

STARS AND STRIPES®

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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

An A-10 "Warthog" prepares for a training mission in Middle River, Md., on March 14.

LINDA DAVIDSON/The Washington Post

FIGHTING FOR THE WARTHOG

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT ■ The Washington Post

Proposal to ditch A-10 Thunderbolts faces opposition

It's often called the military's ugliest aircraft, a snub-nosed tank of an airplane that's nicknamed "Warthog" for its appearance and ferocity. The A-10 Thunderbolt has been the Air Force's equivalent of an in-the-trenches grunt for almost 40 years:

heavily armed and armored, designed to fly low and take out the enemy at close range.

But now, after a career that has spanned the Cold War to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon has proposed shuttering the fleet as part of across-the-board cuts in defense spending. Getting rid of the

remaining aircraft — about 300 — would save \$3.7 billion over five years, Defense Department officials say, and would allow the Air Force to bring in more sophisticated aircraft, such as the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, to provide what is called "close air support."

SEE WARTHOG ON PAGE 3

Large numbers of veterans with PTSD live near military bases

By CHRIS ADAMS

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Army specialist who killed three soldiers at Fort Hood last week isn't the only person from the neighborhoods that surround the massive military base near Killeen,

Texas, who's been evaluated for or diagnosed with mental illness.

Data compiled by the Department of Veterans Affairs and analyzed by McClatchy show that hundreds of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and live

near Fort Hood, while thousands more reside near the nation's other military installations.

In fact, the communities adjacent to military bases have the highest number of veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, a concentration that reflects the tendency of former soldiers to

Read more about post-traumatic stress disorder in the military stripes.com/ptsd



settle near bases once they leave the service but also raises concerns about base security.

Experts are quick to say that

most veterans with PTSD and other service-connected mental ailments don't engage in violence or other unlawful behavior, but there is an association between PTSD and elevated levels of violence.

SEE PTSD ON PAGE 5

MUSIC

Head of the class: Rock Hall of Fame toasts inductees

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GOLF

Adam Scott relishes role as defending Masters champion

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MILITARY

Cadets take on NSA experts in cyberexercise

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My goodness, I didn't know that solid waste management was so controversial. Thank goodness she didn't play softball like I did."

— Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton after ducking a shoe thrown at her during her keynote speech at a Las Vegas convention

See story on Page 7

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5. Navy says 'Star Wars' railgun is almost ready for prime time

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

Renovations planned at Naval Support Activity Bahrain include a \$450,000 project to improve the Beach Club, which serves junior enlisted. Officials acknowledge that the club has become unappealing.

Bahrain facility upgrades underway

By **HENDRICK SIMOES**
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Renovations are underway to modernize some of the recreational and dining facilities at Naval Support Activity Bahrain, which has stretched thin by the expanding base population.

The main focus of the improvements is a two-story building known as P-9-11. Completed in 2006 at a cost of \$24 million, it houses the Navy Exchange, a food court, a gym and other recreational services.

One top priority is renovation of the Beach Club, which serves junior enlisted servicemembers. The aim is to create a rival to what servicemembers might find at off-base venues. "We're going to freshen it up; it's a bit stale right now," base commander Capt. David Meron told Stars and Stripes.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation anticipates spending about \$450,000 to replace the club's



A two-story, \$24 million facility on Naval Support Activity Bahrain known as P-9-11 houses the Navy Exchange, a food court, a gym and other recreational services.

floor, to create a new DJ setup and to install new sound and lighting equipment.

"If you look at it now, it's sterile, it's uninviting, it's not a club," said Mark Richards, base MWR director.

There are also plans to renovate the kitchen in P-9-11, to ex-

pend the barber and beauty shop, and to increase the floor space on the Navy Exchange's first floor, where groceries and household goods are sold.

The kitchen, which currently serves about 5,500 meals per day, has trouble accommodating diners during aircraft carrier vis-

its. The barber and beauty shop also has been pushed to capacity — because of both the bigger base population and increased demand for spa services, said Patricia Jordan, general manager of Bahrain NEX.

Officials hope to introduce upscale pizza and Panera Bread-style menu options at P-9-11.

Elsewhere on base, MWR has finished refurbishing the bowling alley and is currently renovating the base training pool. It also plans to improve the Liberty Center and to renovate the base playground.

Officials expect the U.S. military presence in Bahrain to continue well into the future. The Navy base, which now occupies about 137 acres, is in the midst of a \$260 million expansion to increase capacity to allow for the possible homeporting of littoral combat ships in 2018. This spring, two more U.S. Coastal Patrol ships are expected to homeport at the U.S. naval base in Bahrain.

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MILITARY



LINDA DAVIDSON/The Washington Post

Pilots Capt. Jonathon Alberts and Maj. Paul Kanning, of the Maryland Air National Guard, take their A-10 "Warthog" on a training mission in Middle River, Md., on March 14.

Warthog: Divesting the plane representative of 'difficult choices' Air Force must make

FROM FRONT PAGE

"While no one, especially me, is happy about recommending divestiture of this great old friend, it's the right military decision," Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday. "And it's representative of the extremely difficult choices that we're being forced to make."

Supporters of the A-10 have launched an aggressive campaign to save an aircraft they say is unparalleled in the history of American aviation: a slow-flying airplane designed to fly close enough to the ground so that pilots can distinguish friend from foe, often with their own eyes.

The A-10 has saved dozens of lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. And it has performed in a way that modern planes — flying high and fast — never could, they say.

"The best close air support platform we have around is the A-10," Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said at a press conference Thursday, where she was joined by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and several A-10 pilots. "And we owe it to our men and women in uniform to ensure that they have the best when it comes to this incredibly important mission."

"It's beloved not just by pilots but by the ground troops under fire who equate the high-pitched whine of the A-10 and the roar of its cannon with salvation. In recent congressional hearings, it has gotten rave reviews, particularly by the Army brass.

"The A-10 is the ugliest most beautiful aircraft on the planet," said Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"It's a game changer," said Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. John Campbell. "It's ugly. It's loud, but when it comes in and you hear that pffffff (of the cannon), it just makes a difference."

Air Force officials argue that with the defense spending cuts, they have no choice but to get rid

of the entire A-10 fleet. Welsh, the Air Force chief of staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee Thursday that officials had looked at ways to save the A-10 by cutting other programs. But they ultimately decided that the A-10 was the option with the lowest risk.

"The budget picture we're presenting to you today is hard choices, nothing but hard choices," Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James told the committee. She called the A-10 a "wonderful aircraft. But there are other aircraft that can cover that very sacred combat air support mission."

Welsh said the Air Force must be prepared for "a full spectrum fight" that involves many missions in addition to close air support.

"We have a lot of other airplanes that do close air support that can do those other important things," he said. "The A-10 isn't used in that way. It doesn't mean it's not a great platform." The comment I've heard that somehow the Air Force is walking away from close air support I must admit frustrates me."

One of those aircraft will be the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, officials have said. But the aircraft, which has been repeatedly delayed and has seen its cost skyrocket, is not expected to be ready until at least 2021. And the Air Force is planning to get rid of the A-10s by 2019.

Ayotte, who inserted language in the defense spending bill that prevents the Air Force from retiring the A-10 before the end of 2014, called that a dangerous gap.

McCain was more blunt.

"We are going to do away with the finest close air support weapon in history!" he said at the news conference. "And we are then going to have some kind of nebulous idea of a replacement with an airplane that costs at least 10 times as much — and the cost is still growing — with the F-35? That's ridiculous. That's absolutely ridiculous."

Hagel urged to again look at Army's new rules on hair

By CHRIS CARROLL AND MATT WILLIAM
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of black congressmen is asking Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to take another look at a revised Army uniform and appearance regulation they say contains "discriminatory" rules governing African-American women's hairstyles.

In a letter to Hagel on Thursday deriding the new rules, the 16 members of the Congressional Black Caucus also called the use of words such as "unkempt" and "matted" when referring to hairstyles traditionally worn by black women as "offensive and biased."

"Though we understand the intent of the updated regulation is to ensure uniformity in our military, it is seen as discriminatory rules targeting soldiers who are women of color with little regard to what is needed to maintain their natural hair," wrote the group, which is chaired by Rep. Marcia L. Fudge, D-Ohio.

Pentagon officials said the Defense Department had received the letter and would respond promptly. Army officials, meanwhile, said restrictions on dreadlocks and twisted hair were not new but carried over from the previous 2005 regulation.

Development of the revised pol-

icy was done carefully over three years and was based on broad input, Army spokeswoman Lt. Col. Alayne Conway said in an emailed

‘[The regulation] is seen as discriminatory rules targeting soldiers who are women of color with little regard to what is needed to maintain their natural hair.’

Congressional Black Caucus

200 senior female leaders and soldiers (which included a representative sample of the Army's populations) part of the decision-making process on the female hair standards, but the group was also led by an African American female.

The last major revision of the Army's uniform regulation provided broad guidance, but largely left it to leaders to judge which

hairstyles were acceptable. Released in 2005, it dedicated fewer than 500 words to women's hair and noted that "It is not possible to address every acceptable hairstyle, or what constitutes eccentric or conservative grooming."

By contrast, the Army's new rules dedicate more than 1,300 words to women's hair, many of them very specific. However, not all of the provisions now under fire are really new or even unique to the Army.

Most of the "new" hair rules in the Army regulation appear to have been cribbed directly from rules enacted by the Marines in 2007. And since 2005, the Army has explicitly prohibited the wearing of dreadlocks, described as "unkempt, twisted, matted individual parts of hair." Twists, which the policy defines as "two distinct strands of hair around one another to create a twisted ropelike appearance" are likewise banned.

Conway added that soldiers who want the policy modified can submit written suggestions to the office of the Army G-1 (the deputy chief of staff in charge of personnel policy) through their chains of command.

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Dempsey: Sexual assaults an urgent issue

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has limited time to show results in the effort to combat sexual assault in the ranks, the nation's top uniformed leader said Thursday.

So far, most of the measures by which the department has been gauging its efforts haven't shown much progress, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey said during a phone conversation with reporters and bloggers. And if it turns out the military finally can't handle the job, Dempsey said he'll no longer oppose Congress taking leadership of the issue out of the military's hands.

"If it occurs that after a period of very intense and renewed emphasis on this that we can't solve it, I'm not going to fight it being taken away from us," Dempsey said during a phone conversation with reporters.

But Dempsey made clear he thinks commanders are up to the task of fighting sexual misconduct and assaults, reports of which have risen dramatically in recent years. Racial integration, fights against drug abuse and the inclusion of gay and lesbian troops were all successfully overseen by commanders, he said.

"In every case, the way we've

‘If it occurs that after a period of very intense and renewed emphasis on this that we can't solve it, I'm not going to fight it being taken away from us.’

Gen. Martin Dempsey
chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

led our way through those issues was relying upon commanders to do what they're held accountable to do, which is to lead, and to lead equitably and to lead aggressively," he said.

Earlier this year, an effort led by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., came within five votes of taking authority over prosecutions for sexual assault and other serious criminal offenses away from commanders and giving it to independent military prosecutors.

Pentagon leaders and influential senators fought the bill, however, and a similar proposal made little progress in the House of Representatives. Dempsey indicated Congress' decision gives the Pentagon a chance to prove it is up to the task, but not unlimited time. Among the reforms put in place both by the Pentagon and by Congress are new rules moving decision-making higher up the chain of command and safeguards against retaliation.

"We've been given about a year to demonstrate both that we will

treat this with the urgency that it deserves, and that we can turn the trend lines in a more positive direction," he said. "We aren't going to turn it around in a year, but we can certainly demonstrate to the chain of command, including the secretary of defense and the president, that we can turn the trend lines."

The Joint Chiefs met monthly to monitor progress on 12 measures of DOD's fight against sexual assault, Dempsey said. The metrics include the number of sexual assault reports, how many cases are taken to trial and reviews of command climate toward sexual assault cases, he said.

"The needle hasn't moved on most of them yet, but we're very much in the first three months or so of this," he said. "The one place the needle has moved is in reporting. We see that as positive, but we've got to see the other metrics move as well."

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MILITARY



Marines with the 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment conduct a night foot patrol in Ramadi, Iraq, on April 6, 2004.

Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

'Alone but not afraid'

Iraq War Marines, family mark 10th anniversary of Ramadi battle

By TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — To the outside world, the names mean nothing.

But to Marines who fought in Ramadi, Iraq, and to the families of the fallen, the names will forever be reminders of service and sacrifice: the Snakepit, Hurricane Point, Junction City, Blue Diamond, the government center and Charlie Med, the field hospital where dead and dying Marines were brought.

Several hundred Marines and family members gathered Sunday morning at Camp Pendleton to mention the locations of outposts and firefights and to remember the Marines who fought and died in Ramadi, a battle that began 10 years ago Sunday.

Saddam Hussein had been deposed a year earlier and the Marines of the 2nd Battalion, 4th Regiment had descended to Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, in March 2004.

The mission of the 2/4 was supposed to be "security and stability": to aid in Iraq's transition to democracy, maybe to start sports teams for the young and help in the reconstruction of schools and health centers.

Instead, Ramadi soon "transformed to full-blown urban combat," Lt. Col. Rob Weiler, who was with the 2/4 in 2004, told the gathering. "We fought alone but not afraid," Weiler said, his voice breaking with emotion.

On April 6, 2004, the first day of

'I walked the streets of Ramadi in 2006 without a flak jacket or helmet because of the work done by the Magnificent Bastards in 2004.'

Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson
commanding general of 1st Marine Division

fighting, 12 Marines were killed. By September of that year, 34 Marines and a Navy corpsman had been killed and 269 Marines had been wounded.

There would be further skirmishes in Ramadi in succeeding years but never again would the insurgents attempt an all-out assault. The Marines of the 2/4, a battalion known as the Magnificent Bastards, had done their job, Marine brass said.

"I walked the streets of Ramadi in 2006 without a flak jacket or helmet because of the work done by the Magnificent Bastards in 2004," said Maj. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, now commanding general of the 1st Marine Division.

No Marine battalion in the Iraq War suffered as many casualties as the 2/4 during that deployment, Nicholson said.

Among those at the ceremony were a former 2/4 Marine in a wheelchair, a former 2/4 Marine with a prosthetic arm and a former 2/4 Navy corpsman accompanied by his service dog, a tan Labrador-poodle mix.

After the speeches, family members inspected the memorials to the fallen, the dog tags and inverted rifles. Former and active-duty Marines who served together

gathered to talk about their shared experiences and remember the sound of constant gunfire.

"There was horror, but also joking and playing around," said Greg Clemens, 35, who was a corporal, a gunner on a Humvee and now is a college student studying psychology. "You did what you had to do to keep your sanity."

Ten family members of Lance Cpl. Emilian Sanchez, who was 20 when he was killed, came from their tribal home in the Santa Ana Pueblo of New Mexico. Military service, particularly the Marine Corps, is a deep tradition with the tribe.

"We get by each day, it's slow," said Berna Sanchez, Emilian's sister. "We know we will see him in the next world but it is still hard. We miss him so."

The final chapter of the fight for Ramadi has not been written. With the U.S. gone, insurgents are attempting to retake Ramadi and nearby Fallujah. Whether Iraqi forces will prevail is unclear.

"In your heart, you hope that the Marines' fight was worth it," said Joey Sanchez, 45, Emilian's brother. "Maybe it won't be today or tomorrow, but you hope that finally, someday, it will all turn out well."

New destroyer's namesake set Navy's course on social issues

By DAVID SHARP
The Associated Press

BATH, Maine — Bud Zumwalt took what he learned during the tumultuous 1960s with him when he became the nation's youngest chief of naval operations, earning a reputation as a reformer who fought racism and sexism and worked to improve the lives of sailors.

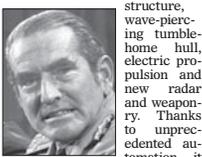
After retiring, the admiral dedicated his life to ensuring that veterans were compensated for illnesses linked to Agent Orange, an herbicide he had approved in Vietnam and he blamed for the death of his son.

Zumwalt's two daughters will christen a new ship that bears his name on Saturday at Bath Iron Works. Joining them will be his surviving son, who is a retired Marine, and other relatives.

The young leader turned the establishment on its ear, helping to create a modern Navy that embraced equal rights, said Larry Berman, who wrote a book about him.

"Zumwalt came in and smashed that entire system," Berman said. "He thought it was a racist system. He felt it was appalling that the Navy had only three black captains."

Like its namesake, the new ship is modern, innovative and potentially game-changing, with a stealthy shape, composite super-



Zumwalt

structure, wave-piercing tumble-home hull, electric propulsion and new radar and weaponry. "Thanks to unprecedented automation, it will set sail with a crew that's nearly half the size of the complement on existing destroyers."

At 610 feet long and 15,000 tons, it is the largest destroyer built for the Navy.

In World War II, Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt Jr. earned the Bronze Star while serving on a much smaller destroyer during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. After the war, George Marshall, the Army general and statesman, persuaded him to stay in the Navy.

In Vietnam, his commanded included small boats that patrolled the Mekong Delta. It was during that time that he approved Agent Orange to remove vegetation that

provided enemy cover.

His leadership during the 1960s helped to prepare him for changes he felt were necessary when, at age 49, he became chief of naval operations in 1970. His memoir, dubbed Z-grams, altered the Navy's course.

He eased restrictions on hair, beards and sideburns, allowed beer machines in some barracks, mandated that there be black barbers and created an ombudsman to give Navy wives a voice.

But the biggest changes eliminated barriers for women and minorities to advance. By the time he retired four years later, the Navy had its first black and female admirals, and women were soon serving aboard warships and flying Navy aircraft.

"He bent the institution of the Navy toward justice," said Capt. James Kirk, commanding officer of the Zumwalt.

While some in the Navy established a "zero tolerance" atmosphere, Zumwalt loved him because he listened to their concerns and tried to make their lives better. Zumwalt liked to joke, "I have a long list of friends and a long list of enemies, and I'm equally proud of both," said Berman, author of "Zumwalt: The Life and Times of Admiral Elmo



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

The Zumwalt-class guided-missile destroyer DDG 1000, shown Oct. 26, the first of three Zumwalt-class destroyers, will be christened by Elmo "Bud" Zumwalt Jr.'s two daughters on Saturday.

Russell 'Bud' Zumwalt, Jr." Former President Bill Clinton, a friend, described him as "the conscience of the Navy" after his death at age 79 in 2000.

After retiring, Zumwalt learned chemical companies had lied to him about the safety of Agent Orange, which he blamed for the death of his firstborn son, Elmo R. Zumwalt III, a swift boat skipper. His efforts on behalf of sickened veterans and their families helped earn him the Presi-

dential Medal of Freedom.

To see Zumwalt's legacy, one needs look no further than the new ship's crew. Department leaders include two women, one who is black and another who is of Hispanic descent.

"The single most important legacy that he left behind is that he brought the Navy into the 20th century," Berman said.

Even on his tombstone, the author said, there is the word "reformer."

MILITARY

Report: Marines creating crisis response unit

Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps will create a new land-based unit in the Middle East during fiscal 2015, designed to respond to crises in the region, including emergencies at embassies, the Marine Corps Times reported Thursday.

About 1,900 Marines and sailors will form Special-Purpose

Marine Air-Ground Task Force Central Command during fiscal 2015. The unit will be land-based, similar to the Spain-based SPMACTF Crisis Response, but the exact location — or locations — where the Marines will be based is still being determined, Lt. Col. Joe Kloppel, a spokesman with Marine Corps Forces Central Command, told the Times.

The Marine Corps stood up a command element in Bahrain in 2011 that is built around about 150 headquarters staff personnel, the Times noted.

“The [Marine Corps] intends to source and deploy SPMACTF-CENT, which consists of a command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element and logistics combat element pro-

viding CENTCOM with a flexible, self-deploying and self-sustaining option for responding to these emergent threats,” Kloppel said.

The unit will be equipped with several fixed-wing and tilt-rotor aircraft, a potent combination that creates “an extremely agile crisis response force,” he said. It will at various times include attack aircraft like AV-8B Harri-

ers and F/A-18 Hornets, as well as support aircraft like the MV-22 Osprey and KC-130J Super Hercules, he told the Times.

These assets provide the unit with the flexibility to conduct military-to-military engagements and security cooperation in the Middle East with partner nations and to expand to meet bigger requirements, Kloppel said.

PTSD: Alcohol abuse, anger seen as more problematic

FROM FRONT PAGE

While President Barack Obama said at Fort Hood on Wednesday that “we can never eliminate every risk,” he noted that the nation “can do more to help counsel those with mental health issues, to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are having such deep difficulties. As a military, we must continue to do everything in our power to secure our facilities and spare others this pain.”

Even as the military examines its base security procedures, experts on mental health expressed concern that the huge numbers of veterans from the recent wars could overwhelm the mental health systems that are in place to treat former soldiers.

“The system is overwhelmed taking care of all these veterans,” said Prakash Masand, the chief executive of Global Medical Education and a former consulting professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Duke University Medical Center.

“When they are deployed, the Army or Navy does a pretty good job of containing them. When they come back, they have difficulty integrating back into society,” he added. “This problem is going to get much worse. The number of veterans with psychiatric illness has been much more than they anticipated.”

Masand and other experts who study PTSD stress that most war veterans don’t commit acts of violence and don’t get into legal trouble. And they, as well as veterans’ advocates, are leery of scaring the public from welcoming returning veterans.

“In every study, the vast majority of veterans with PTSD are neither violent nor criminal,” said Eric Elbogen, an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine and a psychologist at the VA hospital in Durham, N.C.

“Most of them are fine. But there is an elevated risk. All things being equal, PTSD does increase risk.”

In a study recently published in the British Journal of Psychiatry, Elbogen and his colleagues found that veterans with PTSD were more likely to commit severe violence in the year under study than those without PTSD: 20 percent compared with 6 percent. However, alcohol use was a key driver; without alcohol abuse, veterans with PTSD who were severely violent dropped from 20 percent to 10 percent and also reported significantly less anger and irritability.

“In every study, the vast majority of veterans with PTSD are neither violent nor criminal.”

Eric Elbogen, psychologist

“PTSD is relevant,” he said, “but other factors such as alcohol abuse and anger are even more relevant.”

In the study, “severe violence” was defined as getting in or threatening fights, using a knife or gun or trying to physically force someone to have sex.

To check for the prevalence of PTSD and associated mental disorders in and around the nation’s military bases, McClatchy analyzed a database of every disability claim in the VA system.

The VA’s disability compensation database, released under a Freedom of Information Act request, includes 3.2 million records of every veteran receiving disability compensation on the rolls as of 2011, when McClatchy obtained it for stories tied to the first 10 years of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The VA database doesn’t spec-

ify if somebody served in Iraq or Afghanistan. It instead counts all veterans from the first Gulf War in 1990 on as one broad “Gulf War” category. McClatchy identified an “Iraq and Afghanistan era” group of veterans who were listed as “Gulf War” and left active duty in 2003 or later, when soldiers started returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Of the more than 40,000 ZIP codes in the United States, ZIP code 76549, right next to Fort Hood in Killeen, has more recent veterans receiving disability compensation for PTSD than any other in the country: 288.

