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JAPAN EARTHQUAKE ANNIVERSARY



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/AP

A man leaves flowers at a monument to victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Okawa, Japan, on Monday. Japan on Tuesday marks the third anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster that killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for in areas of its northern coast.

Still feeling the fallout

Troops in Japan deal with effects of 2011 quake, tsunami, nuke disaster

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For military families living in Japan three years ago, the Great East Japan Earthquake is a historical life marker.

They recall it as vividly as where

Interactive timeline

Recapping Japan's 2011 disaster:
stripes.com/go/quakefollow

they were when the World Trade Center towers fell, or as a previous generation remembers when John F. Kennedy was shot.

There are still a few here who remember the low rumble growing stronger; the hulking destroyers and carriers bouncing in Yokosuka's harbor like bathtub toys; the confusion as phone lines stopped working and trains stranded millions; the video of city fires raging and lives washed into the sea; the debris-filled skies;

the radiation spikes; the warnings to remain indoors; and the on-again, off-again, quasi-evacuation effort that lasted for weeks.

But for most on Pacific bases today, all of that is just something tragic they learned about on television awhile back.

SEE FALLOUT ON PAGE 10

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If broken bones are worth a half-million, then how much are seven lives worth? This just doesn't feel right."

— Ann Ehlenfeldt, sister of one of the seven people killed in 1993 by James Degorski, who was awarded \$451,000 in a civil lawsuit in which he alleged a jail guard punched him in the face and broke his cheekbone

See story on Page 7

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EUROPE



Michael J. Lieberknecht/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors in the medical department of the USS Bataan assess a Turkish mariner recovered by a Navy search-and-rescue team from a wrecked ship off the coast of Mykonos in the Aegean Sea on Saturday.

Bataan team makes rescue

By Steven Beardsley
Stars and Stripes

A Navy search-and-rescue team from an amphibious ship in the Aegean Sea pulled two Turkish mariners from their damaged vessel on Saturday.

The USS Bataan received a distress call from the Turkish-flagged container vessel Yusuf Cepnioglu at 10:29 a.m., according to a spokesman for U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa. The vessel had run aground hours earlier on the northern coast of Mykonos and was listing badly as flooding worsened, according to a news release from Greece's coast guard, which initially responded to the call.

Photographs of the ship show its stern partially submerged near a rocky shore, with some of its containers toppled.

Coast guard rescuers and a private boat pulled 12 of the ship's 14 crewmembers to safety. The Navy search-and-rescue team, aboard an MH-60 helicopter, lowered a rescue swimmer to pull to safety the last two mariners — the ship's master and the chief mate.



Courtesy of the Hellenic Coast Guard

Damaged Turkish container vessel Yusuf Cepnioglu lists by the rocky shore of Mykonos in the Aegean Sea.

Both were returned to the Bataan, where they received medical checks before being handed over to the coast guard. The mariners pulled from the ship were at risk of hypothermia, the coast guard said.

The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group departed Norfolk, Va., in early February for an eight-month deployment to European and Middle Eastern waters. The group,

which includes 2,400 embarked Marines with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, is exercising with European armed forces while in the Mediterranean.

The other ships in the group are the amphibious transport dock ship USS Mesa Verde and the amphibious dock landing ship USS Gunston Hall.

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Airman gets 30 months for photos of teenage girl

By Adam L. Mathis
Stars and Stripes

RAF Mildenhall, England — British authorities have sentenced a U.S. Air Force staff sergeant stationed at RAF Alconbury, England, to 30 months in prison after he pressured a teenage girl to give him indecent photos, officials said.

Staff Sgt. Curtis Robinson pleaded guilty to possession and distribution of indecent imagery and to prompting a child to engage in pornography, the Cambridgeshire Constabulary said. He was sentenced in Peterborough Crown Court on March 4 and placed on a registry for sex offenders.

A spokesman for the 501st Combat Support Wing said Robinson was assigned to the 423rd Communications Squadron at RAF Alconbury.

Robinson, 24, used a false identity to develop a relationship with a 14-year-old girl online and obtained images of her, according to the constabulary.

The airman "then began to incite her into sending him more images, threatening to share the images he had from the fake account over the internet if she did not," according to a constabulary news release.

Cambridgeshire Detective Constable Gareth Purdy said in the news release that Robinson "was fully aware" of the victim's age and "tried to take advantage of her vulnerability."

The U.S. Air Force has no plans to convene a court-martial over the incident, and administrative actions, which can include a discharge, cannot be released, the 501st spokesman said.

However, the service implemented a policy last year that requires airmen convicted of a range of sexual offenses be discharged.

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MILITARY

US military boosting its presence in Spain

WASHINGTON — More Marines will be temporarily based in Spain to respond to potential crises in Africa, the Pentagon announced Monday.

Spain has agreed to the extended presence of the Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force, Crisis Response in Morón, Spain, for one year until April 2015. The SPMAGTF-CR will grow from 500 Marines to 850. The Defense Department did not provide a timeline for when the additional 350 Marines will arrive in Morón.

The SPMAGTF-CR was created in the wake of the 2012 attacks on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi, Libya. Four Americans were killed, including Ambassador Christopher Stevens. The Obama administration and military leaders were heavily criticized for not responding more quickly to launch a rescue operation. The Pentagon said that forces were not available to reach the scene in time.

Defense spokesman Col. Steve Warren said the augmentation of the crisis response unit was not driven by specific threats.

"It's not necessarily an increase in threat, we don't believe. But it's an increase in demand for them," Warren said.

From staff reports

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

A rape case that was investigated after being dismissed by Air Force Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin last year is going to trial.

Maj. Gen. Sharon K.G. Dunbar, commander of the Air Force District of Washington, has referred rape charges against Airman 1st Class Brandon T. Wright, Lt. Col. Kenneth Hoffman, a spokesman for the command, confirmed on Monday.

Wright, accused of raping a sergeant in 2012, is charged with two specifications of rape using force, Hoffman said. No trial date has been set.

Dunbar's decision followed a recommendation to proceed to trial from an investigating officer who presided over the second Article 32 hearing in the case in January at Joint Base Andrews, Md., said sources with knowledge of the case who declined to be identified because they were not authorized to discuss it.

Franklin's decision to dismiss charges followed a recommendation to do so by a previous investigating officer and the decision

was backed by Franklin's legal adviser.

Hoffman declined to speculate on why two different authorities made different decisions in the same case.

"The convening authority may refer a case when she finds or is advised by a judge advocate that there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offense triable by a court-martial has been committed and that the accused committed it, and that the specification alleges an offense," Hoffman said in an email. "The convening authority or judge advocate may consider information from any source and shall not be limited to the information reviewed by any previous authority."

The case was sent to the Air Force District of Washington for reinvestigation on orders of top Air Force officials in part because of questions whether the initial Article 32 at Aviano Air Base, Italy, had been conducted properly.

Capt. Maribel Jarzabek, the sergeant's special victims' counsel, said in a memo to Franklin last year that it had not. Among the complaints in the memo was

that the case investigating officer had failed to act in an impartial manner as required under military law, was clearly skeptical of the accuser and, when examining witnesses, had acted more like a defense lawyer, sources familiar with the case have told Stars and Stripes.

Jarzabek asked for a meeting with Franklin before he decided the case disposition to allow the sergeant to present her views. But Franklin did not respond, as convening authorities are supposed to do. Authorities disagreed whether at that time such a meeting was required or only encouraged.

New regulations to be enacted this year will require that convening authorities meet with alleged victims at various decision points in cases, if the victims request it, Col. Dave Dales, director of the Air Force Judiciary, told Stars and Stripes in December.

Franklin had previously dismissed Aviano fighter pilot Lt. Col. James Wilkerson's sexual assault conviction and sentence, overturning the decision of a five-colonel jury, and reinstated him into the service after spring-

ing him from jail. Franklin's action caused a national uproar and led to a legislative change in the Uniform Code of Military Justice stripping commanders of their long-held power to overturn convictions. Franklin announced he will retire shortly after the transfer of the Wright case became public. His legal adviser is also retiring, sources who declined to be identified told Stars and Stripes.

Wright is accused of raping a sergeant in July 2012 when both airmen were stationed at Aviano, while the two were watching movies at her home.

Wright's defense is that any sex was consensual.

Wright's defense lawyer has argued that his client is a victim of unlawful command influence.

"We object to this hearing generally," Maj. Dominic Angiollo said at the second hearing at Andrews, as reported in Stars and Stripes. "We've already been through an Article 32. We thought that was conducted properly."

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DLA in Bahrain expands to meet demand

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The Defense Logistics Agency has moved its operation here from the U.S. Navy base to a new expanded off-base facility in response to the growing demand for supplies to U.S. military forces in the region.

The new 297,000-square-foot distribution center, located in an industrial area of the town of Hidd, is more than 10 times the size of the old one, encompassing five warehouses. It provides the DLA with much-needed expansion room that Naval Support Activity Bahrain simply could not provide within its fence-line, officials said.

The old facility, which measured 27,000 square feet, was described by several DLA employees as bursting at the seams with the steadily growing demand for services. Last fiscal year DLA here processed 1,146 tons of cargo; so far this year, it has processed 919 tons.

"This gave us the opportunity to spread out," said Cmdr. Julie Hunter, commander of DLA Distribution Bahrain. She added that the new location has better access to where container ships arrive, the airport, and where the bigger U.S. Navy warships that visit Bahrain moor. "We are really positioned well for traffic in and out of the area, and you don't get that at NSA," Hunter said.

Jerry Brown, the deputy commander of DLA Distribution Bahrain, cited more space to move things around and the ability to bring ocean containers straight to the facility as examples of the added capability.

DLA does not directly own or operate the new facility. Instead, it has a five-year, full-service contract worth some \$40 million with GENCO, a U.S. logistics company, to run the distribution center in this tiny island nation in the Persian Gulf.

Most of the five warehouses are currently empty, but officials say that is about to change as plans are underway to stock more parts for ships, aircraft and equipment.

"The goal is to have what the customer needs when they need it," Hunter said. "By positioning the material we have forward, we cut down on the timeline for delivery and we also reduce the cost of transportation, saving the government money."

For shipboard sailors in the 5th Fleet area of responsibility, this potentially means getting repair parts more quickly.

"In many cases that may be the difference between repairing a ship overnight versus in a week," Hunter said.

The enlarged facility is the latest signal of U.S. commitment to the Kingdom of Bahrain, which has been wracked by sporadic political unrest since 2011 when the country experienced massive protests by citizens demanding political and economic reforms.

Officials say they anticipate the U.S. military presence here to continue well into the future. The Navy base here, which now occupies about 137 acres, has about 8,000 U.S. personnel and families, with several construction projects underway to increase capacity to potentially homeport littoral combat ships in 2018.

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Above: Defense Logistics Agency Distribution Bahrain Deputy Commander Jerry Brown, left, shows off a climate-controlled warehouse to DLA officials and guests touring the new distribution center in Bahrain. The new location offers DLA about 297,000 square feet of space to store parts for ships, aircraft and equipment in support of U.S. military forces in the region. Left: A forklift operator works near a covered warehouse at the center.

PHOTOS BY HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes



MIDEAST

Afghan Taliban order fighters to disrupt vote

By AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL — The Taliban on Monday warned Afghans against taking part in the upcoming presidential election and ordered their fighters to “use all force” possible to disrupt the polling in the militant group’s first formal threat of violence over the April 5 vote.

Spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement emailed to media that the Taliban also are telling clerics across country to spread the word that the election is “an American conspiracy.”

The April vote is seen as key to Afghanistan’s stability ahead of the final withdrawal of international combat troops at the end of December. Previous elections have been fraught with allegations of widespread fraud, and some surveys have shown a deep mistrust among most Afghans toward the polling and candidates.

President Hamid Karzai is not in the race since he cannot run for a third term.

Monday’s Taliban statement told Afghans they should “reject completely” the election and not put themselves in danger by going to the polls.

Mujahid did not specify what kind of attacks the Taliban planned, but in the 2009 presidential election, the militants assaulted and killed election workers, targeted candidates and also attacked voters, in some cases cutting off people’s fingers.

“We have given orders to all our mujahedeen (holy warriors) to use all force at their disposal to disrupt these upcoming sham election to target all its workers, activists, callers, security apparatus and offices,” the statement said.

It also warned the government against using public buildings such as mosques and schools for polling.

The Taliban statement was emailed and it followed several election-related attacks since the start of the election campaign.

Last month, a campaign worker of a presidential front-runner, candidate Abdullah Abdullah, was shot and killed in Afghanistan’s western Herat province. Also in Herat, a suicide bomber recently attacked Ismail Khan, who is running on the ticket as first vice president to presidential candidate and powerful warlord Abdul Rasoul Sayyaf.

In northern Kunduz province, a member of the Independent Election Commission was also shot and killed. The Taliban have taken responsibility for all the

election campaign-related attacks, which occurred over the past month.

The interior ministry previously said there may be some polling stations in the restive south of Afghanistan that might not open because of security concerns. No numbers were given.

Meanwhile, a bomb hidden in a motorcycle was remotely detonated on Monday, killing two local policemen in the western Herat province, said Raouf Ahmadi, the provincial police spokesman. Another two policemen were wounded in the bombing, he said.

‘We have given orders to all our mujahedeen (holy warriors) to use all force at their disposal to disrupt these upcoming sham election to target all its workers, activists, callers, security apparatus and offices.’

Taliban statement

presidential race. A soft-spoken ethnic Pashtun, Rassoul is known as a loyalist to former King King Zahir Shah, who ruled the country for 40 years.

A 1973 coup toppled Shah and in later years, the Soviet Union invaded the country, sparking a bloody insurgency. Warlords then took over parts of Afghanistan until the rise of the Taliban in 1996.

Rassoul has come out in favor of Afghanistan signing a bilateral security agreement with the United States, which would allow for a residual U.S. and NATO force of up to 15,000 soldiers to remain behind after the final withdrawal of foreign combat troops.

Karzai has so far refused to sign the agreement.



KEVIN SIEFF/The Washington Post

A resident of Nabahar district in Afghanistan’s Zabul province is checked for explosives by an Afghan soldier.

US, Afghan troops trying to get out the vote in Taliban country

By KEVIN SIEFF
The Washington Post

NABAHAR, Afghanistan — With critical Afghan elections just weeks away, U.S. and Afghan soldiers are focused on a daunting new mission: persuading residents of remote, insurgency-plagued areas to vote.

The presidential election could be a turning point for this war-torn nation, producing the first peaceful transition of power in its history. But if the Taliban keeps Afghans from casting ballots on April 5, the legitimacy of the vote could be questioned — potentially throwing the country into turmoil.

“This is our last high-risk mission,” Lt. Col. Eric Lopez told his battalion of American soldiers one evening before helicopters picked them up for the trip to Nabahar, a frigid desert region 200 miles south of Kabul, in Zabul province.

For Lopez and his men, who were nearing the end of a nine-month deployment, helping Afghan forces secure the elections was at the heart of their advisory role. They cite a phrase that’s become a guiding principle for their battalion: “If it has to do with the elections, don’t let the Afghans fail.”

But as they would discover trekking across a constellation of Taliban-controlled villages over several days, many rural residents are deeply afraid of voting. The Taliban has joined the battle over the elections, while its fighters normally retire to Pakistan to rest during the snowy winter; this year some lower-level insurgents have continued to attack, aiming to deter potential voters.

Late last month, the Taliban killed 21 Afghan soldiers at a remote base in eastern Kunar province in a clear demonstration to the public that they are not ceding ground.



MASSOOD HOSSAINI/AP

A female supporter of Afghan presidential candidate Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, center, holds a photo of him during a campaign rally for women on Sunday in Kabul.

‘If we can bring security, maybe some of them will vote.’

Gen. Mohammad Akram
leader of the Afghan army’s Zabul-based brigade

While the Afghan military has become increasingly competent, there is still little sign of police forces, public schools or other government services in the Taliban-dominated areas.

“There is no government presence here, so these people have to shake the hand of the Taliban,” said Gen. Mohammad Akram, the leader of the Afghan army’s Zabul-based brigade, who led the Afghan unit in the recent mission with U.S. troops.

Still, he was hopeful. “If we can bring security, maybe some of them will vote.”

Over the three-day mission, the Afghan military showed off their new technical skills. The soldiers conducted a mission using

their own helicopters, a capability that surprised — and thrilled — even some Afghan soldiers. They searched squat, mud-brick homes in the village of Karemkhil and rounded up suspects more effectively than in previous months. They asked almost nothing of their American partners.

The military forces intended to show citizens their superiority over the insurgency, and the helicopters were no doubt useful props. But many locals dismissed the soldiers as no more than a temporary presence, a reaction that frustrated some commanders.

“The Taliban will return in the spring, and they will beat us if we vote,” said Abdul Rauf, a farmer in one village.

MILITARY

Germantown captain relieved of command

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — The captain of the USS Germantown has been relieved of command for failure to use good judgment and uphold standards in relation to a sexual assault investigation involving one of the ship's top sailors, Navy officials said Monday.

Cmdr. Jason Leach was removed Friday by Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet commander Rear Adm. Hugh Wetherald, who lost confidence in his ability to command, according to a Navy statement. The relief was the result of a poor command climate onboard the Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship.

The command investigation that led to Leach's firing was triggered by a Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigation into sexual assault allegations against

former Command Master Chief Petty Officer Jesus Galura. Galura has been removed from his duties onboard the ship.

"While the relief was not related to a single incident, it was based on preliminary findings from the NCIS and the command climate investigation, which confirmed that Cmdr. Leach failed to

use the good judgment expected of leaders in the Navy and uphold standards," Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Brian Wierzbicki wrote in a statement to Stars and Stripes. "I can't get into specifics, but we expect leaders to maintain professional relationships between the wardroom and Chief's Mess,

set and keep the bar on standards high and not tolerate any decreases in professionalism."

There are no plans for disciplinary action against Leach, who has been reassigned to the staff of Expeditionary Strike Group Seven in Sasebo, the statement said.

The current deputy commo-

dore of Amphibious Squadron Eleven, Capt. Marvin Thompson, has been tapped as the Germantown's commanding officer until a permanent replacement is identified. Thompson is the former commanding officer of the USS Harpers Ferry and CTF-76 Deputy Chief of Staff.

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Leach



Vietnam vets sue military over PTSD

The Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The U.S. military has failed to upgrade the discharges of Vietnam veterans who developed post-traumatic stress disorder, resulting in stigma and loss of benefits, according to a federal lawsuit filed March 3.

Five Vietnam veterans and three veterans organizations are suing the Army, the Navy and the Air Force in Connecticut. The veterans say they suffered PTSD when it was recognized and were discharged under other-than-honorable conditions that made them ineligible for benefits.

The lawsuit, which seeks class-action status to represent tens of thousands of veterans, says the military has systematically denied applications for upgrades involving evidence of PTSD.

"Unfortunately, the Pentagon has refused to correct the decades of injustice experienced by tens of thousands of veterans who suffer from PTSD but were discharged before it was a diagnosable condition," V Prentice, a law student intern in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School, which represents the plaintiffs, said in a news release.

Lt. Col. Damien Pickart, a Pentagon spokesman, said the department doesn't comment on pending litigation.

A proposed class-action lawsuit over the issue was filed in 2012 as part of a claim involving a Vietnam veteran, but that veteran's case was settled.

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MILITARY

'Good soldier' defense at center of Senate bill

By JENNIFER HAD
Stars and Stripes

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Senate is poised to approve an amendment Monday that will severely restrict the use of the "good soldier" defense and, supporters say, strengthen reforms to the Uniform Code of Military Justice to protect and empower victims of sexual assault.

Critics say the move does not go far enough. Under the amendment, sponsored by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., defendants could no longer use their good military character as a defense unless it directly related to an element of the crime with which they are charged. Critics contend that the "good soldier" defense is inherently biased in favor of long-serving, senior personnel. The bill also requires military attorneys assigned to victims of sexual assault to discuss the merits of having their case heard in the military or civilian justice system; allows victims to say where they would like the case to be heard; and sets up a confidential process that allows victims of sexual assault to challenge the terms or characterization of their discharge.

The amendment also requires that the civilian service secretary review any case in which the prosecutor recommends moving forward and the commander disagrees; changes passed in the National Defense Authorization Act in December call for review only if the commander disagrees with his or her legal counsel about moving forward. Additionally, the amendment clarifies that the sexual assault prevention-related changes that passed in the NDAA pertain to military service academies.

