ The Washington Redskins have hired Scot McCloughan as general manager.

McCloughan is a former executive with the San Francisco 49ers and Seattle Seahawks. He will have authority over the draft and free agency, giving the club a highly respected personnel evaluator in charge and separate from the coach for the first time since Charley Casserly's dismissal in 1999.

Nationals Of Werth scheduled for surgery

WASHINGTON — Nationals outfielder Jayson Werth was scheduled to have surgery on his right shoulder on Friday, according to a person familiar with the plans.

The person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Thursday because no announcement about the operation had been made, said Werth is expected to be ready by the start of the regular season in April.

Bucks sign veteran Martin, waive Wolters

The Bucks have signed veteran Kenyon Martin to replenish a depleted frontcourt, reuniting the forward with former New Jersey Nets teammate and current Milwaukee coach Jason Kidd.

Martin signed a 10-day contract Friday. The team waived guard Nate Wolters to make room on the roster.

The 37-year-old Martin played 32 games last season for the New York Knicks before becoming a free agent. He worked out for the Bucks last week.

NHL

Roundup

Rangers prevail in Cup rematch

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nearly seven months after the New York Rangers' Stanley Cup hopes were crushed on the Staples Center, they returned to Hollywood and demonstrated why they've got a great chance to get back to the big stage again this summer.

Dan Boyle had a goal and an assist, Cam Talbot made 28 saves and the Rangers held off the Los Angeles Kings for a 4-3 victory Thursday night in a rematch of last year's Stanley Cup finals.

Kevin Klein, Lee Stempniak and Martin St. Louis scored in a 546 save of the second period for the Rangers, who erased an early two-goal deficit and completed a Southern California sweep within their 12th win in 13 games overall.

"It's a tough building to come in and play, and obviously we didn't fare very well in here last time," said Talbot, who overcame a rocky beginning to win in just his second start in New York's last 13 games. "It's a good measuring stick for us. It was great to get a win in a building like this."

Derick Brassard had two assists for the Rangers, who are on their longest streak of regular-season success in two decades. Conn Smythe Trophy winner Justin Williams got his second goal with 4:03 to play while the Kings dominated the third period, but Talbot held on during the Kings' 6-on-4 advantage in the final 35.9 seconds.

"When we're not skating, we don't play to our strengths," Brassard said. "In the first period, we were pretty slow out there. In the second period, we started skating, and that gave us a chance to win."

New York looked sharp and motivated in its first appearance in downtown Los Angeles since June 13, when Alec Martinez's double-overtime goal in Game 5 of the finals clinched the Kings' second NHL title in three seasons. Los Angeles won three overtime home games in that series, but the Rangers' mounting their repeated inability to score clutch goals.

A season later, New York cemented its spot as one of hockey's top teams with back-to-back victories over the Anaheim Ducks and the Kings, two Stanley Cup champions.

"We were expecting them to come out this hard," Los Angeles coach Darryl Sutter said. "Watching them last night, they're on a run. They're hot, and when you're hot like that, you're the best team."

Tanner Pearson also scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who returned from a four-

day break with an inconsistent defensive effort. Jonathan Quick stopped 22 shots, but his teammates struggled to keep up with the Rangers' speed and precision for parts of Los Angeles' fourth loss in five games.

"Four goals against yet again, for a team that prides itself on defense, is something excruciating," Williams said. "It's something we've tried to clean up, and something we need to continue to do, because we're not going to win games giving up chances like that. We seem to be in a funk, especially killing penalties. It's not for a lack of trying. The guys are working their tails off, but ... that's a down for us."

The Kings led 2-0 just 5:49 in on goals by Pearson, who snapped his 11-game goal drought since Dec. 11, and a rocket of a shot by Williams.

Boyle scored five seconds into a power play when his slap shot deflected off Jarret Stoll's stick and ricocheted high to Quick.

The Rangers got rolling shortly after the break. Klein and Stempniak scored 19 seconds apart in the second period, both on toughto-stop shots.

Bruins 3, Devils 0: Milan Lucic scored two goals, and Niklas Svedberg earned his second NHL shutout behind his three periods of stifling defense as host Boston topped New Jersey.

Flies 3, Capitals 2 (OT): Jakub Voracek scored 1:28 into overtime to lift host Philadelphia over Washington.

Hurricanes 5, Sabres 2: Jeff Skinner scored one of his team's four goals in the second period, and host Carolina sent Buffalo to its sixth straight loss.

Blues 7, Sharks 2: Host St. Louis scored the final four goals to turn a one-goal lead into a rout of San Jose.

Predators 3, Stars 2 (OT): Shea Weber scored his second goal of the game 17 seconds into overtime, and host Nashville beat Dallas.

Wild 4, Blackhawks 2: Bryan Bickell scored twice in the third period, Corey Crawford made a season-high 42 saves, and visiting Chicago held on to beat Minnesota.

Coyotes 4, Jets 1: Mikkel Boedker had two goals and an assist, Shane Doan added a goal and two assists, and host Arizona rebounded from an ugly home loss to beat Winnipeg.

Avalanche 5, Senators 2: Jarome Iginla scored twice and host Colorado beat Ottawa.

Panthers 3, Canucks 1: Jonathan Huberdeau had two goals and an assist, and Roberto Luongo stopped 32 shots in his return to Vancouver.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	42	26	17	4	56	138	110
Montreal	40	26	12	2	54	110	93
Boston	41	26	10	9	51	116	103
Buffalo	42	21	15	6	48	110	110
Toronto	41	21	17	3	45	132	128
Ottawa	40	16	16	8	40	105	112
Florida	42	14	22	3	31	80	145

Metropolitan Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Pittsburgh	40	20	16	5	54	120	97
N.Y. Islanders	40	26	13	1	53	123	113
N.Y. Rangers	40	23	11	6	52	117	94
Washington	40	21	11	8	50	104	104
Columbus	38	18	17	7	39	100	110
Philadelphia	41	16	19	5	38	111	123
New Jersey	43	15	21	7	37	94	121
Carolina	41	13	24	4	30	84	107

Western Conference							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	40	27	9	4	58	122	92
Chicago	41	27	12	2	56	128	89
St. Louis	41	25	13	3	53	131	101
Winnipeg	40	20	15	7	43	104	100
Dallas	40	18	15	7	43	123	114
Colorado	41	17	16	8	42	108	110
Minnesota	39	18	16	5	41	109	114