The second ZIP code on the list, with 273 cases, is next to Clarksville, Tenn., and Fort Campbell. No. 3, No. 5 and No. 8 are also next to Fort Hood. Combined, those four ZIP codes next to Fort Hood represent more than 900 recent veterans already on the VA’s disability rolls for PTSD.



Eric Gav/AP

Soldiers bow their heads during a memorial ceremony for shooting victims on Wednesday at Fort Hood, Texas.

Other top ZIP codes are in Colo.; Fort Bragg and Fayetteville, N.C.; and Camp Lejeune and Jacksonville, N.C.



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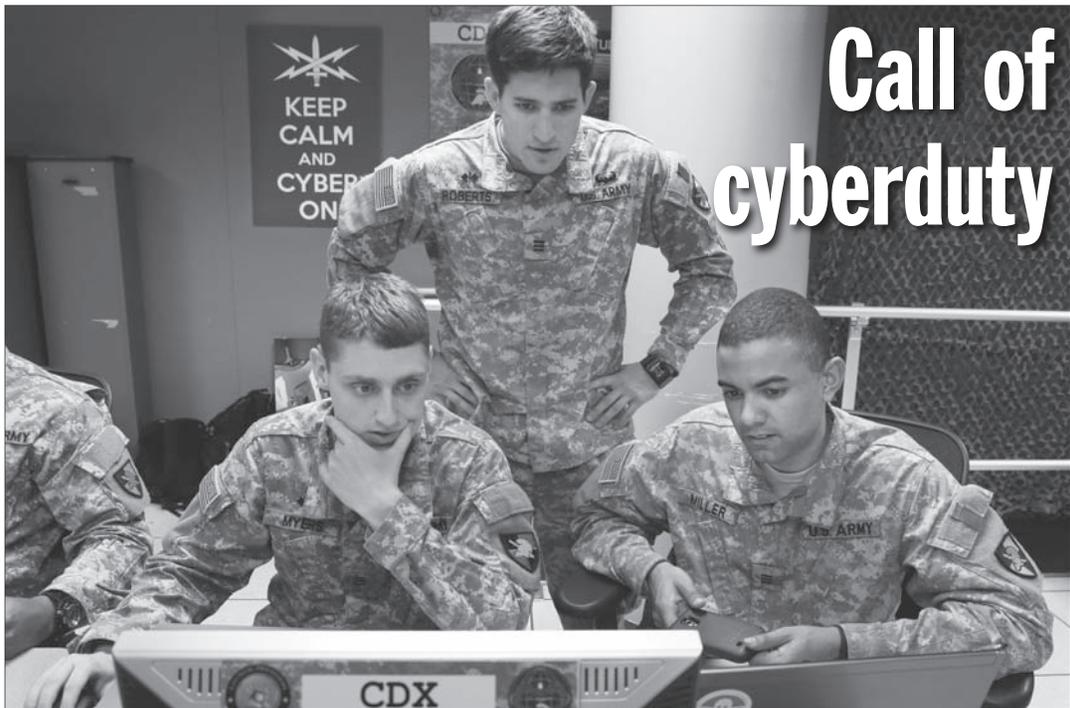
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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MEL EVANS/AP

United States Military Academy cadets watch data on a computer Wednesday at the Cyber Research Center at the United States Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., as they fended off cyberattacks from the National Security Agency this week as part of an exercise involving all the service academies.

Call of cyberduty

Military academies take on NSA in high-tech exercise

By MICHAEL HILL
The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — If Douglas MacArthur or Ulysses S. Grant went to the U.S. Military Academy today, they might be testing their defensive skills hunched in front of a computer screen.

A team of caffeine-fueled cadets was spending long days this week in a computer lab trying to fend off threats cooked up by experts at the National Security Agency. The annual Cyber Defense Exercise that was to run through Thursday would determine which of the five service academies can create computer networks that can best withstand the four-day barrage.

The 14-year-old exercise lacks the lore of Army-Navy football but not the intensity. Not only does the exercise dovetail into the military's broader strategy of staying ahead of the curve in cyber operations, but the West Point cadets relish the chance to test their computer skills against those of their peers.

"This is the Army-Navy game for our electrical engineering and computer science departments ... this is our chance to beat the other service academies," said Cadet Jason DeCoursey.

DeCoursey was one of about 30 senior cadets crammed into a windowless computer lab at the academy on Wednesday. The exercise is essentially a high-tech game of capture the flag: The NSA team attempts to capture "tokens" embedded in the academies' networks. The academies

‘This is the Army-Navy game for our electrical engineering and computer science departments ... this is our chance to beat the other service academies.’

Cadet Jason DeCoursey

for the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Coast Guard and the Merchant Marine compete, and the one that does the best job fending off the barrage of cyber-attacks is declared the winner.

Air Force won last year and is clearly the team cadets here measure themselves against. By midday Wednesday, Air Force was ahead, but barely. Army defenses were holding up well after a nerve-wracking breach the day before and cadets were keeping up with the long hours. Cadet Hayden Tippett said he spent 23 of his 24 waking hours earlier this week in the computer room. He had slept in a nearby room one night using his boots as a pillow.

"We don't have big backpacks on. We're not walking through the woods. We're sitting behind computers. But it is stressful," said Cadet John Zeidler.

Workers from the NSA stood by a camouflage net curtain at West Point and declined to speak to a reporter. But their presence inspired the cadets, who relished the chance to take on the pros.

"We're playing ball against a major-league team," Zeidler said. "That's why it's so much fun."

Cadets seemed fueled by the challenge, by a sense of competitiveness — and a lot of Mountain Dew and Monster energy drinks. The stack of spent cans in a corner — dubbed "caffeine wasteland" — numbered a few hundred by midday Wednesday.

More than bragging rights are at stake.

Some of the cadets want to specialize in cyberoperations after they become Army officers next month. And West Point is a 212-year-old institution that is constantly refining and updating how it teaches cyberoperations. It is gearing up its new Army Cyber Institute, which aims to become a national resource for research, advice and education in cyberdefense and cyberoperations.

The director of the institute, Col. Gregory Conti, is a 1989 West Point graduate who recalls that as a young lieutenant during the first Gulf War, he would stick little pieces of acetate with enemy unit symbols to a battle map with double-stick tape.

"It is changing the nature of warfare and we're trying figure out how to come to grips with that," he said.

The Pentagon has put a growing emphasis on the potential threats.



A United States Military Academy cadet checks computers Wednesday at the academy.

Last year, Vice Adm. Michael Connor, in charge of the Navy's submarine force, said he was emphasizing the importance of commanders' ability to act independently in the event they're cut off from higher authorities during cyberbattle.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, in a speech to Chinese military leaders on Tuesday, called on their country to be more transparent about its cybersecurity programs and said the Pentagon had briefed Chinese government officials about the decisions that go into the military's use of cybercapabilities.

NATION

Embattled HHS chief Sebelius resigns post

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For five years, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius has been a lightning rod for critics of President Barack Obama's health care law. But with sign-ups exceeding expectations and a new face soon to be in charge at HHS, the White House is eager to see if the poisonous atmosphere might give way to more pragmatic efforts aimed at fixing problems with the nation's newest social program.

Obama announced Sebelius' resignation Friday and nominat-



Sebelius

ed his successor, Sylvia Mathews Burwell, as her replacement. The moves come just over a week after sign-ups closed for the first year of insurance coverage under the so-called Obamacare law.

In nominating Burwell, Obama is signaling that he wants to avoid

a contentious election-year fight to fill the HHS post. Burwell was unanimously confirmed by the Senate for her budget position and is well-liked by many Republican lawmakers.

Obama remained publicly supportive of Sebelius throughout the rough rollout, deflecting Re-



Burwell

publican calls for her resignation. But she was not by his side last week when he heralded the sign-up surge during an event in the White House Rose Garden.

Sebelius dropped no hints about her resignation Thursday when she testified at a budget hearing. Instead, she received congratulations from Democratic senators on the sign-up surge.

A popular former governor of Kansas, Sebelius has been one of Obama's longest-serving Cabinet officials and his only HHS secretary. She was instrumental in shepherding the health care law

through Congress in 2010 and implementing its initial components, including a popular provision that allows young people to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26.

But Sebelius' relationship with the White House frayed during the fall rollout of the insurance exchanges that are at the center of the sweeping overhaul. The president and his top advisers appeared caught off guard by the extent of the website problems, with warnings from those working on the technology never making it to the West Wing.

Tax refund fraud a big frustration for victims

By JOHN SEEWER

The Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Laura Hankins knew something was wrong when she filed her daughter's tax return and it was rejected hours later: An identity thief already had sent in a return using the 19-year-old's personal information.

"This is the first time in her life she has ever filed income taxes, after earning all of \$1,800 stocking products on grocery store shelves," Hankins said. "I did her taxes for her online, but immediately she got the rejection."

Thieves have claimed billions of dollars in bogus tax refunds from the IRS by swiping the Social Security numbers and identities of schoolchildren in Florida, prisoners in Pennsylvania, teachers in Washington state and soldiers deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hackers and employees with access to thousands of names stored in company databases have tapped into reams of personal information, allowing them to submit hundreds of fraudulent returns by computer and to receive refunds within days. Five people in Cincinnati were sentenced to prison last year for using the names of employees at nursing homes and hospitals to file returns.

It all adds up to a lot of frustration for legitimate taxpayers who face months of paperwork and months of waiting for their tax refunds.

Hankins was told her daugh-

ter Claire, a college student from West Milwaukee, Wis., would get her refund in about six months. But Hankins first had to spend about 20 hours filling out forms, gathering information and photocopying documents because she couldn't file electronically after the tax identity theft was discovered in February.

"Some kids get to go to Florida for spring break, but we got to go to the West Milwaukee police station to file a theft report," said Hankins, who added that her daughter is worried about what will happen next now that her personal information is out there.

The IRS paid out nearly \$4 billion to people using stolen identities in 2012, according to a government report. Since identity theft fraud exploded over the past three years, the agency has made stopping it a priority, but thieves are becoming more aggressive and still finding ways to get around increased scrutiny.

"It's like that game of Whac-A-Mole. When you're attacking one scheme, they come up with another," said Wilfredo Ferrer, the U.S. attorney in south Florida, a hotspot for the schemes.

Fraudulent filers have evaded detection lately by getting refunds loaded onto prepaid debit cards instead of receiving them by check. Others have robbed postal workers to get refunds and even recruited mail carriers to take part, Ferrer said.

She again refused to answer questions at hearing in March.

Lerner cited her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination. The Oversight Committee voted 21-12 Thursday to hold her in contempt. All Republicans voted in favor and all Democrats voted against.

Committee chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., said Lerner had effectively waived her Fifth Amendment right not to answer questions by providing an opening statement at the 2013 hearing. In her statement, Lerner said she did nothing wrong, broke no laws and never lied to Congress.

From The Associated Press



STEVE MARCUS, LAS VEGAS SUN/AP

Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton ducks as a shoe is thrown on stage Thursday during an address to members of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries during their annual convention at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas.

Shoe thrown at Clinton during speech

By KEN RITTER

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Hillary Clinton ducked a thrown shoe, expressed surprise, cracked a couple of jokes that drew applause and continued her keynote speech on stage in front of a Las Vegas convention audience.

Moments later, still in the stage spotlight, the former secretary of state reflected calmly on what she called "an atmosphere and attitude in politics" that she said rewards inflexibility and extremism.

"That is not the way democracy works," Clinton said as she fielded apologies and questions Thursday from Jerry Simms, the outgoing chairman of the host Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries.

"People bring their beliefs and their concerns to the table, and work them through," Clinton said.

Meanwhile, a woman was taken into federal custody after admitting she threw the shoe. She didn't say why she did it.

"Is that somebody throwing something at me?" Clinton said after the object flew past her on the stage at the Mandalay Bay resort. "Is that part of Cirque de Soleil?"

Most in the audience of more than 1,000 people understood the reference to the popular series of Las Vegas Strip shows featuring acrobats, magic and whimsy.

"My goodness, I didn't know that solid waste management was so controversial," Clinton laughed. "Thank goodness she didn't play softball like I did."

Brian Spellacy, U.S. Secret Service supervisory special agent in Las Vegas, said the woman in custody was being questioned and would face criminal charges. Spellacy declined to identify the woman.

Spellacy and a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Daniel Bogden said it wasn't immediately clear what charges she would face.

A black-and-orange athletic shoe was recovered from the

stage, Spellacy added.

Elene Rosen, the wife of a conventioneer from Denver who was seated in the second row, said she saw an orange object fly toward the stage from a side aisle and papers fluttering in the air.

Rosen said the woman had walked to a rope line within six rows of the front of the seating area, threw the items, turned around, put her hands into the air and walked up the aisle toward the back of the room. Security officers quickly caught up with her.

In the hotel hallway, the middle-aged, blonde woman sat calmly on a sofa, wearing a blue dress and thigh sandals. She said she threw a shoe and dropped some papers, but didn't identify herself to reporters or explain the action.

Spellacy and Mark Carpenter, spokesman for the recycling industry, said the woman wasn't a credentialed convention member and wasn't supposed to have been in the ballroom.

NATION

Suspect in deadly Fla. day care crash arrested; no bail set

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A man who authorities say drove an SUV that crashed into another vehicle, sending it spinning into a day care center where a girl was killed and 14 people were injured, was ordered Friday to stay in jail until a judge can determine whether he is a flight risk.

Robert Corchado, 28, will be held in jail until at least Monday when a judge will hear arguments on whether he can be released on bail, Circuit Judge Jerry Brewer said during a first appearance hearing.



Corchado

Bail initially was set for \$100,000, but a prosecutor told the judge that Corchado was a flight risk and that he should be held without bail.

"I have a witness here, a trooper, who can testify that he is a flight risk," prosecutor Austin Price said. "He has it on good authority that this defendant, is planning, once he posts bond, to leave the country."

Corchado's public defender, Jon de Armas, asked that the \$100,000 bail remain in place.

The judge said that if Corchado is released, he will be prohibited from driving a car as a condition.

Police say Corchado crashed his Dodge Durango into a convertible, which in turn smashed

into the KinderCare building on Wednesday. Corchado fled the scene, authorities said.

A manhunt across Florida ended Thursday with Corchado's arrest. He was charged with leaving the scene of a deadly accident almost precisely 24 hours after the KinderCare facility in Winter Park was torn open in the wreck, killing Lily Quintus, 4, who was sitting in a classroom awaiting her afternoon snack. Fourteen others were injured, most of them children.

Family members said Lily Quintus loved princesses, ranch dressing — on everything — and "Star Wars."

"Families are emotionally destroyed because of what he did," Nicole Quintus, Lily's mother, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The mother softly sobbed as she spoke of her daughter. She said Lily also loved the TV series "Doctor Who" and put ranch dressing on even pizza and hot dogs. Nicole Quintus said a teacher called her soon after the crash, screaming but unable to say what happened.

"One minute everything was normal, and the next there was an explosion and smoke and screams," she said.

Eight patients, including Lily, were initially taken to Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital in Orlando. One remained in critical condition Friday, and three were listed in fair condition, according to a statement. Three had been discharged. The remaining victims were taken to other hospitals. There were no updates on their conditions Friday.

Police: No known target in school stabbing rampage

By **JOE MANDAK**
The Associated Press

MURKYSVILLE, Pa. — No evidence has surfaced yet to show that a boy charged in a stabbing rampage at his high school was targeting any particular student, and efforts to establish a motive are being hampered because the suspect isn't talking and many victims remain hospitalized, a police chief said Friday.

"At this point I don't have anybody that, you know, was targeted," Chief Thomas Seefeld said. "I know the issue of bullying has been brought up but his attorney has even said ... that bullying is not part of this and we have no evidence or reason to believe that it is."

Alex Hribal, 16, is accused of stabbing or slashing 21 students and a guard on Wednesday at the 1,200-student Franklin Regional High School east of Pittsburgh. Charges against him include four

counts of attempted homicide and 21 counts of aggravated assault.

Eight students remain hospitalized Friday, routes in critical condition after one was downgraded, hospital officials said.

Hribal used two kitchen knives he brought from home, his lawyer has said, in an apparent random attack on other students that began just minutes before the start of classes in a crowded hallway, setting off a stampede.

Police said Hribal flailed away with the knives down a long stretch of a hallway, leaving blood on the walls and floor.

Two of the most seriously wounded students were found in a classroom, but it was not known whether they had just sought refuge there or were attacked there, the chief said.

The rampage, which police said lasted 15 minutes, was stopped when Hribal was tackled by an assistant principal.



Massive flames a tractor-trailer and a bus after they crashed Thursday in Orland, Calif.

JEREMY LOCKETT/AP

Truck, bus crash kills 10 in fiery wreck in Calif.

By **FENIT NIRAPPIL**
AND **CHANNING JOSEPH**
The Associated Press

ORLAND, Calif. — A college visit by more than 40 high school students turned tragic when a FedEx tractor-trailer veered across a grassy highway median and slammed into their bus in a fiery wreck that left 10 people dead, authorities said.

Someone kicked out a window on the bus, and many of those aboard squeezed through and ran for their lives to the other side of Interstate 5 before the vehicle exploded in flames.

The 44 teenagers aboard, nearly half from the Los Angeles school district, were participating in a program that invites prospective low-income or first-generation college students to visit Humboldt State University in far Northern California.

Steven Clavijo, a high school senior from Santa Clarita who planned to enroll at the school, was trying to catch a nap when he felt the vehicle begin to shake from left to right and then he heard a loud boom.

"We knew we were in major trouble," he said.

After he escaped, two more explosions soon followed. Clavijo and other survivors looked on, knowing others were still trapped in the inferno.

Both drivers were killed, along

with three adult chaperones and five teenage students, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Towering flames devoured both vehicles just after the crash, and clouds of smoke billowed into the sky until firefighters doused the fire, leaving behind scorched black hulks of metal. Bodies were draped in blankets inside the burned-out bus.

Three buses were traveling as a convoy and only one was involved in the crash, said Earl Perkins, assistant superintendent of operations for the Los Angeles schools district.

Nineteen of the students on the bus were from the Los Angeles schools, Perkins said.

The National Transportation Safety Board sent a team to investigate.

"Every piece of paper associated with this will be looked at," said Eric M. Weiss, an NTSB spokesman.

The crash happened a little after 5:30 p.m. on the interstate near Orland, a small city about 100 miles north of Sacramento.

The bus was among three the university had chartered as part of its two-day Preview Plus program to bring prospective students from Southern California to tour the Arcata campus.

The bus was owned by Silverado Stages, a tour bus company based in San Luis Obispo. The

company said in a statement on its website Thursday night that it was assisting authorities in gathering information.

Crisis counselors also were being made available at Los Angeles schools.

Sabrina Garcia, a high school senior from Los Angeles, said the tour began Thursday, with buses taking students in Southern California on the ride to the campus for a three-day stay. She said she decided to postpone the tour because she had a school project to complete.

"I was devastated when I heard about the crash, and relieved that I didn't attend," Garcia said. "I can't imagine how those kids feel. You think you're going somewhere safe with your school — and you end up in an accident."

A CHP dispatcher said the bus and the truck were on opposite sides of the freeway when the truck crossed the median and slammed into the bus, causing an explosion and a fire.

Investigators say the truck driver might have been trying to avoid a passenger car that also was involved in the crash, which shut down north and southbound traffic on the freeway.

"There was a small, white sedan in front of the truck," Heitman said. "The FedEx vehicle did sideswipe the sedan before it crossed the median."

NATION

LA deputies mistakenly kill fleeing hostage

By ROBERT JABLON
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The panicky 911 caller said a man with a 10-inch butcher knife was threatening people. So when Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies saw a wounded, bloody man rush out of a West Hollywood apartment with someone on his heels, they opened fire.

But the man they gunned down Monday night wasn't a mad slasher; he was a fleeing hostage.

John Winkler, 30, an aspiring television producer, died at a hospital.

"Taking the life of an innocent person is a police officer's greatest nightmare," Interim Los Angeles County Sheriff John Scott said Thursday at a news conference.

The entire department mourned Winkler's death, he added.

Winkler was "hanging out" with some friends who lived in the apartment below him on Palm Avenue when a man who also lived in that apartment, Alexander McDonald, climbed over the balcony with the knife, sheriff's homicide Lt. David Coleman said.

Taking the life of an innocent person is a police officer's greatest nightmare.

John Scott
Los Angeles County sheriff

McDonald was "in an incoherent state of mind, seemed very paranoid, which was uncharacteristic," Coleman said.

McDonald took his roommate, Winkler and another man hostage, then flew into a rage and began stabbing and fighting with them, authorities said.

"We don't know what caused his rage or what caused his outburst," and it was unclear whether drugs were involved, Coleman said.

Someone called 911, and arriving deputies were told the hostage-taker was a thin man in a black shirt.

Deputies announced themselves and pounded on the door, and at that moment one of the stabbing victims took the opportunity to escape, Coleman said.

"The door suddenly opened and a man with blood spurting from his neck entered the doorway" with Winkler — a thin man wearing a black shirt — running after him only inches away, Scott said.

The fleeing man appeared to be under "continuous attack," the sheriff said.

Three deputies fired four shots, and a bullet mortally wounded Winkler. The other man was hit in the leg and was hospitalized in stable condition, according to a Sheriff's Department statement.



John Strong, FBI special agent in charge of North Carolina, addresses members of the media during a press conference at the Wake Forest Town Hall on Thursday.



Frank Janssen



Kelvin Melton

NC kidnapping orchestrated by inmate with smuggled cellphone

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
AND ALLEN G. BREED
The Associated Press

WAKE FOREST, N.C. — A North Carolina prison inmate used a smuggled mobile phone to keep in touch with kidnappers holding the father of a prosecutor who helped send him away for life, federal authorities said.

Five people were arrested, and Frank Arthur Janssen, a Wake Forest man whose daughter prosecutes violent crimes, was rescued late Wednesday following a raid on an Atlanta apartment by the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue. During the abduction, the kidnappers took a picture of Janssen tied up in a chair and sent it to his wife, threatening to torture and dismember him if she went to police, the FBI said in court documents.

Janssen's kidnapping was related to his daughter's prosecution of Kelvin Melton, who is serving a life sentence for ordering the shooting of a man in 2011, said John Strong, the FBI's agent in charge for North Carolina.

Authorities say Melton, 49, had a mobile phone in his cell at Polk Correctional Institution in Butner, exchanging at least 123 calls and text messages with the alleged kidnappers in the past week. Authorities closed in on the suspects by tracking their mobile phones and listening to their calls.

According to testimony from his 2012 trial, Melton is a high-ranking member of the Bloods street gang from New York City who ordered a 21-year-old subordinate to travel to Raleigh and kill his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend. Court records show Melton has a

'We will send [Frank Arthur Janssen] back to you in 6 boxes and every chance we get we will take someone in your family to Italy and torture them and kill them ... we will do drive by and gun down anybody.'

kidnappers
in text messages to Janssen's wife

long record of felony convictions in New York, the first being a 1979 robbery committed when he was 14.

The admitted triggerman, Jamil Herring Gressett, testified that he followed Melton's orders for fear he or his loved ones would be killed if he didn't. The victim survived a gunshot wound.

The prosecutor in the case was Wake County Assistant District Attorney Colleen Janssen.

In a handwritten 2012 letter in the court file, Melton protested that the prosecutor had not followed proper legal procedure, citing a specific state statute.