"This debate has been about one thing: getting the policy right to best protect and empower victims, and boost prosecutions of predators," McCaskill said Thursday afternoon. "I believe we're on the cusp of achieving that goal."

Specifics of the legislation

The 2014 National Defense Authorization Act:

- Removes from military commanders the ability to vorturn jury convictions while allowing them to modify a sentence if it is greater than six months' confinement, a dismissal, dishonorable discharge or bad conduct discharge.
- Eliminates the five-year statute of limitations for sex-related crimes.
- Requires the dismissal or dishonorable discharge of a defendant convicted of a sex crime.
- Creates special victims' counsel programs in each service branch so that victims of sexual assault can have their own independent military legal counsel to protect their rights and interests.
- Allows victims in post-trial clemency matters and prohibits the convening authority from considering materials that were not presented at trial.
- Makes it a crime to retaliate against troops who report a sexual assault.
- Requires review by the civilian service secretary if a commander declines to prosecute a case against the advice of his or her legal counsel/staff judge advocate.
- Gives commanders the authority to reassign or remove servicemembers accused of a sex-related crime.
- Requires commanding officers to refer sex-related offenses to military criminal investigators.

The McCaskill/Ayotte/Fischer amendment would:

- Modify the military rules of evidence to prevent defendants from using good military character as a defense unless it directly relates to an element of the crime they are charged with.
- Require the military attorneys as-

signed to sexual assault victims to tell them the advantages and disadvantages of having their case prosecuted in the military or civilian justice systems and give victims the opportunity to officially express their preference on where the case is heard.

- Require the services to set up a confidential process to allow victims of sexual assault who have been discharged to challenge the terms or characterization of his or her discharge.
- Require that cases in which the prosecutor recommends a case go forward but the commander disagrees are reviewed by the civilian service secretary.
- Require that commanders' annual evaluations include an assessment of whether he has established a command climate in which allegations of sexual assault are managed and evaluated fairly and in which victims can report crimes without fear of reprisal.
- Clarify that all sexual assault-related reforms in the NDAA apply to the service academies.

Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's bill would have:

- Moved from commanders to military lawyers the decision-making powers on prosecuting sexual crimes.
- Required that in many cases in which the maximum punishment for a crime includes confinement for more than one year, the determination of whether to try the offense is made by a commissioned officer of grade O-6 or higher who is outside the chain of command of the victim and defendant in the case. The changes would not have applied to military-specific offenses such as unauthorized absence and failure to obey orders.

SOURCE: Stars and Stripes

Congress approved a raft of reforms in December as part of the 2014 defense bill. But even as military and congressional leaders address the crimes, the number of reports continues to grow. Preliminary data released last month showed about 5,400 instances of sexual assault and unwanted sexual contact were reported in fiscal 2013, up 60 percent from 2012. The final vote on McCaskill's

amendment, scheduled for Monday evening, follows a week of developments in several military sexual assault cases:

■ On Friday, a Fort Hood soldier was charged with 21 counts of pandering, conspiracy, abusive sexual contact and other crimes. He had been the coordinator of the post's sexual assault harassment prevention program before he was accused of setting up a

prostitution ring.

■ Also Friday, an Army captain testified that Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair twice forced her to perform oral sex while the pair were serving in Afghanistan. Sinclair has pleaded guilty to adultery, improper relationships with three other women, impeding an investigation and viewing pornography in a war zone, but he denies the assaults.

■ On Wednesday, sources confirmed that the top Army prosecutor for sexual assault cases is under investigation for allegedly groping and trying to kiss a fellow Army lawyer at a sexual assault legal conference; he has been suspended from his duties.

The vote also comes just days after another



McCaskill

bill aimed at combating sexual assault in the ranks fell to a filibuster. Sen. Gillibrand's bill, the Military Justice Improvement Act,

would have removed prosecution authority from the victim and accused's chain of command in the most serious offenses, including sexual assaults.

Gillibrand had been rallying bipartisan support for the measure for months, but the bill came in five votes shy of breaking the 60-vote threshold it needed to survive a filibuster.

Eugene Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale Law School and supports Gillibrand's proposal, said removing the good soldier defense is a good idea because it tends to give greater advantage to men and senior personnel to the detriment of women and lower-ranking troops.

"It represents putting your hand on one side of the scale," he said. Fidell said McCaskill's amend-

ment is nothing more than window dressing.

"This is taking a structure from 1774 and turning it into a structure from 1784," he said. "This should be called the military deck chairs amendment of 2014."

He is still hopeful that some version of Gillibrand's bill will pass.

"I think the fact that the forces of reaction having done their dammedest were unable to get more than 45 votes is tremendously telling," Fidell said. "I'm hoping that she will take advantage of this sort of timeout to critically review the bill, think of ways to make it even better, simpler, shorter, clearer ... and when she comes out of the starting gate next time, I don't see any erosion in her 55 votes."

But Tim MacArthur, an attorney with Tully Rinckey who serves in the Army reserve and worked as a prosecutor and defense counsel while on active duty, said he does not anticipate that command authority will be taken out of the military justice decision-making process. Plus, he said, the system as it stands allows prosecutors who disagree with a commander on charging decisions to go to a different commander.

"At the end of the day, I think it's a pretty fair system," he said.

Gillibrand on Thursday praised the reforms that have already passed but said Congress has not gone far enough.

"We owe so much to those who bravely serve our country, and I will never quit on them," Gillibrand said. "We will continue the fight for justice and accountability."

Advocacy groups for victims of sexual assault in the military also vowed to keep fighting.

"Today's disappointment is merely a detour in our march to justice," said Lory Manning, a retired captain and senior policy fellow for the Service Women's Action Network.

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Sinclair defense again tries to get charges dropped

Los Angeles Times

DURHAM, N.C. — Citing newly received Army emails, lawyers for Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair on Sunday night renewed their claims of Army command interference in the general's sexual assault prosecution and asked the military judge to reconsider his refusal to drop the charges.

In a motion submitted the night before Sinclair's accuser, an Army captain, was scheduled to be cross-examined at Fort Bragg, N.C., defense lawyers referred to an email by a senior Army legal officer expressing concerns that the accuser lied on the stand at a preliminary hearing in January.

The motion was hurriedly filed in response to 14 pages of emails provided by military prosecutors over the weekend, a spokesman for the defense team said late Sunday night. The latest emails appear to show that there was concern among Army officials about

the accuser's truthfulness — in addition to similar concerns cited by the lead prosecutor before he quit the case last month after failing to persuade the Army to drop the most serious charges against Sinclair.

The accuser testified Jan. 7 about a cellphone she said she found while unpacking boxes on Dec. 9, long after evidence in the case was supposed to be turned over. Forensic analysis indicated that the woman lied about when she found the phone and what she did with it. The phone contains messages to and from Sinclair.

"It is possible that she was not truthful," Col. Michael Lacey, a senior military lawyer at Fort Bragg, wrote Jan. 8 to Lt. Gen. Joseph Anderson, who was then Fort the Bragg commander.

Lacey wrote of the accuser: "The forensic analysis of the phone indicates she accessed the phone before 9 December, which brings her credibility into question."



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Fire destroys Camp Henry bank

Little remains of Camp Henry's Building 1545, previously home to the Daegu, South Korea, base's Community Bank branch and the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command's Headquarters and Headquarters Company. A fire on Saturday destroyed the building. The cause of the fire, which sent thick columns of smoke over the city, is under investigation. Fuel play is not suspected, according to U.S. Army Garrison Daegu spokesman Philip Molter.

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NATION

Survey: Uninsured rate down amid ACA signups

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With just three weeks left to sign up for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act, a major survey tracking the rollout finds that the uninsured rate keeps going down.

The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, released Monday, found that 15.9 percent of U.S. adults are uninsured thus far in 2014, down from 17.1 percent for the last three months — or calendar quarter — of 2013.

That translates roughly to 3 million to 4 million people getting coverage.

Gallup said the share of Americans who lack coverage is on track to drop to the lowest quarterly level measured since 2008, before President Barack Obama took office.

The survey found that almost every major demographic group made progress getting health insurance, although Hispanics lagged.

With the highest uninsured rate of any racial or ethnic group, Latinos were expected to be major

beneficiaries of the new health care law. They are a relatively young population, and many are on the lower rungs of the middle class, holding down jobs that don't come with health insurance.

The outreach effort to Hispanics got off to a stumbling start. The Spanish-language enrollment website, CuidadodeSalud.gov, was delayed due to technical problems. Its name sounds like a clunky translation from English: "Care of Health."

A spot check of the Spanish site on Sunday showed parts of it still use a mix of Spanish and English to convey information, which can make insurance details even more confusing.

All indications point to kluster-Latino numbers, prompting the administration to make a special pitch as the end of the open enrollment season approaches on March 31. The president was on Spanish-language television networks last week to raise awareness.

Gallup found the biggest drop in the uninsured rate was among households making less than \$36,000 a year — a decline of 2.8 percentage points.



Jon Elswick/AP

A major new survey says the U.S. uninsured rate is on track to reach the lowest levels since 2008.

Among blacks, the uninsured rate was down by 2.6 percentage points. It declined by 1 percentage point among whites, but Latinos saw a drop of just eight-tenths of a percentage point.

The Gallup poll is considered authoritative because it combines the scope and depth found in government surveys with the timeliness of media sampling. Pollsters interviewed 500 people a day, 350 days a year.

The latest health care results were based on more than 28,000

interviews, or about 28 times as many as in a standard national poll.

The survey can be an early indicator of broad shifts in society. Gallup saw a modest decline in the uninsured rate in January; now, two full months of data indicate a trend is taking shape.

Gallup said the drop coincides with the start of coverage under the health care law on Jan. 1.

The major elements of the Affordable Care Act are now in effect.

Holder sounds alarm on drug use

Calls heroin, pill ODs 'public health crisis'

By PHILIP RUCKER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Eric Holder, calling the rise in deaths from overdoses of heroin and prescription painkillers an "urgent and growing public health crisis," is outlining a series of efforts by the Justice Department to combat the epidemic.

At a time of growing public acceptance of marijuana use, Holder is drawing attention to the negative consequences of heroin. In a video message released early Monday, Holder said heroin overdoses deaths increased by 45 percent between 2006 and 2010.

"When confronting the problem of substance abuse, it makes sense to focus attention on the most dangerous types of drugs," Holder said. "And right now, few substances are more lethal than prescription opiates and heroin."

Holder added, "Addiction to heroin and other opiates — including certain prescription painkillers — is impacting the lives of Americans in every state, in every region and from every background and walk of life — and all too often, with deadly results."

Holder said Justice Department officials, including those in the Drug Enforcement Administration, and other federal, state and local leaders are working "aggressively" to keep heroin and other illicit drugs off the streets and bring traffickers to justice.

Since 2011, the DEA has opened more than 4,500 heroin-related investigations, Holder said, and as a result the amount of heroin seized along the country's southwest border with Mexico increased by more than 320 percent over the past five years.

Holder also said the DEA is expanding its education programs for pharmacists, doctors and other health care providers and urging first responders to carry naloxone, a drug that when administered quickly can restore breathing to somebody suffering from a heroin overdose.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have amended their laws in recent years to increase access to naloxone, the Justice Department said.

Americans riding public transit in record numbers

By JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Americans are boarding public buses, trains and subways in greater numbers than at any time in half a century.

The number reached nearly 10.7 billion trips in 2013, to be precise — the highest total since 1956, according to ridership data reported by transit systems nationally and released Monday by the American Public Transportation Association.

Transit ridership has now fully recovered from a dip caused by the Great Recession. With services restored following economy-driven cutbacks, ridership numbers appear set to continue what had been a steady increase.

"People are making a fundamental shift to having options" aside from a car in how they get around, said Michael Melaniphy, president and CEO of the association. "This is a long-term trend."

Expanding bus and train networks helped push the growth.



Nick Ute/AP

Pedestrians board a train at Union Station in Los Angeles on Friday.

Houston, which has been more notable for its sprawl than its public transportation offerings, had a large ridership gain. So did Seattle, Miami, Denver and San Diego. The New York area's huge transit network saw the greatest

gain, accounting for one in three trips nationally.

Transit advocates argue that the public increasingly values the ability to get around without a car. They offer as evidence the nation's urban shift and the move-

ment to concentrate new development around transit hubs.

"People want to work and live along transit lines," Melaniphy said. "Businesses, universities and housing are all moving along those corridors."

Man convicted of slaying 7 is awarded nearly \$500K

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A former handyman serving life in prison for the 1993 murder of seven people at a suburban Chicago restaurant has been awarded nearly a half-million dollars in a civil lawsuit in which he alleged a jail guard punched him in the face.

The release Sunday criticized the jurors' decision for James Degorski, who, with an ac-

complice, shot and stabbed two restaurant owners and five workers at Brown's Chicken and Pasta during a botched robbery. Their bodies were found in a walk-in cooler and freezer.

Degorski, now 41, accused a Cook County Jail guard of punching him and breaking his cheekbone and eye socket in 2002 — just after Degorski's arrest in what had been one of the most notorious unsolved murder cases in

Illinois history.

"If broken bones are worth a half-million, then how much are seven lives worth? This just doesn't feel right," said Ann Ehlentfeld, a sister of Richard Ehlentfeld, one of the owners who was killed.

Degorski's attorney, Jennifer Bonjean, hailed the jury's decision, which came Friday after a three-day trial. "I think it's a beautiful day for civil rights when a jury can put aside emotions and

say we are all entitled to our civil rights," she said.

Despite the \$451,000 award, it's not clear whether Degorski will ever see any of the money. Prison officials could seek to seize it to cover costs of imprisoning Degorski at the Menard Correctional Center, Bonjean said.

The cost of keeping a defendant at that prison is around \$20,000 a year, according to data from the Illinois Department of Corrections.

NATION

Infected baby may be free of HIV virus

By MONTE MORIN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A baby infected with HIV appears to be free of the virus after doctors at a hospital in Long Beach, Calif., initiated aggressive drug treatment just four hours after birth.

A pediatrician at Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach and her colleagues disclosed the case last week at a Boston AIDS conference.

The newborn girl was initially confirmed to have HIV through blood and spinal fluid tests. However, after six days of treatment with antiretroviral drugs, the virus could no longer be detected, doctors said.

The girl, who was born in April and is being referred to as the "Los Angeles baby," remains on three standard HIV medications. Because of that, doctors cannot say for certain whether the infant is cured or whether the disease has gone into remission.

"This is uncharted territory," said Dr. Yvonne Bryson, a pedi-

atric infectious disease specialist at Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA who consulted on the Los Angeles baby's care. "The only way we know that we really have remission is to stop therapy."

The news comes almost one year after another group of physicians announced for the first time that an HIV-infected infant in Mississippi had been "functionally cured" of the disease following similar drug treatment.

Dr. Audra Deveikis, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Miller Children's, said the Los Angeles baby would continue to undergo drug treatment out of caution.

She and Bryson said the decision on when to remove the infant from treatment would be based on an upcoming clinical trial involving 60 infant HIV cases.

"The decision of when to stop therapy is not something we're going to take lightly," Deveikis said. "We're going to continue for at least two years, or longer, depending on the information we get from these future studies."

Study: Blood test predicts Alzheimer's

By LANDON HALL

The Orange County Register

There's no cure for Alzheimer's disease, and no effective treatment.

One reason might be that there is no reliable way to detect the disease before its devastating symptoms, including memory loss and functional decline, become apparent.

A new study, however, might have discovered such a detection system: a blood test that researchers say can predict, with greater than 90 percent accuracy, whether a healthy person will develop Alzheimer's within three years.

"This has sort of been the holy grail for a lot of year; even finding a blood test to tell the difference between a person who has Alzheimer's disease and someone who's normal," said Dr. Claudia Kawas, a professor of neurology at UC Irvine Medical School who is among 17 co-authors of a new study on the blood test.

The study, conducted at several university hospitals, was published

online Sunday in the April issue of the journal *Nature Medicine*.

Over the course of five years, 76 of the 525 test subjects were diagnosed with either Alzheimer's or a condition called amnesic mild cognitive impairment, which is associated with memory loss. Patients who had a set of 10 lipids, or fats, were more likely to develop the mild cognitive decline or Alzheimer's.

Other tests that look for certain "biomarkers" associated with Alzheimer's, such as magnetic resonance imaging, are limited because they are invasive or prohibitively expensive. Trials that examine the role of amyloids, proteins that build up in the brain, have been inconclusive.

Developing a blood test that could give people advance warning would be huge, Kawas said.

"The thing that distinguishes this paper is we appear possibly to be apparent before the person has the disease," she said. "Eventually, that will be unbelievably important."



Harborside Health Center employee Gerard Barber stands behind medical marijuana clone plants at the facility in Oakland, Calif., in 2011.

JEFF CHIU/AP

State oversight may tame California marijuana shops

By LISA LEFF
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Law and order may soon be coming to the Wild West of weed.

A California lawmaker has introduced legislation to regulate the state's free-wheeling medical marijuana industry — the farmers who grow the drug, the hundreds of storefront shops that sell it and especially the doctors who write recommendations allowing people to use it.

The state in 1996 was the first to authorize marijuana use for health purposes — there are now 20. But to this day, no one knows how many dispensaries and patients California has or what conditions pot is being used to treat because the loosely worded law did not give government agencies a role in tracking the information.

The bill introduced by state Sen. Lou Correa marks a milestone not only because it would provide significant state oversight of the multibillion-dollar industry for the first time, but because it is likely to get serious consideration in Sacramento after years of inaction.

SB1262 is the brainchild of the California Police Chiefs Association and the League of California Cities, two politically influential groups that have stood in the way of previous efforts to legitimize pot growers and dispensaries by subjecting them to state control and taxation.

"This legislation seems counterintuitive, but we polled our membership and over 90 percent of the chiefs felt that, regardless of how you felt about the marijuana issue, itself, there needed to be a responsible public safety approach to this," said Covina Police Chief Kim Raney, president of the chiefs association.

Medical marijuana advocates, who have lobbied unsuccessfully for a statewide regulatory scheme they hoped would make the industry less susceptible to federal raids and arrests, is taking a wait-and-see approach on Correa's legislation.

They prefer a bill held over from last year, co-sponsored by Assemblyman Tom Ammannio and Sens. Darryl Steinberg and Mark Leno, that calls for regulating and taxing medical marijuana like alcohol and places fewer restrictions on doctors

than Correa's measure does, but are prepared to hammer out a compromise, said Lynne Lyman, California director for the Drug Policy Alliance.

"We are very encouraged by law enforcement coming to the table with their proposals and we think we can all work together and come up with some model legislation in the state, finally, 18 years later," Lyman said.

The police chiefs and cities are getting on the regulatory bandwagon now because they worry that if they don't champion a plan of their own, marijuana advocates will succeed in getting the Legislature to pass one that aggravates the ongoing concerns of law enforcement and local governments instead of addressing them. Last year alone, the groups beat back three bills that would have required pot shops to be licensed by the state but that the league feared would make it harder for cities and counties to ban or regulate them.

Meanwhile, public support for legalizing the recreational use of marijuana, as voters in Colorado and Washington have done, is growing and the White House has softened its stance on the issue.

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WORLD

White House invites Ukrainian leader to visit

By ANTHONY FAIOLA
AND CAROL MORELLO
The Washington Post

KIEV, Ukraine — The head of Ukraine's new pro-Western government will meet with President Barack Obama this week, the White House announced Sunday, as a defiant Russia took further steps to consolidate its hold on the Crimean Peninsula.

The announcement of Wednesday's meeting in Washington with Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk came as pro-Russian forces extended their reach in Crimea, surrounding a border post in the far west and blocking Ukrainian TV broadcasts to the heavily Russian-speaking region,

which lies more than 400 miles southeast of the Ukrainian capital. There were reports of more troop movements into Crimea, with officials in Kiev estimating that 18,000 pro-Russian forces had fanned out across the region, which is about the size of Massachusetts.

A whirlwind of diplomacy continued Sunday — with Russian President Vladimir Putin speaking to German Chancellor Angela Merkel and British Prime Minister David Cameron — but there was no sign that Putin was willing to budge.

The Yatsenyuk visit was announced Sunday by Tony Blinken, Obama's deputy national security adviser. "What we've seen is the president mobilizing the inter-

national community in support of Ukraine to isolate Russia for its actions in Ukraine, and to reassure our allies and partners," Blinken said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Raising concerns of unrest beyond Crimea, local news media and Russia's Interfax news agency reported that hundreds of activists brandishing Russian flags had broken into a government building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Luhansk. They reportedly forced the mayor to write a resignation letter and raised the Russian flag over the building.