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	39	23	13	3	58	116	114
Vancouver	39	23	13	3	49	113	103
San Jose	42	22	15	5	49	115	115
Los Angeles	41	19	13	9	49	113	113
Calgary	41	21	17	3	45	117	106
Arizona	40	16	20	2	39	90	121
Edmonton	41	9	23	9	27	90	139

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

Thursday's games
 Boston 3, New Jersey 0
 St. Louis 3, Washington 2, OT
 Carolina 5, Buffalo 2
 Nashville 4, Dallas 2, OT
 Chicago 4, Minnesota 2
 Colorado 5, Ottawa 2
 Arizona 4, Winnipeg 1
 Florida 3, Vancouver 1
Friday's games
 N.Y. Islanders 4, New Jersey 3
 Columbus at Toronto
 Buffalo at Tampa Bay
 Chicago at Edmonton
Saturday's games
 Dallas at Philadelphia
 Minnesota at Winnipeg
 Dallas at Colorado
 Pittsburgh at Montreal
 Philadelphia at Carolina
 N.Y. Islanders at Columbus
 Carolina at St. Louis
 Colorado at Arizona
 Winnipeg at Los Angeles
 N.Y. Rangers at San Jose
 Florida at Tampa Bay
 Chicago at Anaheim

Thursday
Bruins 3, Devils 0
 New Jersey 0 0 0-0
 Boston 3 1 4-3
First Period—1, Boston, Lucic (Krug). 18:50 (pp).
Second Period—2, Boston, Soderberg 9:32.
Third Period—3, Boston, Lucic 8 (Bergerson, 5), Philadelphia, Voracek 16 (Groulx, Stretz). 1:28 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Washington 10-4-13; Philadelphia 11-9-12-33.
Goals—Washington, Hossa 19-8-7 (23 shots-saves); Philadelphia, Mottl 9-8-2 (28-26).
A—17,565 (17,565). T—2:24.

Flies 3, Capitals 2 (OT)
 Washington 1 0 1 0-2
 Philadelphia 1 1 1 0-2
First Period—1, Washington, Ovechkin 21 (Green, Johanson), 3:08 (pp), 2; Philadelphia, Schultz (Reuter, Schultz). 9:53.
Second Period—3, Washington, Alzher (Green, Burakovsky), 3:08; 4, Philadelphia, Umberger 6 (Schultz, Redd), 4:22.
Third Period—5, Philadelphia, Voracek 16 (Groulx, Stretz). 1:28 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Washington 10-4-13; Philadelphia 11-9-12-33.
Goals—Washington, Hossa 19-8-7 (23 shots-saves); Philadelphia, Mottl 9-8-2 (28-26).
A—18,373 (19,541). T—2:41.

Panthers 3, Stars 2 (OT)
 Dallas 0 0 2 0-2
 Nashville 1 1 0 0-1
First Period—1, Nashville, Weber 9 (Ribeiro, Joshi). 11:47.
Second Period—2, Dallas, Spezza 7 (Donato, Demers), 2:30; 1, Nashville, Salmoki 4 (Korotkiy), 16:47; 4, Dallas, Dallas 9 (Ja,Benn, Eakin), 19:58.
Third Period—3, Nashville, Weber 10 (Fisher, Wilson). 4:17.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 7-7-20; Nashville 8-7-8-24.
Power-play opportunities—Dallas 0 of 3; Nashville 0 of 2.
Goals—Dallas, Lehtonen 17-8-27 (24 shots-saves); Nashville, Rinne 27-6-2 (20-18).
A—17,113 (17,113). T—2:36.

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MARK J. TERRILL/AP

New York Rangers left wing Kyle Clifford during the second period of Thursday's game in Los Angeles. The Rangers won 4-3.

Hurricanes 5, Sabres 2		Blackhawks 4, Wild 2	
GP	W-L-OT	GP	W-L-OT
Buffalo	0 1 1-2	Chicago	2 0 2-4
Carolina	0 1 1-2	Minnesota	1 0 1-2
Second Period— 1, Carolina, Skinner 9 (Semn, Murphy), 4:52; 2, Buffalo, Varone (Stewart), 5:51; 3, Carolina, Tlusty 11 (Gerbe, Bales), 13:50 (pp), 4; Carolina, EStaal 12 (Murphy, Liles), 14:43; 5, Carolina, Back 5 (Hainsey), 15:09.		First Period— 1, Chicago, Sharp 2 (Rudolph, Shaw), 5:08; 2, Chicago, Kane 20 (Richards, Toews), 16:19; 19.	
Third Period— 6, Buffalo, Varone 2 (Strachan, Weber), 8:17; 7, Carolina, Nash 6 (Faulk, Tlusty), 10:10.		Second Period— 3, Minnesota, Zucker 15 (Pominville, Koval), 1:03.	
Shots on Goal— Buffalo 5-6-9-20.		Third Period— 4, Chicago, Bickell 7 (Kane, Richards), 6:20; 5, Minnesota, Pominville 9 (Kane, Niederreiter), 4:55 (pp), 6; Chicago, Bickell 8 (Richards, Kane), 19:00 (en).	
Power-play opportunities— Buffalo 0 of 4; Carolina 1 of 3.		Shots on Goal— Chicago 10-4-5-20; Minnesota 7-19-18-44.	
Goals— Buffalo, Enroth 11-11-2 (31 shots-26 saves), Carolina, Ward 11-16-2 (20-18).		Power-play opportunities— Chicago 1 of 3; Minnesota 1 of 4.	
A— 9,781 (18,680). T—2:25.		Goals— Chicago, Crawford 16-8-2 (44 shots-42 saves), Minnesota, Backstrom 5-4-3 (19-16).	

Avalanche 5, Senators 2
 Ottawa 0 1 1-2
First Period—1, Colorado, Iginla 11 (Tanquary, O'Reilly), 8:20; 2, Colorado, Stuart 1 (Heids, Duchon), 17:20.
Second Period—3, Ottawa, Stone 10 (Karlsson, Evans), 1:03; 4, Colorado, EJohnson 11 (O'Reilly), 3:56.
Third Period—5, Colorado, Iginla 12 (Stanger, Rieder), 2:33 (pp), 6; Ottawa, B Ryan 12; 1:05; 7, Colorado, Briere 8 (Barrie, Guerin), 2:40.
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 11-14-13-38; Colorado 17-10-21-31.
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 4; Colorado 2 of 10 (9 shots-6 saves), Lehner (65-50 second, 12-10 shots-saves); Arizona, Smith 7-16-2 (35-34).
A—14,697 (18,007). T—2:23.