"Prosecutor must file accusor affidavit with clerk of court 'prior' to seeking an indictment, this affidavit must be on file, mandatory!" Melton wrote. "The accused indictment is not legal and is rendered in-valid."

Melton's amateur lawyering didn't work. He was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and being a habitual felon, resulting in a life sentence.

According to the FBI, a woman knocked on Frank Janssen's door Saturday at his Wake Forest home in a quiet, upscale, golf course subdivision. Several people assaulted him and someone used a stun gun. He was then driven to Atlanta.

On Monday, his wife, Christie, started receiving a series of text messages from a mobile phone in Georgia. One of the texts said if law enforcement was contacted, "we will send [Mr. Janssen] back to you in 6 boxes and every chance we get we will take someone in your family to Italy and torture them and kill them ... we will do drive by and gun down anybody."

The messages made specific demands for the benefit of Melton, according to the FBI. Those demands were not spelled out in the court filings, and authorities did not answer questions at a news conference Thursday.

A federal law enforcement official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation, told The Associated Press that the kidnapping was an act of retaliation and that the communications of those involved suggested a link to the Bloods. The official had been briefed on the investigation.

Charged with kidnapping were Jenna Paulin Martin; Tiana Maynard; Jevante "Flame" Price; Michael "Hot" Montreal Gooden; and Clifton James Roberts. Authorities also recovered a .45-caliber handgun, picks and a shovel, according to the FBI.

Tactics at CIA perhaps illegal

By ALI WATKINS, JONATHAN S. LANDAY AND MARISA TAYLOR
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A still-secret Senate Intelligence Committee report calls into question the legal foundation of the CIA's use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques on suspected terrorists, a finding that challenges the key defense on which the agency and the Bush administration relied in arguing that the methods didn't constitute torture.

The report also found that the spy agency failed to keep an accurate account of the number of individuals it held, and that it issued erroneous claims about how many it detained and subjected to the controversial interrogation methods. The CIA has said that about 30 detainees underwent the so-called enhanced interrogation techniques.

The CIA's claim "is BS," said a former U.S. official familiar with evidence underpinning the report, who asked not to be identified because the matter is still classified. "They are trying to minimize the damage. They are trying to say it was a very targeted program, but that's not the case."

The findings are among the report's 20 main conclusions. Taken together, they paint a picture of an intelligence agency that seemed intent on evading or misleading nearly all of its oversight mechanisms throughout the program, which was launched under the Bush administration after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and ran until 2006. Some of the report's other conclusions, which were obtained by McClatchy, include:

■ The CIA used interrogation methods that were approved by the Justice Department or CIA headquarters;

■ The agency impeded effective White House oversight and decision-making regarding the program;

■ The CIA actively evaded or impeded congressional oversight of the program;

■ The agency hindered oversight of the program by its own inspector general's office.

The 6,300-page report is the culmination of a four-year, \$40 million investigation by the Democrat-led committee into the detention and interrogation program. The panel on April 3 to send the report's 480-page executive summary, the findings and conclusions from the executive branch for declassification before public release.

NATION



MICHAEL RUBINKAM/AP

Michelle Monzo, left, Crisis Intervention Specialist course instructor, and Lower Merion Township police officer Joe Smith, right, talk into the ears of officer Matt Dougherty, center, during a training simulation at Montgomery County Emergency Service in Norristown, Pa.

Police taught to spot signs of psychiatric crisis

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM

The Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — When a 6-foot-5, 270-pound man with a history of violence broke out of a mental health ward near Philadelphia and tried to withdraw money from a bank, a confrontation with police seemed likely.

But Lower Merion Township police officer Matthew Freund used his mental health training to calmly talk to the man and defuse the crisis.

“No force was necessary,” Freund said. “He thanked me. He said, ‘You’re the only person that’s ever truly listened to me.’ That was a situation where things could’ve gotten out of hand very quickly.”

Sometimes they do, especially if police aren’t trained how to respond to the severely mentally ill. Dozens of mentally ill people die in run-ins with police every year. Last month, a homeless camper in Albuquerque, N.M., was killed in a shooting captured on an officer’s helmet camera, sparking an FBI investigation and a protest that forced the city to call out riot police. On Thursday, the U.S. Department of Justice slammed Albuquerque police for routinely using excessive force on those with mental illness.

Mental health advocates say violent confrontations occur regularly between people with untreated mental illness and officers who often aren’t equipped to deal with them. They blame a mental health system whose funding has been severely slashed, thrusting police into the role of first responder.

“We have systematically dismantled the treatment system for people with the most severe mental illness, and that has con-

Behavior police look for to detect crises

Police officers who receive crisis intervention training are taught how to recognize when someone with serious mental illness might be having a psychiatric crisis.

Considering the overall circumstances, police look for the following:

- Behavior that doesn’t fit the circumstance, such as laughing at a funeral.
- Nonverbal and easily distracted.
- Bizarre and disjointed thinking

(delusions, hallucinations).

- Suicidal.
- Normal coping skills are failing or not evident.
- Unaware of self, dirty, disheveled, malodorous.
- Unaware of surroundings and possible risk to personal safety.

SOURCE: Donald Kline, Montgomery County Emergency Service in Pennsylvania

sequences,” said Doris Fuller, executive director of the Treatment Advocacy Center in Arlington, Va. “We have basically discontinued the hospital option for people who are in psychiatric crisis. What happens instead? They don’t get the treatment they need, they continue to deteriorate and at some point, someone calls the police because they’re out of control and there’s nowhere else to go.”

State psychiatric hospitals began closing en masse 50 years ago amid a shift to community-based treatment. But a persistent lack of funding for mental health services has left many without needed support. As a result, people with serious mental illness often wind up homeless or cycle in and out of jail.

The Great Recession worsened the problem. States cut more than \$4 billion from mental health budgets from 2009 to 2012, eliminating thousands of in-patient psychiatric beds, according to a 2012 report by the National Association of State Mental Health

Program Directors.

Now officers spend a disproportionate amount of time on mental health calls, said Michael Biasotti, who has studied the impact of deinstitutionalization.

“If I could make one recommendation, it would be to prevent individuals from deteriorating to the point where law enforcement becomes involved. Return care and treatment of the most seriously ill back to the mental health system,” Biasotti, the police chief in New Windsor, N.Y., told a U.S. House panel last month.

That didn’t happen in the case of Brenda Williams, 52.

In 2009, the Air Force veteran — suffering from paranoid schizophrenia — ran at police with a knife in her hand and was shot

dead inside her apartment. Her family says Scranton police and other officials knew she was delusional from previous incidents but did not have her committed.

“They should’ve handled it in a way that suited her mental illness,” Williams’ daughter, Alana, 19, told The Associated Press. “She didn’t have to die the way she did, and she shouldn’t have had to. There were so many warning signs.”

Williams’ shooting was ruled justified, and no charges were filed, but her death spurred change. Police from Scranton and about a dozen nearby departments now receive crisis intervention training.

Scranton officers, using a program developed in Memphis, Tenn., more than 25 years ago, get 40 hours of training in how to recognize and respond to mental illness and psychiatric emergencies. Such crisis intervention teams have been installed in nearly 3,000 police departments out of 18,000 nationwide.

Mental health advocates say training can help police spot when someone is in crisis and adjust their tactics accordingly, potentially reducing injuries to officers and people with mental illness as well as the frequency of arrests.

“It absolutely has made a difference,” said Marie Onukivage, executive director of the

Scranton-area chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. “Family members are seeing a great deal of understanding and patience and knowledge about what their loved one might be going through.”

At Montgomery County Emergency Service, a private psychiatric hospital outside Philadelphia, officers are taught that how they talk and even where they stand can make a big difference.

Police learn they should try to make eye contact, speak calmly and listen.

“You have to hear what the problem is before you can actually try to fix it,” said Michelle Monzo, who has trained about 3,800 officers over the last five years.

A recent simulation showed police how hard following commands can be for someone who is hearing voices.

Officers Edward Sara and Robert McGuire pretended they had to talk a man with schizophrenia out of a chair — where he had sat for a day, covered in his own waste — and get him committed. The tenant was played by officer Matt Dougherty, who literally heard voices as Monzo and another officer jabbered nonstop into his ears.

“We’re here to check up on you. Have you been in the chair for very long?” McGuire asked. “Try to focus on me, Mr. Dougherty.”

Added Sara: “Matt, Matt, we’re here to help you, Matt.”

Dougherty was unable to respond, distracted by the voices.

“I never experienced anything like that before,” he said later. “To see it from the other side was eye-opening.”

“I never experienced anything like that before. To see it from the other side was eye-opening.”

Matt Dougherty
police officer

WORLD

Australia PM confident signal from Flight 370

By ROB GRIFFITH
AND KRISTEN GELINEAU
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Authorities are confident that signals detected deep in the Indian Ocean are from the missing Malaysian jet's black boxes, Australia's prime minister said Friday, raising hopes they are close to solving one of aviation's most perplexing mysteries.

Tony Abbott told reporters in Shanghai that crews hunting for Flight 370 have zeroed in on a more targeted area in their search for the source of the sounds, first heard on Saturday.

"We have very much narrowed

down the search area and we are very confident that the signals that we are detecting are from the black box on MH370," Abbott said.

"Nevertheless, we're getting into the stage where the signal from what we are very confident is the black box is starting to fade," he added. "We are hoping to get as much information as we can before the signal finally expires."

The plane's black boxes, or flight data and cockpit voice recorders, may hold the answers to why the Boeing 777 lost communications and veered so far off course when it vanished March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239

people on board.

Search crews are racing against time because the batteries powering the devices' locator beacons last only about a month — and more than a month has passed since the plane disappeared. Finding the black boxes after the batteries fail will be extremely difficult because the water in the area is 15,000 feet deep.

The Australian ship Ocean Shield is towing a U.S. Navy device that detects black box signals, and two sounds it heard Saturday were determined to be consistent with the signals emitted from aircraft flight recorders. Two more sounds were detected in the same general area on Tuesday.

"We are confident that we know the position of the black box flight recorder to within some kilometers," Abbott said. "But confidence in the approximate position of the black box is not the same as recovering wreckage from almost 3 miles beneath the sea or finally determining all that happened on that flight."

Abbott also met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on Friday and briefed him on the search. Two-thirds of the passengers aboard Flight 370 were Chinese, and their relatives have been critical of the Malaysian government's handling of the crisis.

"This will be a very long, slow and painstaking process," Abbott

told Xi.

An Australian air force P-3 Orion, which has been dropping sonar buoys into the water near where the Ocean Shield picked up the sounds, detected another possible signal on Thursday, but Angus Houston, who is coordinating the search for the plane, said in a statement that an initial assessment had determined it was not related to an aircraft black box.

The buoys each have a hydrophone listening device that dangles about 1,000 feet below the surface and their data are sent via radio back to a plane, Royal Australian Navy Commodore Peter Leavy said.



This satellite image made March 22 and provided Wednesday shows what are purported to be Russian military Su-27/30 "Flanker" aircraft at the Primorko-Aldtarsk Air Base in southern Russia.

Russia forces 'ready to go' near border

The Associated Press

Russia has deployed a "combined-arms army" just east of Ukraine, according to satellite photos released by NATO.

Staff for Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, who is supreme allied commander Europe, provided The Associated Press with a set of commercial satellite photographs of areas east of the Russia-Ukraine border. The staff members said the photos showed Russian warplanes, combat helicopters, armor, artillery and a probable airborne or special forces brigade deployed in locations east of the Ukraine-Russian border, including along the coastline of the Sea of Azov.

A defense analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, reviewed the satellite images and said the forces de-

picted in them don't appear to be involved in training exercises.

"They appear to be "in combat readiness," Anthony Cordesman said.

But he said it's unclear from the images how much of a buildup of Russian forces there has been in the border area.

"They show there is a mixture of light and heavy forces and that they could go quickly" if ordered into Ukraine, and that they include forces to provide air mobility, according to Cordesman. "But that's all they show," he said.

The commercial provider of the photographs, DigitalGlobe, said they were taken in late March.

"What we see there is a force of about 40,000," Breedlove said in an interview with AP. "I would characterize it as a combined-arms army. In other words, this is an army that has all of the provisioning and enablers that it needs

to accomplish military objectives if given them."

The Russians' assets include fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, artillery, field hospitals, communications and jamming gear, he said.

Kremlin objectives remain unclear, the NATO commander said. The force could stand pat and intimidate Ukraine solely by its presence, drive south to create a land bridge with Crimea, push along the Black Sea coast to the Ukrainian port city of Odessa and the largely Russian Trans-Dniester enclave of Moldova, or invade other areas of eastern Ukraine where ethnic Russians are demanding unity with Russia, he said.

However the Russian contingent might ultimately be used, it's "ready to go essentially at a command. We talk about inside of 12 hours," Breedlove said.

Ukraine leader: regions should have more powers

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Ukraine's prime minister on Friday told leaders in the country's restive east that he is committed to allowing regions to have more powers, but left it unclear how his ideas differ from the demands of protesters now occupying government buildings or from Russia's advocacy of federalization.

The officials who met Arseniy Yatsenyuk in Donetsk did not include representatives of the protesters. The officials asked Yatsenyuk to allow referenda on autonomy for their regions, but not on secession.

"There are no separatists among us," said Gennady Kernes, mayor of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, where protesters had occupied a government building earlier in the week.

Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland was the support base for Kremlin-friendly president Viktor Yanukovich, who was ousted in February after months of protests. Last month, the Crimea region voted to secede and was annexed by Russia.

Russia ratcheted up the pressure on Ukraine on Thursday when President Vladimir Putin warned European leaders of a risk to the gas supplies going through Ukraine. He has threatened that Russia could shut off shipments to Ukraine if it fails to pay its mammoth debts.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told Russian news agencies on Friday that Russia has not heard from the countries to which Putin sent a letter.

Protesters in the eastern cities of Donetsk and Luhansk are occupying government buildings and calling for referenda on regional autonomy that could prefigure seeking annexation by Russia.

Before leaving Donetsk for another eastern city, Yatsenyuk told reporters that he favors a peaceful solution to the standoff. However, he left the door open to storming the buildings occupied by armed men, though a two-day deadline announced earlier this week has passed.

Yatsenyuk said the grievances of eastern Ukraine would be addressed by the upcoming constitutional reform that will "satisfy people who want to see more powers given to regions." He mentioned abolishing Kiev-controlled local administration as one of the steps to decentralize the country.

The protesters in Donetsk, who have held the regional administration building since Sunday, initially called for a referendum on secession but later reduced the demand to one on autonomy, with the possibility of holding another later on whether the region would remain part of Ukraine or seek to become an autonomous region within Russia.

The eastern parts of Ukraine have a high proportion of Russian-speakers and many of them fear that the acting government that took over when Yanukovich fled will repress them. Kiev and Western officials, in turn, claim that Russia is whipping up tensions in the east, with the aim of establishing a pretext for sending in troops. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov denied any participation by Russia in the events in the east, saying on Rossiya television on Friday that "our servicemen aren't there. Our agents aren't there."

He also said Russia does not aim to annex any parts of eastern Ukraine and "we want Ukraine to be whole with its current borders." He also dismissed earlier calls by the eastern Ukraine protesters for Russia to send in peacekeeping forces.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man shot in the knee while riding bicycle

OR SALEM — A Salem man told police he was shot in the knee while riding his bicycle.

The Marion County Sheriff's Office says deputies got reports of shots fired Wednesday about 3 a.m. About an hour later, Salem Hospital told them a man arrived with a gunshot wound to his right knee.

The 23-year-old man told investigators he was riding his bicycle when someone from a dark, blue sedan started shooting at him.

Detectives are asking any witnesses to come forward, including two bicyclists who helped the victim immediately after he was shot.

Ex-professor accused of lying about diploma

RI NORTH SCITUATE — A former University of Rhode Island professor is charged with forging his doctorate diploma to get a consulting deal, then lying under oath about his credentials.

State police say retired adjunct professor Frederick Meli, 64, misrepresented himself to get hired to examine stone mounds on a North Smithfield property that was slated for development. Meli determined the mounds were part of a Native American burial ground.

Police said Narragansett man also lied about his diploma when the developer sued. An independent archaeologist determined the mounds were likely built for agrarian use.

Meli was arrested Wednesday on charges including forgery and perjury and was released on his own recognizance.

Legislation that would end orca shows stalls

CA SACRAMENTO — A California bill that sought to end killer whale shows at SeaWorld in San Diego and phase out their captivity was put on hold Tuesday, dousing an escalating fight between animal activists and a major tourist attraction.

The bill's author, Democrat Richard Bloom of Santa Monica, agreed during the first committee hearing for AB2140 to revisit his proposal after further study.

As a result, the bill is dead for this year and the sponsor lawmakers could vote on the proposal would be mid-2015 following additional hearings.

Computer support call leads to burglary arrest

NH DOVER — Mike Witonis got an email from Apple thanking him for calling customer service about his laptop computer. Problem is, someone had stolen it from him a year earlier.

Police eventually arrested Casey Wentworth, 24, of Portsmouth, on Monday and charged him with burglary. He's accused of taking the laptop from Witonis' home in Dover in February 2013. When the break-in happened,

THE CENSUS

2 The number of dogs that could be allowed per household under a dog control program for which an official in eastern Oregon is trying to raise money. Willows County Commissioner Paul Castilleja told the Joseph City Council he wants cities in the county to contribute to a fund that would help pay for a full-time dog control officer. His list of proposals for the program includes one that would limit each household to a maximum of two dogs. Another would prohibit dogs from city and county parks.



JIM GEHRZ, THE (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

Air time

Demetri Collins-Brooks gives a little help to Dylan Bauer, 2, at Theodore Wirth Park on Wednesday in Minneapolis.

police said they couldn't identify any suspects. Detectives contacted Apple and the laptop's serial number was flagged.

When Witonis got the email, he contacted police, who said the person who called customer service used the serial number of the stolen computer.

Deer eating gravesite flowers at cemetery

DE WILMINGTON — Administrators of one Delaware cemetery are asking visitors to bring artificial flowers to gravesites, saying hungry deer are eating fresh floral arrangements there.

All Saints Cemetery has installed signs suggesting visitors bring faux foliage. Artificial floral arrangements are also being sold now at a cemetery office.

An assistant superintendent at the cemetery said groundskeepers have tried to keep the pesky deer away from funeral flowers by spraying them with a deer deterrent and covering them at night. But the official said problems with the hungry deer only seem to have gotten worse this year.

The plea comes at a peak cemetery visitation time for relatives and others paying respects to deceased loved ones around Christian observances of Palm Sunday

and Easter.

Charges reduced for minivan-in-ocean case

FL DAYTONA BEACH — Prosecutors in Daytona Beach say they've filed attempted second-degree murder and child-abuse charges against a pregnant South Carolina woman who drove a minivan carrying her three small children into the Atlantic surf.

Volusia County Sheriff's deputies initially arrested Ebony Wilkerson, 32, on three counts each of first-degree murder and child abuse charges following the March 4 incident.

Prosecutors wouldn't say why charges were reduced.

Public Defender James Purdy said in a statement that he plans to enter not-guilty pleas at Wilkerson's arraignment Thursday. He says he believes the evidence will show Wilkerson never intended to harm the children — ages 3, 9 and 10 — or herself.

Beachgoers helped pull the screaming children and Wilkerson from the surf that day.

Sewage treatment plant invites weddings

WA WOODINVILLE — A sewage treatment

plant near Seattle is advertising its availability as a wedding venue.

The Brightwater Wastewater Treatment Center says on Facebook it has a full catering kitchen, audio-video equipment, a dance floor and ample parking.

You could even hold the wedding outside.

The director of the Brightwater Environmental Education and Community Center, Susan Tallarico, said that receptions would take place just steps away from where raw sewage is processed. She said there's no odor because all the processing is contained.

The King County plant was finished three years ago but has been available for rent for about seven months.

It costs \$2,000 to rent the center for eight hours. One couple already has booked the sewage plant for their nuptials.

'No-sell' list of drinkers wins Senate support

AK ANCHORAGE — The state Senate Finance Committee has given its support to a \$5 million proposal that includes plans to establish a "no-sell" list of people banned from buying alcohol in Anchorage.

The proposal by the Fairview Business Association also calls for comprehensive treatment and

case management for the city's costliest problem drinkers.

The Senate committee included the project in the \$1.9 billion capital budget that was unveiled Monday.

Under the proposal, services would be overseen by Akeela Inc., a nonprofit organization providing services for the treatment and prevention of alcohol and substance abuse in Anchorage and other Alaska communities.

Medical marijuana bill may surface in Senate

IA DES MOINES — Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal says he will sponsor a bill legalizing the sale of medical marijuana in Iowa, reviving an issue once thought dead this year.

The persistent efforts of woman who have children with epilepsy changed lawmakers' perceptions on the issue.

New policy measures cannot be raised late in the legislative session unless leaders in the House or Senate bring them up. Since Gronstal, a Democrat, will sponsor a bill its fate relies on Minority Leader Bill Dix, a Republican, to sign on too to move it forward. Dix says he will make that decision when a bill is presented to him.

From wire reports

WORLD

Pakistan: Taliban factions clash

ISLAMABAD — Intelligence officials and militant commanders in Pakistan say clashes this week between Taliban factions in the northwest have killed dozens of fighters.

One senior Taliban commander put the number of dead at 23. Other intelligence officials put the number as high as 43.

There was no immediate way to independently confirm the death toll in the remote and dangerous area. The officials and commanders all spoke on condition of anonymity.

Suicide bomber kills Afghan tribal elder

KABUL — An Afghan official said a suicide bomber killed a pro-government tribal elder and wounded three civilians in eastern Afghanistan.

A spokesman for the governor of Paktiya province, where the attack occurred, said the bomber detonated his explosives in front of tribal elder Gul Babri.

Spokesman Mokhles Afghan said Friday's attack occurred about 2 p.m. in the market of the Jani Khil district.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Bus crash in Poland injures 7, mostly teens

WARSAW, Poland — A Swedish bus drove into a ditch in southwestern Poland on Friday, injuring seven people including four Swedes and an American teenager.

Slawomir Masojc, spokesman for the police in Legnica, told The Associated Press that two people — the American and a driver — were taken by helicopter to a hospital in Wrocław. Five others were taken by ambulances to a hospital in Legnica.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said four of the injured were Swedes ages 15 to 20.

Masojc said they are musicians headed for a concert in Slovakia.

Mexican drug lord's son turns US informant

WASHINGTON — The son of one of Mexico's most-wanted drug traffickers has been "flipped" by U.S. prosecutors as part of a plea deal in Chicago federal court, the U.S. Justice Department announced.

High-ranking Sinaloa cartel lieutenant Jesus Vicente Zambada-Niebla, also known as "El Vicentillo" or "El Mayito" after his father, Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, pleaded guilty a year ago to helping direct a vast narcotics trafficking operation that smuggled "multiple tons of cocaine" into the United States.

According to the plea deal unveiled Thursday by U.S. attorneys, Zambada-Niebla, facing life in prison, will be eligible for a lesser sentence in exchange for cooperating with the government.

Ebola scare is bad for business

Bloomberg News

CONAKRY, Guinea — Ibrahim Capi Camara's phone at the Grand Hotel de L'Independence in Guinea's capital hasn't stopped ringing since an Ebola outbreak began last month, for all the wrong reasons.