The incursion occurred two days after a similar protest in the eastern city of Donetsk was put down by authorities loyal to the new government in Kiev.

Crimea remained the core of concern. According to a spokesman for the Ukrainian coast guard, most Ukrainian broadcasts in the region were jammed beginning midafternoon Sunday. The only Ukrainian TV programming that could be seen by a reporter in Sevastopol was on two channels, one showing movies and the other soccer.

Russia held out a financial carrot for Crimea, offering \$1.1 billion in support for the peninsula voted in favor of joining Russia in a March 16 referendum. That vote was called by pro-Russian lawmakers who seized control of Crimea's parliament on Feb. 27.

Poland: US sending 12 F-16s, 300 servicemembers

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
AND JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Polish government officials said Monday the U.S. military was sending 12 F-16 fighter jets and about 300 servicemembers to their country in response to the situation in Ukraine.

Some U.S. aircraft and servicemembers had already arrived in Poland on Monday, with the remainder expected later in the week, a spokeswoman for Poland's Defense Ministry said.

Where the warplanes and personnel were coming from is not known, however, as U.S. military officials provided few details on the mission.

It's the second time in less than a week that the Pentagon has ordered combat planes and personnel to countries in East-

ern Europe amid mounting tensions over Russia's incursion into Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula. Last Thursday the U.S. Air Force sent six F-15C Eagles and more than 60 U.S. airmen from RAF Lakenheath, England, to Lithuania to bolster NATO's air policing mission over the Baltics.

The Baltic nations and Poland requested the deployments, officials said.

Poland requested to speed up a previous planned rotation of U.S. military aircraft in connection with the crisis on its border, said Arthur Golawski, a spokesman for the Polish armed forces.

Normally, U.S. Air Force rotations in Poland are about two weeks. It's not clear how long this rotation will last. "If it needs to be prolonged, it can be prolonged," Golawski said. "It's up to the Americans and how much they will spend on this rotation."

Read the latest coverage on the unrest in the Ukraine at stripes.com/go/ukraine



The U.S. servicemembers and aircraft that have already arrived in Poland are on the ground at Lask air base, said the Polish Defense Ministry spokeswoman.

The base, located about 100 miles southwest of Warsaw, has been home to a U.S. Air Force aviation detachment since November 2012. She said the planes and personnel could be moved to several other military bases in Poland that are prepared to receive them.

The spokeswoman, who declined to give her name because she was not authorized to speak on the matter, said an exercise with U.S. forces "was already planned but not at this scope." She said Americans "responded

very quickly" to Poland's request to expand the military drills.

Details of the type of joint training to be conducted by the U.S. and Poland will be announced later in the week, she said.

A spokesman with U.S. European Command on Monday confirmed the U.S. military was working with Poland "on increasing activities associated with the aviation detachment" but said details were still being negotiated.

"It is too early to talk specific aircraft or quantity," Lt. Col. David Westover said in a statement. "We're in consultations to determine what they'd like, what the airfield can handle, and what we can provide."

A rotation of three C-130s and about 100 personnel from Ramstein Air Base were scheduled to arrive in Poland in early April for joint training, U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials said

last week.

Now, F-16s will be arriving earlier as part of an effort to boost activities in response to the crisis in Ukraine, Golawski said.

Last year, the Air Force did four rotations in Poland, two of which involved F-16s and two of which involved C-130s.

Russian forces have seized control of key areas in Crimea, and a pro-Russian government there plans to hold a referendum Sunday on whether the region should secede and join the Russian Federation. The referendum has been widely denounced by European leaders and the United States.

Tens of thousands of people on both sides of the referendum protested over the weekend, with some rallies turning violent, according to news reports.

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No sign yet of clues to missing jet's fate

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Rescue helicopters and ships searching for a Malaysia Airlines jet rushed Monday to investigate a yellow object that looked like a life raft. It turned out to be moss-covered trash floating in the ocean, once again dashing hopes after more than two days of fruitless searching for the plane that disappeared en route to Beijing with 239 people aboard.

With no confirmation that the Boeing 777 had crashed, hundreds of distraught relatives waited anxiously for any news. Thai police and Interpol questioned the proprietors of a travel agency

in the resort town of Pattaya that sold one-way tickets to two men now known to have been traveling on flight MH370 using stolen passports.

Malaysia's Department of Civil Aviation chief, Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, told a news conference that investigators were looking at "every angle" to explain the plane's disappearance early Saturday, including hijacking.

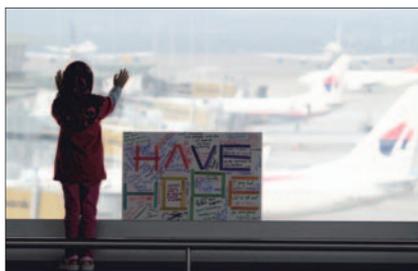
"There are many experts around the world who have contributed their know-how and knowledge," Azharuddin said. "As far as we are concerned, we are equally puzzled as well."

The search operation has in-

cluded 34 aircraft and 40 ships from several countries covering a 50-nautical-mile radius from the point the plane vanished from radar screens between Malaysia and Vietnam, he said.

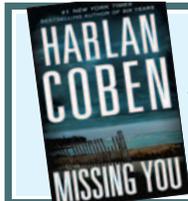
Experts say possible causes of the apparent crash include an explosion, a catastrophic engine failure, a terrorist attack, extreme turbulence, pilot error or even suicide.

Selamat Omar, a Malaysian whose son, Mohamad Khairul Amri Selamat, 29, is a passenger, expected a call from him at the 6.30 a.m. arrival time. Instead he got a call from the airline to say the plane was missing.



DANIEL CHAN/AP

A girl stands next to a sign written by the public at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia, on Monday.



NYPD Detective Kat Donovan is consumed by an investigation that challenges her feelings about everyone she ever loved—even her father, whose long-ago murder has never been fully explained. With lives on the line, Kat must venture deeper into darkness than ever before.

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WORLD

Construction crunch slows Japan tsunami rebuilding

By ELAINE KURTENBACH
The Associated Press

TANOHATA, Japan — Tens of thousands of people on Japan's northeastern coast who were left homeless in the March 2011 tsunami are shivering their way through yet another winter in cramped, temporary housing, with perhaps several more to go.

Reconstruction plans are taking shape after three years of debate and red tape, but shortages of skilled workers and materials are delaying the work. In areas such as Tanohata, a fishing town of 3,800 along a scenic stretch of craggy cliffs and forests, less than a tenth of the new housing has been built. Overall, the figure is less than 8 percent completed, and within a quarter of projects started.

As Japan's overstretched construction industry begins gearing up to build venues and to revamp aging infrastructure for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, shortages of skilled carpenters and heavy equipment operators, as well as cement and other materials, are frustrating residents and local officials.

"It's just old, so very cold," Shio Hiroano, 53, said of the hut that has served as home since the 65-foot wave slammed into one of the town's tiny coves. "And the roof is caving in. It has been all along."

Japan on Tuesday marks the third anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters known as 3.11 that killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for on its northern coast. The country has struggled

to rebuild tsunami-hit towns and to clean up radiation from the nuclear crisis. It has earmarked \$250 billion for reconstruction through to March 2016. About 50,000 people from Fukushima are still unable to return home due to concerns over radiation.

Hironai, a former fish factory worker who now helps assemble fishing lures in a workshop set up to provide jobs after the disaster, said she hopes to finally move into a new home by July. "The carpenters are just too busy," she said. "We had to find a new company to do the work."

In Tanohata and many other places in Iwate prefecture and elsewhere, groundwork is still not finished for most of the homes due to be rebuilt. Further to the south in Otsuchi, crews work until dark, rain or shine, leveling



JUNI KUROKAWA/AP

A loading shovel scoops dirt in Otsuchi, Iwate Prefecture, northeastern Japan, on March 3 ahead of construction of a public housing complex for survivors of the March 11, 2011, tsunami.

land for public housing units, a few here, a few there — wherever land can be cleared away from the most hazardous areas along the seaside.

As the 370 districts planning to resettle residents on higher ground gradually start building, competition for manpower and materials is intensifying.

The priority placed on big infrastructure such as sea walls is slowing the rebuilding of homes

and communities while failing to address the region's longer-term decline as younger residents leave and the population shrinks and ages, said Shun Kanda, director of the Japan 3.11 Initiative at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Construction has only begun at two of 10 planned sites in Otsuchi, one of eight in the nearby steel town of Kamaishi and two of 11 in Onagawa, farther down the coast.

Fallout: Effects of disaster spur military families in Japan to be cautious

FROM FRONT PAGE

On average, an overseas tour is three years, meaning that few were here for the disaster, or for Operation Tomodachi, the U.S. military's \$20,000-servicemember aid effort.

Stars and Stripes spoke with several people around Yokosuka Naval Base, and for the most part, the tsunami and the meltdown at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant were viewed with little current relevance. However, the disaster is very much an ongoing one. It may not be constantly on the minds of most in the Tokyo area — military or otherwise — but to some degree, it continues to affect every living in Japan.

For one thing, the aftermaths aren't over.

A 7.3-magnitude earthquake off the Japanese coast in October was actually an aftershock of the 9.0-magnitude March 2011 earthquake, the Japan Meteorological Agency said at the time. JMA officials noted that the sequence of adjustments spurred by the earthquake has tapered off, but likely won't end entirely anytime soon.

Radiation testing is now commonplace in Japanese cities and U.S. military bases. Water supplies outside the Fukushima region have tested safe since shortly after the disaster, according to data supplied by military and Japanese government officials.

However, the continued safety of water, and especially the food supply, isn't a given. More than 300 tons of groundwater flow into the Fukushima reactor daisy, where it becomes contaminated and flows into the ocean.

Tokyo Electric Power Co., widely criticized during official investigations for misconduct and lack of transparency during the disaster, is still broadly

mistrusted.

TEPCO admitted in February that it knew about record-high measurements of strontium-90, a long-lasting isotope linked to bone cancer, for five months before notifying Japan's nuclear regulator.

Those in the military community who were here in 2011, have a prior connection to Japan or have endured natural disasters elsewhere say they are probably more aware of the potential risks than more recent arrivals.

Military family members who spoke with Stars and Stripes say those facts don't leave them unnecessarily fearful — natural disasters can occur all over the world. However, the circumstances here have made them a little more cautious, and to a degree, have changed the way they live. Several also have been spurred to volunteer their time and money to help those displaced by the disasters.

Family concerns

Elizabeth Walsh spent March 11, 2011, held up in the New Sanno Hotel, watching the disaster unfold on television. Soon after, her husband deployed on the USS *Mustin*, partly in service to the unfolding relief mission. She and her three children would be without him until November.

Walsh tends to kid her friends about getting nervous when a small earthquake hits, which isn't all that unusual in Japan. "By the same token, whenever we have one a little bit bigger, I automatically go into a mode where I think, 'Where's our bags?'" Walsh said. "I feel like I'm prepared for the worst. I tend to have water ready. I make sure the car has gas."

Following the 2011 earthquake, several U.S. military bases re-

stricted gasoline sales to government vehicles. Off base, drivers waited hours for fuel.

Walsh also purchases her produce and meats from a delivery service that sources its products and certifies them as radiation-free. Japan revised its food safety standards in 2012 to test for very small traces of radioactive isotopes, at a standard 12 times higher than U.S. allowances. However, it isn't unusual to see trucks pull up near train stations, where they sell unsorted produce at unusually low prices. It's also unclear where many restaurants restrict their food.

Walsh realizes she may be overly cautious. But with her fifth child on the way, she says it's a matter of "better safe than sorry."

Alice White-Yeomans, a Navy spouse who has lived in Japan most of her life, also takes precautions when feeding her family. Like many Japanese, she remains concerned about TEPCO's trustworthiness regarding the Fukushima disaster's ongoing impact.

Nevertheless, she is less worried about radiation than she is about the potential for a large natural disaster closer to Tokyo.

"People who were here are more concerned about it happening again," White-Yeomans said.

In 2012, researchers at Tokyo University estimated there is a 70 percent chance that a 7.0-plus-magnitude earthquake would strike the Tokyo region by 2016. Charlotte Mason wasn't in Japan during the 2011 earthquake, but she found kinship with some of the survivors of the tsunami and the radiological fallout, some of whom have settled near Yokosuka.

Mason is a native of Biloxi, Miss., which sustained massive damage following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"I think we should give back to

those who have lost so much, because we have been blessed where we're in our current state."

She sent her daughter, Shelby, now 16, on a trip with a base youth group to help survivors in the affected areas.

Mason also volunteers with Helping Hands For Tohoku, an unofficial military spouses' group that helps support more than 100 families living in temporary housing, as well as a day care center in the tsunami-stricken city of Ishinomaki.

Tohoku's challenges

There are still 44,589 households living in prefabricated, temporary housing in the affected Tohoku region, according to February's Japanese government statistics. An additional 59,461 households live in public housing or privately leased homes as a result of the disasters.

Some will be able to return to their former neighborhoods eventually, but many who lived in low-lying or irradiated areas will not.

Finding permanent homes elsewhere is slowed by Japan's traditions of land ownership, said Kosuke Motani, chief senior economist for the Japan Research Institute. There are few large landowners, and many small owners don't want to sell to the government, Motani said, because being a landowner is closely tied to personal identity.

Meanwhile, the region's economic outlook remains grim. The combination of an aging population and increasing industrial automation made for fewer economic opportunities prior to the earthquake, Motani said. Afterward, that problem was exacerbated by wiping out the area's fisheries.

"The tsunami has revealed problems that already existed,"

Motani said.

Despite the challenges, there are a few positive signs, Japan's minister for reconstruction, Takumi Nemoto, told reporters recently. The cleanup in many areas is mostly done, meaning more homes and business will be built soon.

"Starting from now, there will be many more cases of commencement of construction," Nemoto said. "You'll be able to see visible and tangible progress."

While such statements are welcomed by many, day-to-day living remains difficult for survivors of the disaster, say those who have volunteered their help.

As some of the last military families who lived through the disaster prepare to leave Japan, they expressed wishes that incoming families learn more about what happened in 2011, and that they learn how much the ongoing situation affects everyone in Japan, even if it isn't always readily apparent.

"It worries me that when I leave, who is going to take my place?" said Walsh, who helps take up collections for the survivors. "I would hope people pick up the cause and continue to help."

Masako Sullivan, one of the founders of Helping Hands for Tohoku, still coordinates the group's efforts from San Diego. Those willing to help with their time, monetary donations or care packages can contact her at help4hands4tohoku@yahoo.com.

"When someone comes to me and asks me what they can do to help, I always say, 'The fact that you are thinking of them, itself, means a lot to them,'" Sullivan said. "Donations become priceless gifts that give the victims comfort and hope."

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Loud-noise complaint leads to heroin bust

NY NEW YORK — What was supposed to be a routine noise complaint has turned into a significant New York City drug bust.

Police said Saturday uniformed officers knocking on the door of a third-floor Queens apartment that was blasting music Friday had every intention of writing the tenant a summons.

But they said when Frank Giardina opened the door, they noticed him holding a marijuana pipe and asked him for identification. That's when they said Giardina invited them inside.

Police said when the officers spotted about five pounds of heroin on Giardina's kitchen table, they arrested him and obtained a court-issued warrant. They said further searching revealed 1,948 glassines of heroin as well as packing materials and equipment.

Giardina has been charged with multiple counts of drug possession.

Trucker is unaware he pushed car 200 feet

ME FARMINGTON — Police in Maine say a logging truck inadvertently snagged a Hyundai and shoved the smaller car down the road for about 200 feet before stopping.

Nobody was hurt when the fully loaded truck driven by Keith Roy, of Lancaster, N.H., changed lanes Friday in Farmington and caught the hatchback by a bumper.

Officer Darin Gilbert was making a traffic stop nearby when he saw the car owned by David Richards being pushed down the road, the driver's side squarely squished against the front of the Western Star big rig.

Roy didn't notice he had linked up with the much-smaller vehicle until he stopped at a traffic light and other people alerted him. He was ticketed for failing to yield the right of way.

Book returned to library more than 21 years late

KS LAWRENCE — More than two decades after a cookbook was checked out of a Kansas library, it's just now been returned.

A copy of "The Versatile Grain and the Elegant Bean: A Celebration of the World's Most Healthful Foods" was placed in a Lawrence Public Library return box one night last week. The book had been checked out Sept. 24, 1992.

Library official Kristin Soper speculates the borrower misplaced the volume and came across it just recently. The maximum late fee in 1992 was \$3; it's now \$4.50.

Man shoots himself in foot, crashes car

AZ FLAGSTAFF — A Flagstaff man is recovering after shooting himself in the foot and then crashing his car.

Emergency responders had to cut down a tree to retrieve the man from his vehicle March 4.

THE CENSUS

400

The approximate number of potholes filled by a group of volunteers Saturday in Waterloo, Iowa, in an effort to help the city's streets recover from the rough winter. The volunteer crews have been used most every year since 1993 although they haven't been needed after the past couple of mild winters.



ERIN O. SMITH, THE CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

Gesundheit!

Forest Laborte, 2, laughs and pulls away from a horse that sneezed on him while Donna Gabon holds him up Saturday at Paradise Arabians Horse Farms in LaFayette, Ga. The owners opened the farm to show off new foals and their straight Egyptian Arabian horses.

According to Flagstaff police, the man, whose identity wasn't released, had just left a gun store when he noticed his Heckler & Koch pistol was cocked.

The man told investigators the gun went off when he tried to uncock it while driving.

Police said the man attempted to drive himself to the hospital, but blacked out from blood loss.

They said his car went off the road and smashed into a tree in front of a hospice facility.

No charges have been filed.

Man indicted in dealership fraud case

NM LAS CRUCES — A Texas man accused of scamming a New Mexico automobile dealership out of nearly \$35,000 has been indicted for felony fraud.

Dona Ana County grand jury issued the indictment Thursday for Johnny Ray Mills, 41, of El Paso.

Las Cruces police said Mills was arrested in El Paso on an unrelated charge.

A general manager at Sisbarro Buick-GMC in Las Cruces said

in December a "Major Powers" at Fort Bliss claimed the Texas military base wanted to open a dealership.

Police said Mills met with Sisbarro personnel on Dec. 20 and Jan. 3 and received checks of \$9,999 and \$25,000 for a dealership contract at Fort Bliss.

Investigators learned there wasn't a "Major Powers" at the base.

Cow statue home at farm after being stolen

MD POCOMOKE CITY — A life-size statue of a cow has come home to a farm in Worcester County after being stolen.

The fiberglass cow named Clarabelle by its owners was stolen late Wednesday from Chesapeake Bay Farms in Pocomoke City. Police located the stolen statue standing in a flower bed on property down the road.

Farm owners Danny and Laura Holland said they purchased the custom statue last spring as a landmark to help people find the dairy. They used wires to hold the statue in place, but those had

been cut.

Harrah's act cited for animal abuses

NV LAS VEGAS — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says a circus act featured at two Harrah's casinos in Nevada has not been treating its big cats properly.

The department cited Dirk Arthur's Wild Magic show in December for declawing lions and tigers, keeping a snow leopard in a rusty cage and chaining a bobcat in a dangerous way. The USDA also found that the animals' cages were too small.

In January, the USDA issued a formal warning about the way the animals were living.

The show is featured in Harrah's casinos in Reno in northern Nevada, and in Laughlin, outside of Las Vegas.

Gary Thompson, a spokesman for Caesars Entertainment Corp., which owns the casinos, said Dirk Arthur is correcting the problems.

Failure to rectify the issues could result in a fine or criminal prosecution.

Thousands of bees attack woman

CA PALM DESERT — A 71-year-old woman is believed to have suffered about 1,000 stings in Southern California after being attacked by a swarm of killer bees that covered her entire body.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Mark Williams said the woman was expected to recover after Thursday's attack in Palm Desert. He said five firefighters also were hospitalized for stings.

A bee removal specialist said that he up to 80,000 Africanized honey bees found in an underground electrical vault stung a Verizon employee who opened the vault. Lance Davis said the bees then attacked the woman, who had just gotten out of a car nearby.

Davis said her relatives tossed a blanket over her and rushed her indoors.

Davis said he removed the bees and planned to donate them to farmers.

From wire reports

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OPINION

Hecklers can enhance democracy

By STEPHEN L. CARTER
Bloomberg News

It might have escaped your notice that a heckler interrupted several arguments at the Supreme Court the other day. He wasn't the first protester to sneak inside, and he won't be the last. The main reason anybody paid attention — and not many did — was that his rant was deleted before the court's official audio recording of the argument was released to the public. A handful of bloggers briefly debated the sleepy issue of whether the justices were engaged in censorship before returning to their regular clashes over the great issues of the day.