Coyotes 4, Jets 1
 Winnipeg 2 1 1-4
First Period—1, Arizona, Boedker 10 (Vermette, Doan), 1:10 (pp), 2; Arizona, Ekman-Larsson 11 (Doan, Boedker), 3:18 (pp).
Second Period—3, Arizona, Doan 9 (Stang, Rieder), 15:28 (pp), 5; Ottawa, B Ryan 12; 1:05; 7, Colorado, Briere 8 (Barrie, Guerin), 2:40.
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NBA

Blazers cruise past Heat

Aldridge leads Portland to double-double

By NICK DASCHIEL
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — It was a perfect setup for Portland. The Trail Blazers needed a big third quarter to get back into the game, and Miami has been all-too-generous of late in that period.

The result was a dominant second half by Portland, as LaMarcus Aldridge had 24 points and 12 rebounds in a 99-83 win over the Heat.

Wesley Matthews scored 18 points, Damian Lillard 16 and Chris Kaman 10 for Portland. The Blazers (28-8) tied Golden State for most wins in the NBA this season.

Portland trailed 48-43 at halftime after getting beat in nearly every statistical category and shooting 2-for-14 from three-point range. The Blazers needed a boost, and found a willing participant in the Heat, who haven't fared well during third quarters this season, particularly the past few weeks.

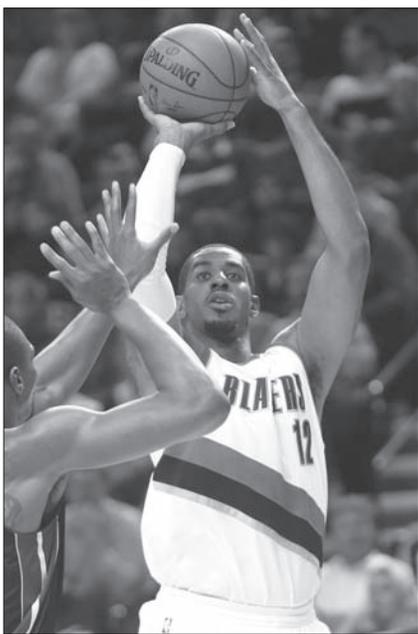
Portland outscored Miami 33-16 in the third, jumping on the Heat (15-21) by starting the period on a 17-6 run. Matthews and Lillard hit back-to-back three-pointers during the first 3 minutes, then Kaman scored six consecutive points all on layups.

The Blazers, outbounded 26-22 in the first half, beat Miami 13-3 on the boards during the third quarter.

"I think we got back to our tempo. In the first half, we kind of played in their pace," Matthews said.

Portland coach Terry Stotts said he went with a bigger lineup in the second half.

"We just came out with a little more energy, a little more focus," Stotts said. "We played a very good defensive second half. Obvi-



DON RYAN/AP

Portland forward LaMarcus Aldridge, right, shoots over Miami center Chris Bosh during the second half of Thursday's game in Portland, Ore. Aldridge led the Trail Blazers with 24 points and pulled down 12 rebounds as the Blazers defeated the Heat 99-83.

ously the third quarter made a big difference. We got a rhythm to our shots, got out and played in the flow a little bit. ... The second half was the way we needed to play."

The third-quarter performance left Miami coach Eric Spoelstra frustrated, but not surprised. In their last three losses, the Heat have scored 102-46 in the third.

"It's simply not enough. We need a breakthrough in those moments. We have to find a way. Tonight it was simply a matter of not playing hard enough during those minutes when they made their run," Spoelstra said.

"Look, we've seen this movie. We can play with anyone, anywhere, in any building for 42 minutes. That ain't enough in this league."

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	24	11	.685
Brooklyn	16	19	.457
Boston	13	26	.333
Philadelphia	5	29	.147
New York	4	34	.108

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	27	8	.771
Washington	15	18	.450
Miami	15	21	.417
Charlotte	14	24	.368
Orlando	13	25	.342

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago	25	11	.694
Cleveland	19	17	.528
Milwaukee	19	18	.514
Indiana	14	23	.378
Detroit	12	23	.343

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Memphis	25	10	.714
Dallas	21	17	.703
Houston	25	11	.694
San Antonio	21	15	.583
New Orleans	17	18	.486

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Portland	28	8	.778
Oklahoma City	17	14	.472
Denver	16	16	.444
Utah	13	23	.361
Minnesota	5	29	.147

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
Golden State	28	5	.848
L.A. Clippers	24	16	.600
Phoenix	22	16	.579
Sacramento	10	22	.310
L.A. Lakers	11	25	.306

Thursday's games
Charlotte, Toronto 95
Houston 120, New York 96
Portland 99, Miami 83

Friday's games
Boston at Indiana
Atlanta at Detroit
Philadelphia at Brooklyn
Memphis at New Orleans
Utah at Oklahoma City
Chicago at Washington
Minnesota at Milwaukee
Phoenix at San Antonio
Denver at Sacramento
Cleveland at Golden State
Orlando at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's games
Charlotte at L.A. Clippers
Dallas at Philadelphia
Boston at Toronto
Brooklyn at Detroit
Milwaukee at Chicago
Utah at Houston
San Antonio at Minnesota
Orlando at Portland

Thursday
Trail Blazers 99, Heat 83
MIAMI — Deng 31-10 0-7, Andersen 1-2 3-5, Bosh 5-16 6-18, Chalmers 3-7 2-8, Wade 7-18 19 23, Granger 0-2 1-1, 5. Etnis 1-3 1-2 3, Cole 2-5 0-4, Whiteside 5-6 0-0, Hamilton 1-3 0-2, Williams 0-3 0-0, Napier 0-0 0-0, Totals 29-77 22-83.

Portland — Batum 3-10 7-8, 4, Aldridge 11-20 2-2, 4, Kaman 4-9 2-2, 10, Lillard 6-17 2-16, Matthews 6-10 3-4, 18, McCollum 0-2, Wright 0-2, Crabbe 1-4, Blake 3-0 2-7, Crabbe 1-3 0-3, Wright 2-2, Leonard 2-7 0-4, Barton 1-0 0-0, Claver 0-0 0-0, Totals 40-95 11-59.