"At least 80 percent of our reservations have been canceled," Camara, general manager of the 217-room hotel in the heart of Conakry, said on April 8. "Clients are scared to come because of Ebola."

West Africa is fighting to contain an outbreak of the disease that has claimed the lives of 111 people in Guinea and Liberia, the worst outbreak in seven years, and kills as many as nine out of 10 people who cure or contract it.

There's no cure or vaccine for the hemorrhagic fever that will probably continue to spread in the region for a few more months, according to the World Health

Organization.

Measures such as closing borders and restricting travel "don't make sense," according to WHO, which says avoiding close contact with patients will help contain the spread of the disease. That hasn't stopped Senegal from shutting a border or Ivory Coast from barring buses from Liberia and Guinea. Rio de Janeiro-based Vale, the world's biggest iron-ore producer, sent foreign workers in Guinea back to their homes last week.

"The extreme fear it provokes in populations means that local and regional businesses are already seeing disruption to operations," Charles Laurie, head of Africa research at Bath, England-based risk consultant Maplecroft, said in an email. "Regional trade is at risk of grinding to a halt."

Mohamed Cherif Abdallah, head of the Organized Group of Businessmen in Conakry, said the

outbreak is hurting the economy.

"Guinean business owners are losing money because of this," he said by phone. "The disease has halted economic activity in the country's interior, and many foreigners are reluctant to come now."

The Guinean region and towns of Gueckedou and Macenta where Ebola was first detected last month produces most of the fruit and vegetables sold in the capital.

"People claim that our bananas contain Ebola because they come from Gueckedou," Marie Dore, a market vendor in Conakry, said in an interview. "For the past two weeks, I've had to throw all my bananas away. Business is dwindling."

Inadequate health care and a shortage of doctors make fighting the disease more difficult.

In Guinea, residents of a town with reported cases attacked a

center run by Medecins Sans Frontieres, blaming its staff for spreading the disease. The Swiss-based aid group reopened the facility in Macenta on Thursday, Corinne Benazech, project manager in Guinea, said in an email.

It's the first time the disease, identified in 1976 near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, has caused deaths in west Africa.

The virus is transmitted to people through blood and other secretions of wild animals such as chimpanzees, gorillas, bats and porcupines, according to the WHO. Humans pass the virus to each other through contact with blood and other body fluids. The disease causes high fever, diarrhea and vomiting, and can lead to internal bleeding.



KARIM KADHIM/AP

Iraqi civilians inspect debris left in the aftermath of a car bombing on a commercial street in Sadr City, Iraq. Two car bombs exploded in Shiite neighborhoods of Iraq's capital Thursday night, killing and wounding scores of people.

Violence increases as Iraq nears vote

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's deputy prime minister escaped an assassination attempt in which militants dressed as soldiers opened fire on his convoy west of Baghdad on Friday, according to an Iraqi lawmaker and a statement from the deputy premier's office.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack — the latest violence as the country heads toward crucial parliamentary elections on April 30. But Islamic militants have in the past frequently targeted officials in their effort to undermine confidence in the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Sunni lawmaker Talal al-Zobaie said he was accompanying Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq, also a Sunni, and several other government officials on a visit to the villages

in the Abu Ghraib area, west of the Iraqi capital, when the attack took place on Friday.

A group of armed men in army uniforms and driving military vehicles opened fire at their convoy, triggering a shootout with guards and soldiers protecting al-Mutlaq, said al-Zobaie.

Three of al-Mutlaq's guards were wounded in the shootout and the attackers fled, the lawmaker said.

According to a statement from al-Mutlaq's office, the officials were inspecting flood damages to the area after militants from an al-Qaida splinter group took over territory in and around the

nearby city of Fallujah and shut off a water dam.

Also on Friday, a roadside bomb struck a minibus outside the northern city of Mosul, killing one civilian and wounding six.

Violence has surged in Iraq since last year, with the country weathering its deadliest bout of violence since it pulled back from the brink of civil war in 2008.

The April 30 balloting will be Iraq's first since the 2011 U.S. troop pullout.

More than 9,000 candidates will vie for 328 seats in parliament, but there will be no balloting in parts of the Sunni-dominated Anbar province, which is engulfed in clashes between security forces and the Islamic militants.

The militants have seized and are continuing to hold parts of the provincial capital, Ramadi, and nearly all of the nearby city of Fallujah.



al-Mutlaq

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US deficit declines in March to \$37B

By Christopher S. Rugaber
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government's budget deficit shrank to just \$37 billion in March from \$107 billion in the same month last year, the latest sign of improvement in the nation's finances. The deficit was the lowest for the month of March in 14 years.

The deficit fell partly because revenue jumped 16 percent to \$216 billion, the Treasury Department said in its monthly budget report Thursday. Individual income and Social Security tax receipts have increased as employers have steadily hired more workers in the past year.

Changes in the timing of about \$40 billion in benefit payments and tax receipts were also a big reason for the smaller deficit. Most of that change involved benefit payments that were made in February this year but had occurred in March last year.

Excluding the impact of those



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Members of Congress walk down the steps of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington.

timing shifts, the deficit would have been \$77 billion last month. Spending still dipped 2 percent in March, even excluding the timing shift.

Defense spending fell 16 percent to \$45 billion last month, and spending on unemployment benefits also fell.

Corporate profits also have

perked up from last year, boosting corporate tax receipts 7 percent in March, to \$36 billion.

The government's 2014 budget year began Oct. 1 and is now half over. In the first six months of the budget year, the deficit was \$413 billion, down from \$600 billion in the first half of last year.

Tax receipts rose 10 percent in

the October-to-March period, the Treasury Department says, while spending fell 4 percent.

President Barack Obama projected last month that the deficit for the full year will drop to \$649 billion, down from \$680 billion in the previous year.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office is forecasting an even bigger improvement, projecting that this year's deficit will fall to \$514 billion and will fall further to \$478 billion next year.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 14)	\$1.4247
Dollar buys (April 14)	€0.7019
British pound (April 14)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (April 14)	99.00
South Korean won (April 14)	1,010.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6731/0.9377
Canada (dollar)	1.0956
China (Yuan)	6.2115
Denmark (Krone)	5.3787
Egypt (Pound)	0.9775
Euro	\$1.3882/0.7204
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.7533
Hungary (Forint)	220.93
Israel (Shekel)	3.4662
Japan (Yen)	101.56
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2811
Norway (Krone)	5.9340
Philippines (Peso)	44.31
Poland (Zloty)	3.4033
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2477
South Korea (Won)	1,039.40
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8758
Thailand (Baht)	32.29
Turkey (New Lira)	0.1258

MARKET WATCH

April 10, 2014

Dow Jones -266.96

Industrials 16,170.22

Nasdaq composite -129.79

4,054.11

Standard & Poor's 500 -39.10

1,833.08

Russell 2000 -32.30

1,127.66

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.52

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Saturday's US temperatures

City	HI	LO	Wthr	Chatanooga	80	52	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	72	54	Pcldy	Louisville	74	53	Pcldy	Pocatello	64	41	Cir	Slous City	78	53	Cldy	
Ablene, Tex	85	60	Cldy	Cheyenne	61	Cldy	Fresno	82	54	Pcldy	Lubbock	90	54	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	73	51	Cldy	Slous Falls	78	53	Cldy		
Akron, Ohio	68	41	Pcldy	Chicago	73	44	Cldy	Goodland	79	45	Pcldy	Macon	80	56	Cir	Portland, Ore.	65	43	Pcldy	South Bend	73	43	Pcldy	
Albany, N.Y.	68	36	Cir	Cincinnati	74	48	Cldy	Grand Junction	72	46	Cldy	Madison	69	49	Rain	Providence	61	44	Pcldy	Spokane	56	35	Pcldy	
Albuquerque	76	50	Cldy	Cleveland	68	40	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	72	41	Cldy	Medford	77	44	Cir	Pueblo	79	40	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	76	48	Cldy	
Allentown, Pa.	69	42	Cir	Colorado Springs	73	42	Cldy	Great Falls	40	37	Snow	Memphis	79	61	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	78	54	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	75	55	Cldy	
Amarillo	68	40	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	81	54	Pcldy	Green Bay	56	39	Rain	Miami Beach	83	71	Cldy	Reno	62	42	Cldy	St. Louis	84	68	Cldy	
Anchorage	38	23	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	80	57	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	73	53	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	91	61	Cldy	Richmond	76	54	Pcldy	Tallahassee	82	54	Pcldy	
Asheville	77	43	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	72	44	Pcldy	Hartford	69	45	Pcldy	Milwaukee	63	43	Cldy	Roanoke	73	52	Pcldy	Tampa	84	65	Pcldy	
Atlanta	79	46	Cir	Concord, N.H.	65	33	Pcldy	Hartford Spgfd	67	40	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	67	46	Rain	Rochester	68	37	Pcldy	Toledo	71	40	Pcldy	
Atlantic City	65	48	Pcldy	Corpus Christi	82	68	Rain	Helena	49	39	Snow	Missoula	55	34	Rain	Rockford	73	43	Cldy	Topeka	81	53	Pcldy	
Austin	82	66	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	84	63	Cldy	Honolulu	83	68	Cldy	Mobile	68	51	Pcldy	Sacramento	78	49	Cir	Tucson	86	61	Pcldy	
Baltimore	71	49	Pcldy	Dayton	72	43	Cldy	Houston	79	63	Cldy	Montgomery	81	54	Cir	St. Louis	79	52	Pcldy	Tulsa	79	55	Pcldy	
Baton Rouge	82	60	Cldy	Daytona Beach	79	61	Pcldy	Huntsville	78	54	Pcldy	Nashville	80	54	Cldy	St. Petersburg	84	68	Cldy	Tupelo	79	55	Pcldy	
Billings	68	40	Rain	Denver	74	49	Cldy	Indianapolis	74	47	Pcldy	New Orleans	80	62	Cir	St. Thomas	86	76	Cldy	Waco	83	63	Cldy	
Birmingham	78	55	Cir	Des Moines	75	51	Rain	Jackson, Miss.	79	57	Cldy	New York City	64	47	Cir	Salt Lake City	73	54	Pcldy	Washington	71	51	Pcldy	
Bismarck	54	36	Pcldy	Detroit	66	41	Pcldy	Jacksonville	79	55	Pcldy	Newark	66	47	Cir	Salem, Ore.	81	64	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	82	70	Cldy	
Boise	63	43	Cir	Duluth	82	34	Pcldy	Snow	Juneau	52	24	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	70	55	Cldy	Salt Lake City	73	54	Pcldy	Wichita	80	53	Cldy
Boston	60	45	Cir	El Paso	89	64	Cldy	Kansas City	78	52	Cldy	North Platte	77	45	Pcldy	San Angelo	87	62	Cldy	Wichita Falls	87	61	Cir	
Bridgeport	65	41	Cir	Elkins	72	45	Pcldy	Key West	87	73	Cir	Oklahoma City	80	60	Cir	San Antonio	84	66	Rain	Wicks-Barre	69	39	Pcldy	
Brownsville	83	68	Cldy	Erie	65	38	Pcldy	Knoxville	78	50	Pcldy	Omaha	77	52	Rain	San Diego	66	58	Rain	Wilmington, Del.	68	50	Pcldy	
Buffalo	61	37	Pcldy	Eugene	65	42	Cir	Lake Charles	79	63	Cldy	Orlando	84	61	Pcldy	San Francisco	65	52	Cir	Youngstown	64	35	Cldy	
Butte	64	40	Pcldy	Evansville	74	42	Cldy	Lansing	70	41	Pcldy	Pasadena	76	55	Cir	San Jose	71	48	Cir					
Caribou, Maine	52	28	Pcldy	Fairbanks	44	1	Pcldy	Las Vegas	85	64	Pcldy	Pendleton	63	38	Cir	Santa Fe	74	42	Cldy					
Casper, Wyo.	57	37	Cldy	Fargo	60	41	Cldy	Lexington	73	52	Cldy	Peoria	75	45	Cir	St. Marie	45	33	Rain					
Charleston, S.C.	80	57	Pcldy	Flagstaff	62	34	Cldy	Lincoln	79	54	Cldy	Philadelphia	70	51	Pcldy	Savannah	80	57	Pcldy					
Charleston, W.Va.	79	51	Pcldy	Flint	70	42	Pcldy	Little Rock	79	60	Cldy	Phoenix	89	68	Pcldy	Seattle	60	44	Cldy					
Charlotte, N.C.	79	52	Cir	Fort Smith	79	59	Cldy	Los Angeles	67	54	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	70	39	Pcldy	Shreveport	79	60	Cldy					

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 102, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Thu., 4, Mount Washington, N.H.

MUSIC

Nirvana, KISS lead new class into Rock Hall

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nirvana, who set music and fashion trends with their grunge sound but whose career was cut short by leader Kurt Cobain's suicide 20 years ago, led inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on Thursday.

KISS entered the Hall thumbing its nose at critics; the blue-eyed soul duo Hall & Oates called for more Philadelphia bands to join them; Peter Gabriel urged young musicians to use their imaginations; Cat Stevens was visibly touched; Linda Ronstadt was honored in her absence; and, predictably, Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band turned their induction into a marathon.

Nirvana was inducted in its first year of eligibility. The trio's "Smells Like Teen Spirit" hit like a thunderclap upon its 1991 release, briefly making the Pacific Northwest rock's hottest scene. Four female rockers — Joan Jett, Lorde, Sonic Youth vocalist-bassist Kim Gordon and St. Vincent — replaced Cobain onstage at Brooklyn's Barclays Center, performing with Nirvana bassist Krist Novoselic and drummer Dave Grohl.

"Nirvana fans walk up to me every day and say thank you for the music," said Novoselic. "When I hear that, I think of Kurt Cobain."

Cobain's widow, Courtney Love, hugged the surviving band members with whom she's had some bad blood.

"I just wish Kurt was here to do this," she said.

Former R.E.M. singer Michael Stipe traced Nirvana's origins through the hardcore punk scene of the 1980s and said they were a voice for the disaffected. He said they were true artists, not just musicians.

"This is not pop music," Stipe said. "This is something much greater than that."

The original members of KISS didn't perform in a dispute between active members Gene Simmons and Paul Stanley and retired members Peter Criss and Ace Frehley. But the four made peace and saluted each other in heartfelt induction speeches.

"This is a privilege for all of us," said Simmons, the bass player and reality TV star. We are humbled that that the fans gave us the chance to do what we loved doing."

The theatrical quartet put on makeup, belched blood, shot fireworks out of Frehley's guitar and sang about wanting to "Rock and Roll All Nite." They weren't trendy, but Rage Against the Machine guitarist Tom Morello said that KISS inspired him and their concert was the first he attended. He even fought bullies who ridiculed him for liking KISS.

"Tonight proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the high school bullies and critics were wrong," he said. "KISS fans were right."

Ronstadt, the sexy siren of the Los Angeles country-rock scene of the 1970s, couldn't make it to her induction. Now retired, she



ANDY KROOP, INVISION/AP

The original members of KISS — from left, Paul Stanley, Peter Criss, Ace Frehley and Gene Simmons — didn't perform at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony Thursday night in New York because of acrimonious disputes between the active and former members, but all four saluted each other during their respective speeches.

The inductees

Performers
Peter Gabriel
Hall & Oates
KISS
Nirvana

Linda
Ronstadt
Cat Stevens

The Award for Musical Excellence
Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band

Ahmet Ertegun Award
(Lifetime achievement, non-performers)
Beatles manager Brian Epstein
Rolling Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham

suffers from Parkinson's disease and doesn't travel much. Glenn Frey, who played with fellow future Eagle Don Henley in Ronstadt's backup band, saluted her with an induction speech.

Ronstadt was saluted by royalty of female country rock. Carrie Underwood sang "Different Drum," Ronstadt's first hit with

the Stone Poneys. Underwood was joined by Emmylou Harris and Bonnie Raitt for "Blue Bayou." Sheryl Crow and Frey made it a quintet to sing "You're No Good." Then Stevie Nicks came out to lead them in "It's So Easy" and "When Will I Be Loved."

Nicks saluted hearing "Different Drum" in high school made her

want to get into music. Stevens, the 1970s era singer of "Morning Has Broken" and "Wild World," was inducted by Art Garfunkel, who said his breakup with Paul Simon helped pave the way for Stevens' entry into the charts.

Stevens performed "Father and Son," "Wild World" and "Peace Train."

Springsteen's 1999 induction without the E Street Band was a sore point for some of its members. Thursday they got their due in the sidemen category, although it was a posthumous honor for saxman Clarence Clemons and keyboard player Danny Federici.

The band made up for lost time: Their induction took 85 minutes. That included performances of "The E Street Shuffle," "The River" and an epic "Kitty's Back." Springsteen told stories, many familiar to fans who have seen them onstage, of the formation of the band, which includes his wife, Patti Scialfa. David Sancious, who was with the band briefly, was the only one to live on E Street, he said.

"We suffered aging, illness and death together," Springsteen said. "We took care of each other when trouble knocked, and we

hurt each other in big and small ways. In the end we stuck with each other."

Daryl Hall and John Oates referred to the Springsteen marathon with their induction.

"Lucky for you, there are only two of us," Hall said as the audience laughed.

The duo sang "She's Gone," "I Can't Go For That" and "You Make My Dreams Come True."

"If you owned a radio in the late '70s or '80s, or if you knew anybody who did, you knew Hall & Oates," said The Roots' Questlove, a fellow Philadelphia musician who inducted the hitmaking duo. "Hall and Oates can cure any known ailment."

Gabriel was inducted by Coldplay's Chris Martin, who later sang with him on Gabriel's "Washing of the Water."

Martin credited Gabriel with creating a cathedral of sound and "he helped John Cusack get back his girlfriend in the movie 'Say Anything.'" That movie's climactic moment featured Gabriel's song "In Your Eyes," and Gabriel performed a soaring version to celebrate his induction.

Gabriel said aspiring musicians should surround themselves with brilliance and, noting his early failures as a drummer, shouldn't be afraid to try different things.

"Dream big, and let your imagination guide you, even if you end up dressing as a flower or a sexually transmitted disease," said Gabriel, known for his theatrical outfits during early Genesis days.

They said it



"Lucky for you, there are only two of us."

Daryl Hall, left, of Hall & Oates

Following an 85-minute induction of The E Street Band

HEALTH & FITNESS

'It's almost a way of life'

Parkour makes transition from YouTube fad to fitness craze

By RODRIQUE NGOWI
The Associated Press

The spirited sport known as parkour that treats the world as one big obstacle course is gaining traction outside of the urban enthusiasts worthy YouTube-worthy acrobatics spread its popularity.

Once the domain of the outdoor anti-athlete, it's becoming the go-to sport for people who just want a good workout.

Jessamyn Hodge, 32, from South Boston, recently prepped for her first parkour class at a high school gym in suburban Brookline, Mass. She was hoping to learn the kind of wall-scaling, fence-vaulting, obstacle-conquering moves she'd already seen in online videos shared by her rock-climbing friends.

"It's like dancing at high speed," she said. "It reminds me of being a kid again, like monkeying around on anything and everything, clambering about, generally having fun while getting around."

Parkour, developed in France in the 1980s, borrows elements from martial arts, gymnastics, rock climbing and other athletic fields to enable participants to turn obstacles like park benches, trees, guardrails, and buildings into tools they can use to nimbly propel themselves forward.

Parkour's developers were influenced by military training principles. Since then, some of the sport's most spectacular moves have been featured in movie sequences, video games and advertisements. One of the most recognizable is a chase scene in the 2006 James Bond movie "Casino Royale."

Beginners who want to hit the ground running have the option of classes like those offered by Parkour Generations, a business with affiliates in California, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin, and that offers instruction in other countries, including Thailand, Singapore and Brazil.

Classes include a warm-up,



PHOTOS BY CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Above: Jessamyn Hodge leaps over a railing during a Parkour training class in Brookline, Mass. Parkour was once the outdoor activity of rebels, but is now appreciated for its fitness elements.

Right: Michael Chung, of Brookline, finds his way over a balance beam while running an obstacle course.

technical drills to learn the basics of safety and games to teach and reinforce parkour techniques. At the Brookline class, instructors set up metal bars they called scaffolding and vault boxes in the gym, teaching students how to walk on or hurdle over balance beams and lift, leap or weave their way through whatever else was in their path. Both newcomers and advanced learners trained together, but those with more experience were given more challenging training.

Instructor Blake Evitt said

many of the new students he sees view parkour as a functional way to get fit. But parkour offers more than flashy stunts — it's a way for people to test their physical and mental limits.

"It's almost a way of life," said Evitt, a director of the U.S. branch of Parkour Generations.

Class attendee Julio Sepulveda said parkour is very accessible because learners don't need access to fancy, expensive gear to get into it. They can simply walk to a nearby park and use the existing environment to practice.



Pollen makes spring workouts tricky for asthma, allergy sufferers

By MARY MEEHAN
Lexington Herald-Leader

Spring has sprung, and in addition to welcoming the beauty and warmth of the season, many folks face — though maybe not with eager anticipation — seasonal allergies and asthma go hand in hand. More than 50 percent of the 20 million Americans with asthma have allergic asthma, according to the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America. More than 2.5 million children under age 18 suffer from allergic asthma.

Many of the symptoms of allergic and non-allergic asthma are the same — coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath or rapid breathing and chest tightness. But allergic

asthma is triggered by inhaled allergens such as dust mites, pet dander, pollen or mold.

Dr. Jamshed Kanga, chief of the division of pediatric pulmonology at the University of Kentucky, said "when you look at Kentucky, almost everyone has seasonal allergies." But some people might not realize they are suffering from allergic asthma, he said. Most people associate asthma with wheezing and asthma attacks, but a persistent cough is often the most prevalent symptom of allergic asthma. Allergic asthma can also be misdiagnosed as bronchitis, he said.

Determining the cause of breathing trouble in children can also be difficult. Today's kids don't run and play as they once

did so what might look at first like asthma may be lack of conditioning, he said.

But if parents are concerned about their child, they should talk to the coach or teacher who can identify whether the child is having out-of-the-ordinary challenges.

If you have breathing troubles, which make exercising more difficult, it can be easy to avoid exercise, said Dr. Tracie Overbeck, of Allergy Partners of Central Kentucky. But your lungs need to be worked just like the rest of your body, she said. People with allergic asthma need to take extra steps to prepare for exercise.

A debilitating asthma attack is very rare if people take their asthma medication regularly and take some precautions when exercising, said Kanga.

First, Overbeck suggested, ask your

doctor to help you get a baseline of your breathing. That way you can note changes in symptoms as you exercise.

Then, she said, it's important to warm up your lungs just as you warm up your body. Take 10 minutes to warm up before exercising, she said, taking slow deep breaths, breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Ask your doctor about prescribing an inhaler for asthma, Kanga said, and use it about 15 minutes before you begin to exercise.

Overbeck discovered her asthma in college while playing soccer. But, she said, asthma "doesn't have to be limiting."

It is important to continue to take the medicine as prescribed even when you start to feel better.

LIFESTYLE



COURTESY OF ELI FRANK/AP

Eli Frank holds Tanya, an 8-year-old pit bull mix that was dumped as a puppy at a shelter in New York. Frank, founder of Mr. Bones & Co., which takes in a few animals at a time, won't acquire other dogs until Tanya has a home. Frank thinks Tanya would be ideal for someone with no other pets.