I am not going to supply any details about the protester's cause; a surfeit of attention will only breed more lively stunts. But I do want to take a moment to explain why heckling, for all that it is rude and childish, is often valuable to a democracy — and how, properly understood, heckling could even improve the quality of our discourse.

Let me emphasize: properly understood. We tend to think of heckling as a loud, angry interruption by a Republican member of the House shouting "You lie!" during one of President Barack Obama's speeches to Congress, or Democrats orchestrating the chorus of boos that greeted President George W. Bush's State of the Union address in 2004. I do my fair share of public speaking, and I have received my fair share of angry interruptions. It's never pleasant.

But it also isn't heckling. It's ordinary rudeness. To elevate it into some precious democratic value merely excuses what is essentially an act of adolescent egotism. (Yes, ego, who needs it more at a public event? I was delivering tried to shove a young man who had grabbed the floor, he turned to the group and shouted in fury, "He had his chance! It's my turn now!")

To understand what's good about heckling — and what heckling actually means

— let's begin with a quotation attributed to the politician Tom L. Johnson: "Heckling is the most valuable form of political education."

But Johnson, a Democrat who sat in the U.S. House of Representatives in the late 1890s and was mayor of Cleveland in the first decade of the 20th century, meant by "heckling" something quite different than what we know it as today. Heckling, he explained in his autobiography "My Story," referred to the freedom of the audience to interrupt the speaker with thoughtful questions, which the speaker would then answer before returning to his argument. It was give-and-take, not shouting down, that Johnson so fervently supported.

Heckling in this traditional sense implies a kind of public interrogation. The Oxford English Dictionary puts it this way: "To catchize severely, with a view to discover the weak points of the person interrogated. Long applied in Scotland to the public questioning of parliamentary candidates." Similarly, organizations that follow traditional rules of order understand heckling to mean simply a statement by a speaker interrupting the speaker's floor. This, for example, is the meaning of heckling in the British House of Commons.

When Johnson celebrated the virtues of heckling, he meant simply the value of back-and-forth between a speaker and his audience. He fervently opposed the position of today's modern-day hecklers in which a candidate or public official speaks for a time and then went on his way. Johnson preferred the test meeting, the small space, where the audience felt involved. "The greatest benefit" of these meetings, he wrote, was "the educational influence of the act itself on the composition of the audience." Possibly the audience would wind up opposing the speaker's position, but the concrete policy result, he contended, was less important than educating the public "never to be indifferent."

And there's another potential benefit:

Moment of truth for Eisenhower memorial

By SAM ROCHE

A federal commission has spent 15 years and \$40 million planning a Washington memorial to President Dwight D. Eisenhower that still hasn't broken ground. The project is mired in controversy over a design unveiled nearly four years ago by the Eisenhower Memorial Commission and its architect, Frank Gehry. That design, which has divided public opinion and raised objections from the former president's family, has failed to secure the planning approval and public funding it needs to get built. It is likely doomed after the federal budget passed in January removed all funding for construction (Gehry's design would cost twice what it was supposed to) and drastically reduced operating funds for the Eisenhower Memorial Commission.

But the commission will not give up on a design that likely will never be built. Indeed, it won't even acknowledge a problem, claiming through a spokesman that commissioners who are "used to the bare-bones budget" will be seeking new hearings for the approvals they so far have been denied. Each resumption of ground congressional appropriation will enable them to prolong this process indefinitely and to leave us without the funds or the political will to commemorate Eisenhower once these reserves belong not to the Eisenhower Memorial Commission but to the public, and we should demand that the commission use them to find and build a more unified,

less expensive memorial.

The change will likely require new leadership on the commission. Its chairman, Rocco Siciliano, has close ties to Gehry — he was vice chairman of the Los Angeles Philharmonic when it gave the architect one of his biggest commissions, for the orchestra's Walt Disney Concert Hall. Today Gehry and Siciliano are both "honorary members" of the Pharamonic's practices. Siciliano has tirelessly defended Gehry's design for the memorial, even rebuffing his vice chairman, the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, when Inouye cautioned against staying with Gehry's design over the objections of the Eisenhower family. Inouye knew something about getting presidential memorials built; he also served as vice chairman of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission.

A new chairman might persuade the commissioners to revisit the selection process used to settle on Gehry, which drew designs randomly from standard practices and barred any meaningful public participation. We have been designing national memorials through public competitions, open to everyone, since at least 1981, when a 21-year-old college student was chosen to design the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This was possible because organizers solicited designs from all Americans, amateur or professional, and kept their submissions anonymous, to give equal opportunity and consideration to each. This approach worked so well that it became the template for every memorial designed for the Mall since.

Johnson tells the story of a speech he gave that was interrupted by shouts from the audience, demanding that a local activist named Peter Witt be heard. Once he ascertained that a significant minority of those in the crowd had indeed wanted to hear what Witt had to say, Johnson invited him up to share the stage. Although the two of them opposed each other on many a political issue, wrote Johnson, "one of the strongest friendships of my life commenced that night when I welcomed Peter Witt to my platform."

If you have trouble imagining many of today's politicians behaving so graciously, that's our nation's loss. And today's politicians don't much like small spaces, either. They tend not to like being confronted and criticized and argued with — especially by those whose disagreements with their positions are passionate. They prefer to speak mainly to those who enthusiastically support them and be buoyed upon waves of adulation.

Thus the urge to heckle (among members of the public, not elected officials) is easily explained as a desperate effort to pierce the political bubble. But it's still rude and, as practiced, is highly unlikely to bring fresh converts to the cause. Before a court — who preserving the bubble actually matters — it's even worse. Unlike Johnson's thoughtful listeners, the hecklers of today function mainly to degrade the quality of public discourse.

Perhaps we have grown so narrow-minded, indulgent and shrill that no solution exists. But I'd like to believe that if those elected to serve us spent less time grandstanding for audiences of supporters, and more time in conversation with those who have questions or doubts, that temptation to heckle rudely would be reduced. The quality of our democracy might even be improved. Goodness knows we can use the help.

Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg View columnist and a professor of law at Yale University.

The Eisenhower Memorial Commission scrapped that template in favor of a selection process more often used for federal courthouses and office buildings. This process seeks designers rather than designs, and so it proceeds from credentials rather than ideas. The commission considered only registered architects to design the Eisenhower Memorial and, by giving extra concern for cost and, in fact, even guaranteed that the job would go to a famous architect.

The problems facing Gehry's design are the consequences of the commission's departure from precedent. Choosing a designer first left Gehry free to work without concern for cost and, in fact, encouraged the daring boldness for which he is well known. It also left the public without alternatives to a design that is too daring and bold to be feasible. By making Gehry's fame a factor in his selection, the commission left him vulnerable to charges that he, rather than Eisenhower, is the real subject of the memorial.

These problems have now reached the point that Congress has turned its back on Gehry's design. It's time to redirect a commission that is ignoring this fact before it fritters away the money and opportunity to commemorate Eisenhower. Thanks to the obvious lessons we've been given, even the consequences of ignoring standard practice, we know just where to begin again.

Sam Roche is a lecturer at the University of Miami School of Architecture and spokesman for Right by the Lake: Project for a New Eisenhower Memorial. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

Putin's war tactics effective in 21st century

By MOLLY K. MCKEW
AND GREGORY A. MANIATIS

References to Vladimir Putin's invasion of Crimea as some sort of "19th-century behavior" misjudge the enormity of recent events. He hasn't miscalculated; Putin is redefining 21st-century warfare.

Before Putin invaded Georgia in August 2008, he spent months developing the traditional machinery of war. He rebuilt railroads and highways to move tanks and thousands of troops. He sent warplanes menacingly over Georgian territory. He also used state propaganda to muddle the narrative about who started the war.

But Putin is no longer bound by the constraints of nation-state warfare. Years of confrontations with separatists, militants, terrorists and stateless actors influenced his thinking. In Crimea, Putin debuted a pop-up war — nimble and covert — that is likely to be the design of the future.

First, the hidden army appeared out of nowhere. Soldiers-of-no-nation were outfitted for troublemaking and street-fighting. These troops, denied by Putin, are also seemingly unconstrained by the laws, rules and conventions governing warfare — Putin's biggest brush-off yet to international order. They are Putin's hybrid of soldiers and terrorists: hidden faces, hidden command-and-control, hidden orders, but undoubtedly activated to achieve state objectives. The lack of an identified leader gums up the international community's response. There is general with whom to negotiate a cease-fire or surrender; if violence erupts, there is potentially no way to end it short of stopping each gunman.

These irregular forces are also a psychological menace for the local population and Ukrainians nationwide, who don't know where else the hidden army awaits.

The second component of Putin's 21st-century warfare is cyber. Calling it propaganda diminishes the insidious and poisonous nature of this information battle.

Cyberattacks have been streamlined to Putin's latest purpose: interrupting the communications of legislators and governance, even as the stream of Russian-lan-

guage misinformation heralding the new war on "fascists" continues to flow.

Putin has manufactured a version of reality to propagate the narrative he needs to destabilize Ukraine. He decided an ethnolinguistic division was needed to achieve his objectives — and then cast parts. Now the story is being acted out on hundreds of fronts and posted on social media, a virtual live-stream of content for Putin's argument of oppression, victimization and fear in Russian-speaking Ukraine.

Reality plays no role in all this. Itar-Tass ran a story last weekend, later picked up by Forbes and others, that 675,000 Ukrainians had recently sought political asylum in Russia. Recall that in August 2008, Moscow claimed that 2,000 civilians had been killed in South Ossetia, a region of Georgia into which it sent and still maintains troops. Human Rights Watch investigators later found that only 44 civilians had died. But Western news agencies cover Putin's fake news as if it were worthy of debate. His distortions and the resulting intimidation slow responses to his actions and dilute the resolve of those who would stand against him.

Third, Putin is using financial markets as a polemical tool. With a personal net worth said to be in the tens of billions, he understands financial might. Russia's wealth has allowed it to forge "partnerships" based on mutual financial interest, and Putin is relying on that web of connections.

Putin has familiarity with such tactics; in 2007, a cyberattack crippled Estonian financial markets for days after a dispute with Russia. Last week, after Russian markets plummeted more than 10 percent amid fears of war, Putin held a news conference scripted to calm investors. Consider how much money he might have lost, and regrettably, Monday and Wednesday. Once he perfects his manipulation of markets, Putin can increase his personal wealth and further supplement the web of money that he believes makes him untouchable. It's a self-propagating, invisible weapon.

Ultimately, these tactics create a chaos that he controls, a status quo that allows him to influence the politics and policies of



Valdim GIMRA/AF

Armed members of the first unit of a pro-Russian armed force, dubbed the "military forces of the autonomous republic of Crimea," cheer during their swearing-in ceremony in Simferopol, Ukraine, on Saturday. Some 50 men were sworn in at a park.

Ukraine.

Putin moved into Crimea partly because it was a low-stakes way to test out his new warfare. Home to significant Russian military assets and a somewhat sympathetic population, Crimea is geographically isolated from the rest of Ukraine; Putin could confidently predict that there would be no physical response to his invasion by a globally exhausted West.

For years, Putin relied on the heavy, Soviet-style hammer. His recent actions suggest that traditional military and intelligence are no longer the means by which he feels he has to fight. While the West is focusing on the best response to his recent steps, Putin is most likely on the next

stages: determining which, if any, international protocols apply to his actions and how his tactics can be used elsewhere.

It's time to give up the decadent belief that continental wars are over. Going forward, the terms by which the world is playing are Putin's — a reality we all must recognize and for which we need an effective response.

Molly K. McKew and Gregory A. Maniatis are independent consultants who advise governments, foundations and international organizations on foreign policy and strategic communications. They worked for Georgia's president, Mikheil Saakashvili, and his national security adviser during and after the 2008 war with Russia. McKew from 2008 to 2013 and Maniatis from 2006 to 2013. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

Russia doesn't respect borders. Neither has the US

By HAROLD MEYERSON

In light of Russia's military move into Crimea, it's a good thing that the United States repudiated the Monroe Doctrine. In 1823, to deter European powers from military or political intervention in the emerging nations of Latin America, President James Monroe announced a policy implying that that region was our sphere of influence, not Europe's. The United States invoked the Monroe Doctrine, along with the imperatives of the Cold War, to justify some of its own interventions there: in Cuba, Panama, Nicaragua, Chile, Grenada, the Dominican Republic — it's a long list.

But as the Obama administration has tried to point out to Vladimir Putin, this is the 21st century, and the age when nations had spheres of interest is over.

Yet for the United States, the Monroe Doctrine isn't exactly a musty relic. In fact, the U.S. government did not pronounce the doctrine dead until November, when Secretary of State John Kerry, in a speech to the Organization of American States, proclaimed, "The era of the Monroe Doctrine is over. From proclamation to renunciation, that

era lasted 190 years.

I say all this to put in perspective Russia's move into Crimea. This is not to suggest that the U.S. government should decline to sanction Russia for sending in forces or not provide economic assistance to Ukraine and support its bid to join Europe. Rather, I'm suggesting that, according to the norms adhered to by major powers, the United States very much included, Russia's move into Crimea should come as no great surprise. Putin's casus belli may be one he manufactured largely by himself, but so was George W. Bush's case for going to war in Iraq. America's perma-hawks — the politicians and pundits who beat the drums for intervention in Iraq and now criticize President Barack Obama for insufficient bellicosity about Ukraine — need to explain why the infinitely self-serving doctrine of "preventive war," which they used to justify our Iraq adventure, should be reserved for us alone. Russia's military installations in Crimea, Putin has said, were threatened by Ukrainian revolutionaries. When power needs a threat to justify its exercise, power invariably finds one.

Besides by the standards of the Monroe Doctrine, Russia's move into Crimea looks

normal. In addition to the threat to its naval base, Russia has cited affronts to its almost-compatriots. In its first hours in power, the new Ukrainian parliament passed legislation banning the use of Russian in governmental institutions, even though it is the native tongue of many eastern Ukrainians. Russia could also claim it was responding to geo-strategic threats. Over the past two decades, even during the tipsy, pro-Western reign of Boris Yeltsin, NATO expanded to Russia's borders — a move that probably made Russia feel more insecure than made Eastern Europe feel secure. (NATO can't accurately be described as an effective coalition of the willing; NATO or no, Europe had to be dragged kicking and screaming to provide some of the forces that kept Serbia from gobbling up its neighbors.)

Russia could even plausibly argue that Crimea — the longtime home of Russia's Black Sea Fleet and many Muscovites' vacation dachas — was appended to Ukraine in 1954 only by the whim of Nikita Khrushchev and that it is really more Russian than Ukrainian.

Even if most Crimeans end up supporting Russia's intervention, Putin's action violates norms by which nations should

conduct themselves — respect for sovereignty, stability and the avoidance of mayhem — even if many nations, the United States included, honor those norms far more in theory than in practice. That's why Russia should pay a price in diplomatic and economic sanctions.

But Americans should realize that we pay a price, too, when we violate those norms. The admiration in which many held us was gravely damaged by the war in Iraq, just as it has long been damaged in Latin America by U.S. interventions in the affairs of nations we claimed were in our sphere of influence.

As we have paid a price, so now will Putin. His Eurasian Union will either be stillborn or held together at gunpoint — a rickety, glum mini-empire flanked by a more democratic Europe on one side and a more dynamic China on the other. Russia's limited claim on the world's regard will last only so long as its natural gas exports continue to flow. As the Monroe Doctrine won the United States few friends, so Putin's version will win him even fewer.

Harold Meyerson is editor-at-large of *The American Prospect*. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

FACES

The next frontier

Cuaron follows 'Gravity' with TV show 'Believe'

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

Oscar-winning director Alfonso Cuarón was looking for an anti-"Gravity" follow-up to his blockbuster space film, and he found it with a rare excursion into television.

Cuarón and sci-fi auteur J.J. Abrams ("Lost," the "Star Trek" movies) are executive producers of "Believe," a drama about a child whose supernatural powers put her and the world at risk.

The premise came to him while he waited during "the endless process of special effects" on "Gravity," Cuarón said at a media event.

"Well, first of all, I wanted to do something in which people were not floating," Cuarón said, drawing laughs.

"I wanted to do something more grounded, and we wanted to do it with real people, real locations," he continued. "And I wanted to do something really exciting, but, at the same time, something that would be highly emotional."

Cuarón recounted sharing the idea with Abrams, and his reaction: "Wow."

The pair met more than two decades ago, Abrams said, "I've wanted to work with him desperately ever since. I was a huge fan of every movie that he made, and each one made me more and more desperate to try and figure this out."



Cuarón

When Cuarón contacted him with the idea for "Believe," Abrams said, it created the opportunity for him and his company, Bad Robot Productions.

Johnny Sequoyah stars as Bo, a 10-year-old who appears to have won the special-gifts lottery at birth: She can levitate, has the power of telekinesis, can control nature and see the future.

But she can't control or understand her powers and is at risk from those who would use them to conquer Earth. Delroy Lindo co-stars as Bo's father, while Jack McLaughlin as a wrongfully imprisoned death row inmate en-

listed in the effort.

The cast also includes Jamie Chung and Kyle MacLachlan. The show debuts stateside March 16.

Cuarón has dabbled lightly in TV in years past, but big-screen projects like "Gravity," "Harry Potter" and the "Prisoner of Azkaban" and "Children of Men" have been his focus.

He shepherded "Gravity" with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney to a leading seven Oscar trophies March 2.

Among them was the best director award for Cuarón, with the Mexican filmmaker becoming the category's first Latino winner.

Oscar dazzle and box office grosses aside — "Gravity" pulled in more than \$500 million internationally in 2013 — cast members said it was Cuarón himself who drew them to "Believe." He directed the series' pilot.

"The things that Alfonso said creatively were very exciting to me," said Lindo. "So from my standpoint it was not necessarily a no-brainer, but it was a really very exciting prospect of working with him on this project."



NBC/AP

Johnny Sequoyah is Bo, a 10-year-old girl who can levitate, can control nature and see the future in "Believe," a new television series executive produced by Alfonso Cuarón and J.J. Abrams.



Guarnere

'Band of Brothers' vet Guarnere dies at 90

William "Wild Bill" Guarnere, one of the World War II veterans whose exploits were dramatized in the TV miniseries "Band of Brothers," has died. He was 90.

His son, William Guarnere Jr., confirmed that his father died Saturday night of a ruptured aneurysm at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

The HBO miniseries, based on a book by Stephen Ambrose, followed the members of Easy Company, 506th Regiment, 101st Airborne Division from training in Georgia in 1942 through some of the war's fiercest European battles through the war's end in 1945. Its producers included Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg. Guarnere was portrayed by the actor Frank John Hughes.

Guarnere, whose combat exploits earned him his nickname, lost a leg while trying to help a wounded soldier during the Battle of the Bulge. His commendations included the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts.

From The Associated Press

'300' sequel rules box office with \$45.1M debut

The Associated Press

The shirtless warriors of the "300" sequel "Rise of an Empire" ravaged the post-Oscars box-office weekend with a domestic debut of \$45.1 million and a more impressive international haul of \$87.8 million.

Seven years after the original "300" became an unlikely, ultra-stylish, blood-soaked sensation, Warner Bros.' 3-D follow-up showed considerable might at the box office. While "300: Rise of an Empire" didn't come close to the North American debut of Zack Snyder's 2007 original (\$70.9 million and without the benefit of 3-D ticket prices), it performed like a blockbuster overseas.

"Rise of an Empire," which uses its flexed torsos and R-rated bloodshed to further chronicle the ancient battles of the Greeks and Persians, led a busy box-office weekend that also saw an Academy Awards bump for "12 Years a Slave" and one of the highest per-screen averages ever for Wes Anderson's European caper "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Though "300: Rise of an Empire" is excessively macho, Eva Green — the film's fiercest presence — might have drawn females for what was sure to be a male-centric release. Whereas the female audience for the first "300" was only 29 percent, it was 38 percent for "Rise of an Empire."

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak, said the "300" franchise — "translates to virtually every culture. Every country can appreciate the visuals of these movies."

The week's other new wide release, the animated "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," opened in second with \$32.5 million. Though the performance was better than some expected, it's a relatively low total for a film that cost about \$140 million to make.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Eva Green's prominent placement in "300: Rise of an Empire" might have boosted women's interest in the movie.