Miami
Portland 19 25 13 23-99
Three-Point Goals—Miami 3-14 (Bosh 2), Deng 1-3, Williams, O'Leary, Chalmers 0-0, Anderson 0-2, Crabbe 0-2, Granger 0-2, Portland 8-27 (Matthews 3-5, Lillard 2-4, Crabbe 1-2, Wright 0-2, Crabbe 1-3, McCollum 0-1, Leonard 0-2, Batum 0-4, Blake 0-1, Leonard 2-7 0-4, Barton 1-0 0-0 (Whiteside 8), Portland 65 (Aldridge 12), Assists—Miami 15, (Bosh 5), Portland 19 (Blake, Matthews 5), Total Fouls—Miami 13, Portland 21. A—19,441.

Rockets 120, Knicks 96

HOUSTON — Ariza 6-10 2-2 18, Motiejunas 7-10 3-7 17, Howard 4-6 5-8 13, Harden 8-17 17 25, Beverley 5-9 10 14, JoSmith 13 0-2 2, Brewer 3-10 4-4 11, Terry 7-11 2, Papanikolaou 0-2 0-2, Dorsey 1-1 1-3, Canaan 1-2 0-3, Totals 41-77 22-32.

NEW YORK — Hardaway Jr. 3-9 0-7, JaSmith 3-7 0-6, Aldrich 2-5 0-0-4, Priddy 0-0 0-3, Calderon 0-0 0-0, Acy 3-7 1-1, Larkin 1-3 1-2 3, Wear 9-16 0-21, Early 5-10 3-16, Galloway 6-10 4-6 19, Totals 37-80 11-21 96.

Houston
New York 27 29 37 27-96
Three-Point Goals—Houston 16-36 (Beverly 4-6, Ariza 4-6, Terry 3-5, Harden 3-7, Canaan 1-2, Brewer 1-16, JoSmith 0-1, Motiejunas 0-1, Papanikolaou 0-2), New York 11-26 (Galloway 3-4, Prigioni 3-4, Wear 3-6, Early 1-1, Hardaway Jr. 1-6, Acy 0-1, Larkin 0-2, Calderon 0-2).

Western Conference
Southwest Division
Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Houston 48 (Howard 10), New York 51 (Early 6), Assists—Houston 25 (Harden 9), New York 22 (Larkin 5), Total Fouls—Houston 23, New York 22, Technicals—Early, New York Coach Fisher, Prigioni, A-19,811 (19,763).

Hornets 103, Raptors 95

CHARLOTTE — Kidd-Gilchrist 11 1-2 3 10, M.Williams 5-10 0-0 13, Byrumo 2-5 2-5, Walker 12-25 4-23, Henderson 13-20 5-21, Neal 0 5-11, Maxiell 3-5 0-0-6, Young 1-2 0-2, Roberts 2-5 1-2 5, Totals 48-82 15-20 103.

Toronto — Fields 0-0 0-0, A.Johnson 2-2 1-2 5, Valanciunas 9-24 1-4, Lowry 7-22 7-24, Ross 3-10 0-0-7, Vasquez 4-8 0-0 11, Patterson 3-8 0-7, Hansbrough 4-0-1 3, L.Williams 4-15 7-15, Johnson 3-5 1-7, Totals 33-63 19-25.

Charlotte
Toronto 23 19 25 28-103
Three-Point Goals—Charlotte 4-16 (M.Williams 3-6, Walker 1-5, Henderson 0-1, Roberts 0-2, Neal 0-2), Toronto 10-31 (Lowry 4-10, Vasquez 3-5, Hansbrough 1-1, Patterson 1-4, Ross 1-4, L.Williams 0-7), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Charlotte 56 (Kidd-Gilchrist 12), Toronto 53 (Lowry 7), Assists—Charlotte 21 (Walker 8), Toronto 4-10, Vasquez 3-5, Hansbrough 4-0-1 3, L.Williams 4-15 7-15, Johnson 3-5 1-7, Totals 33-63 19-25.

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Calendar
Jan. 10 — Contracts guaranteed for rest of season.
Feb. 13-15 — All-Star weekend, New York.

Feb. 19 — Last day of regular season.
Feb. 19 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).
April 12 — Last day of regular season.
April 18 — Playoffs begin.

Leaders

	Scoring	FG	FT	PTS	AST
Harden, HOU	26	295	283	653	263
Clayton, CLE	29	256	171	731	252
Davis, NYK	34	320	173	813	233
Draymond, GSW	17	177	117	239	9
Aldridge, POR	32	296	130	738	231
Bryant, LAC	25	189	137	537	230
Wade, MIA	28	248	132	643	230
Bryant, BOS	25	189	137	537	230
Griffin, LAL	26	318	187	814	226
Lillard, POR	36	269	157	794	221

	Rebounds	AST	WAL
Wall, WAS	35	35	10.1
Ronson, DEN	32	31	10.0
Lowry, TOR	32	31	10.0
Curry, GSW	33	263	8.0
Lowry, BOS	32	250	7.9
James, CLE	29	221	7.6
Carter, Wizards, PHL	26	192	7.4
Holloman, BOS	26	192	7.2
Thurmond, ATL	32	225	7.0

Roundup

Harden scores 25 as Rockets to woeful Knicks

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Just to the left of their bench was a row of fans wearing paper bags over their heads. On the court in front of them, a New York Knicks team filled with unrecognizable faces.

Only thing that mattered to the Houston Rockets is how they looked.

James Harden had 25 points and nine assists in just three quarters and the Rockets beat New York 120-96 on Thursday night to extend the Knicks' longest single-season losing streak to 14 games.

The Rockets beat New York for the 11th straight time, though everyone is beating the Knicks these days. New York has lost

24 of its last 25 games to fall to an NBA-worst 5-34.

"We're kind of looking at the bigger picture. Bigger picture is us playing at a high level, all on the same page. No matter what team we're playing against, we've got to play great," Harden said. "So tonight was a challenge for us. The Knicks aren't doing so well but our mindset was to come in here and play Rockets basketball."

Trevor Ariza added 18 points for the Rockets, who improved to just 4-4 in their last eight. Harden didn't reach his NBA-leading average of 26.8 points only because he was limited to 31 minutes, sitting out the fourth quarter with Houston already leading by 24.

Rookie Travis Wear scored a season-high 21 points and Langston Galloway had 19 for the Knicks in his second game since being called up from the NBA Development League. Rookie Cleanthony Early added a season-best 16.

The Knicks' overwhelmed lineup managed some neat fast breaks and dunks, entertaining a sold-out crowd that featured five fans wearing paper bags sitting right behind one of the baselines.