Old dogs, new homes

Pet lovers find calmer, potty-trained older dogs fit right into their families

By SUE MANNING
The Associated Press

Erin O'Sullivan wants to change lives by finding new homes for old dogs.

Visitors to her popular Facebook page say she has done just that by helping them discover the pets they didn't know they were missing. O'Sullivan's page tells stories about pooches past their prime that need loving homes and taps into the wellspring of animal lovers seeking calmer, well-trained dogs or those wanting to care for pets in their twilight years. Shelters will ask her to help place older dogs that aren't as sought-after as puppies, many of which have health problems that can stall adoptions.

"I think more than food or water, companionship is lifeblood to a dog," O'Sullivan said. She is convinced that when an older dog is adopted, it will live longer because of an owner's love.

Many shelters and rescues focus on senior dog adoptions, which are growing in popularity. But O'Sullivan's page, Susie's Senior Dogs, has gotten more attention than most thanks to a boost from her boyfriend, an Internet whiz who knows how to build buzz online — and owns an 11-year-old Chihuahua named Susie.

"She is the greatest dog in New York," said Brandon Stanton of Brooklyn, who adopted Susie three years ago. "I didn't realize what it meant to have an animal attach itself to you so her only concern in life is being close to you," he said.

O'Sullivan had set up a Facebook page for Susie, which had about 10,000 "likes" the morning she changed its purpose to finding other old dogs new homes. Stanton pitched the page on his blog about the everyday lives of New Yorkers, and by



SHARON NORRIS/AP

Britany Spangler of Grand Rapids, Mich., found that a 12-year-old Lhasa Apso named Molly gets along beautifully with her children.

nightfall the page had 10 times as many followers. That number has since grown to over 150,000, and O'Sullivan has helped nearly 200 dogs since January.

That includes a 12-year-old pooch that Britany Spangler of Grand Rapids, Mich., found on the page.

"I never intended on getting a dog until I saw our Molly and I knew we had to have her," she said.

The Lhasa apso was missing a whole side of teeth, was infested with worms and



Courtesy of Steve Greig/AP

Phyllis, a 10-year-old blind Chihuahua-poodle mix, peers out of the backpack of her owner, Steve Greig.

fleas, had an allergy that made her hair fall out and suffered kidney problems.

Despite the health issues, the dog gets along beautifully with her three children, who are all under 3 years old, Spangler said.

"It was like they had been together forever," she said. "She came potty-trained and full of love. If she is with us for six months, she blesses us for six months. If she is with us for five years, she enriches our lives for five years. She's the dog I never knew I needed."

Steve Greig, who owns a menagerie of animals, found a 10-year-old dog to love on O'Sullivan's page, but the nearly hairless Chihuahua-poodle mix named Phyllis also came with problems.

The dog is blind, weak, had sores on her

Find a senior dog

- Susie's Senior dogs adoption page: facebook.com/susieseniordogs
- Mr. Bones & Co. of New York: mrbonesandco.org

face from trying to escape her cage, and lost all her hair to an infection, Greig said. In February, he took in Phyllis because he didn't have hope she would be adopted from a shelter otherwise.

"She looks like a fox with a bad perm," he said, but that hasn't bothered his dogs, cats, chickens, ducks or pot-bellied pig. "The other dogs must realize the 10-year-old Chihuahua-poodle is blind and feeble. They are so gentle with her. She's fitting in fine."

Greig is looking into getting Phyllis surgery to possibly restore her eyesight.

Meanwhile, O'Sullivan and animal rescue owner Eli Frank are trying to help Tanya, an 8-year-old pit bull mix that was all but forgotten after being dumped at a shelter as a puppy.

Frank, founder of Mr. Bones and Co. in New York City that takes in a few animals at a time, won't acquire other dogs until Tanya has a home. The dog has been adopted twice, but little things went wrong and she was returned.

Frank has since sent her to an obedience school in Connecticut.

"I want her to be the most adoptable dog she can be," Frank said. "It's so wrong that she doesn't have a home... But who is going to gamble on a dog that's never had a home?"

O'Sullivan would call her an underdog — her favorite kind.

VIDEO GAMES

Targeting your brain

'Sniper Elite 3' aiming to be a 'thinking person's shooter'

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

“Sniper Elite V2” was somewhat of a cult hit on the PC when it launched in 2012, garnering a dedicated fan base through excellent word of mouth, despite a somewhat harsh official critical reception.

The series is a slower-paced World War II shooter that fills the niche that “Call of Duty” and “Battlefield” have left behind as those franchises moved into warfare in the modern era.

On July 1, 505 Games and Rebellion will launch the next entry in the series, appropriately titled “Sniper Elite 3,” in North American markets for the PC, Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360 and PS3.

We wanted to see what changes are in store, so we got in touch with Tim Jones, Rebellion's head of creative development, for the scoop.

Stars and Stripes: Tell me about the design philosophy behind Sniper Elite 3.

Jones: We want to give the player the sense of what it feels like to be a World War II sniper. This means bringing attention to detail in the sniping ballistics — having to take account of bullet drop over long distances as gravity takes effect on your shot, adjusting for the effect of crosswinds, controlling your breathing and heart rate too.

It's about observation. You can't just run into battle with guns blazing — that's a sure-fire way to get yourself killed in a hurry. You have to stay out of sight and use your binoculars to plan your next move. Once you commit to taking your shot, if anyone is left alive to hear your gunshot, you'll have to relocate or risk being found. It's a thinking person's shooter.

Tactical choice is at the core of everything. The player must have the volition to choose how they approach any situation; which path they take; whether to kill or not; play stealthy and silently, or ruthlessly and efficiently.

Of course the most important thing is ensuring this all feels great to play. With Sniper Elite V2, we hit an important sweet spot between the satisfaction of simulation and making the sniping mechanics accessible to new players and rewarding to master. Sniper Elite 3 builds on this philosophy by empowering players

to make more choices about what they do before they even shoot.

What lessons did you learn from the success of V2, and how are they influencing this sequel?

There were a few areas we wanted to improve upon, so we tapped into the fan community of the game to listen closely to their feedback. They wanted larger environments, less linear gameplay and more opportunities for stealth and tactical choice. They also wanted more convincing behavior from the enemy AI. We have worked very hard to address all of these areas to deliver something that's really going to knock people's socks off.

What went into the decision to base this game on the North African campaign?

We wanted environments that could support our mantra of more tactical choice. We also wanted to go somewhere that really contrasted with what people saw in the ruins of Berlin in Sniper Elite V2. The environments of North Africa are much more varied than most people think — from canyons to oases and ancient cities. They immediately feel more organic than the urban settings of Europe and were a perfect match for the kind of level and gameplay design we were really after.

People also forget how crucial the North African campaign of World War II was — especially



Courtesy of Rebellion Entertainment

“Sniper Elite 3” is a shooter set in World War II that tries to strike a balance between the satisfaction of simulation and making the sniping mechanics accessible to new players and rewarding to master.

as it was the first time America faced Axis forces on the ground. It was here that Britain's own Long Range Desert Group carried out numerous daring missions. These guys were actually the beginnings of the UK elite special forces division: the SAS. It seemed a natural fit for our hero, Karl Fairburne.

How are the multiplayer modes different from each other?

There's a wide variety of multiplayer modes. You can play through all the missions of the campaign cooperatively with two players, which opens up all kinds of tactical opportunities. There are also survival missions in which you must work together to survive against progressively more challenging waves of enemies. The popular Overwatch mode is returning in which the two players are physically separated but must work together to achieve objectives — one player in the thick of it on the ground, being covered by a sniper from an elevated position.

Then there's adversarial multiplayer, which has a number of associated modes — Free-for-all, Team Deathmatch, Distance King in which longest shots are rewarded, and No Cross, in which the two opposing teams cannot enter each other's territory. We've also introduced a mechanic to encourage players not to camp too much by rewarding them in such-

cessfully relocating after a kill.

This co-op mode seems pretty unique. Can you talk about it?

It makes a huge difference if one of the players is able to tag enemies for the other to then know their location.

The Sniper Elite series is also known for its traps and distractions, and these really come from their own when one player can lure the enemy into traps set by the other as they work together and play cat and mouse with the remaining enemies.

What are some of the things the new AI is capable of doing?

The AI works in squads. They will communicate in a more realistic fashion, so just because one enemy has spotted you doesn't mean everyone else will immediately know where you are.

But if you don't take him down quickly enough, he will raise the alarm and you'll be in trouble. The AI will search for you, track you down and shoot you or flush you out with grenades and heavy weapons.

The rank of the enemies makes a difference too. Officers can see farther and boost the aggression and senses of their squad. It makes sense to take out officers first. Of course, you have to observe the enemy closely before engaging if you want to spot the ranks and take advantage of them. The AI have a full set of

senses: sight, hearing and touch. You must account for this and take advantage of cover, move silently and stay in the shadows if you can. AI will react to corpses they find and raise the alarm, so you should hide your kills if you want to stay undetected.

How much are you adhering to history with the setting, weapon set, etc?

Most of the locations in the game are based on real-world locations and battles in the North African campaign of World War II, although obviously the levels mainly take inspiration from the source matter. Fun level design is the most important thing! We've been careful to keep the weapons consistent with what would have been used at the time by the countries that were involved.

You've mentioned the feel of the weapons. Can you expand a bit on that?

It's important to us that the weapons feel authentic. The sniper rifles of World War II were simple but elegant mechanical devices. In fact, sniper rifles have changed surprisingly little since World War II. There was no computer assisted aiming or targeting. It was all down to the skill of the shooter.

“Sniper Elite 3” will be released on July 1 in North America on Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC.



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

MOVIES

Who are the good guys?



MARVEL/Disney/AP

'Captain America: The Winter Soldier' taps the current paranoid political zeitgeist for the latest superhero outing

By FRANK LOVECE
Newsday

After repelling the alien invasion of New York in "The Avengers," Thor returned to Asgard; Tony Stark (Iron Man) and Bruce Banner (the Hulk) drove off to go play in a lab somewhere; and Steve Rogers, aka Captain America, left to begin a quiet life in an apartment in Washington, D.C. — doubtlessly having turned down lucrative book offers and speaking engagements as an unseemly cashing-in of a legacy people died to give him.

So when Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), director of the espionage agency S.H.I.E.L.D., enlists his help to rescue a hijacked government ship, it's something to do and a chance to do good. He couldn't have imagined that he and agent Natasha Romanoff (the Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), were being thrown into a web of intrigue evoking such 1970s political thrillers as "Three Days of the Condor," "The Conversation" and "The Parallax View" — some of the inspirations for "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the latest installment of the Marvel cinematic universe with Chris Evans reprising his role as Rogers.

The notion of a superhero political thriller might seem jarring to those who haven't followed comics' auteurist blossoming over the past generation, but the filmmakers were merely tuning into the zeitgeist.

"We were all reading the articles that were coming out questioning drone strikes, preemptive strikes, civil liberties — Obama talking about who they would kill, y'know?" says Anthony Russo, co-director with his brother and filmmaking partner, Joe. "We wanted to put all of that into the film because it would be a contrast to Cap's greatest-generation (way of thinking)."

Indeed, says Christopher Markus, who with Stephen McPeely wrote both "Captain America" movies and is doing a third. "The Snowden (NSA revelations) didn't come along until May of 2013, and by that time we were six weeks into shooting. This kind of thing has been in the public consciousness since ... well, since Watergate," the impetus for those classic '70s political thrillers, says Markus. "Though as far as I know, we don't have the ability to kill 20 million (perceived future threats) at a time," as posits the movie's central crisis, one complicated by an enigmatic Russian assassin, the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan).

"Nick's the kind of guy who deals with necessary evils," says Jackson, who reprises his Marvel Studios role as Fury. "So for him, having the gun pointed at us," he says metaphorically, "is as important as the idea of the gun pointed at the enemy."

The theme of a surveillance state — embodied in the movie by three

airborne aircraft carriers set to watch over the country like security cameras into the soul — "is not a foreign concept to me," Jackson says. As a college student, he was active in the Civil Rights movement and knows well the FBI's wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr., so "I'm not as surprised as the American public seemed to be last year when they realized the NSA was listening to their phone calls," he says. "It was kind of like, 'You didn't know that?'"

Joining the movie universe is Anthony Mackie ("The Hurt Locker") as Sam Wilson, a post-traumatic stress disorder counselor whom Rogers befriends. He's also a former military pilot in a classified project situated between real-life wingsuits and the Iron Man armor, who finds himself again donning the Falcon project's winged, jet-powered exoskeleton, becoming in the process the Marvel movies' newest superhero.

'You get automatic '70s conspiracy-film gravitas when you hire Robert Redford.'

Christopher Markus
co-writer of both
"Captain America" movies

thing from him, he doesn't ask him for anything. The first thing he does is, he tries to help him. So I think when you see that, it endears you to Sam, and when you see Cap being a superhero, struggling with his life, it endears you to Cap as well."

Also new is Robert Redford as a senior S.H.I.E.L.D. official. "You get automatic '70s conspiracy-film gravitas when you hire Robert Redford," says Markus of the legendary star who's no stranger to the political thriller landscape ("Three Days of the Condor," "All the President's Men"). The role wasn't originally written with him in mind, Markus says, "because that's not the kind of thing you ever imagine is possible: 'Oh, yeah, we'll get Robert Redford. ... No way. When we found out it was Redford, we rewrote it with him in mind, because that's a whole persona you want to use.'"

And his iconic continuity from the days of '70s political thrillers hammers home that the surveillance fears of that era have, well, come true.

"I'm not naive enough to think that we don't need some of this stuff," says co-writer McPeely. "I don't pretend to know where that line of transparency should be. But when Diane Feinstein has to go on the floor of the Senate and call out the CIA, something's wrong. We're dumb screenwriters — we don't have the answer. But it was nice to be able to ask some of the questions in the context of a superhero story."

Films with trust issues

The writers and directors of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" said they found inspiration from these classic 1970s political thrillers that came in the wake of Watergate:

- "The Conversation"**
1974
Audio-surveillance expert Gene Hackman inadvertently records plans involving murder and an apparent government-agency director (Robert Duvall) in this Francis Ford Coppola classic.
- "The Parallax View"**
1974
Reporter Warren Beatty discovers a corporation devoted to political assassination with "long gunnair" patsies.
- "Three Days of the Condor"** 1975
After his field-office co-workers are assassinated, CIA analyst Robert Redford must elude a conspiracy reaching to the agency's top echelon.
- "All the President's Men"** 1976
This Oscar-winner was based on the actual events that led reporters Bob Woodward (Redford) and Carl Bernstein (Dustin Hoffman) to expose the Watergate conspiracy.
- "Marathon Man"** 1976
Nazi war criminal Laurence Olivier tortures PhD candidate Dustin Hoffman, whose brother (Roy Scheider) works for a shadowy government agency called The Division.

Additionally, says co-screenwriter Christopher Markus, inspiration also included "a little of The Manchurian Candidate" type in that kind of mental state" of a brainwashed character.

Above: Robert Redford, left, is a high-ranking S.H.I.E.L.D. official, and Samuel L. Jackson returns as Nick Fury, in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." The screenwriters said they rewrote Redford's role with him in mind after he was cast.

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Purse power can help Afghan women

By AFGHANI BARAKZAI

Anyone who accepts even baseline targets for women's rights, such as the right to physical safety, the opportunity to generate income and the opportunity to achieve education, should be concerned that these rights have fallen short in many parts of the world, and, in some cases, have fallen back.

In Afghanistan, opportunities for women have been in constant flux, increasing under the Taliban and Zahir Shah in the 1960s, declining sharply during the Afghan civil wars and Taliban rule and climbing again under the current Afghan government. But this progress, which includes improved literacy and access to the workplace, has faltered over the past two years.

President Hamid Karzai decided to appeal to conservative majorities in 2012 by supporting a religious edict that said women's needs were secondary to those of men and that women should not meet with unrelated men in public. I expect the Afghan government to continue a backward march as it seeks to placate conservative constituencies away from alternate, insurgent-based local governments.

Problems such as these in Afghanistan, and similar problems facing women in rural India and Africa, will not be solved by foreign education or advertising campaigns. Nor will representative democratic movements cure these ailments: Representative democracies in these contexts would merely reflect the popular male consensus against women. Instead, a possible solution is economic growth. The relative power of female workers (Chinese factory cases such as Dongguan) suggests this, as do limited cases in Afghanistan.

I was fortunate to participate in a foreign-based infrastructure repair program that hired more than 2,400 women in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2013. The majority were widows, most of whom had been injured into starvation conditions by their husbands' families. Interviews with these women suggested that their positions within their families improved when they



ANJA NEDRINGHAUS/AP

Afghan women line up outside a school in Kabul on April 1 to get their registration cards on the last day of register to vote in the presidential elections.

were able to earn money. These benefits, in turn, disappeared once the projects ended and the widows brought home their last paychecks.

The case of the widows suggests critical goals for any first step toward equality. First, opportunities must open up in socially acceptable contexts. In Afghanistan, this includes work from home; for instance, some women in our program sewed clothes for laborers or wove metal cages used to hold rocks for erosion-control projects.

Second, women should have the means to keep the money they earn, or at least some of it. Recently, women in many countries have done this by receiving payment through mobile phones. While men often take cash forcibly from their sisters, wives or daughters, they are not in the habit of reading through text messages to search out payment histories.

The simplest cellphones have helped women in Afghanistan in another way: They are popular tools for literacy training

through a free SMS-based language training program.

Women in the United States made great leaps forward during World War I and World War II, when labor shortages allowed them to prove themselves in factories. Modern technology can allow similar value creation for women across the world, providing them with roles as income earners, increasing first their value within their families and, in the long run, their value within society. This change will not be easy, but it can happen surprisingly fast. If it is possible for women's groups in the United States to work together to identify trade- and service-based employment opportunities for the most severely oppressed women around the world, we could see widespread meaningful social revolution within a generation.

The writer, who lives in Washington, was the administrative manager and Mobile Money program manager for Central Asia Development Group, a USAID-funded organization, in southern and eastern Afghanistan from 2010 to 2013. This article first appeared in The Washington Post.

How many Americans can find Ukraine on a map?

By KYLE DROPP, JOSHUA D. KERTZER AND THOMAS ZEITZOFF

Since Russian troops first entered the Crimean Peninsula in early March, a series of media polling outlets have asked Americans how they want the U.S. to respond to the ongoing situation. Although two-thirds of Americans have reported following the situation at least "somewhat closely," most Americans actually know very little about events on the ground — or even where the ground is.

On March 28-31, 2014, we asked a national sample of 2,066 Americans, fielded via Survey Sampling International Inc., what action they wanted the U.S. to take in Ukraine, but with a twist: In addition to measuring standard demographic characteristics and general foreign policy attitudes, we also asked our survey respondents to locate Ukraine on a map as part of a larger, ongoing project to gauge Americans' geographic knowledge. We wanted to see where Americans think Ukraine is and to learn if this knowledge (or lack thereof) is related to their foreign policy views. We found that only one out of six Americans can find Ukraine on a map, and that this lack of knowledge is related to preferences: The party of two-thirds who want U.S. action on actual location, the more they wanted the U.S. to intervene with military force.

Ukraine: Where is it?

Survey respondents identified Ukraine by clicking on a high-resolution world map.

We then created a distance metric by comparing the coordinates they provided with the actual location of Ukraine on the map.

About one in six Americans correctly located Ukraine, clicking somewhere within its borders. Most thought that Ukraine was located somewhere in Europe or Asia, but the median respondent was about 1,800 miles off.

Who is more accurate?

Accuracy varies across demographic groups. In general, younger Americans tended to provide more accurate responses than their older counterparts: 27 percent of respondents ages 18 to 24 correctly identified Ukraine, compared with 14 percent of respondents 65 and older. Men tended to do better than women, with 20 percent of men correctly identifying Ukraine and 13 percent of women. Interestingly, members of military households were no more likely to correctly locate Ukraine (16.1 percent correct) than members of nonmilitary households (16 percent correct), but self-identified independents (29 percent correct) outperformed both Democrats (14 percent correct) and Republicans (15 percent correct). Not surprisingly, college graduates (21 percent correct) were more likely to know where Ukraine was than non-college graduates (13 percent correct), but even 77 percent of college graduates failed to correctly place Ukraine on a map.

Does accuracy matter?

Does it really matter whether Americans can put Ukraine on a map? Previous research would suggest yes: Information, or the absence thereof, can influence Americans' attitudes about the kind of policies they want their government to carry out and the ability of elites to shape that agenda. Similarly to other recent polls, we found that although Americans are undecided on what to do with Ukraine, they are more likely to oppose action in Ukraine the costlier it is — 45 percent of Americans supported boycotting the G8 summit, for example, while only 13 percent of Americans supported using force.

However, the further our respondents thought that Ukraine was from its actual location, the more they wanted the U.S. to intervene militarily. We found that the less accurate our participants were, the more they wanted the U.S. to use force, the greater the threat they saw Russia as posing to U.S. interests, and the more they thought that using force would advance U.S. national security interests; all of these effects are statistically significant at a 95 percent confidence level. Our results are clear, but also somewhat disconcerting: The less people know about where Ukraine is located on a map, the more they want the U.S. to intervene militarily.

Dropp is a political scientist at Dartmouth College. Kertzer a political scientist at Harvard and Zeitzoff a political scientist at Princeton. This article first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

GM case again may undermine confidence

By STEVE PAUL

General Motors is in a world of hurt. With 6.3 million cars under recall and at least 13 fatalities associated with faulty ignition switches in Chevrolet Cobalts, the outlook for the corporate giant would be bad enough.

But with evidence that the car maker knew about the ignition problem for at least a decade and suppressed damning documents, the case is mounting that something was rotten in GM's castle.

It's reminiscent of automotive debacles of the past, events that undermined American consumers' faith in the quality and safety of American cars. Remember the exploding gas tanks of Ford Pintos in the 1970s?

In Senate hearings last week, General Motors' new CEO, Mary Barra, barely survived intensive grilling. Sen. Claire McCaskill, who chaired a Commerce subcommittee hearing on Wednesday, waded one document that showed a GM engineer was a perjurer and essentially dared Barra to deny the evidence.

It's a good political theater. And a bipartisan attack, too: Sen. Barbara Boxer, an unerringly liberal California Democrat, hardly let Barra speak in the gaps between her expressions of outrage. Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire, a rising GOP star, suggested that GM's internal operation, which apparently approved a part change while its printing regulators, had committed a crime.

The ignition switches in Cobalts and other GM cars were susceptible to failing



PAUL SANCTA/AF

General Motors has placed two engineers on paid leave as an outside attorney investigates why the company took more than a decade to recall millions of small cars for an ignition switch problem.

if the driver's key ring carried too many objects or the cars were otherwise jostled on a bumpy road. In many cases, the cars lost power and upon collision, air bags failed to deploy.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut repeatedly tried to get Barra to answer a simple question: Would Barra allow her children to drive an unrecalled Cobalt?

Her replies were hesitant and incomplete.

What appears to be a GM cover-up might

never had been discovered if a lawyer and engineer investigating one Georgia woman's death-by-Cobalt hadn't wrenched from the company details of the part switch.