The film is based on the cartoon about a time-traveling boy and his brilliant dog from "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show." Another family flick, "The Lego Movie," added \$11 million in its fifth weekend.

The Liam Neeson thriller "Non-Stop" slid to third place with \$15.4 million in the movie's second weekend after topping the box office last week.

In limited release, "The Grand Budapest Hotel" made an astounding average of \$200,000 on four screens in New York and Los Angeles. Fox Searchlight will expand the film by 65 to 75 theaters next week.

Best picture Oscar winner "12 Years a Slave" got a notable bump of \$2.2 million, even though it was released on DVD on Tuesday. The movie also added \$9.1 million internationally.

PBS' O'Brien says he'll be OK after arm amputation

PBS science correspondent Miles O'Brien says he'll be OK, despite having most of his left arm amputated only three weeks ago.

O'Brien underwent emergency surgery on Feb. 14 after a blow to his arm from a heavy suitcase led to a life-threatening condition. He had first disclosed the ordeal on his blog on Feb. 25.

He also proudly announced while appearing on "PBS NewsHour" that he tied his own necktie Friday morning.

O'Brien recalled feeling his arm when he awoke from the surgery. But he says it was phantom pain, which has continued plaguing him.

He is back at work, and says he looks forward to again being able to pilot planes and shoot news video.

He calls the challenge "surmountable" and told well-wishers not to worry about him.

Other news

■ A popular satirical musical about Mormon missionaries will play next year in Salt Lake City, just down the street from the worldwide headquarters of the faith it's mocking. The "Book of Mormon" musical has been scheduled for a run at the Capitol Theatre from July 28 to Aug. 9, 2015. This will be the first time the show has come to Salt Lake City since it debuted on Broadway in 2011. It's estimated that six in 10 Utah residents are Mormon.

■ Sheila MacRae, a veteran stage, film and TV performer best known for playing Alice Kramden in the 1960s re-creation of "The Honeymooners," has died. She was 92.

■ Fashion celebrity Isaac Mizrahi has a deal with Amy Einhorn Books for a memoir that will track his rise from an unhappy childhood in Brooklyn to hanging out at Studio 54 to international fame. The book, tentatively titled "I.M.," is scheduled for release in 2016.

SHIFTING GEARS

Subaru lifts WRX, STI up a grade



The 2015 Subaru WRX

SUBARU/MCT

By DAVID UNDERCOFFLER
Los Angeles Times

They are the bad boys of Subaru's lineup.

Offsetting the brand's crunchy mindset, the WRX and WRX STI pocket rockets have worked hard to bring some tire-smoking street cred to a brand that otherwise markets its vehicles with love and puppies.

Based on the humble Impreza compact sedan, both the everyman WRX and the rally-ready STI are new for 2015. The basics stay the same: turbocharging and all-wheel-drive. But both models get an overhauled chassis, a refined cabin and fresh styling.

Subaru also dumped the hatchback version, offering only a sedan. The move saved development costs, Subaru says, and two-thirds of those buying the 2013 model chose the sedan.

Time in the driver's seat revealed that Subaru has thoughtfully matured each version, yet the cars are still a total hoot to drive.

The differences start outside, with all-new sheet metal. The WRX, which starts at \$27,090, offers plenty of road-shredding fun without necessarily looking like an extra from "The Fast and the Furious." It does have the obligatory scoop built into the aluminum hood. Quad exhaust tips poke out the back, and aggressive bumpers and swollen quarter panels round out the package.

The STI, starting at \$35,290, takes all this and erases any remaining subtlety with a massive trunk-mounted wing that looks as if it could tune into the Mars Rover. More than just for looks, Subaru says the wing also provides functional down force.

Although both look assertive, they left us wanting a bit more

2015 Subaru WRX

Los Angeles Times take: An all-around excellent pocket rocket.

Highs: Good, smooth power, much-improved interior; responsive chassis.

Lows: Manual transmission is a letdown.

Vehicle type: Four-door compact performance sedan.

Powertrain: Turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder boxer engine, full-time all-wheel drive.

Transmission: Six-speed manual or CVT.

Horsepower: 268.

Torque: 258 pound-feet.

0-60: 5.4 seconds, according to Subaru.

EPA fuel economy rating: 21 mpg city, 28 mpg highway.

Base price: \$27,090.

Price as tested: \$29,290.

Prices include destination charge.

2015 Subaru WRX STI

Los Angeles Times take: A sophisticated sedan hidden under street-racing clothes.

Highs: Tunable chassis response, excellent manual gearbox, broad power band.

Lows: Can get pricey; boy-racer rear wing not for everybody.

Vehicle type: Four-door compact performance sedan.

Powertrain: Turbocharged 2.5-liter four-cylinder boxer engine, full-time all-wheel drive.

Transmission: Six-speed manual.

Horsepower: 305.

Torque: 290 pound-feet.

0-60: 5.1 seconds, according to Subaru.

EPA fuel economy rating: 17 mpg city, 23 mpg highway.

Base price: \$35,290.

Price as tested: \$39,290.

Prices include destination charge.

stance and shoulder to the cars, not to mention larger wheels and tires.

The STI soldiers on with the previous generation's 2.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder, making 305 horsepower and 290 pound-feet of torque. Its zero-to-60 miles per hour time clocks in at 5.1 seconds, according to Subaru.

Meanwhile, the WRX has a new 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder boxer engine. Pulled from duties in the Forester crossover, it makes 268 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque, jumps of 3 horsepower and 14 pound-feet over the 2.5-liter unit in the older WRX. Subaru says this version will scoot from zero to 60 mph in 5.4 seconds.

Also new on the WRX is the choice of a CVT gearbox. Dubbed the Lineartronic, this \$1,200

option gives drivers three performance modes and comes standard with paddle shifters. The default setting for daily driving is Intelligent. Switch to Sport mode using the buttons on the meaty, flat-bottomed steering wheel, and the transmission mimics six manual gears; in Sport Sharp, it mimics eight.

Though enthusiasts generally greet CVTs with all the enthusiasm of an amateur root canal, this one is worth considering. The best CVTs act like traditional automatics, and this one succeeds in the imitation. The (faux) shifts are well-timed, and the paddles mimic quick, if slightly abrupt gear changes.

Helping the CVT's case are the foibles of the six-speed manual transmission that comes standard on the WRX. Drivers can adapt

to the stiff clutch pedal, but no one will appreciate the vague but notchy shifter, especially when hustling the car at its limits.

That Subaru would sell such an able-bodied car with such a weak transmission is confounding. One has only to look to the Mazda Miata to see how smooth a manual transmission can be on an affordable, fun car. Fortunately, the only gearbox in the pricier STI is a much higher quality, crisp-shifting manual that's worthy of its surroundings.

Transmission issues aside, the WRX is among the more engaging cars available for this kind of money. Subaru says the chassis has been retuned and stiffened, with torsional rigidity rising 40 percent over the Impreza.

You can feel this when you toss the WRX into tight corners; the tidy package is quick on its feet and plenty responsive. With all-wheel-drive and torque vectoring working overtime, it's hard to get the WRX flustered.

The STI takes this and expands on it. The extra power is a tasty addition, but so too are the other elements contributing to the STI's \$8,200 price difference.

This includes a hydraulic steering system, a more sophisticated all-wheel-drive system, beefier Brembo brakes and large alloy wheels.

Subaru also tuned the STI's suspension to iron out the small amount of body roll evident in the lesser WRX. Around the track and on the street, the STI proves itself to be wonderfully neutral with detectable hints of rear-wheel-drive characteristics. It's not as razor-sharp as its predecessor, but feels like a more mature pocket rocket.

This refinement extends inside the two Subarus as well. The previous WRX and STI twins were little more than hot-rodged Imprezas with the same budget interior. These new examples raise the quality of the cabin beyond the Impreza's level.

Quieter and made from better stuff, the insides of these sedans show that the extra money spent to jump up to the 2015 WRX or STI is now spread throughout the whole car, not just the shiny mechanical bits.



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MILES OF MIRRORS

Huge thermal plant opens as solar industry grows

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD AND BRIAN SKOLOFF



The Associated Press



Some of the 300,000 computer-controlled mirrors, each about 3 feet square, at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in Primm, Nev.

PRIMM, Nev. A windy stretch of the Mojave Desert once roamed by tortoises and coyotes has been transformed by hundreds of thousands of mirrors into the largest solar power plant of its type in the world, a milestone for a growing industry that is testing the balance between wilderness conservation and the pursuit of green energy across the West.

The Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System, sprawling across roughly 5 square miles of federal land near the California-Nevada border, formally opened on Feb. 13 after years of

regulatory and legal battles from relocating protected areas, assessing the impact of weed and other plants.

The \$2.2 billion concentrating solar generating units, owned by Google Inc. and First Solar Inc., can produce nearly 100 megawatts — enough power to supply 100,000 homes. It began making power last year.

Larger projects are coming on line now, Ivanpah is being hailed as a marker for the United States' growing solar industry. Which accounts for less than 1 percent of the nation's power output. The industry's power output is expected to grow from 1.5 percent of projects from large



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

7 feet high and 10 feet wide, reflect sunlight to boilers that sit on 459-foot towers at the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System in

angles ranging
ed tortoises to
 Mojave milk-
plex of three
by NRG Emer-
d BrightSource
arly 400 mega-
r for 140,000
ing electricity
on the way, but
g described as
States' emerg-
le solar power
ent continues to
President Barack
 Obama has
 mounted a second-term
 drive to combat
 climate change, proposing
 first-ever limits on carbon
 pollution from

plants to small production sites are under construction or being planned, particularly across the sun-drenched Southwest.
The opening of Ivanpah is "a dawn of a new era in power generation in the United States," said Rhone Resch, president of the Solar Energy Industries Association, a trade group. "We are going to be a global leader in solar generation."
The plant's dedication comes as government continues to push for development of greener, cleaner power.
President Barack Obama has mounted a second-term drive to combat climate change, proposing first-ever limits on carbon pollution from

new and existing power plants. His plan aims to help move the U.S. from a coal-dependent past into a future fired by wind and solar power, nuclear energy and natural gas.
According to U.S. Energy Information Administration data, the cost of building and operating a new solar thermal power plant over its lifetime is greater than generating natural gas, coal or nuclear power. It costs a conventional coal plant \$100, on average, to produce a megawatt-hour of power, but that figure is \$261 for solar thermal power, according to 2011 estimates. The figures do not account for incentives such as state or federal tax credits that can affect the cost.

Ken Johnson, a spokesman for the solar association, said in a statement that solar systems have seen "dramatic price declines" in the last few years.
That's good for utilities in California, which must obtain a third of their electricity from solar and other renewable sources by 2020.
The Ivanpah site, about 45 miles southwest of Las Vegas, has virtually unbroken sunshine most of the year and is near transmission lines that carry power to consumers.
Using technology known as solar-thermal, nearly 350,000 computer-controlled mirrors roughly the size of a garage door reflect sunlight to boilers atop 459-foot towers. The sun's power

is used to heat water in the boilers' tubes and make steam, which drives turbines to create electricity.

While many people are familiar with rooftop solar, or photovoltaic panels, "these are a little bit different. This takes the sun's rays and reflects them onto towers," said NRG spokesman Jeff Holland.

The plant can be a startling sight for drivers heading toward Las Vegas along busy Interstate 15. Amid miles of rock and scrub, its vast array of mirrors creates the image of an ethereal lake shimmering atop the desert floor. In fact, it's built on a dry lakebed.

Google announced in 2011 that it would invest \$168 million in the project. As part of its financing, BrightSource also lined up \$1.6 billion in loans guaranteed by the U.S. Energy Department.

Ivanpah can be seen as a success story and a cautionary tale, highlighting the inevitable trade-offs between the need for cleaner power and the loss of fragile, open land. The California Energy Commission concluded that while the solar plant would impose "significant impacts on the environment ... the benefits the project would provide override those impacts."

Such disputes are likely to continue for years as more companies seek to develop solar, wind and geothermal plants on land treasured by environmentalists who also support the growth of renewable energy. At issue is what is worth preserving and at what cost, as California pushes to generate more electricity from renewable sources.

In 2012, the federal government established 17 "solar energy zones" in an attempt to direct development to land it has identified as having fewer wildlife and natural-resource obstacles. The zones comprise about 450 square miles in six states — California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico.

The Western Watershed Project is continuing to push a lawsuit against federal agencies that reviewed the Ivanpah project. Its California director, Michael J. Connor, said alternatives to the site were not considered and serious environmental impacts, including fragmenting the tortoise population, were ignored.

"Do we really need to have these giant plants first, or is it better to generate solar power on people's roofs, the place it's going to be used?" Connor asked.

NRG did not respond to a request for comment on the lawsuit.

Resch said a key issue for the industry will be maintaining government policies that encourage development, including tax credits for solar projects that are set to expire in 2016 and government loan guarantees. "The direct result of these policies is projects like Ivanpah," he said.

According to statistics compiled by the Energy Department, the solar industry employs more than 140,000 Americans at about 6,100 companies, with employment increasing nearly 20 percent since fall 2012.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

No consensus on how to tell data breach victims

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The data breach at Target Corp. that exposed millions of credit card numbers has focused attention on the patchwork of state consumer notification laws in the U.S. and renewed a push for a single national standard.

Most U.S. states have laws that require retailers to disclose data breaches, but the laws vary wildly. Consumers in one state might learn immediately that their personal information had been exposed, but that might not happen in another state, and notification requirements for businesses depend on where their customers are located. Attorney General Eric Holder has joined the call for a nationwide notification standard, but divisions persist, making a consensus questionable this year.

“We’re stuck with the state-by-state approach unless some compromise gets done at the federal level,” said Peter Swire, a privacy expert at Georgia Tech and a former White House privacy official.

Despite general agreement on the value of

a national standard, there are obstacles to a straightforward compromise. They include:

- Consumer groups don't want to weaken existing protections in states with the strongest laws.
- Retailers want laws that are less burdensome to comply with and say too much notification could cause consumers to tune out the problem.
- Congress is looking at different proposals for how any federal standard should be enforced and what the threshold should be before notification requirements kick in.

The issue gained fresh urgency as part of a larger security debate after data breaches involving retailers Neiman Marcus and Target. Target, the second-largest U.S. retail discounter, has said 40 million credit and debit card accounts were exposed between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15.

The company went public with the breach on Dec. 19, several days after it said it learned of the problem and soon after the news began leaking online. Since then, sales, profit and stock prices have dropped, the company's



CLIFF OWEN/AP

Peter Swire, of the Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technology, testifies in February at the House Judiciary Committee's hearing on Recommendations to Reform FISA Authorities.

chief information officer has resigned and banks and retailers are facing continued scrutiny about what more can be done to protect consumer data.

The Justice Department is investigating the data theft, and Holder urged Congress in a video statement last month to adopt a national notification standard that would include exemptions for harmless breaches.

“This would empower the American people to protect themselves if they are at risk of identity theft,” Holder said. “It would enable law enforcement to better investigate these crimes and to hold compromised entities accountable when they fail to keep sensitive information safe.”

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 10)	\$1.4251
Dollar buys (March 10)	€0.7017
British pound (March 10)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (March 10)	100.00
South Korean won (March 10)	1,036.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6726
Canada (dollar)	1.1097
China (Yuan)	6.1279
Denmark (Krone)	5.2604
Egypt (Pound)	0.8627
Euro	\$1.3874/0.7208
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7607
Hungary (Forint)	225.02
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4640
Japan (Yen)	103.30
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	5.9790
Philippines (Peso)	44.38
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2686
South Korea (Won)	1,065.65
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8773
Thailand (Bath)	32.34
Turkey (New Lira)	2.0063

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.08
6-month bill	0.08
9-month bill	0.08
30-year bond	3.72

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	85	50	Cir	Chatanooga	75	45	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	51	36	Pcldy	Louisville	70	47	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	51	38	Cir	Cheyenne	33	31	Snow	Fresno	71	47	Pcldy	Lubbock	79	41	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	30	15	Pcldy	Chicago	41	33	Cldy	Goodland	47	39	Snow	Macon	77	50	Pcldy
Albuquerque	63	40	Pcldy	Cincinnati	64	43	Pcldy	Grand Junction	47	36	Snow	Madison	39	31	Snow
Allentown, Pa.	53	34	Cldy	Cleveland	45	36	Cldy	Grand Rapids	39	32	Cldy	Medford	64	35	Cir
Amarillo	63	42	Cir	Colorado Springs	45	36	Snow	Great Falls	44	24	Pcldy	Memphis	76	51	Cldy
Anchorage	38	28	Snow	Columbia, S.C.	78	52	Cldy	Green Bay	37	32	Cir	Midland-Odessa	83	40	Cir
Asheville	70	39	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	61	42	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	72	42	Cldy	Milwaukee	39	33	Cldy
Atlanta	74	50	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	48	27	Pcldy	Hartford	53	33	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	38	31	Cldy
Atlantic City	59	36	Cldy	Corpus Christi	76	52	Pcldy	Helena	44	26	Pcldy	Missoula	45	29	Cir
Austin	67	41	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	81	54	Pcldy	Honolulu	81	61	Pcldy	Mobile	61	25	Cldy
Baltimore	64	39	Cldy	Dayton	59	42	Cldy	Houston	75	54	Cldy	Montgomery	78	54	Cldy
Baton Rouge	70	56	Rain	Daytona Beach	79	55	Pcldy	Huntsville	76	49	Cldy	Nashville	74	46	Pcldy
Bilings	39	26	Cldy	Denver	33	33	Snow	Indianapolis	62	41	Cldy	New Orleans	69	58	Rain
Birmingham	75	51	Pcldy	Des Moines	45	38	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	72	53	Cldy	New York City	54	37	Cldy
Bismarck	39	27	Cldy	Detroit	44	35	Cldy	Jacksonville	79	53	Cldy	Newark	55	38	Cir
Boise	53	33	Cldy	Duluth	33	27	Cldy	Janeau	41	39	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir
Boston	52	33	Pcldy	El Paso	76	51	Pcldy	Kansas City	63	44	Cldy	North Platte	42	37	Cir
Bridgeport	49	32	Pcldy	Elkins	62	39	Cldy	Key West	68	45	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir
Brownsville	73	51	Pcldy	Erie	39	34	Cldy	Knoxville	71	45	Pcldy	Omaha	44	38	Snow
Buffalo	41	33	Cldy	Eugene	56	33	Pcldy	Lake Charles	70	56	Rain	Orlando	83	56	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	34	19	Snow	Fargo	33	27	Snow	Lansing	39	32	Cldy	Paducah	54	36	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	34	19	Snow	Fairbanks	27	-4	Cldy	Las Vegas	68	53	Pcldy	Pendleton	52	31	Cir
Casper, Wyo.	33	27	Snow	Fargo	33	27	Cldy	Lexington	68	45	Pcldy	Peoria	54	36	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	78	50	Pcldy	Flagstaff	51	28	Pcldy	Lincoln	46	39	Snow	Philadelphia	57	39	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	69	44	Pcldy	Flint	42	31	Cldy	Little Rock	75	49	Cldy	Phoenix	81	55	Pcldy
Charlotte, N.C.	74	45	Cir	Fort Smith	78	48	Pcldy	Los Angeles	78	54	Cir	Pittsburgh	54	40	Cldy
Chicago	41	33	Cldy	Houston	75	49	Cldy	Louisville	76	49	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	56	38	Pcldy
Cincinnati	64	43	Pcldy	Indianapolis	62	41	Cldy	Miami Beach	81	67	Cir	Providence	51	34	Cir
Cleveland	45	36	Cldy	Jacksonville, Fla.	79	53	Cldy	Miami	81	67	Cir	Pueblo	48	36	Rain
Colorado Springs	45	36	Snow	Jacksonville, N.C.	72	42	Cldy	Milwaukee	39	33	Cldy	Rapid City	74	44	Snow
Columbia, S.C.	78	52	Cldy	Johnson City	53	33	Pcldy	Minneapolis	45	29	Cir	Reno	51	30	Cir
Columbus, Ga.	61	42	Cldy	Kansas City, Mo.	63	44	Cldy	Missoula	45	29	Cir	Richmond	73	45	Pcldy
Concord, N.H.	48	27	Pcldy	Knoxville	71	45	Pcldy	Mobile	61	25	Cldy	Rochester	43	31	Cldy
Corpus Christi	76	52	Pcldy	Lake Charles	70	56	Rain	Montgomery	78	54	Cldy	Rockford	41	32	Cldy
Dallas-Ft Worth	81	54	Pcldy	Lake City	68	45	Pcldy	Nashville	74	46	Pcldy	Sacramento	72	45	Cir
Dayton	59	42	Cldy	Lansing	39	32	Cldy	New Orleans	69	58	Rain	St. Louis	74	44	Pcldy
Daytona Beach	79	55	Pcldy	Little Rock	75	49	Cldy	New York City	54	37	Cldy	St. Petersburg	78	63	Cir
Denver	33	33	Snow	Littleton	46	39	Snow	Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	St. Thomas	83	72	Cir
Des Moines	45	38	Rain	Louisville	76	49	Cldy	North Platte	42	37	Cir	St. Thomas	83	72	Cir
Detroit	44	35	Cldy	Madison	39	31	Snow	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	St. Louis	74	44	Pcldy
Duluth	33	27	Cldy	Miami	81	67	Cir	Omaha	44	38	Snow	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
El Paso	76	51	Pcldy	Miami Beach	81	67	Cir	Orlando	83	56	Pcldy	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Elkins	62	39	Cldy	Milwaukee	39	33	Cldy	Omaha	44	38	Snow	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Erie	39	34	Cldy	Minneapolis	45	29	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Eugene	56	33	Pcldy	Missoula	45	29	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Evansville	61	42	Cldy	Mobile	61	25	Cldy	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Fairbanks	27	-4	Cldy	Montgomery	78	54	Cldy	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Fargo	33	27	Cldy	Nashville	74	46	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Flagstaff	51	28	Pcldy	New Orleans	69	58	Rain	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Flint	42	31	Cldy	New York City	54	37	Cldy	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
Fort Smith	78	48	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
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				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				North Platte	42	37	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
				Norfolk, Va.	71	48	Cir	Oklahoma City	54	50	Cir	Tulsa	79	54	Cir
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				Norfolk, Va											