Hornets 103, Raptors 95: Gerald Henderson scored a season-high 31 points, Kemba Walker added 29 and visiting Charlotte beat Toronto.

Walker made a jumper from just inside the three-point line with 19.6 seconds to

give the Hornets a six-point lead en route to their fourth straight victory. The point guard also had assists and seven rebounds and has scored 25-plus points in each of the wins to help the Hornets match their longest streak of the season.

Michael Kidd-Gilchrist added 11 points and 12 rebounds.

Toronto cut it to 99-95 with 42.3 seconds remaining on Patrick Patterson's tip-in, but couldn't get any closer. The Raptors extended their season-worst losing streak to four games.

Kyle Lowry led Toronto, coming off a six-game trip, with 24 points, seven assists and seven rebounds. Lou Williams added 15 points, and Greivis Vasquez had 11.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

McConnell leads Cats past Ducks

The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — With all the offensive weapons that No. 7 Arizona possesses, point guard T.J. McConnell figured it was only a matter of time before he would be called on to score.

McConnell took advantage of Oregon's defensive tactics Thursday night for a season-high 21 points, and all five Wildcats scored in double figures during an 80-62 victory over the Ducks.

"I kind of knew when Pac-12 play started that they were going to try to force me to score," McConnell said. "When I was driving they kind of stayed on their man, so it freed up the shot for me and I just knocked them down tonight."

The win was the second for Arizona (14-1, 2-0) in its last five meetings with the Ducks (11-4, 1-1), and its first at Matthew Knight Arena, which opened in 2011.

"This is a hard place to play," Wildcats coach Sean Miller said. "Obviously a fantastic arena and a tough crowd, but most important, a very good team."

The Wildcats made it look easy at times. They got 14 points from Stanley Johnson, 13 from Rondae Hollis-Jefferson in his second

start of the season and 11 from Kaleb Tarczewski. Brandon Ashley scored 10.

Joseph Young, the Pac-12's leading scorer at 20.1 points per game, led Oregon with 12. Jordan Bell added 11.

"Rondae did an excellent job on Joe Young," Miller said. "His length and his determination were a big reason we won."

Arizona had a 40-27 edge in rebounds, led by Tarczewski with 10 and Hollis-Jefferson with nine. The Wildcats shot 27 of 56 from the field (48.2 percent).

McConnell, who had 12 points in the second half, took advantage of the way Oregon defended him when his teammates set picks for him at the top of the key or on the wings.

"I was setting a lot of high ball screens for him," Tarczewski said, "and I saw that their guy was going under, so I moved my ball screen down a little bit and it got him open."

The Wildcats hit their comfort zone with an 11-3 run to start the second half that pushed their lead back to double digits at 50-37. That grew to 55-41 minutes later when the pesky McConnell found Gabe York on the left wing for a wide-open three-pointer.



RYAN KANG/AP

Arizona forward Stanley Johnson, right, drives past Oregon forward Dwayne Benjamin during the first half of Thursday's Pac-12 Conference game in Eugene, Ore. No. 7 Arizona won 80-62.

AP Top 25 roundup

Zags return home, stretch streak to eight games

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — It had been more than three weeks since No. 6 Gonzaga played in Spokane, and star guard Kevin Pangos was enjoying the comforts of home.

"It was kind of relaxing," Pangos said after scoring 17 points to help Gonzaga beat San Francisco 88-57 on Thursday night for its eighth straight victory.

"We were not in a bus, a hotel and back on a bus," he said. "It was peaceful, you could say."

Only for the Zags.

San Francisco stayed close for the first 25 minutes, but Gonzaga took control by going on a 16-2 run while holding the Dons without a field goal for 8 minutes.

"We can't bring our B game, our C game, against a team like Gonzaga," San Francisco coach Rex Walters said. "We just didn't play well tonight."

Przemek Karnowski scored 16 points and Kyle Wiltjer had 15 for the Bulldogs (15-1, 4-0 West Coast Conference), whose only loss was at No. 7 Arizona.

Gonzaga coach Mark Few said Karnowski, a 7-foot-1 center, has been playing good basketball. Karnowski made seven of 10 field goals and both his free throws on Thursday.

"Shem has done a nice job in



YOUNG KWAK/AP

San Gonzaga's Przemek Karnowski, front, and Kyle Wiltjer, back, reach for a rebound during the first half of Thursday's game in Spokane, Wash. Gonzaga won its eighth straight, 88-57.

the last month," Few said. "He's taking shots on his terms."

"Shem is playing like the big man on the floor," Pangos added.

Kruize Pinkins scored 20 for San Francisco (7-10, 1-4), which has dropped four straight.

Gonzaga, which made 12 three-pointers, shot 52 percent from the floor and won the rebound battle 39-26. San Francisco shot 41 percent.

In the decisive second half, Gonzaga shot 60 percent while holding the Dons to 37 percent.

"We got some stops," said Pangos, who was 5-for-8 on three-pointers and handed out five assists.

Gonzaga has beaten San Francisco 26 consecutive times in Spokane, dating to 1989. The Dons' last win in the series came in 2012.

The Zags also have a 33-game home winning streak, second in the nation behind Duke's 41 victories.

San Francisco built an 11-7 lead as Gonzaga made just three of its first 11 shots. Wiltjer then hit a trio of three-pointers in just more than two minutes as Gonzaga took a 21-12 lead.

Pinkins' three-pointer capped a 9-4 run that brought San Francisco to 25-21. But a pair of inside

baskets and two free throws by Karnowski pushed Gonzaga's lead to 10 as the Dons went into a 4-minute scoring drought.

"We will not blow people out in the first 5 or 10 minutes," Few said.

Gonzaga led 37-27 at halftime behind 11 points from Wiltjer and 10 by Karnowski. Pinkins led San Francisco with 13 points in the first half.

No. 25 Old Dominion 72, Marshall 51: Jonathan Arledge scored 13 points to lead the visiting Monarchs to their first victory as a ranked team.

Old Dominion (13-1, 2-0 Conference USA) won its 10th straight game to continue its best start since moving to Division I in the 1976-77 season.

Trey Freeman and Jordan Baker added 11 points apiece for the Monarchs.

Austin Loop scored 15 points and Jay Johnson and Ryan Taylor had 13 apiece for Marshall (4-11, 0-2).

Old Dominion showed no signs of pressure after entering The Associated Press rankings for the first time this week.