In any responsible manufacturing operation, every part is identified by number and when a part is changed, its number is supposed to change as well. That provides the utmost transparency and traceability. In the case of these ignition switches, a faulty part was apparently swapped out but its inventory number remained the same,

thus hiding the truth of a defect.

"It might have been the Old GM that started sweeping this defect under the rug 10 years ago," McCaskill said. "But even under the New GM banner, the company waited nine months to take action after being confronted with specific evidence of this egregious violation of public trust."

Barra, a longtime GM engineer, ascended to the CEO's office on Jan. 31, just weeks before the Cobalt crisis went public. She calmly took her shots, but weakly repeated her inability to answer many questions until an internal review by an independent investigator is completed in 45 to 60 days.

GM's crisis is tied to a small part within a part that might have cost the company less than \$2 to replace per vehicle.

At least Barra had the right response when pressed by Sen. Marco Rubio, the Florida Republican, on whether a cost-benefit analysis had gotten in the way of doing the right thing. "That type of analysis," she replied, "is not acceptable on a safety issue."

Also in the hot seat in this case is the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. It remains to be seen how the agency failed to connect significant dots.

McCaskill was impressively aggressive, but what is best for students and to increase the reputation of the many GM workers. "This is not their failure," she said. "They and the American public were failed by a corporate leadership that chose to conceal rather than disclose and by a safety regulator that failed to act."

Steve Paul is a columnist for the Kansas City Star.

Opting out of standardized tests? Wrong answer

By MICHELLE RHEE

No, tests are not fun — but they're necessary. Stepping on the bathroom scale can be nerve-racking, but it tells us if that exercise routine is working. Going to the dentist for a checkup every six months might be unpleasant, but it lets us know if there are cavities to address. In education, tests provide an objective measurement of how students are progressing — information that's critical to improving public schools.

But in places like Colorado, Connecticut and New York, we're seeing a new and problematic movement within public education to convince parents to pull their children from participating in any standardized testing. They're opting out of the exams designed to measure how well our schools are teaching our children.

This makes no sense. All parents want to know how their children are progressing and how good the teachers are in the classroom. Good educators also want an assessment of how well they are serving students because they want kids to have the skills and knowledge to succeed.

Opt out of measuring how well our schools are serving students? What's next: Shut down the county health department because we don't care whether restaurants are clean? Defund the water-quality office because we don't want to know if what's streaming out of our kitchen faucets is safe to drink?

Tests serve many purposes: They chart progress. They identify strengths and weaknesses. They help professionals reach competency in their careers. All these measures are critical to improving public schools.

After all, the children sitting in class-

rooms today are going to grow up and compete for jobs with people in India and China and Europe, not just with people in the state next door. It's our civic duty to make sure these kids are ready. And right now, we're failing. Out of 34 developed nations, American kids rank 26th in the world in math, 21st in science and 17th in reading.

Let's look at why some parents are opting out. The most common argument is that standardized testing takes too much classroom time away from instruction. Yes, in too many schools and in too many districts, there is an overemphasis on testing. As a parent, I understand that problem. My daughter came home from public school one day and said class was a breeze now that "the test" was over. And I thought, "Geez, what are we communicating to our kids if they think the test is the most important thing — and once it's over, learning ends?"

Those test-crazed districts need to be reeled in. But a new study by Teach Plus, an organization that advocates for students in urban schools, found that on average, in grades three and seven, just 17 percent of classroom time is devoted to preparing for and taking standardized tests. That's not outrageous at all. Most people spend a larger percentage of their waking day receiving an outfit to wear or watching TV. It's not inconceivable for a student to be choosing all A's and B's on her report card but still be stuck far behind her peers in other districts and states across the country. And without standardized testing, that child's parents, teachers and principal would have no idea.

That leads to another argument that the opt-outers lean on: Standardized tests don't accurately measure how students are learning, and many other indicators exist.

That's absolutely correct. Tests are just one measure, of many, that we should consider when determining how well public schools are serving kids. Let's gather every piece of information available, and let's not forget that standardized tests are meant to be objective, unlike other indicators such as peer reviews.

We don't need to opt out of standardized tests; we need better and more rigorous standardized tests in public schools. Well-built exams can tell us whether the curriculum is adequate. They can help teachers hone their skills. They can let parents know whether their child's school is performing on par with the one down the street, or on par with schools in the next town or the neighboring state.

We also shouldn't accept the false argument that testing restricts educators too much, stifles innovation in the classroom or takes the joy out of teaching. That line of thought assumes that the test is the be-all and end-all — and if that's the perspective, the joy is already long gone. Teachers enter this profession because they care about kids, believe each one has the ability to succeed and want to teach far beyond minimum proficiency. The most valuable teachers are those who impart knowledge, not just information, and do so in a way that engages students and makes school interesting.

Many critics mistakenly argue that standardized tests are designed to pass judgment on students. Quite the opposite. Standardized tests are an indicator of the kind of service taxpayers are receiving — and whether schools, educators and policymakers are doing their jobs. In the United States, taxpayers spend almost \$600 billion annually on public education, so it's not unreasonable to ask what all that

money is producing. In fact, it's irresponsible not to know.

I built an organization, StudentsFirst, that believes that every education policy decision — from the federal level through states and districts — should be made based on what is best for students and to increase student achievement. No policy decision should be made based on what is best for politicians or teachers' unions. We ought to view the discussion about standardized tests through that lens, considering first and foremost what is best for students.

"OK," the opt-out crowd replies, "what about kids who are stressed out and suffering from anxiety because of standardized tests?" You know what? Life can be stressful; it can be challenging. The alternative is to hand out trophies just for participating, give out straight A's for fear of damaging a kid's ego — and continue to fall further and further behind as a country. I reject that mind-set.

For me, this conversation about standardized testing should focus on how we make sure every student, in every classroom, has an excellent teacher. Instead, critics dumb down the discussion by focusing on the time spent filling in bubbles on test sheets.

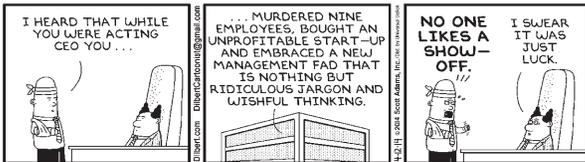
Rather than encouraging parents to opt out of testing, it would be much more productive for the leaders of this distracting movement to help improve the assessments. Make the exams more rigorous and more reflective of student learning. Ultimately, students and educators need test data, and opting out does a disservice to both. And it risks endangering the progress that all of our children need.

Michelle Rhee is the founder and chief executive of StudentsFirst. She was the chancellor of D.C. Public Schools from 2007 to 2010. This article first appeared in The Washington Post.

Frazz



Dilbert



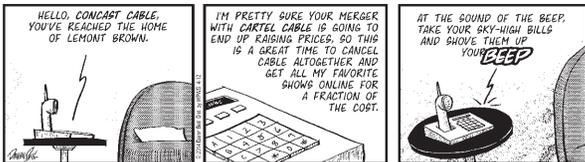
Pearls Before Swine



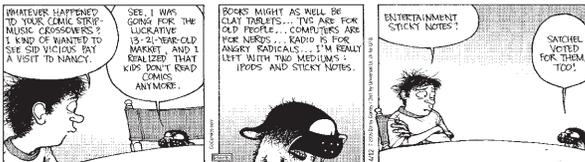
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 One end of the spectrum
- 4 "— that special!"
- 8 Counterfeit
- 12 Lemieux milieu
- 13 Approach
- 14 Anti-fur grp.
- 15 Man-mouse link
- 16 — good example
- 17 Out of control
- 18 Changed direction quickly
- 21 Summer coolers, for short
- 22 Jane's "Glee" role
- 23 Throwing-games ring?
- 26 Fine, to NASA
- 27 A mere handful
- 30 Kazakhstan river
- 31 Shade source
- 32 Angel
- 33 Try the tea
- 35 Get stuck (in)
- 36 Gunpowder container
- 37 Vast expanse
- 38 Classic New Orleans neighborhood
- 45 California city
- 46 Nip partner
- 47 Altar affirmative
- 48 Hertz rival
- 49 Take on

- 50 Swelled head
- 51 "Little Women" woman
- 52 Hurried
- 53 Rep.'s opponent

- 20 Diving bird
- 23 On the — vive
- 24 Website addr.
- 25 Acorn prowerder
- 26 Jungfrau, e.g.
- 27 Craze
- 28 Early bird?
- 29 Infinitesimal
- 30 Pizza slices, often
- 32 Bellow
- 34 Moment
- 35 Wasn't watertight
- 36 Peacekeeping org.
- 37 Bolivian city
- 38 Cellulite
- 39 Wander
- 40 Fix the wording
- 41 Witticism
- 42 Needing overtime
- 43 Advantage
- 44 Leeway

DOWN

- 1 Laugh-a-minute
- 2 Letter opener
- 3 Bug
- 4 Navel orange's lack
- 5 Peacekeeping org.
- 6 Hinged window over a door
- 8 "Maltese Falcon" hero
- 9 Engine type
- 10 Tiny bit
- 11 Create
- 19 Apprehend

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-12

CRYPTOQUIP

Y E A U W ' I V R V B K V C R Y D Y S P
 C S R N V C I K U F V D U Q C O
 F W K Y Q , Y H ' K B I U X C X O A
 Q U F Y S P E I U F H N V K Y S P I C A K .
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I WOULD'VE ENJOYED BEING ASSIGNED THE CLASSIC NOVEL "ULYSSES." BUT I WASN'T GIVEN THE JOYCE.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals I



Independent News for the U.S. Military the Community

*Whenever They Fight
and Wherever They Live*



The first Stars and Stripes was produced by Union soldiers during the Civil War. In 1861, using the facilities of a captured newspaper office in Bloomfield, Mo., they ran off a one-page paper.

Stars and Stripes was revived during World War I. Our first edition appeared in Paris on February 8, 1918. Produced weekly by an all-military staff, the paper served the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

The newspaper ceased printing at the war's end, only to enjoy a second renaissance. Starting on April 18, 1942, a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (two English pence or about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first edition of Stars and Stripes published during World War II featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who said that Stripes had been a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes also found a special champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States. Eisenhower enforced a

hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published as many as 32 separate editions, with page counts running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had up to 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

In the years that followed World War II, Stripes reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field. Throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Stars and Stripes published the news. The paper was there in the 1990s during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

As the "hometown newspaper" for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, Stars and Stripes offers the same types of national and world news, sports and opinion columns found in newspapers in the United States.

Stripes.com coverage ranges from breaking military news reported from bases around the world to local DODDS high school sports. The paper is also available online in PDF format.

Stars and Stripes is available for iPhone and Android smartphones and a Tablet Edition is available for the Apple iPad.

Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where the editions are transmitted to printing facilities in Spain, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, South Korea, Guam, Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, and Djibouti.

Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (in Okinawa, Guam, Kanto Plain and Korea) designed to serve the needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world launched in 2008 to serve servicemembers who have returned from overseas tours. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2013 National Headline Awards –
Second Place: News Series
(Forever After: A Warrior Wounded;
A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign –
Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year –
Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award –
Breaking News Photography (Newspaper
Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated
Website/National Magazine)
Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those
I love I will sacrifice"

**2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary
Award for Excellence in Journalism** –
Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headliner Awards –
First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) –
Third Place: News Series
(Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism –
George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III
and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards –
Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009;
Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano;
Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery
Photography: Fred Zimmernan

2006 NAA ACME Award of Excellence –
Youth Oriented Ad Series/Campaign:
Stripes GAMER;
Entertainment Promotions: Tales from the Crib

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Liewer
Photography: Terry Boudt

**2004 American Legion Excellence
in Journalism Award** –
Ground Truth Series

**2003 Scripps Howard Foundation
National Journalism Award** –
First Amendment, Finalist



SOCCER/TRACK & FIELD/SPORTS BRIEFS

Lloyd, US top China

National team wins in first game since firing of coach Sermanni

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Carli Lloyd scored two goals less than three minutes apart in the first half as the United States defeated China 3-0 Thursday night in a women's soccer friendly in the first game since Tom Sermanni was fired as coach of the Americans.

The victory extended the United States' unbeaten streak on home turf to 82 games (72-10) as Jill Ellis marked the start of her second stint as interim coach. Sermanni was fired Sunday.

"I thought there were some really good moments tonight," said Ellis, a Scotland native who previously served as interim coach in October 2012 before Sermanni took over. "They've been through a lot this week. They're not great resilience and professionalism that was on display tonight."

"I know these guys, I know my role and come in here and galvanize them a little bit. But they're so professional it's not a challenge to bring this group to be focused on the field."

Lloyd took a pass from forward Lauren Holiday and beat China goalie Zhang Yue with a left foot drive just inside the right goal post in the 20th minute. In the 23rd minute Lloyd



LENNY KONELZ/AP

U.S. midfielder Carli Lloyd, right, hugs teammate Ali Krieger after scoring against China during the first half of an international friendly match on Thursday in San Diego.

intercepted a pass and drilled a shot from 25 yards out that caught the inside of the left goalpost past Yue.

Lloyd has 50 goals in international play. Prior to those two scores, U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo had made a terrific hand save on a shot by Zhang Rui in the 11th minute of play.

Asked about being in the mix for the permanent head coaching job, Ellis said: "It's been a crazy week and I haven't had a chance to reflect on a few things. Just for me I need some time to go home and think things over before I talk with those making the decision."

Some of the players, however, were ready to endorse her.

"We are comfortable with Jill and we love Jill and have a lot of respect for her," Solo said.

"She didn't miss a beat. She came in, she put the pen on the board and started coaching."

"I am always honored to be coached by Jill. Everytime she had something to say, I think people perk up and listen. And, yes, I'd love to see her on board."

Lloyd suffered a bloody nose in a collision late in the first half but did return to play. American defenseman Rachel Van Hollebecke suffered a twisted left ankle in the first half and did not return.

All-time leading scorer Abby Wambach made her first appearance at the start of the second half.

Forward Sydney Leroux scored the third goal of the game with an assist from Megan Rapinoe in the 46th minute.

Briefly

Giants' Manning has surgery on ankle

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning is going to start the offseason training program with a surgically repaired left ankle.

The Giants announced that Manning had arthroscopic surgery Thursday to relieve some lingering discomfort in the ankle he sprained in the regular-season finale against Washington.

Dr. Robert Anderson, a foot and ankle specialist in Charlotte, N.C., performed a debridement, removing dead, damaged, or infected tissue to improve the healing potential of the remaining healthy tissue.

Manning expects to be able to run in six weeks.

In other NFL news:

■ Three NFL players are named in a police report involving a woman who passed out in a hotel and later woke up in a hospital not knowing how she got there, though no one has been charged with a crime, authorities said Thursday.

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick and wide receiver Quinton Patton, and Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Ricardo Lockette were with the woman at a Miami hotel where

Lockette lives, according to the Miami Police Department report.

Police stressed that the report contained only unproven allegations at this point.

■ The Carolina Panthers signed free-agent safety Thomas DeCoud to a two-year contract.

The 6-foot-2, 190-pound DeCoud spent the last six seasons with the Atlanta Falcons and went to the Pro Bowl in 2012.

Japan commissioner apologizes over ball

TOKYO — The commissioner of Japanese baseball has apologized after random tests showed the official ball is livelier than it should be.

The tests revealed that balls used at six stadiums on March 29 were livelier than they should have been.

Nippon Professional Baseball Commissioner Katsuhiko Kumazaki says "I want to apologize for causing a commotion."

The apology is reminiscent of a ball controversy that hit Japanese baseball last season. Ryozo Kato, the previous commissioner, resigned in October to take responsibility after the official ball

had been made livelier without his knowing. The juiced-up ball resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of home runs.

Haith kicks transfer Price off Missouri team

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri basketball coach Frank Haith kicked Zach Price off the team Thursday, ending the forward's career with the Tigers before it began.

Price, a transfer from Louisville who wasn't eligible to play until next season, was arrested twice last week on four counts of suspicion of assault. Another Missouri player, Earnest Ross, filed a petition in Boone County Circuit Court on April 2 that sought a protection order against Price.

Haith suspended Price indefinitely after his arrest.

"Last week's situation was unacceptable and after a review, I have decided that Zach will no longer be a part of our program," Haith said in a statement. "The off-the-court incidents involving our program over the past few months will not be tolerated. Our program represents the entire university and needs to be an asset. That's my re-

sponsibility as our head coach at Mizzou and we'll get it fixed."

In other college basketball news: ■ The Houston Cougars' top

two scorers, junior forward Tashawn Thomas and sophomore guard Daniel House, both want off the team and transfers to new schools.

Thomas and House say they had asked for their releases to transfer but were denied. Now, they say they plan to appeal those denials to a special University of Houston committee.

UNLV ineligible for '14 postseason play in '14

LAS VEGAS — The UNLV Rebels will not be eligible for the Mountain West championship game or a bowl berth in 2014 after failing to reach the minimum Academic Progress Rate score.

The university said Thursday that its final appeal to the NCAA subcommittee was denied and sanctions will be enforced. The sanctions include no postseason competition, replacing four hours of practice time with four hours of academics weekly and having five days of football-related activities a week instead of six.

Prosecutor: Pistorius' account improbable

By GERALD INYRA
AND CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
The Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — The prosecutor cross-examining Oscar Pistorius in his murder trial Friday tried to shred his version of events the night he shot and killed his girlfriend, saying they do not add up and go against how people would react in the situation the double-amputee Olympian has described.

Pistorius is charged with premeditated murder for Reeva Steenkamp's shooting death. He claims he shot the model by mistake, thinking she was an intruder about to come out of the bathroom and attack him. The state says he intentionally killed her by firing his pistol through a closed bathroom door after they had an argument in the pre-dawn hours of Valentine's Day last year.

Chief prosecutor Gerrie Nel led the Paralympic champion through his own account of what happened in those moments before he shot Steenkamp. Pistorius did hear a noise in the bathroom as he moved down the passageway on his stumps toward the bathroom with his pistol while screaming to his girlfriend to get down from the bed and call the police. Pistorius says he then heard a noise in the bathroom that he perceived to be the sound of wood on wood, which he said made him think someone was opening the bathroom door to attack him. And then, Pistorius said, he opened fire.

At each stage, Nel argued that the account was improbable, questioning why Pistorius did not establish where Steenkamp was and make sure she was OK, why he would approach the alleged danger zone if he felt vulnerable on his stumps, why Steenkamp would not respond to him and why an intruder would close himself in a bathroom stall.

"If you spoke to Reeva, the two of you could have taken lots of other steps," Nel said, adding that they could have merely left the bedroom.

Pistorius said he wanted to put himself between the bathroom and the bed, where he said he thought Steenkamp was.

Nel noted in Pistorius' version of the events that he had been shouting, Steenkamp "never uttered a word."

"It's not probable. It's not possible," the prosecutor said.

"She was standing behind the toilet door talking to you when you shot her," Nel put to Pistorius, saying he had heard the shots, bullets that hit her and asserting that the couple fighting was the only "reasonable explanation" for why she was standing behind the cubicle door and facing it. Steenkamp wasn't scared of anyone "other than you" Nel said.

"That's not true," Pistorius said.

AUTO RACING



RALPH LAUER/AP

Under NASCAR's new system, Team Penske drivers Joey Logano, left, and Brad Keselowski have already qualified for the Chase for the Championship. This year, drivers who win a race automatically qualify for NASCAR's playoff. Logano won Monday, while Keselowski won a race last month.

NASCAR notebook

Team Penske can look toward Chase after win

By Jenna Fryer
The Associated Press

As he chased Joey Logano around Texas Motor Speedway, more than a few people wondered if Brad Keselowski was letting off the gas just a little bit to help his teammate to a win.

A flurry of late activity cleared Keselowski of any potential wrongdoing.

As Logano closed in on the white flag that would have wrapped up the win, a late caution sent the field to pit road. Keselowski was penalized for speeding — he was 0.8 mph over in one of the zones on pit road — and it proved he was doing everything in his power to win Monday's race.

"I definitely wasn't (laying back)," Keselowski said. "I was 105 percent, so that's why got a 1 speeding penalty. I broke the rule the other way."

NASCAR last September demanded drivers give 100 percent at all times in a mandate to prevent them from aiding teammates. The penalty Keselowski had to serve contributed to his 15th-place finish, and Logano went on to win his first race of the season.

"We're in it for wins. We're not in it for finishing second. Second or 15th is the same to us," Keselowski said. "I sped and ended up

15th. It had to be really close. If it would have worked out, I might have been able to win the race from it. It's just part of racing."

Now no one can accuse Team Penske of playing unfairly, and both drivers have a clear conscience as they prepare for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Keselowski got his win at Las Vegas in March, and under NASCAR's new win-and-you're-in format, Team Penske should be assured of two spots in the 16-driver Chase field.

No VIP: Chase Elliott became the second youngest winner in Nationwide Series history at Texas Motor Speedway, then had to return home to Georgia to go back to school.

There was no special treatment for Elliott, who is wrapping up his senior year of high school at Kings Ridge Christian School in Atlanta.

"It was a typical Monday morning," Elliott said. "Nobody likes Mondays, whether you're in school or having to go to work." Elliott, who won Friday night in his sixth career start, is roughly four months older than Joey Logano was when he won his first career Nationwide race in 2008 at 18 years, 21 days.

The victory officially announced the arrival of the son of 1988 Cup champion Bill Elliott, who won the Most Popular Driver

award a record 16 times before he removed his name from the ballot. As Chase Elliott celebrated the win, six-time champion Jimmie Johnson visited him in Victory Lane. Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick stopped by his car to offer congratulations, and Jeff Gordon, Brad Keselowski, Kasey Kahne and Denny Hamlin tweeted to him.

"Those guys just taking a couple seconds to shake my hand along the way, that was one of the coolest things I've ever experienced ever," Elliott said.

Andretti addition: Roger Griffiths, who recently left his position as technical director for Honda Performance Development, has joined Andretti Autosport as the new director of motorsport development.

Griffiths will work with all areas of Andretti racing competition, including the IndyCar Series, its ladder system, Formula E and Rallycross.

"I'm very excited to have Roger join the team," said Andretti. "A man with his knowledge, talent and experience will be a huge addition for not just Andretti Autosport, but also for (Rallycross) and Andretti Formula E."

Griffiths has worked in many different series, including Formula 1, IndyCar, American Le Mans Series, European Le Mans Series and Super Touring Cars.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Southern 500 at Darlington, S.C.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 12:30 a.m. Sunday Central European Time.

Track: Darlington Raceway (oval, 1.366 miles).

Race distance: 501.3 miles, 367 laps.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to the third of his career-high seven victories.

Last week: Joey Logano won the rain-delayed race at Texas on Monday, passing Jeff Gordon on the last lap in a green-white-checked finish.

Fast fact: The record for the most races at the start of the season without a repeat winner is 10 in 2000.