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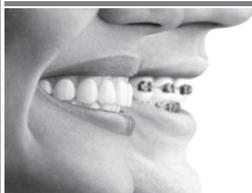
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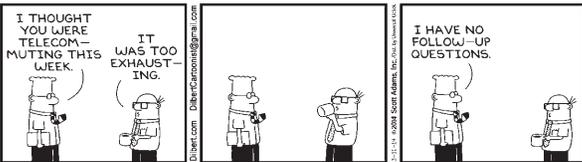
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
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ACROSS

- 1 Bivouac
- 5 Tatters
- 9 — de deux
- 12 Midwest state
- 13 Elliptical
- 14 Kimono closer
- 15 Venetian who visited China
- 17 Drag along
- 18 Recognized
- 19 Canine, for one
- 21 Veep under Coolidge
- 24 — impasse
- 25 Blind as —
- 26 The Left
- 30 Healthy
- 31 Took the challenge
- 32 Debtor's letters
- 33 Wobbled
- 35 Capri or Wight
- 36 Stone
- 37 Golf great Sam
- 38 Boutonniere site
- 40 Theda of silent
- 42 Id counterpart
- 43 Say you're sorry
- 48 Have a bug
- 49 Roast cut
- 50 Track star Zatopek
- 51 Kangas's kid
- 52 Recedes
- 53 Enervates

DOWN

- 1 URL suffix
- 2 "Eureka!"
- 3 Russian space station
- 4 Sink, as the 8-ball
- 5 Lariat
- 6 Acknowledge
- 7 Cowboy's honey
- 8 On the schedule
- 9 Chopin's "Military," e.g.
- 10 Touch
- 11 Unspoken "atlas"
- 16 Switch places?
- 20 Rowing need
- 21 Loony
- 22 Rose's love, on stage
- 23 Aquatic sport
- 24 Sleeping
- 26 Caprice
- 27 Anger
- 28 "Damn Yankees" vamp
- 29 Took to court
- 31 State
- 34 Piroquette pivot
- 35 For quite some time
- 37 "No seats" sign
- 38 Cordelia's dad
- 39 Exchange premium
- 40 Fall as a stand-up comic
- 41 Matterhorn et al.
- 44 Tavern
- 45 "— Little Teapot"
- 46 Hurry along
- 47 Golfer Ernie

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	D	A	F	E	W	H	A	L	T
O	V	E	R	S	E	E	R	E	L	I
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P	A	S	C	U	A	S	O	D		
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3-11

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Autos for Sale -Korea 148

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Reed captures Cadillac Championship

The Associated Press

DORAL, Fla. — Patrick Reed felt he belongs among the best in the world. He beat them all Sunday in the Cadillac Championship.

Dressed in a red shirt that he always wears in the final round — with Tiger Woods in the group ahead of him — Reed made back-to-back birdies early on the front nine to build a big lead and showed off a great short game when the pressure was building on the new Blue Monster at Doral.

Equipped with a two-shot lead, the 23-year-old Texan played the final hole conservatively. He two-putted for bogey and closed with an even-par 72 for a one-shot victory over Bubba Watson and Jamie Donaldson of Doral.

Reed became the youngest winner of a World Golf Championship, his third win in his last 14 tournaments.

Woods only three shots behind going into the final round in his best chance this year to win a tournament, said his back flared up after an awkward shot out of the bunker on the sixth hole. He failed to make a birdie in the final round for the first time in his PGA Tour career, and his 78 was his worst Sunday score ever.

Reed is expected to go to No. 20 in the world ranking. In his own ranking, he feels he belongs in the top five. He cited an amateur career that includes going 6-0 in matches to lead Augusta State to two NCAA titles, followed by three PGA Tour wins in seven months.

"I don't see a lot of guys that have done that besides Tiger Woods and the legends of the



MARTA LAVANDER/AP

Patrick Reed celebrates his one stroke victory during the final round of the Cadillac Championship on Sunday in Doral, Fla.

game," Reed said. "I believe in myself, especially with how hard I've worked. I'm one of the top five players in the world. I feel like I've proven myself."

In other golf news:

■ Chesson Hadley won the Puerto Rico Open for his first PGA Tour victory, holding off Danny Lee by two strokes in wind gusting to 25 mph.

Making his 13th PGA Tour start, the 26-year-old Hadley birdied the final two holes at Trump International for a 5-under 67. He's the first rookie winner since Jordan Spieth in July in the John Deere Classic.

Lions owner William Clay Ford dead at 88

DETROIT — William Clay Ford, the owner of the Detroit Lions and last surviving grandchild of automotive pioneer Henry Ford, has died. He was 88.

Ford Motor Co. said in a statement Sunday that Ford died of pneumonia at his home. Ford helped steer the family business for more than five decades. He bought one of his own, the NFL franchise in the Motor City, a half-century ago.

He served as an employee and board member of the automaker for more than half of its 100-year history.

Ford was regarded as a dignified man by the select few who seemed to know him well. To the masses in Detroit, he was simply the owner of the Lions who struggled to achieve success on the field despite showing his passion for winning by spending money on free agents, coaches, executives and facilities.

"No owner loved his team more than Mr. Ford loved the Lions," Lions President Tom Lewand said in a statement released by the team. "Those of us who had the opportunity to work for Mr. Ford knew of his unyielding passion for his family, the Lions and the city of Detroit. His leadership, integrity, kindness, humility and good humor were matched only by his desire to bring a Super Bowl championship to the Lions and to our community. Each of us in the organization will continue to relentlessly pursue that goal in his honor."

Saints notify Sproles of impending release

NEW ORLEANS — A person familiar with the situation says Darren Sproles has been informed that the Saints will release him if they are unable to trade him before free agency begins.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the club's decision, first reported by NFL.com, has not been made public.

New Orleans' decision to part with Sproles is the latest in a series of cost-cutting moves, including Friday's release of receiver Lance Moore.

In other NFL news:

■ The Minnesota Vikings have taken another one of their priority free agents off the market before it opens, agreeing to terms on a five-year contract with defensive end Everson Griffen that features \$20 million guaranteed and a maximum value of \$42.5 million.

The Vikings also agreed to terms on a one-year contract with middle linebacker Jasper Brinkley, according to another person with direct knowledge of that deal.

■ Running back Rashard Mendenhall is retiring from the NFL at the age of 26.

Agent Mike McCartney confirmed via Twitter on Sunday that Mendenhall had decided to end his playing career after six NFL seasons, all but one of them with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Mendenhall, the Steelers' first-round draft pick and 23rd overall selection out of Illinois in 2008,

gained 4,326 career yards, averaging 3.9 yards per carry.

■ The Chicago Bears have agreed to one-year contracts with defensive tackle Nate Collins and backup quarterback Jordan Palmer.

■ The New York Jets have released cornerback Antonio Cromartie, a decision that saves the team millions of dollars under its salary cap.

Cromartie was entering the final year of his four-year deal and was scheduled to cost the Jets' cap \$14.98 million this season — including a \$5 million roster bonus that would kick in later this month.

■ The Jacksonville Jaguars and free agent defensive tackle Red Bryant have reached agreement on a four-year contract.

The deal Saturday will reunite Bryant with his former Seattle coordinator, Jaguars coach Gus Bradley.

■ Darrell Stuckey and the San Diego Chargers have agreed to a new contract that keeps the safety and special teams standout from hitting the free-agent market.

Stuckey tweeted that it was a four-year deal. The Chargers said only that it was a multiyear deal.

■ The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have released veteran guard Davin Joseph, a mainstay on their offensive line over the past eight seasons.

The 30-year-old Joseph was a first-round draft pick out of Oklahoma in 2006, the 23rd overall selection. He started 99 of 100 games he appeared in with the Bucs, who are coming off a 4-12 finish in 2013.

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Waiting game

Big-money contracts slow to come for '11 draft class

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

With 36½ sacks in his first three seasons, plus five more in four playoff games, Houston defensive end J.J. Watt has quickly become one of the NFL's premier pass rushers.

The mega-contract to match his market value likely won't materialize as fast.

At the quarter mark of the new collective bargaining agreement the financial picture for both sides is still forming, but Watt's case is a sign of one potentially significant advantage for the owners.

At not quite 25 years old, Watt would probably prompt offers of \$100 million deals on the open market this month if he were eligible for it, and become the NFL's richest defensive player. Watt has exhibited the work ethic of an overachieving former walk-on at Wisconsin, the speed to match his prototypical size, and the durability to maximize his never-more-important skill of pressuring the quarterback. He has not missed a game as a pro.

Timing is everything, though, for the first draft class of the current CBA. Watt isn't even in the top 30 money makers at his position. While the Texans can now negotiate an extension with the 11th overall pick from 2011, the only obvious immediate motivation to do so would be for good will toward a vital player.

Texans general manager Rick Smith, asked last month at the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis about Watt's status, said no such contract talks have begun.

"This being first year that those deals can open up, I think

Did you know



Article 7, Section 7 of the current NFL CBA states that teams have the option to extend the rookie contract of any first-round selection from four to five years as long as they provide written notice to the player between the end of their third season and prior to May 3 of the following League Year.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

you will see any number of positions that clubs will take," Smith said. "Again, we are in the process of determining how we are going to handle that as well. It's an important piece. It's an element that obviously needs to be thought through and carefully considered."

Owners sought to stem the soar of signing bonuses for high draft picks and their allies in those labor talks were veterans bothered by staggering contracts given to guys yet to play an NFL game.

"The biggest part is getting those rookie contracts under control and that's why you see so much movement in the first round," Minnesota general manager Rick Spielman said, adding: "No one ever wanted to get into



GEORGE BRIDGES/MCT

Despite being widely acknowledged as one of the premier pass-rushers in the NFL, Houston defensive end J.J. Watt isn't even among the top 30 highest-paid players at his position.

the top five because of the financial commitment. You were just stuck."

Players approved the rookie wage scale to allocate more money under the salary cap for veterans. They received unrestricted free agency after four years in return and got the league to agree to minimum annual spending. For first-round picks, however, the owners secured a big win with this portion of Article 7, Section 7, of the CBA:

"A club has the unilateral right to extend from four years to five years the term of any Rookie Contract of a player selected in the first round of the Draft (the "Fifth-Year Option"). To do so, the Club must give written notice to the player after the final regu-

lar-season game of the player's third season but prior to May 3 of the following League Year (i.e., year four of the contract)."

Under the fifth-year salary formula, Watt would make about \$5.5 million, an under-market salary for his résumé. Teams also can use the franchise tag to further stave off free agency should a player balk at an extension offer. No renegotiations are allowed for the first three years of any rookie deal.

The fifth-year options are guaranteed only in case of injury, so a team could pick that up now and still cut the player before the 2015 season without owing him any more money. This will make for an intriguing dynamic over the next few months around

the league as teams weigh their options.

Publicly, nobody has griped yet. Carolina quarterback Cam Newton has been a bargain for the Panthers with a contract worth half as much as the top pick in the 2010 draft, quarterback Sam Bradford, whose career in St. Louis has been beset by injuries. Newton has said he's not worried about the extension.

Cincinnati wide receiver A.J. Green, the fourth selection in 2011, has also acknowledged he's not in a rush.

"It'll be interesting to see," Spielman said. "If you do just do the option, why not? Potentially, what does it hurt? You've got a guy under contract and then you go from there."

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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Boston	64	42	17	5	89	204-145
Montreal	66	35	24	7	77	186-166
Toronto	64	28	32	8	76	193-198
Tampa Bay	64	24	36	6	74	183-167
Detroit	64	29	32	13	71	171-179
Ottawa	64	28	31	6	67	182-209
Florida	64	23	37	7	55	156-206
Buffalo	64	37	8	46	128	188
Metropolitan Division						
Pittsburgh	65	36	24	8	88	201-157
N.Y. Rangers	65	35	26	4	74	171-162
Philadelphia	64	33	24	7	73	183-188
Columbus	64	33	26	5	71	186-178
Washington	65	25	35	10	70	191-197
New Jersey	64	24	34	8	69	161-167
Carolina	64	27	28	9	63	160-184
N.Y. Islanders	66	24	33	9	57	181-224

Western Conference

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
St. Louis	64	44	14	6	94	211-145
Chicago	65	38	13	14	90	223-172
Colorado	64	41	18	5	87	196-170
Minnesota	64	32	28	8	76	158-157
Dallas	64	31	29	8	72	185-179
Winnipeg	65	30	28	7	67	180-189
Nashville	64	26	30	10	62	152-191
Pacific Division						
Anaheim	64	43	14	7	93	207-137
San Jose	64	42	17	7	89	199-157
Los Angeles	65	37	22	6	80	159-137
Phoenix	64	29	24	11	69	177-185
Vancouver	65	29	27	10	68	153-174
Calgary	64	25	32	7	57	150-191
Edmonton	64	22	35	8	50	161-187

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

Saturday's games

Boston 4, Tampa Bay 3, SO
 San Jose 5, Winnipeg 3
 St. Louis 2, Colorado 1
 Colorado 4, Philadelphia 3, OT
 New Jersey 5, Carolina 4
 Philadelphia 3, Phoenix 2
 Columbus 1, Nashville 0
 Dallas 4, Minnesota 3
 Vancouver 4, Calgary 1
 San Jose 4, Montreal 0

Sunday's games

St. Louis 3, Minnesota 2, SO
 N.Y. Rangers 3, Detroit 0
 Boston 5, Florida 2
 Chicago 2, Buffalo 1
 Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 2
Monday's games
 Pittsburgh at Washington
 Nashville at Ottawa
 Phoenix at Tampa Bay
 Columbus at Dallas
 Winnipeg at Colorado
 Los Angeles at Calgary
 N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver
 Toronto at Anaheim

Tuesday's games

Nashville at Philadelphia
 N.Y. Rangers at Carolina
 Detroit at Columbus
 Phoenix at Florida
 Washington at Pittsburgh
 Dallas at St. Louis
 Edmonton at Minnesota
 Toronto at San Jose

Sunday

Blues 3, Wild 2 (SO)
 St. Louis 2, 0 0 0-3
 Minnesota 0, 2 0 0-2

St. Louis won shootout 2-0
Final:—St. Louis, Oshie 16 (Steen, Shattenkirch), 3:37 (Patt, St. Louis); Colaiacovo 1 (Schwartz, Tarasenko), 8:30.

Second Period—3, Minnesota, Pominville 12 (Parise, Suter), 2:11, 4, Steen. **Shootout—St. Louis 2** (Oshie G, Minne-
 sota G) Minnesota 0 (Parise NG, Koivu NG).

Shots on Goal—St. Louis 6-3-10-3-22.
 Minnesota 5-7-15-10-31.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 2; Minnesota 0 of 2.
Goalies—St. Louis, Elliott 16-6-2 (19 shots-17 saves), Minnesota, Bryzgalov

12-10-2 (28 shots-25 saves).
A—18,900 (11,954), T—2:45.

Kings 4, Oilers 2

Los Angeles 1, 3 0 0-4
 Edmonton 1, 0 1 0-2
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Carter 23 (Toffoli), 1:36, 2, Edmonton, Hall 22 (Perron, Cognigni), 7:54.
Second Period—3, Los Angeles, Martinez 7 (Regehr, Brown), 8:49, 4, Los Angeles, Carter 24 (Kopitar, Vovryn), 10:16 (opt), 5, Los Angeles, Lewis 3 (Carter), 15:49.
Third Period—0, Edmonton, Gagner 7 (Hall, Ju.Schultz), 2:05.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 12-21-17=50. Edmonton 5-14-18=35.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 2; Edmonton 0 of 3.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Quick 21-13-2 (27 shots-25 saves), Edmonton, Scrivens 12-10-4 (50-46).
A—16,839 (16,839), T—2:26.

Blackhawks 2, Sabres 1

Chicago 1, 0 1 0-2
 Buffalo 1, 0 0 0-1
First Period—1, Chicago, Kane 28 (Sharp, Oduya), 3:12, 2, Buffalo, Stafford 11 (Conacher, Ennis), 9:11.
Third Period—3, Chicago, Toews 25 (Stast, Shaw), 12:34.
Shots on Goal—Chicago 11-13-7=31. Buffalo 8-5-8=21.
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 0 of 5; Buffalo 0 of 5.
Goalies—Chicago, Crawford 25-11-10 (21 shots-20 saves), Buffalo, Enroth 15-10-7 (27 shots-25 saves).
A—19,070 (19,070), T—2:23.

Bruins 5, Panthers 2

Boston 0, 1 1 4-5
 Florida 0, 1 1 0-2
Second Period—1, Florida, Hayes 6 (Bjugstad, Bergeron), 7:00, 2, Boston, Meszaros 6 (Smith, Bergeron), 9:58 (pp), 3.
Third Period—3, Boston, Krul 15 (Marchand, Bergeron), 7:38, 4, Boston, Bergeron 5 (Erkkonen, Soderberg), 11:21 (pp), 5, Florida, Hayes 2 (Ruberdeau), 11:50, 6, Boston, Iginla 20 (Lucic, Chara), 12:13, 7, Boston, Kelly 6, 18:53 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Boston 12-15=42. Florida 7-8-7=22.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 2 of 4; Florida 0 of 4.
Goalies—Boston, Johnson 13-11-22 (22 shots-26 saves), Florida, Luongo 20-17-6 (41-37).
A—18,858 (17,040), T—2:33.

Rangers 3, Red Wings 0

Detroit 0, 0 1 0-0
 N.Y. Rangers 1, 0 2 3-3
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Boyle 5 (J.Bores, D.Moore), 5:14.
Third Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 15 (McDonagh, Sinunja), 1:14, 5, N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 16 (Stapan, McDonagh), 12:11.
Shots on Goal—Detroit 11-17=30. N.Y. Rangers 12-9-10=31.
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 5; N.Y. Rangers 4 of 5.
Goalies—Detroit, Howard 13-15-10 (31 shots-26 saves), N.Y. Rangers, Lindstrom 24-20-4 (30-30).
A—18,006 (18,006), T—2:19.

Leaders

Scoring Through March 9			
GP	G	A	PTS
63	29	35	64
65	33	37	70
60	29	41	70
61	44	23	67
62	29	37	66
64	32	39	66
61	29	42	66
59	24	62	66
64	24	31	65
64	23	44	64
52	19	45	64
65	29	44	63
65	12	51	63
65	23	62	62
65	29	33	62
65	26	36	62
65	29	44	61
58	22	39	61
62	29	39	61
64	25	35	60



ANDY CLAYTON/KING/AP

St. Louis Blues right wing T.J. Oshie scores on Minnesota Wild goalie Ilya Bryzgalov during the shootout of Sunday's game in St. Paul, Minn. The Blues won 3-2 for their eighth consecutive victory over the Wild and improved their record against Central Division teams to 18-0-1 this season.