The Monarchs went ahead 35-25 at halftime and its lead remained in double digits in the second half.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Playoffs
run longer
in FCS
postseason

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

The Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Imagine Oregon and Ohio State both having to play at least two more games before getting to that national championship game.

They would then know what North Dakota State and Illinois State have already experienced this postseason to get to the FCS title game. Just like teams at the level formerly known as Division I-AA have done for so many years before this first four-team playoff in major college football.

"I think this is probably more exciting," Illinois State quarterback Tre Roberson, the former Indiana transfer, said Thursday. "You actually get to play a whole playoff run. ... Being part of it has been amazing, and I'm glad to be on this level playing."

When the Bison (14-1) and Redbirds (13-1) play Saturday in Frisco, Texas — about 40 miles from the Dallas Cowboys stadium where the College Football Playoff title game will be played Monday night — it will be the fourth playoff game for each this season. The Missouri Valley Football Conference co-champions didn't play in the regular season, and both got a first-round bye in the 24-team FCS playoff.

"Get this big of a tournament, and you are going to determine who the best team is," North Dakota State defensive end Kyle Emanuel said.

The three-time defending national champion Bison will play their 61st game in four years, with their upcoming 16th the equivalent of an NFL regular season. Safety Christian Dudzik has started all 60 in the streak, and Emanuel is among five other ND SU players who have appeared in at least 50 career games.

"The playoff system is something that a lot of guys really look forward to in coming to an FCS school," Bison quarterback Carson Wentz said. "It's really a cool experience."

While Oregon and Ohio State (both 13-1) had to win conference championship games before the final CFP rankings set the four-team playoff, they have both since had to win only one playoff game to get their championship shot.

North Dakota State advanced with a 35-3 semifinal victory over Sam Houston State, a team that Bison beat twice in Frisco for titles, after tight games against South Dakota State and Coastal Carolina.

The Redbirds had to beat conference foe Northern Iowa, the only team to beat North Dakota State and Illinois State this season, then won at Eastern Washington before beating top-ranked New Hampshire in the semifinals.



RYAN KANG/AP

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota is a master of the fake handoff, putting extra pressure on defenses as they try to figure out whether the unpredictable Ducks are running or passing the ball.

Title game all about the offense

Points will likely come in bunches when
Oregon meets Ohio State for championship

By RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The first College Football Playoff national championship game between Oregon and Ohio State will be all about the O — as in offense.

The Ducks rank second in the nation in yards per play (7.39) and points per game (47.2). The Buckeyes rank sixth in yards per play (7.03) and fifth in points (45.0).

It could come down to the team that manages to force a few field-goal attempts. Or maybe the first team to 50?

Here are the matchups that could decide who wins the title:

Oregon's deception vs. Ohio State's discipline: The Ducks run on passing downs and pass on running downs a lot, taking advantage of where the matchups are in their favor and QB Marcus Mariota's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't ball handling.

"He's extremely gifted in terms of riding the fake out," said Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio, who faced both Ohio State and Oregon this season. "You can see a couple times in the film where our guys are sitting right there and eyes on the ball, eyes on him and we lose him."

The Oregon offense strains a defense's discipline and forces defenders to make difficult decisions. Is it a run or a pass? Play the quarterback or the running back? Attack the quick passes and screens at the line of scrimmage or keep the short stuff in front of you and take away the deep ball?

Freaky athlete Ohio State LB Darron Lee could allow the Buckeyes to stick with their regular 4-3 alignment instead of going with extra defensive backs when Oregon uses

three or four receivers. Theoretically, that should help Ohio State stop the run, but the Ducks will test the sophomore's discipline. He is one of several talented but inexperienced linebackers and safeties the Buckeyes play.

Ohio State's defensive line vs. Oregon's offensive line: The Buckeyes' defensive line looks like an NFL line.

"Three of the four guys that they play with up front are going to play on Sundays," said Rutgers coach Kyle Flood, whose team was among the many the Buckeyes overwhelmed this year. "Most teams have one. If you have two you are really good up front. They have three."

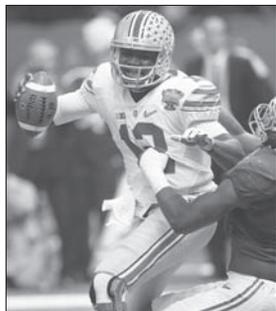
All-America DE Joey Bossa headlines the group, but DTs Michael Bennett and Adolphus Washington are also future high-round draft picks. DE Steve Miller, who had a pick 6 against Alabama, is no slouch, either.

Oregon's offensive line has two players who received All-America honors in center Hromiss Grasu (second team) and tackle Jake Fisher (third team). Oregon ranks 67th in the nation in sacks allowed per game (2.07), but 12 came in two early season games. Ohio State's defense is 12th in sacks per game (3.07).

Ohio State has the advantage here if it simply comes down to an on-one matchups. Especially with Bossa, who moves around to exploit weak spots. The Ducks can neutralize Ohio State's pass rush with their tempo, quick passes and Mariota's elusiveness.

Ohio State's deep passes vs. Oregon's coverage: Few quarterbacks can match the arm strength of the Buckeyes' Cardale Jones, whose teammates call him 12 Gauge (Jones wears No. 12).

Since taking over two games ago, the Buckeyes have taken advantage of Jones' arm by going deep more than they did with J.T. Bar-



BILL HABER/AP

Ohio State hasn't been shy about throwing the ball deep with quarterback Cardale Jones behind center. Jones has averaged 16.7 yards per completion in his two games as the Buckeyes' starter.

rett, who was lost for the season to an ankle injury against Michigan.

Jones' 30 completions against Alabama and Wisconsin have averaged 16.7 yards, and he has hooked up with speedy WR Devin Smith for four touchdowns, all covering at least 39 yards.

Ohio State will attack Oregon cornerbacks Troy Hill, Chris Seisay and Dior Mathis. Remember, All-America cornerback Eli Ekpre-Olomu is out with a knee injury.

The Ducks have allowed 44 passes of at least 20 yards this season, which ranks 91st in the nation.

Prediction: OREGON 43-38.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at
www.twitter.com/ralphdrussoAP

NFL

Grind: Remaining teams have solid rushing attacks

FROM BACK PAGE

and Green Bay 11th. Even the Broncos, who averaged 111.6 yards per game, finished 15th in the league.

Only New England and Indianapolis finished in the bottom half of the league, but each still averaged more than 100 yards per game rushing.