Next race: Toyota Owners 400, April 12, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Online: www.nascar.com

— The Associated Press

Driver standings

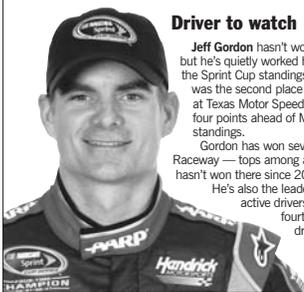
1. Jeff Gordon	259
2. Matt Kenseth	255
3. Carl Edwards	247
4. Joey Logano	235
5. Kyle Busch	231
6. Brad Keselowski	228
7. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	228
8. Brad Keselowski	218
9. Brian Vickers	205
10. Paul Menard	203
11. Ryan Newman	202
12. Austin Dillon	202
13. Denny Hamlin	197
14. Tony Stewart	189
15. Greg Biffle	188
16. Kyle Larson	187
17. Clint Bowyer	187
18. Marcos Ambrose	186
19. Kasey Kahne	178
20. AJ Allmendinger	173

Driver to watch

Jeff Gordon hasn't won a race this season, but he's quietly worked his way to the top of the Sprint Cup standings. His top finish so far was the second place he earned last week at Texas Motor Speedway, which put him four points ahead of Matt Kenseth in the standings.

Gordon has won seven times at Darlington Raceway — tops among active drivers — but hasn't won there since 2007.

He's also the leader in laps led among active drivers with 1,736 and fourth-best among all drivers.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: VFV Sport Clips Help A Hero 200 at Darlington, S.C.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2 a.m. Saturday Central European Time.

Track: Darlington Raceway (oval, 1.366 miles).

Race distance: 200.8 miles, 147 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the fifth of his 12 2013 series victories.

Last week: Chase Elliott won at Texas as his first series victory.

Online: www.nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: North Carolina Education Lottery 200, May 16, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Last race: Defending series champion Matt Crafton won the rain-delayed race at Martinsville.

Online: www.nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLOW DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Four-Wide Nationals at Concord, N.C.

TV: AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m. Monday Central European Time.

Track: zMAX Dragway.

Last year: Matt Hagan won Funny Car. Spencer Massey won Top Fuel, Mike Edwards in Pro Stock and Hector Arana Jr. in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Alexis DeJoria won Funny Car in Las Vegas on March 30. Other winners were Erica Enders-Stevens (Pro Stock) and Tony Schumacher (Top Fuel).

Online: www.nhra.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Grand Prix of Long Beach at Long Beach, Calif.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m. Monday Central European Time.

Track: Streets of Long Beach (street course, 1.968 miles).

Race distance: 157.4 miles, 80 laps.

Last year: Takuma Sato became the first Japanese winner in IndyCar history.

Last race: Team Penske's Will Power opened the season with a victory in St. Petersburg, Fla., on March 30.

Online: www.indycar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Chinese Grand Prix, April 20, Shanghai International Circuit, Shanghai.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won in Bahrain for his second straight victory, beating Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg by a second.

Online: www.formula1.com

OTHER RACES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Sprint Car: Friday, Kings Speedway, Hanford, Calif.; Saturday, Peris Auto Speedway, Perris, Calif. Late Model: Friday, Duck River Raceway Park, Wheel, Tenn.; Saturday, Tazewell Speedway, Tazewell, Tenn. www.worldofoutlaws.com

TUDDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Tequila Patron Sports Car Showcase at Long Beach, Saturday, Streets of Long Beach, Long Beach, Calif. www.insa.com

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
z-Boston	81	45	28	8	98	234
x-Montreal	80	44	27	8	96	236
x-Tampa Bay	80	44	27	8	96	236

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Pittsburgh	81	46	31	9	107	244
x-N.Y. Rangers	81	46	31	9	95	218
x-Philadelphia	81	46	31	9	91	227

Wild Card

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Columbus	80	42	31	7	91	226
x-Detroit	80	38	27	15	91	218

Washington	80	37	30	13	87	231
New Jersey	80	34	29	17	85	203
Ottawa	80	35	31	14	84	232
Toronto	80	34	38	9	82	235
Carolina	80	34	35	11	79	239
N. Islanders	80	34	35	7	75	262
Florida	81	29	44	8	66	194
Buffalo	80	21	50	9	51	153

Western Conference

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Chicago	80	52	21	7	111	247
x-Colorado	80	46	19	15	107	248
x-Columbus	80	46	19	15	107	248

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
y-Anaheim	80	52	21	8	112	259
x-San Jose	80	49	22	9	107	241
x-Vancouver	80	41	28	7	97	232

Wild Card

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Minnesota	81	39	30	11	98	204
Dallas	80	39	30	11	89	226

Phoenix	80	36	29	15	87	212
Nashville	80	36	32	12	84	202
St. Louis	80	36	32	12	84	202
Vancouver	80	35	34	11	81	189
Edmonton	80	35	34	7	75	218
Edmonton	81	28	44	9	65	198

Note: Top three teams from each division will meet in the next two games from each conference with the most points qualify for the playoffs. Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Playoff format: 1-8 play 8-1, 2-7, 3-6, 4-5. 1-4 clinch division, 5-8 play 5-4, 6-3, 7-2, 8-1.

Thursday's games
Ottawa z-New Jersey 1, SO
Boston y-Boston 2, N.Y. Rangers 2
N.Y. Rangers 2, Buffalo 1
Tampa Bay y-Carolina 2, 1
N.Y. Islanders 2, Montreal 0
St. Louis z-Philadelphia 2
Florida 4, Toronto 2
Nashville 2, Phoenix 0
San Jose z-St. Louis 2, 1
Los Angeles 3, Edmonton 0
Colorado z-Phoenix 2, 1

Friday's games
Chicago z-Washington 2
Carolina at Detroit
Columbus at Tampa Bay
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
St. Louis at Dallas
Winnipeg at Calgary
Colorado at San Jose

Saturday's games
Buffalo at Boston
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal
Toronto at Ottawa
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Chicago at Nashville
San Jose at Phoenix
Vancouver at Edmonton
Anaheim at Los Angeles

Sunday's games
Detroit at St. Louis
Boston say at Washington
Carolina at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at Washington
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo
New York at Pittsburgh
Nashville at Minnesota
Colorado at Anaheim
Minnesota at Vancouver
Dallas at Phoenix

End of regular season

Thursday

Senators 2, Devils 1 (SO)

New Jersey	0	1	0	0-1
Senators	1	0	0	1-0

Ottawa won shootout 1-0
Senators 1-1, Boston, Marchand 3 (Zibanejad, Cecil), 11:20, 1. Hoffman, Ryan (Kreider), 10:26.
Shootout—New Jersey 0 (Tzafaris), Larson NC, Jagr NG, Zubrus NG, Ottawa 1 (McGee, Spezza), 11:26. Hitchcock NG, E. Karlsson G.

Final tally Shot—Hensky, Ott, 10:48, second.

Goal—New Jersey 8:12-15, 4-39, Ottawa 10:10-7-5-32.

Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 10 (12 shots), Ottawa 10 (11 shots).

Goals—New Jersey, Cor Schneider 16 (13 shots), 3 saves; Ottawa, Lehner 11 (15-39-38).

A—15,207 (19,153). T—2:32.

Jets 2, Bruins 1 (SO)

Boston	1	0	0	0-1
Winnipeg	1	0	0	1-0

Winnipeg won shootout 1-0
Bruins 1-1, Boston, Marchand 24 (Smith, Krejci), 10:12.

Third period—2, Winnipeg, Kane 18 (Hornqvist), 18:03.

Shootout—Boston 0 (Hornqvist), Spooner 1 (McGee), 11:26. Hitchcock NG, E. Karlsson NG.

Final tally Shot—Hensky, Ott, 10:48, second.

Goal—New Jersey 8:12-15, 4-39, Ottawa 10:10-7-5-32.

Power-play opportunities—Boston 0 (10 shots), Jets 10 (11 shots).

Goals—Boston, C. Johnson 17-33 (37 shots), 28 saves; Winnipeg 11-30 (33-22).

A—15,004 (15,004). T—2:36.

Lightning 4, Flyers 2

Philadelphia	0	0	0	0-2
Tampa Bay	4	0	1	2-4

First period—1, Tampa Bay, Johnson 24 (Stamkos, Kozlowski), 2:36.

Second period—2, Philadelphia, Simmonds 19 (Michalek), 18:39 (pp).

Third period—3, Tampa Bay, Panik 3 (Hedman, Gustaf), 9:23, 4. Tampa Bay, Brewer 2 (Johnson, Palati), 9:43, Philadelphia, Courter 12 (Streit), 12:22, 6. Tampa Bay, Stamkos 25 (Filipula, Hedman), 14:14 (pp).

Shots on goal—Philadelphia 12-15-9-36, Tampa Bay 10-11-9-30.

Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 1 (1 shot), Tampa Bay 1 (1 shot).

Goals—Philadelphia, Emery 8-12-20 (30 shots), 28 saves; Tampa Bay, Lindback 1-1-2 (36-34).

A—19,204 (19,204). T—2:25.

Blues 2, Sabres 1

Buffalo	0	1	0	0-1
N.Y. Rangers	1	1	1	2-2

Second period—1, Buffalo, Standard 16 (Weber, Ennis), 9:06, 2. N.Y. Rangers, Poulin 15 (Zuccarello, Brassard), 19:29.

Third period—3, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 26 (St. Louis, Stepan), 18:18.

Shots on goal—Buffalo 12-11-24.

Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 0 of 2; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3.

Goals—Buffalo, Hackett 1-5-4 (30 shots-28 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 33-245 (24-23).

A—18,006 (18,006). T—2:26.

Predators 2, Coyotes 0

Phoenix	0	0	0	0-0
Nashville	2	0	0	2-0

Second period—1, Nashville, C. Smith 21 (Elias, Jones), 10:26 (pp).

Third period—2, Nashville, Hornqvist 21 (Fisher, Guillen), 9:23.

Shots on goal—Phoenix 9-5-15-29.

Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 0 of 2; Nashville 1 of 1.

Goals—Phoenix, Greis 9-8-5 (23 shots-21 saves). Nashville, Rime 9-10-3 (29-29).

A—17,174 (17,113). T—2:28.

Islanders 2, Canadiens 0

N.Y. Islanders	0	2	0	2-0
Montreal	0	0	0	0-0

Shots on goal—N.Y. Islanders, Kopitar 27 (Williams, Gaborik), 27, 2. Los Angeles, 19 (Michalek, Kopka), 18:39 (pp).

Second period—3, Los Angeles, Gaborik 11 (Vovoyk, Williams), 1:55.

Third period—3, Los Angeles, 10-15-23-48.

Edmonton 4-10-3-17.

Shots on goal—Los Angeles 10-15-23-48.

Edmonton 4-10-3-17.

Shots on goal—Los

FROZEN FOUR/NBA

Roundup

Late goal puts Minnesota in championship

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Justin Holl and the Minnesota Golden Gophers cut it about as close as possible after waiting all season to renew their long rivalry with North Dakota.

The senior defenseman scored a short-handed goal with 0.6 seconds left to give Minnesota a 2-1 victory over North Dakota on Thursday night in the NCAA hockey semifinals.

Minnesota (28-6-6) will face Union College in the title game Saturday night. Union beat Boston College 5-4 in the first semifinal at Wells Fargo Center.

"Guess it was just another boring Minnesota-North Dakota game," Gophers coach Don Lucia joked.

Holl scored his first goal of the season, beating Zane Gothberg to the glove side with a shot just inside the right post.

"Most of us were just focused on killing the penalty and getting into overtime," Holl said. "It just developed where there were 5 seconds left and I might as well jump in (the offensive rush). And it went in."

The Gophers were in the midst of killing off a power play on which North Dakota fired four shots on Adam Wilcox, but the Minnesota

goalie stopped them all. Overall, Wilcox made 36 saves.

"We're a good team with a great goalie," Lucia said.

Minnesota advanced to its 11th championship game and first since 2003, the year it won the last of its five titles.

"For me it was more relief than joy," Lucia said. "But I'm happy for our kids that they found a way to win."

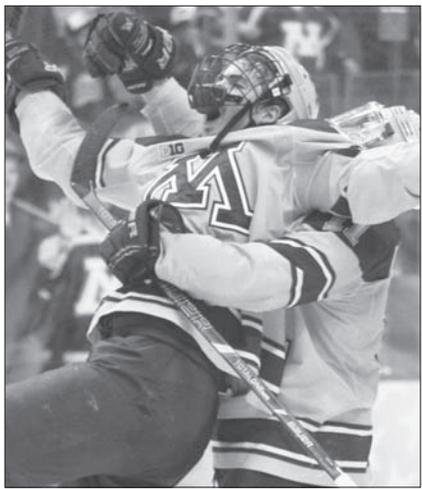
Union College 5, Boston College 4: Daniel Ciampini and the Dutchmen are thriving on college hockey's biggest stage.

Ciampini broke a third-period tie with the second of his three goals to help tiny Union College beat Boston College in the NCAA hockey semifinals.

The Dutchmen (31-6-4) advanced to the final for the first time. They will face Minnesota — a 2-1 winner over North Dakota in the second semifinal — in the championship game Saturday.

Mat Bodie and Mike Vecchiarelli also scored and Colin Stevens made 34 saves for Union, a liberal arts college in Schenectady, N.Y., with only 2,200 students.

Johnny Gaudreau, Steve Santini, Ryan Fitzgerald and Patrick Brown scored for Boston College (28-8-4), trying to make its fifth title game appearance in eight years.



CHRIS SZADOLA/AP

Minnesota's Justin Holl, left, reacts to his goal being ruled good with Sam Warrington, right, behind him during Thursday's Frozen Four semifinal against North Dakota in Philadelphia. Minnesota won 2-1.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
y-Indiana	54	25	.684		
y-Miami	52	25	.679	1/2	
x-Toronto	46	32	.590	7 1/2	
x-Chicago	46	29	.610	7 1/2	
x-Brooklyn	43	35	.551	10 1/2	
x-Charlotte	40	38	.513	13 1/2	
x-Washington	40	38	.513	13 1/2	
Atlanta	35	43	.449	18 1/2	
New York					
	33	45	.423	20 1/2	
Cleveland	27	51	.344	26 1/2	
Detroit	29	50	.367	25	
Boston	23	55	.295	30 1/2	
Orlando	22	55	.285	30 1/2	
Philadelphia	17	61	.218	36 1/2	
Milwaukee	14	64	.179	39 1/2	

Western Conference					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
y-San Antonio	50	19	.726		
y-Oklahoma City	57	21	.731	3	
y-L.A. Clippers	55	24	.696	5 1/2	
x-Houston	52	26	.667	8	
x-Portland	53	29	.646	9 1/2	
Golden State	48	29	.623	11 1/2	
Dallas	48	31	.608	12 1/2	
Phoenix	47	31	.603	13	
Memphis					
	46	32	.590	14	
Minnesota	39	39	.500	21	
Denver	34	44	.436	26	
New Orleans	32	46	.410	28	
Sacramento	27	52	.342	33 1/2	
L.A. Lakers	25	53	.321	35	
Utah	24	54	.308	36	

x-cinched playoff spot
y-cinched division
Wednesday's games
Orlando 115, Brooklyn 111
Charlotte 94, Washington 88, OT
Cleveland 122, Detroit 105
Toronto 125, Philadelphia 114
Atlanta 105, Boston 99
y-L.A. Clippers 102, Minnesota 87
Indiana 104, Milwaukee 102
Memphis 107, Miami 102
Phoenix 94, New Orleans 88
Denver 121, Houston 116
Portland 100, Sacramento 99
Oklahoma City 107, L.A. Clippers 101

Thursday's games
San Antonio 109, Dallas 100
Denver 101, Golden State 99

Friday's games
Washington 107, Orlando 100
New York 107, Toronto 100
Atlanta at Brooklyn
Charlotte at Boston
Indiana at Miami
Detroit at Chicago
Houston at Minnesota
New Orleans at Oklahoma City
Philadelphia at Milwaukee
Cleveland at Milwaukee
Phoenix at San Antonio
Portland at Utah
Golden State at L.A. Lakers
Saturday's games
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers
Milwaukee at Washington
Philadelphia at Charlotte
Miami at Atlanta
New Orleans at Houston
Phoenix at Dallas
Utah at Denver

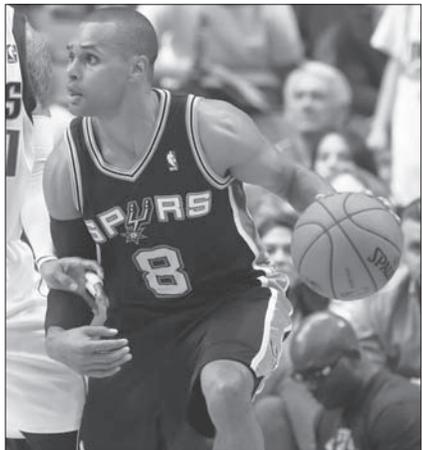
Thursday
Nuggets 100, Warriors 99

Denver — Miller 2-6 0-0 6, Faried 8-18 2-7 18, Mozgov 10-15 3-4 23, Brooks 3-14 2-8 7, Fox 7-23 2-20, Fournier 3-11 12-5, Arthur 2-15 0-10, Vesely 2-2 2-2, Totals 39-104 13-100.
GOLDEN STATE — Igouda 2-6 2-2 6, Green 3-5 0-0 4, Bogut 2-4 0-4, Curry 8-19 6-6 24, Thompson 8-19 2-2 21, O'Neal 5-8 2-2 12, Barnes 4-7 0-0 9, Speights 4-9 1-3, Blake 0-1 0-0, Crawford 5-10 0-10, Totals 40-88 13-15-99.

Denver — 15 28 30 27-100
Golden State — 28 25 22 24-99
Three-Point Goals—Denver 10-34 (Foye 4-13, Arthur 2-4, Fournier 2-6, Miller 2-5, Mozgov 0-2, Brooks 0-3), Golden State 23 (Thompson 3-6, Curry 2-7, Barnes 1-2, Green 0-1, Blake 0-1, Igouda 0-3, Crawford 0-3). Fouled Out—Vesely, Rebounds—Denver 16 (Mozgov 29), Golden State 46 (Bogut 8). Assists—Denver 23 (Foye, Brooks 7), Golden State 19 (Curry 6), Total Fouls—Denver 18, Golden State 17. Technicals—Golden State defensive three, Denver 3. A—19,596 (19,596).

Spurs 109, Mavericks 100
SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 5-14 4-5 15, Duncan 7-12 6-9 20, Splitter 6-10 0-12, Mills 9-25 2-2 26, Green 9-9 0-15, Davis 3-0 0-0, Ginobili 4-8 0-10, Joseph 0-0 3-4 3, Belinelli 2-7 2-7, Daye 0-0 0-0, Ayres 0-0 0-0, Totals 38-83 22-109.

DALLAS — Marion 5-7 0-0 12, Nowitzki 8-14 3-5 19, Dolevitzki 1-5 0-2, Calderon 5-11 2-2 14, Ellis 10-22 4-4 24, Carter 2-5 2-6, Harris 1-8 5-6 8, Blair 2-3 1-2 5, Crowder 0-1 0-0, Wright 4-5 0-3, Lanier 1-1 0-0 2, James 0-0 0-0, Ellington 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 39-83 17-21 100.
SAN ANTONIO — 30 19 24 26-109
Dallas — 22 29 21 28-100
Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 16-34 (Mills 5-11, Green 5-9, Ginobili 2-4, Leonard 2-6, Belinelli 1-4), Dallas 5-12 (Marion 2-3, Calderon 2-3, Harris 1-5, Ellis 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 57 (Leonard 16), Dallas 46 (Dalembert 11), Assists—San Antonio 22 (Ginobili 7), Dallas 16 (Belinelli 4), Total Fouls—San Antonio 22, Dallas 17. Technicals—Duncan, A—29,324 (19,200).



LM OTERO/AP

San Antonio guard Patty Mills scored 26 points starting in place of Tony Parker Thursday, helping the Spurs knock off Dallas 109-100.

Mills leads Spurs over Mavericks

By SCHUYLER DIXON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Patty Mills is a shooter no matter when he goes into the game.

The San Antonio guard showed it in yet another win over the Dallas Mavericks.

Mills scored 26 points starting in place of Tony Parker and the Spurs moved to the brink of the top seed in the Western Conference while likely forcing the Mavericks into a must-win situation with their playoff hopes by beating Dallas 109-100 on Thursday.

Making his second start of the season and seventh of his career

with Parker nursing a bad back, Mills had 11 points and a pair of steals in the third quarter when the Spurs turned a two-point deficit into an 11-point lead.

"Whether I start or come off the bench, there's a mentality," said Mills, who fell six points short of his season high on 25 shots — one shy of the most he's taken this season. "Shooting shots is the same."

The Spurs beat the Mavericks for the ninth straight time in the regular season, a streak that has lasted more than two years.

Tim Duncan had 20 points and 15 rebounds. Kawhi Leonard added 16 points, a career-high 16 rebounds and five assists.

Faried lifts Nuggets

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kenneth Faried watched the Golden State Warriors celebrate enough victories against the Denver Nuggets during last year's playoffs.

He wouldn't allow his team to witness another Warriors coronation this spring.

Faried hit a turnaround hook shot over Dwyane Green with a half-second remaining, and the Nuggets made Golden State wait at least one more game to secure a playoff berth with a stunning 100-99 win over the Warriors on Thursday night.

"We showed that we have the fight and will to win," Faried said. The Warriors wasted a 20-

point lead in the first half, but still looked ready to touch off a playoff-clinching party.

Stephen Curry's floater over Faried put the Warriors up 99-98 with 4-7 seconds to play, sending the announced sellout crowd of 19,596 roaring to their feet. But Faried quieted fans moments later, backing down Green in the paint for the winning shot.

Curry's quick 30-footer rimmed off as time expired, and the Warriors missed a chance to celebrate a milestone moment in front of their loyal fans.

"Not how we envisioned the night going," Curry said. Timofey Mozgov tied a career-high with 23 points and grabbed a career-best 29 rebounds, and Faried finished with 18 points and 17 boards to rally the Nuggets.