Roundup

Blues hold off Wild for SO win

St. Louis overtakes Anaheim in President's Trophy race

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Not even inside information from Olympic teammate Zach Parise could stop T.J. Oshie in a shootout.

Oshie and Alexander Steen scored shootout goals and the St. Louis Blues took over the top spot in the NHL standings and the lead in the President's Trophy race with a 3-2 win over the Minnesota Wild on Sunday night.

In his first shootout since his memorable Olympic performance against Russia, Oshie beat Ilya Bryzgalov over his shoulder in the first round. Steen sealed the win in the following round after the Blues' Brian Elliott turned away Parise and Mikko Koivu.

"I think I was talking to Zach about that move tonight over in Sochi and he might have told Bryz what it was," Oshie said about his backhand-to-forehand move. "It seemed like he had me and I got a little lucky."

The Wild held behind 2-0 early, but tied it with second-period goals from Jason Pominville and Matt Moulson. Not many teams

are able to come back on St. Louis, which only allows 26.4 shots and 2.22 goals per game.

"I think that they thought they were going to take it to us physically and I think our guys responded to that," Wild coach Mike Yeo said. "We really started to get in our game and from that point on, I thought we were the better team."

Oshie and Carlo Colaiacovo scored on the second and third shots of the game for St. Louis. It was Colaiacovo's first goal since Feb. 11, 2012, a span of 42 games. Bryzgalov had 21 saves in his first start for Minnesota since coming over in a trade with Edmonton on Tuesday. Like Oshie, Bryzgalov also thought he had the save in the shootout.

"You know, pretty much I almost had it. I don't know how he raised it over the shoulder," he said. "I thought there was no way to go for him. I was completely surprised he scored on that one."

The momentum shifted in the second after Pominville scored at 3:11 to make it 2-1.

Moulson tied it four minutes later with his first goal with the Wild since being acquired in a trade with Buffalo on Wednesday.

The Blues have won 16 in a row against Central Division foes and are now 18-0-1 in division play. They've won eight straight over the Wild, outscoring them 25-10.

Rangers 3, Red Wings 0: Henrik Lundqvist earned his 300th NHL victory and 49th career shutout in host New York's victory over Detroit. Brian Boyle scored in the first period and Chris Kreider had two third-period goals for the Rangers.

Bruins 5, Panthers 2: Torey Krug scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and visiting Boston won their fifth straight with a victory over Florida.

Blackhawks 2, Sabres 1: Jonathan Toews scored the go-ahead goal 1:34 into the third period as Chicago snapped a two-game road skid with a win over host Buffalo.

Kings 4, Oilers 2: Jeff Carter had two goals and an assist as Los Angeles won their seventh straight with a win over host Edmonton.

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AUTO RACING

Scoreboard

What happened in Vegas ...

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS—When Brad Keselowski blew past Dale Earnhardt Jr. on the backstretch of the final lap to win Sunday, many concerns about NASCAR's new Chase for the Sprint Cup championship rules also got left in the dust.

Earnhardt felt confident he could gamble on a near-empty tank at Las Vegas Motor Speedway because his spot in the Chase already is virtually secure, thanks to his Daytona 500 win. The new Chase format rewards victory, pushing drivers to go for every checkered flag—and that usually means better racing.

"I think the new format is definitely showing it has tons of positives," Earnhardt said. "It's better as far as entertainment for our sport. It gives us freedom, and it's nice to have that freedom to do the things that we did today, even though we knew our odds weren't good. We really shouldn't have made it, and we didn't, but we got to try because of the new system."

Keselowski pushed his former mentor and eventually passed him, eager to secure a Chase spot just three races into the season. He praised Earnhardt and crew chief Steve Letarte for their boldness—and with his Chase spot virtually secure after missing it last season, the 2012 Sprint Cup champ and crew chief Paul Wolfe plan to emulate them.

"It was a good, risky move on their part, because they had nothing to lose because of this format," Keselowski said. "I think that shows some of the opportunities that come up and how they can be stress-free days, and I'm looking forward to being able to take those same opportunities. Because believe me, I'm not scared to take them, and I know Paul's not, so look out. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Brad Keselowski takes a victory lap after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Kobalt 400 on Sunday in Las Vegas. Keselowski, who also won the Nationwide Series race on Saturday, sped to Sunday's victory when Dale Earnhardt Jr. ran out of fuel on the final lap.

ISAC BREKKEN/AP

Five more developments from NASCAR's third race of an intriguing season:

1 Penske's push: Both Penske Fords in the NASCAR field are off to outstanding starts. Keselowski is second in the overall standings after three consecutive top-three finishes capped by a weekend sweep in Vegas, including his Nationwide Series victory. Shaking off last season's struggles and homing in on NASCAR's new aerodynamics package, Keselowski is one point behind Earnhardt.

Joe Logano is also looking good with a fourth-place finish in Vegas after starting on the pole. Logano sits fourth in the overall standings, 17 points behind Keselowski.

2 Hendrick hangs in: While Penske's cars rolled, Hendrick Motorsports' four Chevys finished in the top nine in Vegas. Jimmie Johnson led 34 laps and contended for his fifth career victory at Las Vegas before eventually finishing sixth. The six-time Cup champ is third in the overall standings.

Jeff Gordon attempted to make a quick finish on fuel economy before fading to ninth, while Kasey Kahne finished eighth after being the runner-up in Vegas last year.

Gordon is fifth in the overall standings, giving Hendrick three drivers in the top five. Kahne is 15th.

3 No repeats: Matt Kenseth never came close to defending last year's Las Vegas victory. He didn't lead a lap and finished 10th on what he called "a very tough day."

It wasn't much better for his Joe Gibbs Racing teammates. Kyle Busch wound up 11th despite leading three times for 52 laps on his hometown track, and Denny Hamlin was 12th.

Busch was disappointed because a bad pit stop slowed his impressive early progress, and adjustments to his setup sent his car in the wrong direction.

"The car was too loose on the first run, and we tightened it up and it was really fast for a while," Busch said. "But we kept adjusting on it to try and help, and it was just getting looser and looser, especially on the last run. Just disappointing when we looked like we had a good car earlier in the race."

4 Rough start: The early season struggles at Stewart-Haas Racing's often affected Kevin Harvick this time.

Harvick went into the race as the lone bright spot for the organization following last week's victory at Phoenix. He had a strong car at Las Vegas, and he led twice for 23 laps, but a parts failure on the 195th lap sent him to the garage and a 41st-place finish.

"It's hard to complain," he said. "These guys have given me cars that are good every week. Just a little parts failure there. We will figure out the cause of it and try to just keep that from happening."

5 Bumpy ride: Harvick's teammates weren't even close to being competitive, which could lead to an unpleasant SHR team meeting Monday.

Team co-owner Tony Stewart was off from the start, and no adjustment seemed to help as he finished 33rd. Danica Patrick was 26th, leaving Danica Patrick to lead the team in 21st.

"I'm really happy with the cars this year," Patrick said. "I was running with the leaders the last half of the race, but I was a lap down. Unfortunately, one car always stayed out, so we couldn't get our lap back (via the wave-around), and we just missed the lucky dog spot."

Kobalt 400

NASCAR Sprint Cup
Sunday
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Las Vegas, Nev.
Lap length: 1.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 267 laps, 134.6 rating, 48 points, \$449,048.
2. (14) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 267, 121.7, 43, \$263,005.
3. (21) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 267, 108.2, 32, \$227,715.
4. (1) Joey Logano, Ford, 267, 109.8, 41, \$306,666.
5. (11) Carl Edwards, Ford, 267, 88.2, 40, \$176,000.
6. (5) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267, 124.8, 39, \$198,831.
7. (10) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 267, 94.37, \$134,920.
8. (13) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 267, 91.2, 36, \$137,470.
9. (15) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 267, 102.7, 35, \$162,006.
10. (29) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 267, 92.6, 29, \$163,291.
11. (20) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 108.1, 34, \$114,075.
12. (27) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 267, 83.1, 23, \$121,410.
13. (9) Brian Vickers, Toyota, 267, 83.1, 31, \$144,885.
14. (12) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 267, 96.6, 30, \$139,068.
15. (17) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 267, 76.4, 29, \$144,474.
16. (4) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 82.4, 28, \$155,096.
17. (13) Jeff Burton, Toyota, 267, 71.1, 27, \$115,260.
18. (18) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 267, 67.4, 15, \$123,885.
19. (17) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 266, 76.6, 13, \$102,000.
20. (34) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 266, 65.9, 0, \$104,000.
21. (22) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 266, 58.2, \$112,000.
22. (22) Greg Biffle, Ford, 266, 52.5, 22, \$143,435.
23. (32) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 266, 84.4, 21, \$141,851.
24. (32) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 266, 56, 20, \$126,600.
25. (26) Aric Almirola, Ford, 264, 60.3, 19, \$136,771.
26. (23) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 264, 62.9, \$284,855.
27. (6) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 264, 60.6, \$132,900.
28. (30) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 264, 54.6, 16, \$120,195.
29. (38) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 264, 50.8, 15, \$109,880.
30. (32) David Gilliland, Ford, 264, 54.1, 14, \$116,439.
31. (37) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 264, 42.1, 13, \$112,682.
32. (26) David Ragan, Ford, 263, 45.2, 12, \$102,435.
33. (24) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 263, 40.3, 11, \$125,893.
34. (40) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 262, 47.4, \$91,555.
35. (39) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 261, 33.5, 9, \$90,000.
36. (28) Cole Whitton, Toyota, 261, 41.5, 8, \$90,000.
37. (36) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 259, 33.1, 7, \$90,883.
38. (42) Timmy Hill, Chevrolet, 258, 27.3, 6, \$85,590.
39. (42) Travis Kvapil, Ford, 257, 27.8, 5, \$81,590.
40. (22) Parker Kligerman, Toyota, 240, 28.9, 4, \$77,590.
41. (5) Kevin Ward, Chevrolet, 237, 92.4, 4, \$14,623.
42. (31) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, 212, 27.9, 2, \$69,590.
43. (35) Michael McDowell, Ford, engine, 1.1, 23.4, 1, \$66,090.

Average Speed of Race Winner: 154.633 mph.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 35 minutes, 24 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 1.930 seconds.
Cautions: Flags: 4 for 18 laps.
Lead Changes: 21 among 10 drivers.

Lap Leaders: J. Logano 1-19; B. Keselowski 20-21; J. Logano 22-46; J. Johnson 47-50; K. Busch 78-85; D. Earnhardt Jr. 86-97; K. Busch 98-99; K. Harvick 130-139; K. Busch 140; B. Keselowski 141; M. Kenseth 142-143; K. Harvick 144-156; B. Keselowski 157-195; J. Johnson 196-198; P. Menard 199-204; J. Johnson 205; D. Earnhardt Jr. 206-219; C. Edwards 210; D. Hamlin 212; B. Keselowski 213-222; D. Earnhardt Jr. 223-226; B. Keselowski 267.

Leaders Summary Driver, Times Led, Laps Led: B. Keselowski, 5 times for 53 laps; K. Busch, 3 times for 52 laps; D. Earnhardt Jr., 3 times for 51 laps; J. Logano, 2 times for 48 laps; J. Johnson, 3 times for 34 laps; K. Harvick, 2 times for 23 laps; P. Menard, 1 time for 6 laps; M. Kenseth, 1 time for 2 laps; C. Edwards, 1 time for 1 lap; D. Hamlin, 1 time for 1 lap.

Top 12 in Points: 1. D. Earnhardt Jr., 132; 2. B. Keselowski, 132; 3. J. Johnson, 117; 4. J. Logano, 116; 5. J. Gordon, 115; 6. C. Edwards, 105; 7. M. Kenseth, 105; 8. D. Hamlin, 101; 9. R. Newman, 97; 10. K. Busch, 95; 11. J. McMurray, 93; 12. G. Biffle, 86.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula: A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race. The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Maryland says so long to ACC with a bang

Terps stun No. 5 Virginia in OT in last regular-season league game before move to Big Ten

By DAVID GINSBURG

The Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — As the final seconds of regulation ticked off the clock, the sellout crowd was poised to storm the court to celebrate an upset victory in Maryland's final regular season game in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Disappointment ensued.

No. 5 Virginia forced overtime, forcing the fans back to their seats to see if the Terrapins could rebound from the lull to pull off an upset against the best team in the league.

And that is just what happened. Maryland ended its 61st and final ACC regular season in stunning fashion, beating the Cavaliers 75-69 in overtime Sunday to end Virginia's 13-game win streak.

"Today wasn't just an ordinary game. It was a lot of things," Terps coach Mark Turgeon said. "We always play for Maryland, but today we played for former players, former coaches, all our fans."

After blowing a seemingly secure lead in the closing seconds of regulation, the Terps (17-14, 9-9 ACC) never trailed in the extra session in front of an emotional crowd of 17,950 at the school's final home basketball game in a conference it joined as a charter member in 1953.

When the final buzzer sounded, thousands of fans raced onto the court to celebrate another unforgettable ACC memory at the expense of one of its biggest rivals.

Anthony Gill scored 15 points and London Perrantes had 14 for Virginia (25-6, 16-2), which had



'We always play for Maryland, but today we played for former players, former coaches, all of our fans.'

Mark Turgeon
Maryland coach

already clinched the regular season title and was vying to set an ACC record for most league wins during the regular season.

"Not that we're invincible, but now we know we aren't," coach Tony Bennett said. "So now we address it, and now we get after it."

What hurt the most it that Maryland shot 48 percent and scored 32 points in the paint against the nation's top-ranked defense.

"I was surprised how our defense didn't execute like we should have down the stretch," Gill said. "We are a defensive team, but we made it too easy for them. They're a good team, but we slipped up."

Seth Allen scored five of his 20 points in overtime and Dez Wells finished with 18 for the Terrapins, who will play in the Big Ten next season. Maryland had lost six straight to Virginia, including a 61-53 decision in February that was part of the Cavaliers' school-record winning streak against ACC competition.

"The crowd was lively and that's what our guys got to understand, that you're getting teams' best shots," Bennett said. "I don't know if all that mattered. It was just a

team that outplayed us. The crowd was great for them, the atmosphere was great. But we did get it to overtime and they answered the bell."

The end of regulation was a horror show for Maryland.

After Jake Layman made two free throws with 4.1 seconds left to put the Terrapins ahead 64-61, Maryland quickly fouled. Malcolm Brogdon made the first free throw and intentionally missed the second before the Terrapins swatted the ball out of bounds with 1.7 seconds to go.

Gill caught the inbounds pass in the lane and dropped in an uncontested jumper to force overtime.

The extra session began with Allen making two layups for a 68-64 lead. The guard then blocked a shot before adding a free throw.

The Cavaliers used a layup by Gill to close to 71-69 with 1:13 left, but they would not score again. Despite the loss, Virginia will head into the ACC tournament as a top seed for only the second time.

"I feel like we just need to get back in practice and just get back to what we know — and that's defense and not letting people penetrate," Gill said.



Nick Wass/AP

Maryland forward Charles Mitchell (0) dunks over Virginia forward Evan Nolte (11) in the second half of Sunday's game in College Park, Md. Maryland beat No. 5 Virginia 75-69 in its final regular season game as member of the Atlantic coast Conference. The Terrapins move to the Big Ten next season along with Rutgers.

AP Top 25 roundup

Nebraska tops No. 9 Wisconsin to bolster tourney chances

The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Shavon Shields and Terran Petteway scored 26 points apiece as Nebraska beat No. 9 Wisconsin 77-68 on Sunday to bolster its resume for an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

The Cornhuskers (19-11, 11-7) won for the 10th time in 12 games to clinch fourth place in the Big Ten for their highest conference finish since 1997-98. The Badgers (25-6, 12-6) had their longest conference win streak since 1940-41 end at eight games.

Shields made a couple of free throws, Ray Gallegos hit a three-pointer and Shields dunked in transition to start a 12-1 run that turned a 52-48 deficit into a 60-53 lead with five minutes left.

The Cornhuskers, looking for their first NCAA tournament appearance since 1998, picked up a second win against a top-10 team for the first time since 1993-94. Their other one was at then-No. 9 Michigan State on Feb. 16. The Huskers won 11 conference games for the first time since the 1965-66 season.

Nebraska also finished with a Big Ten-best 15-1 home record by defeating the conference's best road team.

No. 7 Syracuse 74, Florida St. 58: C.J. Fair scored 22 points and the Orange (27-



NATI HARNIK/AP

Nebraska's Shavon Shields drives past Wisconsin's Frank Kaminsky in the second half on Sunday in Lincoln, Neb.

14, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) closed the regular season with a victory over the Seminoles (18-12, 9-9) in the program's

first trip to Tallahassee, Fla. The Orange, who ended a two-game losing streak, had lost 4 of 5 after starting the season 25-0.

Jerami Grant, who had been bothered by back problems recently, had 16 points and eight rebounds while Tyler Ennis finished with 16 points for Syracuse.

Okaro White led Florida State with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Fellow senior Ian Miller scored 16 points in his last home game while Aaron Thomas chipped in 14.

The NCAA tournament bubble may have burst for Florida State, which desperately needed a signature win at this point of the season to earn a berth in the field of 68.

Syracuse ran away from the Seminoles in the second half behind Fair. The senior forward scored 15 points after halftime, including 10 of the Orange's first 14 to take a 47-40 lead.

No. 17 Saint Louis 64, Massachusetts 62: Jordai Jet scored on a driving layup with three seconds to play and the Billikens (26-5, 13-3 Atlantic 10) snapped a three-game losing streak to the Minutemen (23-7, 10-6) and win the A-10 regular season title outright for the second consecutive season.

Jet finished with 17 points, including the Billikens' last six of the game. Saint Louis

got its final possession on a jump ball call with 36.4 seconds left. Jet dribbled out the clock near midcourt before starting the game-winning drive.

Chaz Williams, who had 20 points and nine assists for the Minutemen, had a three-point shot at the buzzer bounce off the rim.

Saint Louis, which started its losing skid after a school-record 19-game winning streak, didn't lead in the second half until Jet's game-winning shot.

Ohio St. 69, No. 22 Michigan St. 67: LaQuinton Ross scored 22 points and Aaron Craft added 12, including a late free throw, to lead the Buckeyes (23-8, 10-8 Big Ten) over the Spartans (23-8, 12-6).

Keith Appling's jumper with two seconds left was off the mark for the Spartans, who failed to score over the final 4:30 as Ohio State scored the game's final four points.

Adreian Payne scored 23 points, Gary Harris had 12 and Denzel Valentine 11 for the Spartans, who have lost seven of their past 11 games.

Amir Williams hit a free throw with 37.2 seconds left to put Ohio State ahead for good. Craft then added a free throw with 20.9 seconds remaining.

The Buckeyes had dropped their last two on the road to second-tier Big Ten teams.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Conference tournament roundup

Albany knocks off Vermont

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Peter Hooley scored 26 points, including four three-pointers, as No. 4 seed Albany stunned top-seeded Vermont 67-58 in the semifinals of the America East tournament Sunday.

Hooley, who averaged 15 points entering the tournament, scored 22 in the first half — a day after dropping 30 in the quarterfinals.

Gary Johnson added 17 points and 13 rebounds for the host Great Danes (17-14), who never trailed. Defending champion Albany took out the top seed for the second year in a row.

Albany faces No. 2 seed Stony Brook, which got past third-seeded Hartford 69-64, in the title game on Saturday.

Carson Purifoy led the Sea-wolves with 21 points — including the clinching runner in the lane in the final seconds, as Stony Brook narrowly escaped an upset.

Corban Wroe scored 21 points on seven three-pointers and Mark Nwakama added 16 for the Hawks (17-16).

Colonial Athletic Association: Davon Usher scored 21 points as top-seeded Delaware pulled away in the second half for an 87-74 victory over fifth-seeded Northeastern in a CAA semifinal on Sunday in Baltimore.

Delaware (24-9) advanced to the championship game on Monday, its first trip to a conference final since 2001 when playing in the America East.

The Blue Hens will face William



Carl Burton/AP

Delaware's Carl Baptiste reacts after scoring against Northeastern during the semifinal round of the CAA Championship tournament on Sunday, in Baltimore.

& Mary in Monday's title game.

Marcus Thornton scored 21 points and made two crucial plays in the final 6 seconds to lead the third-seeded Tribe past second-seeded Towson, 75-71, in Sunday night's other CAA semifinal.

Towson (23-10) saw its seven-game winning streak end with the loss. The Tigers missed on a chance to tie in the final 18 seconds, but Thornton stole the ball from Jerrelle Benimon (18 points) with 5.5 seconds left.