Seattle concluded the regular season averaging 172.6 yards per game on the ground. While that doesn't seem as if it's an excessive mark, it's among rare company over the past three decades.

Seattle had the third-highest per game average of any team over the past 30 seasons. Only the 2006 Falcons (183.7) and 2001 Bears (173.4) rushed for more yards than the Seahawks did this season.

Seattle was ahead of that 2001 Chicago team for much of the season before slipping late. Not surprisingly, there is one significant connection between the 2006 Falcons and 2014 Seahawks: offensive line coach Tom Cable.

When the Falcons were running through the NFC South in 2006, Cable was serving as their offensive line coach. And for the past four seasons, Cable's been in charge of Seattle's offensive line and coordinating the run game.

"I just think it's the guys," Cable said. "The runner and the guys we've put in there, the tight ends. The receivers I think have had their best year to be quite honest about blocking on the perimeter and I think the addition of Will (Tukuafu) at fullback has really impacted us."

The similarities of that Falcons team and the Seahawks go beyond Cable. The Falcons had a mobile quarterback with the threat to run in Michael Vick, while Seattle has Wilson.

Vick rushed for 1,039 yards that season, while Wilson had



Carolina Panthers at Seattle Seahawks
AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Sunday CET

849 yards rushing this season. Warrick Dunn was the workhorse running back for Atlanta, gaining for 1,140 yards in 2006, while Lynch has carried the load for Seattle with 1,306 yards this season.

"A bunch of receivers and tight ends committed to running the ball. It's all of that," Cable said.

Carolina has thrived on the ground during its late-season run to reach the postseason. The Panthers are averaging 196.6 yards rushing per game during their five-game winning streak.

Jonathan Stewart has carried the load, averaging 104.5 yards per game with two touchdowns during that span. A healthier Cam Newton has also had an elevated role in the running game, averaging 56.2 yards per game with three TDs in the past five games.

One of the main reasons for the improved play is the Panthers have found consistency on the offensive line, starting the same five players for the past six games.

"I think now, you have a group of guys that's played more games together as a unit consistently," Stewart said. "It builds chemistry and a better awareness of what the guy next to you is going to do. It created a rhythm for our offensive line."



DAVID T. FOSTER III, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Carolina's Jonathan Stewart, left, tries to pick up yards against Tampa Bay's Dashon Goldson during a game on Sept. 7 in Tampa, Fla.



JASON DECROW/AP

Ray Rice arrives with his wife Janay Palmer for an appeal hearing of his indefinite suspension from the NFL on Nov. 5 in New York. Rice was suspended for punching Palmer in an Atlantic City casino.

Report: NFL didn't seek enough info in Rice case

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL failed to investigate the Ray Rice case properly, former FBI director Robert S. Mueller said in a report that also said he found no evidence the league received a video of the Baltimore Ravens running back knocking out his fiancée in a casino elevator.

"The NFL should have done more with the information it had and should have taken additional steps to obtain all available information about the Feb. 15 incident," Mueller said in a statement after releasing his 96-page report on Thursday.

Mueller said he can find no evidence the league received the video showing Rice striking his fiancée before it was published online in September. A law enforcement official showed The Associated Press videos of the incident and said he mailed a DVD to NFL headquarters in April.

The report said a review of phone records and emails of NFL employees showed no evidence that anyone in the league had seen the video before Commissioner Roger Goodell initially suspended Rice for two games.

The private investigation, without subpoena power, did not include any contact with the law enforcement official who showed the AP the videos. "The officer played the AP a 12-second voicemail from an NFL office number dated April 9, in which a woman verifies receipt of the DVD and says: 'You're right, it's terrible.'"

The official, who insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to share the evidence, told the AP on Thursday he didn't speak with investigators.

"I took steps to ensure a call from any person at the NFL wouldn't be traced back to me and I was never contacted by the team of investigators hired by the NFL to investigate the NFL," he said. "I still don't know who confirmed receiving the video and I don't know what that person did with it."

Kathleen Carroll, the AP's executive editor, said: "We have reviewed the report and stand by our original reporting."

"The Mueller team did ask us for source material and other newsgathering information, but we declined. Everything that we report and confirm goes into our stories. We do not offer up reporters' notes



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Former FBI Director Robert Mueller, who was hired to look into how the NFL pursued evidence in the Ray Rice abuse case, says the league should have investigated the incident more thoroughly before it initially punished the player.

and sources."

New York Giants owner John Mara and Pittsburgh Steelers President Art Rooney, the men appointed by Goodell as liaisons to the investigation, said the 32 team owners were briefed in a conference call on Thursday, and all expressed their belief Goodell told the truth throughout the investigation.

They reiterated their backing of Goodell, whose job never appeared in jeopardy despite the missteps by the league in the Rice case and calls for scrutiny of him from outside groups.

Still, Mueller found the NFL's deference to the law enforcement process involving Rice "led to deficiencies in the league's collection and analysis of information during its investigation." He added such an approach "can foster an environment in which it is less important to understand precisely what a player did than to understand how and when the criminal justice system addresses the event."

Mueller's report also said the league didn't follow up on initial conversations with the Ravens to determine whether the team had more information.

AP Pro Football Writer Rob Maaddid and AP Sports Writer Jimmy Golien contributed to this report.

NFL

Pace, Seau, Warner first-year HoF finalists

Class of '15 to be announced Jan. 31

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

First-year candidates Junior Seau, Kurt Warner and Orlando Pace are among 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The list of nominees was reduced Thursday to 15 from the modern era, one senior and two contributors. A finalist must receive at least 80 percent of the votes from the 46-person selection committee to be elected.

The class of 2015 will be announced Jan. 31 in Phoenix during "NFL Honors," the TV show in which The Associated Press hands out its eight individual NFL awards. Inductions will be in August in Canton, Ohio.

The modern-day finalists are kicker Morten Andersen, running back Jerome Bettis, wide receiver Tim Brown, coach Don Coryell, running back Terrell Davis, coach Tony Dungy, linebacker-defensive end Kevin Greene, linebacker-defensive end Charles Haley, wide receiver Marvin Harrison, coach Jimmy Johnson, safety John Lynch, and guard Will Shields.

The senior nominee is former Vikings center Mick Tingelhoff. Special contributors are Bill Polian and Ron Wolf, the architects of Super Bowl teams as executives.