Thornton then made both ends of a one-and-one with 4.9 seconds left to ice it.

Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference: At Springfield, Mass., Sean Armond scored 21 points, while Isaiah Williams and Tre Bowman had 16 apiece, as top-seeded Iona held off fourth-seeded Canisius 75-72 Sunday in the semifinals of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament.

The Gaels (22-9) saw a long last-second three-point attempt by Billy Baron, who led Canisius (21-12) with 23 points, come up short.

In the other semifinal, George Beamon scored 23 of his 25 points in the second half and Emmy Andujar added 21 off the bench to help Manhattan pull away from third-seed Quinnipiac for an 87-68 win, sending the Jaspers into Monday's title game.

Southern Conference: At Asheville, N.C., James Sinclair hit two three-pointers in overtime and had 26 points as fifth-seeded Western Carolina upset top-seeded Davidson 99-97 in the semifinals of the Southern Conference tournament Sunday.

Western Carolina came back from a 15-point deficit and snapped Davidson's 13-game winning streak.

Western Carolina will meet No. 3 seed Wofford in the championship game on Monday after the Terriers knocked off seventh-seeded Georgia Southern 71-57 in their semifinal.

Lee Skinner scored 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds to help Wofford advance to its third tournament championship game in five years.

Men's conference tournaments

AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE

At Albany, N.Y., Semifinals
Sunday, March 9
 Albany (N.Y.) 67, Vermont 58
Championship
Saturday, March 15
 Albany (N.Y.) vs. Stony Brook
AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

At Memphis, Tenn., First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Rutgers vs. South Florida
 Temple vs. Central Florida

Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13
 SMU vs. Houston
 Louisville vs. Rutgers
 Cincinnati vs. Temple-UCF winner
 UConn vs. Memphis

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

At Greensboro, N.C., First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Wake Forest vs. Notre Dame
 Miami vs. Virginia Tech
 Georgia Tech vs. Boston College

Second Round
Thursday, March 13
 Maryland vs. Florida State
 Pittsburgh vs. Wake Forest-Notre Dame winner
 N.C. State vs. Miami-Va. Tech winner
 Clemson vs. Georgia Tech-Georgia Tech winner

ATLANTIC SUN CONFERENCE

Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Mercer 69, Del. State 60

ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE

At Hartford, Conn., First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 George Mason vs. Fordham

Thursday, March 13
 La Salle vs. St. Bonaventure
 Dayton vs. G. Mason-Fordham winner

BIG EAST CONFERENCE

New York First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Seton Hall vs. DePaul
 Georgetown vs. DePaul

Thursday, March 13
 Villanova vs. Seton Hall-Seton Hall winner
 Georgetown vs. St. John's
 Creighton vs. Georgetown-DePaul winner

Xavier vs. Marquette

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

At Ogden, Utah
Thursday, March 13
 North Dakota vs. Sacramento State
 Arizona vs. Northern Colorado
 Montana vs. Portland State

BIG WEST CONFERENCE

Championship
Saturday, March 9
 Coastal Carolina 76, Winthrop 61

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

At Indianapolis
Thursday, March 13
 Indiana vs. Illinois
 Iowa State vs. Purdue
 Minnesota vs. Northwestern
 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota-Northwestern

Quarterfinals
Friday, March 14
 Michigan vs. Indiana-Illinois winner
 Nebraska vs. Ohio St.-Purdue winner
 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota-Northwestern winner

Michigan St. vs. Iowa-Penn St. winner

BIG 12 CONFERENCE

At Kansas City, Mo., First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Oklahoma State vs. North Tech
 Baylor vs. Texas Christian

Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13
 Iowa State vs. Kansas State
 Kansas vs. Oklahoma State
 Oklahoma vs. Baylor-TCU winner
 Texas vs. North Tech

BIG WEST CONFERENCE

At Anaheim, Calif., First Round
Thursday, March 13
 UC Santa Barbara vs. Cal Poly
 Beach St. vs. Cal State Fullerton
 UC Riverside vs. UC San Diego
 Hawaii vs. Cal State Northridge

COLLEGIATE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

At Baltimore
Saturday, March 9
 Delaware 87, Northeastern 74
 William & Mary 75, Towson 71

Championship
Sunday, March 10
 Delaware vs. William & Mary

Midwest USA

At El Paso, Texas
First Round
Tuesday, March 11
 North Texas vs. Rice
 East Carolina vs. Marshall
 East Carolina vs. Texas San Antonio

Wednesday, March 12
 Tulane vs. North Texas-Rice winner
 Old Dominion vs. FAU-Marshall winner
 UTEP vs. East Carolina-UTSA winner
 Alabama vs. Rice-Rice winner

HORIZON LEAGUE

At St. Louis, Mo., Semifinals
Saturday, March 8
 Wright State 83, Cleveland State 73
 Milwaukee 73, Green Bay 66, OT

Championship
Tuesday, March 11
 Wright State vs. Milwaukee

METRO ATLANTIC ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

At Springfield, Mass., Semifinals
Sunday, March 9
 Quinnipiac 68
 Iona 75, Canisius 72
Championship
Monday, March 10
 Iona vs. Manhattan

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Monday, March 10
 Ball State at Ohio
 Kent State at Miami (Ohio)
 Central Michigan at Eastern Michigan
 Bowling Green at Northern Illinois

MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

At Merlot, N.C., First Round
Monday, March 10
 Norfolk St. vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore
 Savannah State vs. S. Carolina State

Tuesday, March 11
 Howard vs. North Carolina A&T
 Coppin State vs. Bethune-Cookman
 Florida A&M vs. Delaware State

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Wichita State 85, Indiana State 69

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

At Las Vegas
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Utah State vs. Colorado State
 Boise State vs. San Jose State

Quarterfinals
Thursday, March 13
 San Diego State vs. Utah State-Colorado State
 UNLV vs. Wyoming

West Coast Air Force

At Reno, Nev., First Round
Thursday, March 13
 Nevada vs. Boise St.-San Jose St. winner

NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

Semifinals
Saturday, March 8
 Mount St. Mary's 77, Wagner 72
 Robert Morris 69, Fairleigh (Pa.) 57

Championship
Sunday, March 9
 Mount St. Mary's at Robert Morris

OHIO VALLEY CONFERENCE

Championship
Saturday, March 8
 Eastern Kentucky 70, Morehead 73

PACIFIC-12 CONFERENCE

At Las Vegas
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Utah vs. Washington

Colorado vs. Southern Cal
Oregon vs. Oregon State
Stanford vs. Washington State

Thursday, March 13
 Arizona vs. Utah-Washington winner
 California vs. Colorado-UCB winner
 UCLA vs. Oregon-Oregon St. winner
 Texas State vs. San Diego-Washington State winner

PATRIOT LEAGUE

Semifinals
Saturday, March 9
 Boston University 91, Army 70
 American 57, Holy Cross 46

Championship
Wednesday, March 13
 Boston University vs. American

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE

At Austin, Texas
First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Auburn vs. Mississippi State
 Vanderbilt vs. Mississippi State

Second Round
Thursday, March 13
 Missouri vs. Arkansas
 Arkansas vs. Auburn-S. Carolina winner
 Louisiana State vs. Alabama

Miss. vs. Vanderbilt winner

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

At Asheville, N.C., Semifinals
Saturday, March 9
 Western Carolina 99, Davidson 97, OT
 Wofford 71, Georgia Southern 57

Championship
Monday, March 10
 Western Carolina vs. Georgia Southern

SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE

At Katy, Texas, First Round
Wednesday, March 12
 Nicholls State vs. Louisiana
 Oral Roberts vs. McNeese State

Thursday, March 13
 Nicholls State vs. Nicholls State-S. Louisiana winner
 Oral Roberts vs. Oral Roberts-McNeese State winner

SUMMIT LEAGUE

At Sioux Falls, S.D., Sunday, March 9
 Denver 80, South Dakota 71, W. Illinois 50

Semifinals
Monday, March 10
 North Dakota State vs. Denver
 NPPV vs. S. Dakota

Championship
Tuesday, March 11
 Semifinal winners*

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

At Las Vegas
Quarterfinals
Saturday, March 8
 San Francisco 69, San Diego 60
 BYU 88, Utah 74
 Gonzaga 77, Santa Clara 75
 Saint Mary's 80, Redwood 69

Semifinals
Monday, March 10
 San Francisco vs. Gonzaga
 Gonzaga vs. Saint Mary's

Championship
Tuesday, March 11
 Semifinal winners*

Move: Some teams stumpled, but Wichita State played like No. 1 seed

FROM BACK PAGE

season 13-0, but was 3-8 in the Pac-12 at one point. The committee loves teams that are playing well come March. The Ducks, and whatever neon uniforms they decide to bring with them to the Dance, will only be worrying about where, not if, come next Sunday.

Arkansas (21-10, 10-8 SEC): Yes, there were lots of good things going on here. Winners of eight of nine, including a stretch in which the Hogs backed up a win against Kentucky at Rupp Arena with impressive home victories against Georgia and Mississippi. Then came that 25-point loss at Alabama. Now, Arkansas, a near-lock 10 days ago, needs to perform — as in, win one, maybe two, games at the SEC tournament — to solidify its status.

Florida State (18-12, 9-9 ACC): The Seminoles had a reeling Syracuse team on their home court. Perfect time to make a statement. Instead, they fell 74-58. A 500 record in the ACC is nothing to sneeze at. But it could be time to start accepting that both the BCS and NIT trophies could reside in Tallahassee this year.



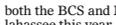
Gonzaga (26-6, 15-3 WCC):

Gosh, is there any chance the Zags, with all their history and tradition and mid-major moxie, wouldn't make it? Well, was there any chance they might lose to Santa Clara on Saturday? The answer to both questions should have been a definitive 'No.' But that two-point squeaker over the ninth-seeded Broncos, thanks to David Stockton's layup with 1.4 seconds left, didn't prove much. Next up: St. Mary's on Monday. Time to impress. Just so they can.

Wichita State (34-0, 18-0 MVC):

Just wanted to make sure you were still reading. The Shockers are the first team to head into March Madness undefeated since UNLV in 1991. Only question: Is this the top overall seed? Oh, certainly there are things to nitpick — the mid-major resume, the No. 6 rating in the RPI, etc. Top-ranked Florida is out there and looking awfully good. But while the rest of the big boys are battling it out in conference tournaments, the Shockers will be back home practicing, their title already in hand. How will the layoff affect them, and the way the committee views them? Stay tuned.

Follow Eddie Pells on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/epells>



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Shockers finalize case for No. 1 seed

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Wichita State's still perfect. And proudly awaiting a No. 1 seed.

After the nation's only unbeaten made another put-away run in the Missouri Valley Conference tournament title game, guard Fred VanVleet fired back at doubters who cast aspersions on a schedule ranked 113th in the nation.

"You can debate what you want to debate. Facts are facts, truth is truth," VanVleet, the conference player of the year, said after the second-ranked Shockers beat Indiana State 83-69 on Sunday to go to 34-0. "We're not into debating how good or great we are or how bad somebody else is.

"That's for barber shop talk and coffee table arguments. We're not into that stuff. If they feel that way, it's on them. And nobody that's arguing about it is on the selection committee."

Players wore championship T-shirts that proclaimed Wichita State the winner on the front, but on the back, it had a bracket with Indiana State winning.

"They'll get us the right ones eventually," guard Ron Baker said. "Over the last two days of the tournament, coach Gregg Marshall predicted a return trip to St. Louis for the second and third rounds of the Midwest Regional.

"We know the routine, we know the hotel. There won't be any ooh, aah moments," Marshall said. "It will be just business as



BNL BOYCE/AP

Wichita State's Tekele Cotton, left, collides with Indiana State's Jake Odum in the second half of the Missouri Valley Conference tournament championship on Sunday.

usual."

VanVleet scored 22 points including several key baskets late and the Shockers got their typical strong ensemble effort.

"Every one of them's a handful," Indiana State guard Jake Odum said. "We were right there but they're unbeaten for a reason. They stayed composed, they hit tough shots, they earned it."

Tekele Cotton added 20 points — with four three-pointers — and Baker had 14 points for the Shockers (34-0), who got tested in the second half before putting the title game out of reach with a 13-0 run that put them up by 18 points with 5:38 to go.

"I didn't have enough timeouts to stop the runs, but that's what they do," Indiana State coach Greg Lansing said. "That's

why they're undefeated. That's why they're hoisting the trophy."

Wichita State matched the NCAA record for victories to start the season by UNLV in 1990-91 with its third straight convincing tournament win after going 18-0 in the regular season.

"We're not flawless," Marshall said. "Our record is flawless. We've got great players. They've taken us on an unbelievable ride to this point."

Manny Arop and Justin Gant had 18 points apiece for second-seeded Indiana State (23-10), which has one of the closer calls against Wichita State with a seven-point loss at home in early February.

"Hopefully we'll get into the NIT," Odum said. "We'll see if we can make a splash there."

Wichita State's last nine victories have all been by double digits. The Shockers have won 12 of 14 in the Indiana State series.

"They do not have weaknesses," Lansing said. "If anybody could see one, I'd like to hear it."

VanVleet scored 13 points in the final 6 minutes and was named to the all-tournament team along Cleanthony Early and Cotton, who was voted the tourney MVP.

The only way the Valley could get two teams in the NCAA tournament was if Wichita State lost. The Shockers earned the conference's automatic bid after going to the Final Four as a No. 9 seed and Valley tourney runner-up last March.

Mercer cancels Dunk City rerun

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Mercer guard Langston Hall watched Florida Gulf Coast become the darlings of last season's NCAA tournament with one thought in his mind.

"Man," Hall said, "that could have been us." "This time, it will be Mercer who do the playing, FGCU will have to do the watching.

There won't be a repeat Dunk City run in this year's NCAA tournament — not after Mercer captured its first berth in the Big Dance since 1985, beating top-seeded Florida Gulf Coast 68-60 in the Atlantic Sun championship game on Sunday, getting the ultimate coup for what happened a year ago when the Eagles took the tournament title on the Bears' home court.

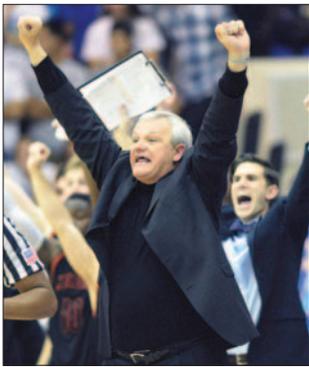
Everyone knows what happened next: Little-known FGCU ran and dunked its way into the Sweet 16. This time, it's Mercer's turn to try and make some magic happen, getting its NCAA ticket after having an 18-point lead cut down to one, but hanging on to hand the Eagles just their third home loss in 33 games in the last two seasons.

A year ago, Mercer coach Bob Hoffman predicted that FGCU would win NCAA games. This time, he sees no reason why his club can't do the same.

"We have a great league and it's underappreciated and it's unbelievable how it continues to be underappreciated," Hoffman said. "Our teams have to play so many money games. That's why the records are so bad. But we have great coaches and great players in our league and it was witnessed today. That was a great college basketball game."

Hall and Anthony White Jr. scored 15 points each for the Bears (26-8), who won despite shooting 37 percent. Daniel Coursey scored 13 points and Jakob Gollon — who played in the 152nd game of his career, second-most in NCAA history — added 12 for second-seeded Mercer, which split two games with FGCU in the regular season.

Bernard Thompson and Brett Comer scored 14 points each for FGCU (22-12), which got 13 from Chase Field. The Eagles missed 14 of their 16 three-



COREY PERRINE, NAPLES DAILY NEWS/AP

Mercer coach Bob Hoffman exerts his team on Sunday in the Atlantic Sun tournament championship. The Bears knocked off Florida Gulf Coast to earn an NCAA tournament berth.

point attempts, gave up 15 second-chance points and were handcuffed by foul trouble all game.

"It's not easy to play with expectations," FGCU coach Joe Dooley said.

The Eagles are assured of a berth in the NIT, and hope to host at least one game.

"We never really felt like we weren't going to win," said a red-eyed Fieler, who congratulated every Mercer player he could find before leaving the court as the Bears commenced their net-cutting celebration.

Thanks largely to a 20-2 run and an 0-for-11 effort by FGCU on jumpers in the opening 20 minutes, Mercer's lead was 16 points at the half. But in a 6½-minute stretch, a 16-point margin got trimmed to one on a score by Fieler with 8:50 left.

Mercer has thrived in close games all season, and it showed. Very much on the ropes, the Bears ripped off the next seven points, needing only 59 seconds to do so, and simply held on from there.

C. Carolina earns Ellis first conference crown

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

CONWAY, S.C. — Cliff Ellis proved he still has a little dancing left in him.

The Coastal Carolina coach was in the thick of a mid-court dance party Sunday as his Chanticleers earned their first NCAA trip in 21 years with a 76-61 victory over Winthrop to win the Big South Conference tournament.

Ellis, who had previously led South Alabama, Clemson and Auburn into the NAAs, hugged his wife near the end of the game, then joined his players for some celebrating.

"I can still dance a little bit," Ellis said with a grin. Apparently so.

Coastal Carolina got 22 points from Warren Gillis and 19 from Josh Cameron to reach the NCAA tournament for the third time overall and first since 1993. Ellis has reached the tournament finals on campus twice before as top seeds in 2010 and 2011, coming up short both times.

This time, the Chanticleers (21-12) used a 12-0 run in the first-half to build a double-digit lead and held on to beat the Eagles (20-13).

Winthrop cut the lead to 61-52 on Keon Johnson's free throw with 4:36 left, but got no closer. Keon Moore led Winthrop with 19 points before fouling out.

It was the first conference tournament title for Ellis in 39 years of coaching at four schools. He joins nine others who have led

four schools to the NCAA tournament, trailing the mark of five set last season by Oklahoma's Lon Kruger.

The loss ended an underdog run for the Eagles, who eliminated defending champion Liberty, regular-season champion High Point and second-seeded UNC Asheville. They met their match in Coastal, which pushed the pace against the tired Eagles.

"There were times I'm thinking, 'Here we go,'" Winthrop coach Pat Kelsey said. "And they came and answered with something."

Fans rushed the court at the HTC Center on Coastal's campus when it was over, cheering their team's first league title since 1993.

"It was just a surreal moment," Cameron said.

When Gillis, named tournament MVP, went high for an uncontested dunk with 2:41 left, the party kicked up another notch with fans waving teal pompons and chanting "C-C-U."

Ellis has made eight previous NCAA appearances, the last in 2003 when Auburn reached the round of 16.

Ellis has challenged his players all season long not to feel satisfied with accomplishments. He will take the same approach — after a few days off — this week in prepping the Chants for a likely first-round matchup against one of college basketball's best.

"We're not worried about that yet," Gillis said. "We're going to enjoy this for a while."

SPORTS



Winning Blues
St. Louis tops Minnesota to take lead in President's Trophy race | **Page 27**

The Cornhuskers' Terran Petteway reacts after scoring on Sunday against Wisconsin. Below right, Nebraska fans storm the court after Sunday's 77-68 win over the Badgers in Lincoln, Neb.

PHOTOS BY NATI HARNIK/AP



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Looking up

Cornhuskers move off bubble as teams jockey for position

By **EDDIE PELL**
The Associated Press

The big bubble winner over the weekend: Nebraska. When the NCAA selection committee draws up the brackets next Sunday, it's hard to imagine the Cornhuskers will be on the outside looking in.

Led by 26 points each from Shavon Shields and Terran Petteway, Nebraska defeated ninth-ranked Wisconsin on Sunday in what may have been the most important regular-season game in the program's history.

Tim Miles' team has won 10 of 12 and finished in fourth place in the Big Ten, the second-strongest conference in the country. The Huskers (19-11, 11-7) look like a good bet to make their first appearance in March Madness since 1998.

Here's a Pick Six of other bubble teams, how they did over the weekend and what they need to accomplish in the upcoming conference tournaments:



Pittsburgh (23-8, 11-7 ACC): The soft non-conference schedule, the lack of quality wins, the handful of last-second, heartbreaking losses — all that was working very much against the Panthers. Then, they made

up five points in the span of 4 seconds on the road against a tough, Clemson team, and went on to win in overtime. Yes, the Panthers and their late-season fades get old, but 23 is an impressive number, and suddenly this arrow is, well, at least not pointing straight down anymore.



Oregon (22-8, 10-8 Pac-12): A bubble team no longer, not after winning seven straight and capping that with a victory over No. 3 Arizona on Saturday. This was a team that started the **SEE MOVE ON PAGE 30**