Of the three coaches on the ballot, Dungy is in his second year of eligibility, Johnson in his 16th and Coryell in his 28th. Hall of Fame rules for coaches changed in 2007, requiring the coach to be



AP Photo/File

Pictured, from left are Orlando Pace, Junior Seau, and Kurt Warner. Pace, Seau and Warner are first-year eligible nominees among the 15 modern-era finalists who will be considered for election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday, Jan. 31.

retired for five seasons.

Seau, who committed suicide in 2012, played two decades with three teams and made 12 Pro Bowls. He was the NFL Defensive Player of the Year in 1992.

Warner guided St. Louis to its only Super Bowl victory after the 1999 season and also led the Rams to the title game two years later. He helped Arizona get to its only Super Bowl after the 2008 season. He won league MVP honors in 1999 and 2001.

Pace was the first overall draft pick in 1997 by the Rams and played 13 seasons, with five Pro

Bowl selections.

Like Dungy, one of his star players, Harrison, is in his second year of eligibility. The Colts star retired ranking second to Jerry Rice in receptions with 1,102.

Andersen, seeking to become the only kicker other than Jan Stenerud in the hall, and Lynch are in their third years on the ballot. Andersen played 25 pro seasons with five franchises and set the NFL records for points (2,544), field goals (565) and games (382). Lynch spent 11 seasons with Tampa Bay, four with Denver, and made nine Pro

Bowls.

Shields, a Pro Bowl guard 12 straight years with Kansas City, is in his fourth year of eligibility. Bettis, nicknamed "The Bus," carried the Steelers to the 2005 NFL championship in his final season and has been on the ballot for five years.

Brown, a standout kick returner as well as pass catcher, is in his sixth year of eligibility. He made nine Pro Bowls, twice as a return man.

Davis gave Denver an efficient running game to go with John Elway's passing, and they took

the Broncos to championships in 1997 and 1998. This is his ninth year on the ballot.

Pass-rushing stars Haley and Greene are in their 11th year of eligibility. Greene played for four teams and made the Pro Bowl five times. Haley won five Super Bowls, two with San Francisco and three with Dallas, the only player to do so.

Tingelhoff retired in 1978 after 17 seasons as one of the most durable and dependable centers in the league. He never missed a game, starting 240, and made it to four Super Bowls.

Suggs, Ravens ready for showdown with Patriots

By DAVID GUNSBURG
The Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Terrell Suggs wore a gladiator's mask during introductions at a Baltimore Ravens game this season in an effort to boost the spirit of his teammates for a duel with the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers.

The stunt earned him a \$5,512 fine from the NFL. It also aptly displayed the mentality Suggs brings to the field on game day, that of a fun-loving warrior.

"He's entertaining and passionate at the same time," Ravens safety Will Hill said. "You're going to have fun, but it's about business, too. You can see how dedicated and involved he is, not just with this organization but the game of football. He's going to give his all on every snap, and he demands that from every player on the field with him."

Ever since his mentor, Ray Lewis, stepped into retirement, Suggs has taken over as the leader and spokesman for Baltimore's tradition of rugged defense. It's no coincidence that Suggs, like



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Baltimore Ravens outside linebacker Terrell Suggs wears a pair of dog tags bearing his name as he speaks at a news conference on Tuesday in Owings Mills, Md. The Ravens travel to New England for a divisional playoff game against the Patriots on Saturday.

Lewis, is the last member of the unit to be introduced at home.

After the kickoff, the real fun begins — at home or away.

"I love playing football," Suggs said. "It doesn't matter where I'm at."

Suggs will often jabber at the



Baltimore Ravens at New England Patriots
AFN-Sports
10:30 p.m. Saturday CET

competition and opposing fans, but his main job at outside linebacker is to help Baltimore win.

Suggs broke into the NFL as a brash 20-year-old. Over the course of a dozen years, he's learned when to bark at an opponent and when to show respect.

As the Ravens (11-6) prepare to face the New England Patriots (12-4) for the right to play in the AFC title game, Suggs has chosen the latter approach.

In the past, Suggs insisted that New England quarterback Tom Brady received preferential treatment from referees. He also said:

"I don't like him, he don't like me. I don't like his hair."

This week, Suggs toned it down to this: "He's a quarterback. I'm a defender. He has a job to do, and so do I. Naturally, there are going to be some disagreements there."

In eight career games against New England, Suggs has 20 tackles, four sacks, two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. If he continues to play as he has this season, he's sure to add to those numbers.

Suggs started all 16 games and ranked third on the team with 61 tackles. He had 12 sacks, tied for the second most in his career, and his between-the-legs interception last weekend helped seal Baltimore's 30-17 playoff win over Pittsburgh.

"It looks like it's his third year out there," Brady said. "He's the leader of that defense, he makes great plays. ... I have a lot of respect for his ability to play the game at a high level. He's phenomenal."

Told of that assessment, Suggs grinned and said, "Did they record him? Like, they had a camera?"

SPORTS



Stanley Cup rematch

Rangers hold off Kings in first trip to LA since finals » **NHL, Page 26**

NFL PLAYOFFS



Back to the grind

Seattle, Carolina rely on running game

By the numbers

By **TIM BOOTH**
The Associated Press

SINCE the arrival of Marshawn Lynch, the Seattle Seahawks' offensive DNA has been defined by running the football first.

This season that run game of the Seahawks was among the best of any team in the past 30 seasons, a combination of Lynch's bullying style with the improvisation and agility of quarterback Russell Wilson.

But Seattle is not alone. The other seven teams left in the playoffs did quite

Inside:

- Ravens' Suggs set to face Pats, Page 31
- First-year eligibles among Hall of Fame finalists, Page 31

nicely on the ground themselves — including Carolina, the Seahawks' playoff opponent on Saturday — proving it's

still not entirely about the pass game. "There's a constant emphasis for us. The way we want to play," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

While Seattle led the league in rushing and gets the bulk of attention for its philosophy of being so committed to the run game, it isn't alone in leaning so heavily on the run. Six of the eight teams in the divisional round of the playoffs finished in the top half of the league.

Dallas was second in the league, but 25 yards per game behind Seattle. Carolina finished seventh, Baltimore eighth. **SEE GRIND ON PAGE 30**

172.6

Number of rushing yards Seattle averaged per game during the regular season.

196.6

Number of rushing yards Carolina is averaging over the past five games.

Above: Seattle running back Marshawn Lynch, left, fights for yardage against Carolina on Oct. 26 in Charlotte, N.C.

JEFF SENER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Championship game promises plenty of offense
College football, Page 29

USOC chooses Boston as candidate for 2024
Olympics, Page 25