MASTERS

Scoreboard

The Masters
PGA Tour
Thursday
At Augusta National Golf Club
Augusta, Ga.
Yardage: 7,435; Par: 72 (36-36)
First Round
a-amateur

Bill Haas	34-34	-6	-4
Adam Scott	33-36	-9	-3
Louis Oosthuizen	33-36	-9	-3
Bubba Watson	35-34	-9	-3
Kevin Stadler	35-35	-7	-2
Jonas Blixt	33-37	-7	-2
Gary Woodland	36-34	-7	-2
Ernie Walker	36-34	-7	-2
K.J. Choi	36-34	-7	-2
Brandt Snedeker	33-37	-7	-2
Marc Leishman	36-34	-7	-2
Fred Couples	34-37	-7	-1
Rickie Fowler	36-35	-7	-1
Miguel Angel Jimenez	32-39	-7	-1
Matteo Manassero	34-37	-7	-1
Rory McIlroy	35-36	-7	-1
Jordan Spieth	35-36	-7	-1
Stephen Gallacher	33-38	-7	-1
Francesco Molinari	35-36	-7	-1
John Senden	36-36	-7	E
Graeme McDowell	36-36	-7	E
Steve Stricker	34-38	-7	E
Kevin Streelman	37-35	-7	E
Nick Watney	37-38	-7	E
Sang-Moon Bae	36-36	-7	E
Bernhard Langer	36-36	-7	E
Stewart Cink	35-38	-7	+1
Boo Weekley	36-37	-7	+1
Roberto Castro	37-36	-7	+1
Mike Weir	36-37	-7	+1
James Donaldson	37-36	-7	+1
Charl Schwartzel	37-36	-7	+1
Patrick Reed	36-38	-7	+1
Thomas Bjorn	37-36	-7	+1
Thongchai Laddee	38-35	-7	+1
Matt Kuchar	36-37	-7	+1
Henrik Stenson	37-36	-7	+1
Russell Henley	37-36	-7	+1
Lee Westwood	36-37	-7	+1
Stevan Bowditch	37-37	-7	+2
Brendon de Jonge	37-37	-7	+2
Weibin Simonsen	35-38	-7	+2
Jim Furyk	37-37	-7	+2
Thorbjorn Olesen	36-38	-7	+2
Larry Mize	35-39	-7	+2
Matt Jones	36-38	-7	+2
Jose Maria Olazabal	37-37	-7	+2
Darren Clarke	39-35	-7	+2
Sergio Garcia	35-39	-7	+2
Hunter Mahan	37-37	-7	+2
Victor Dubuisson	38-38	-7	+2
Harris English	37-37	-7	+2
John Huh	39-35	-7	+2
Mark O'Meara	36-39	-7	+3
Martin Kaymer	38-37	-7	+3
Scott Stallings	36-39	-7	+3
Billy Horschel	39-36	-7	+3
Ken Duke	39-36	-7	+3
Lucas Glover	35-40	-7	+3
Vijay Singh	37-38	-7	+3
G. Fernandez-Castano	38-38	-7	+3
Chris Kirk	36-39	-7	+3
Jason Day	37-38	-7	+3
Joost Luiten	37-38	-7	+3
Keegan Bradley	39-36	-7	+3
Ernie Els	39-36	-7	+3
Ian Poulter	39-37	-7	+4
a-Matthew Fitzpatrick	37-39	-7	+4
Sandy Lyle	35-41	-7	+4
a-Saikat Mukherjee	40-36	-7	+4
a-Oliver Goss	39-37	-7	+4
Derek Ernst	42-34	-7	+4
Phil Mickelson	39-37	-7	+4
Justin Rose	40-36	-7	+4
Ian Woosnam	36-41	-7	+5
Y.E. Yang	39-38	-7	+5
Matt Evers	38-39	-7	+5
Ryan Moore	36-41	-7	+5
Dustin Johnson	38-39	-7	+5
David Lynn	38-39	-7	+5
Tom Watson	38-40	-7	+6
Angel Cabrera	39-38	-7	+6
Zach Johnson	40-38	-7	+6
D.A. Pinnington	40-38	-7	+6
a-Michael McCoy	38-40	-7	+6
Peter Hanson	37-41	-7	+6
Tim Clark	41-38	-7	+7
Trevor Immelman	41-38	-7	+7
Luke Donald	43-36	-7	+7
a-Chang-woo Lee	39-41	-8	-8
Hideki Matsuyama	40-40	-8	-8
Jason Dufner	36-44	-8	-8
Graham Delattre	42-38	-8	-8
a-Jordan Neiruge	39-42	-8	-9
Craig Stadler	42-42	-8	+10
Ben Crenshaw	41-42	-8	+11
Branden Grace	41-43	-8	+12



Defending champion Adam Scott waves after putting on the 16th hole during the first round of the Masters on Thursday in Augusta, Ga.

MATT SLOCUM/AP

Scott relishing role as champion

Aussie off to good start on opening day

By PAUL NEWBERRY
 The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — For some, the burden of defending a championship can be overwhelming. For Adam Scott, it was pure joy — at least for a day.

With a green jacket already in his collection, Scott felt a sense of calm that carried over to the golf course. The result: a 3-under 69 that got the laid-back Aussie off to just the kind of start he was looking for at the Masters.

Now, to keep it going for three more days. "Having won last year, in some ways, has taken a little pressure off me," Scott said. "I kind of felt like what was the worst that can happen? I'm still going to be a Masters champion."



Spectators watch as Phil Mickelson hits out of the rough on the second fairway during the second round of the Masters on Friday in Augusta, Ga.

CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Bill Haas was leading a major for the first time, shooting a 68 Thursday that left him one stroke ahead of the last guy to win the Masters (Scott), the guy who won it two years ago (Bubba Watson), and the guy Watson beat in a playoff (Louis Oosthuizen).

On a warm, sunny morning, Marc Leishman of Australia got off to a blistering start in the second round, making three straight birdies to become the first player to get to 5 under: Oosthuizen stumbled a bit, shooting a 1-over 37 on the front side, while Watson began with five straight pars.

Haas and Scott had afternoon tee times. Scott was clearly the most compelling figure on Day 1 of a Masters marked by the absence of Tiger Woods, sitting out for the first time in his career after bad surgery. Golf has been waiting for a star to take control all year, and Scott turned in a rock-solid round that was marred only by a double bogey in the middle of Amen

Corner, the one time he let the significance of being a major champion get to him a bit.

A roar went up as Scott strolled from the 11th green to the 12th tee. Caught up in the moment, he promptly dumped his tee shot in Rae's Creek, the first time that's happened in his career.

Otherwise, no complaints. "Getting off to a good start in a major is huge," Scott said. "They are the hardest tournaments to kind of chase. Birdies aren't that easy to come by usually at the majors, and if you're six back, five back, 10 back after that first round, it's a hard three days in front of you."

That doesn't bode well for Phil Mickelson, who had two 7s on his card and finished with a 76 — a staggering eight shots off the lead. Not

exactly the kind of start Lefty was hoping for in pursuit of his fourth green jacket. No one has come back to win at Augusta from more than seven shots behind after the opening round.

"I was really off," said Mickelson, who blamed his score on mental lapses rather than anything in his swing. "It was very disappointing."

Watson, who slipped that green jacket on Scott last year, played his first bogey-free round in a major since the 2009 U.S. Open. Oosthuizen was the only other player in the 60s — the fewest to break 70 in an opening round at the Masters since 2007, despite a brilliant spring day that made the course seem ripe for the taking. No chance, not with hole locations that were severe for an opening round and greens that got firmer by the hour.



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Australian Marc Leishman got off to a hot start in Friday's second round, opening with three straight birdies.

MLB SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	Pct	GB
New York	5	500
Tampa Bay	5	505 ½
Toronto	5	505 ½
Baltimore	4	444 ½
Boston	4	444 ½

Central Division	Pct	GB
Detroit	714	—
Chicago	500	1½
Minnesota	4	444 ½
Kansas City	4	400 1½
Minnesota	6	333 3

West Division	Pct	GB
Oakland	6	627
Seattle	6	667
Los Angeles	4	444 2
Texas	4	444 2
Houston	4	400 2½

Tampa Bay (Archer 1-0) at Cincinnati (Cigrang 0-1)

Miami (Alvarez 0-2) at Philadelphia (Kerenski 0-1)

Washington (Gonzalez 2-0) at Atlanta (Kerenski 0-1)

Pittsburgh (Morton 0-0) at Milwaukee (Lofse 1-1)

Chicago Cubs (EJackson 0-0) at St. Louis (Wacha 1-0)

N.Y. Mets (Colson 1-1) at L.A. Angels (C.Wilson 1-1)

N.Y. Mets (Lyles 2-0) at San Francisco (Hudson 2-0)

Detroit (Scherzer 0-0) at San Diego (Trotter 0-0)

L.A. Dodgers (Haren 1-0) at Arizona (Cahill 0-3)

Athletics 6, Twins 1

Oakland	r	h	b	Minnesota	r	h	b
Fuld	5	2	2	Mstrm	1	0	0
Lorrie	5	1	0	Dozbr	2	1	1
Orlind	5	2	3	Mauer	3	2	3
Moss	4	0	0	Colabel	4	0	0
Kubel	4	0	0	Goetz	3	0	0
Callash	4	0	0	Plouffe	3	0	0
N.Y.	4	0	0	Mentz	3	0	0
Barton	3	1	1	Ahicks	3	0	0
Purto	2	0	0	Escors	2	0	0
Totals	38	13	6	Totals	29	3	3

Oakland 100 000 000-4
 DP—Oakland 1, LOB—Oakland 10, Minnesota 10, HR—Fuld (1), Donaldson (1), Dozier (3).

Pirates 5, Cubs 4

Pittsburgh	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
Marife	4	1	2	Bonifac	3	0	0
Abat	4	0	0	Kalish	1	0	0
Mercus	3	0	0	Rizzo	1	0	0
TABCF	3	1	0	Schiff	1	0	0
Klitz	2	0	0	Wright	1	0	0
Watsch	1	0	0	Sweeney	0	0	0
Monte	0	0	0	Monte	0	0	0
Grubb	0	0	0	Strass	0	0	0
HBC	0	0	0	Grinn	0	0	0
Nlpp	0	0	0	Valen	0	0	0
Waltz	0	0	0	Valen	0	0	0
Meress	0	0	0	Wright	0	0	0
Snider	0	0	0	TWood	0	0	0
Reusch	0	0	0	Schitt	0	0	0
Reusch	0	0	0	Reusch	0	0	0

Pittsburgh 35 5 8 5
 Chicago 30 0 0 500-5
 DP—Pittsburgh 3, Chicago 2, HR—Snider (2), Snider (2), SB—Carrico (2), Scherwoltz (1), CS—Bonifacio (1).

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	7	2	.778	—
Atlanta	5	5	.500	2½
Miami	5	5	.500	2½
New York	4	4	.500	3
Philadelphia	6	6	.500	3 3/4

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	7	2	.778	—
St. Louis	6	3	.667	½
Chicago	6	3	.667	½
Chicago	6	3	.667	½
Arizona	3	8	.273	3 3/4

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	4	6	.400	—
San Francisco	4	6	.400	—
Colorado	5	5	.500	—
San Diego	3	8	.273	3 3/4
Arizona	3	8	.273	3 3/4

Thursday White Sox 7, Indians 3

Cleveland	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
ACarer	5	4	2	Eaton	4	1	2
Swisher	3	1	0	Semien	3	0	0
Kunz	2	0	1	Olson	2	0	0
CSant	4	0	0	Abreu	4	2	3
Raburn	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
Brantley	4	0	0	Vickro	4	1	1
YGoms	3	0	0	Jones	0	0	0
Aviles	4	0	0	Aviles	4	0	0
DMvrr	3	0	0	Almiraz	3	1	2

Totals 31 3 6 2
 Chicago 102 210 100-7
 DP—Chicago 2, LOB—Cleveland 4, Chicago 5, 2B—A.Cabrer, 3B—Brantley (3), Eaton (1), Ramirez (2), HR—Eaton (1), Abreu (2), Almiraz (2), SF—Raburn.

Wednesday's games

Oakland 7, Minnesota 4, 11 innings
 Tampa Bay 3, Tampa Bay 3
 Boston 4, Texas 2
 Baltimore 5, N.Y. Yankees 4
 Houston 2, Houston 2
 L.A. Angels 2, Seattle 0
 Kansas City 7, Cincinnati 1st game
 Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 0
 Milwaukee 6, Chicago White Sox 4
 San Diego 2, Cleveland 1, 2nd game
 Washington 10, Miami 7
 Milwaukee 5, Philadelphia 4
 Atlanta 4, N.Y. Mets 3
 Arizona 6, San Francisco 3
 Detroit 1, L.A. Dodgers 6, 10 innings
 Arizona 1, San Francisco 3

Thursday's games

Oakland 6, Minnesota 1
 Cleveland 4, Boston 5
 Houston 6, Toronto 4
 Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 3
 Pittsburgh 5, Chicago Cubs 4
 Washington 7, Miami 2
 Milwaukee 5, Philadelphia 2
 N.Y. Mets 6, Atlanta 4
 Arizona 6, San Francisco 5, 10 innings
 Florida's games
 Boston (Aster 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 1-0)
 Toronto (McGowan 0-1) at Baltimore (Harmon 0-0)
 Houston (Feldman 2-0) at Texas (Darvish 2-0)
 Cleveland (Carrozo 0-1) at Detroit (Gibson 1-0)
 Kansas City (Blone 0-0) at Minnesota (Gibson 1-0)
 Chicago White Sox (Cabrera 0-0) at Seattle (Hernandez 2-0)
 Detroit (Gonzalez 2-0) at Philadelphia (Burnett 0-1)
 Tampa Bay (Price 1-0) at Cincinnati (Cuto 0-1)
 Washington (Roark 1-0) at Atlanta (Teheran 0-0)
 Pittsburgh (Liriano 0-1) at Milwaukee (Kemp 0-0)
 Chicago Cubs (Sarmadzeja 1-0) at St. Louis (Kelly 1-0)
 L.A. Dodgers (Ree 1-1) at Arizona (McCarthy 0-1)
 Tampa Bay (Gouge 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Skaggs 1-0)
 New York Yankees (Arceullo 0-0) at San Diego (Cashner 0-1)
 Los Angeles (De La Rosa 0-1) at San Francisco (Bumgarner 1-0)

Saturday's games

Boston (Crosby 2-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 1-1)
 Cleveland (Masterson 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Paulino 1-0)
 Cleveland (Shields 0-1) at Minnesota (Nolasco 0-0)
 Toronto (Hutchinson 1-1) at Baltimore (Cabrera 0-0)
 Houston (Cosart 1-1) at Texas (Sechler 0-0)
 Oakland (Gray 1-0) at Seattle (Ramirez 1-1)
 Tampa Bay (Cobb 0-1) at Cincinnati (Simon 0-0)
 Chicago Cubs (Villanueva 1-2) at St. Louis (Wainwright 1-1)
 Detroit (Anderson 0-2) at San Francisco (McAin 0-1)
 Miami (Ewald 1-1) at Philadelphia (Lincecum 0-0)
 Pittsburgh (Volquez 0-0) at Milwaukee (Kemp 0-0)
 Washington (Jordan 0-0) at Atlanta (Kemp 0-0)
 L.A. Dodgers (Greinke 2-0) at Arizona (Miley 1-2)
 New York Yankees (Verlander 0-1) at San Diego (Kemp 0-0)
 Los Angeles (Niese 0-1) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 0-2)

Sunday's games

Toronto (Buehrle 2-0) at Baltimore (J. J. Vazquez 0-0)
 Chicago White Sox (Kubler 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 1-1)
 St. Louis (Vazquez 1-1) at Minnesota (Correa 1-0)
 Houston (Abelberzter 0-2) at Texas (M. Perez 1-0)
 Oakland (Kazmir 2-0) at Seattle (C. Young 0-0)
 Boston (Doubtrun 1-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Nova 1-1)

Friday White Sox 6, Braves 4

New York	r	h	b	Atlanta	r	h	b
Eyong	5	4	3	Heyward	3	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Wright	3	0	0
Dwight	4	0	1	Fleming	4	1	2
Brantley	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
LDavis	3	0	1	Chen	4	2	3
Lagars	5	0	1	Ugla	3	0	0
Tejada	4	0	0	Reyes	4	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Dumit	3	0	0
Satin	1	0	0	Varvarov	0	0	0
CTorres	0	0	0	Jacharf	0	0	0
Brantley	0	0	0	Brantley	0	0	0
FWrser	0	0	0	Schiff	0	0	0
Valero	0	0	0	Thoms	0	0	0
Totals	35	9	6	Totals	35	4	6

New York 102 010 110-6
 Atlanta 103 000 000-4
 DP—New York 1, Atlanta 2, HR—New York 9, Atlanta 6, 2B—Dan Murphy (2), J. Upton (2), SB—Ewing (3), Dan Murphy (1), Granderson (2), Heyward (2).

Saturday White Sox 6, Yankees 3

New York	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
Eyong	5	4	3	Heyward	3	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Wright	3	0	0
Dwight	4	0	1	Fleming	4	1	2
Brantley	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
LDavis	3	0	1	Chen	4	2	3
Lagars	5	0	1	Ugla	3	0	0
Tejada	4	0	0	Reyes	4	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Dumit	3	0	0
Satin	1	0	0	Varvarov	0	0	0
CTorres	0	0	0	Jacharf	0	0	0
Brantley	0	0	0	Brantley	0	0	0
FWrser	0	0	0	Schiff	0	0	0
Valero	0	0	0	Thoms	0	0	0
Totals	35	9	6	Totals	35	4	6

New York 102 010 110-6
 Chicago 103 000 000-4
 DP—New York 1, Chicago 2, HR—New York 9, Chicago 6, 2B—Dan Murphy (2), J. Upton (2), SB—Ewing (3), Dan Murphy (1), Granderson (2), Heyward (2).

Sunday White Sox 6, Yankees 3

New York	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
Eyong	5	4	3	Heyward	3	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Wright	3	0	0
Dwight	4	0	1	Fleming	4	1	2
Brantley	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
LDavis	3	0	1	Chen	4	2	3
Lagars	5	0	1	Ugla	3	0	0
Tejada	4	0	0	Reyes	4	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Dumit	3	0	0
Satin	1	0	0	Varvarov	0	0	0
CTorres	0	0	0	Jacharf	0	0	0
Brantley	0	0	0	Brantley	0	0	0
FWrser	0	0	0	Schiff	0	0	0
Valero	0	0	0	Thoms	0	0	0
Totals	35	9	6	Totals	35	4	6

New York 102 010 110-6
 Chicago 103 000 000-4
 DP—New York 1, Chicago 2, HR—New York 9, Chicago 6, 2B—Dan Murphy (2), J. Upton (2), SB—Ewing (3), Dan Murphy (1), Granderson (2), Heyward (2).

Sunday White Sox 6, Yankees 3

New York	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
Eyong	5	4	3	Heyward	3	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Wright	3	0	0
Dwight	4	0	1	Fleming	4	1	2
Brantley	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
LDavis	3	0	1	Chen	4	2	3
Lagars	5	0	1	Ugla	3	0	0
Tejada	4	0	0	Reyes	4	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Dumit	3	0	0
Satin	1	0	0	Varvarov	0	0	0
CTorres	0	0	0	Jacharf	0	0	0
Brantley	0	0	0	Brantley	0	0	0
FWrser	0	0	0	Schiff	0	0	0
Valero	0	0	0	Thoms	0	0	0
Totals	35	9	6	Totals	35	4	6

New York 102 010 110-6
 Chicago 103 000 000-4
 DP—New York 1, Chicago 2, HR—New York 9, Chicago 6, 2B—Dan Murphy (2), J. Upton (2), SB—Ewing (3), Dan Murphy (1), Granderson (2), Heyward (2).

Sunday White Sox 6, Yankees 3

New York	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
Eyong	5	4	3	Heyward	3	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Wright	3	0	0
Dwight	4	0	1	Fleming	4	1	2
Brantley	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
LDavis	3	0	1	Chen	4	2	3
Lagars	5	0	1	Ugla	3	0	0
Tejada	4	0	0	Reyes	4	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Dumit	3	0	0
Satin	1	0	0	Varvarov	0	0	0
CTorres	0	0	0	Jacharf	0	0	0
Brantley	0	0	0	Brantley	0	0	0
FWrser	0	0	0	Schiff	0	0	0
Valero	0	0	0	Thoms	0	0	0
Totals	35	9	6	Totals	35	4	6

New York 102 010 110-6
 Chicago 103 000 000-4
 DP—New York 1, Chicago 2, HR—New York 9, Chicago 6, 2B—Dan Murphy (2), J. Upton (2), SB—Ewing (3), Dan Murphy (1), Granderson (2), Heyward (2).

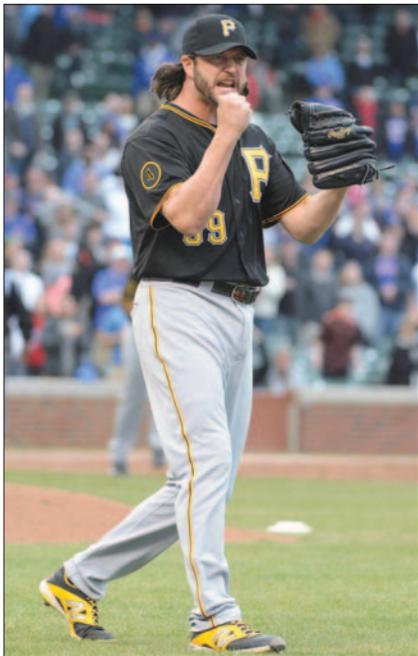
Sunday White Sox 6, Yankees 3

New York	r	h	b	Chicago	r	h	b
Eyong	5	4	3	Heyward	3	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Wright	3	0	0
Dwight	4	0	1	Fleming	4	1	2
Brantley	4	0	0	Brantley	4	1	1
LDavis	3	0	1	Chen	4	2	3
Lagars	5	0	1	Ugla	3	0	0
Tejada	4	0	0	Reyes	4	0	0
Wright	4	0	0	Dumit	3	0	0
Satin	1	0	0	Varvarov	0	0	0
CTorres	0	0	0	Jacharf	0	0	0
Brantley	0	0	0	Brantley	0	0	0
FWrser	0	0	0	Schiff	0	0	0
Valero	0	0	0	Thoms	0	0	0
Totals	35	9	6	Totals	35	4	6

New York 102 010 110-6
 Chicago 103 000 000-4
 DP—New York 1, Chicago 2, HR—New York 9, Chicago 6, 2B—Dan Murphy (2), J. Upton (2), SB—Ewing (3), Dan Murphy (1), Granderson (2), Heyward (2).

Sunday White Sox 6, Yankees 3

MLB



DAVID BANKS/AP

Pittsburgh relief pitcher Jason Grilli reacts after getting the last out against the Cubs on Thursday in Chicago. The Pirates won 5-4.

NL roundup

Grilli, Pirates hold off Cubs

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Pedro Alvarez hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run seventh inning and Jason Grilli retired Emilio Bonifacio on a bases-loaded grounder to end the game, giving the Pittsburgh Pirates a 5-4 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Thursday.

The Pirates trailed 4-0 heading into the seventh, but two big drives changed things.

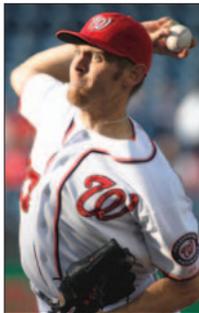
Pinch hitter Travis Snider cut the deficit in half with a two-run homer off Brian Schlitter. Alvarez put Pittsburgh ahead with his three-run drive against James Russell (0-1), his third homer in two games.

Chicago threatened in the bottom of the ninth before Grilli retired Bonifacio on a grounder to first. The Pirates took two of three at Wrigley Field.

That gave the Pirates their third series win — the most for them to start the season since the 1992 team took its first six.

Nationals 7, Marlins 1: Stephen Strasburg struck out 12 in 6½ innings on a day his team really needed to rest its relievers, and Jayson Werth and Ian Desmond homered, leading Washington past visiting Miami for a three-game sweep.

Strasburg (1-1) got 14 consecutive outs in one stretch and allowed only three hits, including Marcell Ozuna's homer in the



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg struck out 12 in 6½ innings of work against the Miami Marlins at Nationals Park on Thursday in Washington.

seventh. The right-hander's lone walk was to the last batter he faced.

Washington's starter Wednesday, Jordan Zimmermann, left after a career-low 1½ innings, leaving the bullpen "taxed," as manager Matt Williams put it. The Nationals won that game 10-7 on Werth's go-ahead grand slam in the eighth, and this time he

connected in the third — a two-run shot off Tom Koehler (1-1) that put Washington ahead 2-0.

Brewers 6, Phillies 7: Carlos Gomez had three hits with an RBI and Milwaukee extended its winning to six games with a victory over host Philadelphia.

The Brewers' wins have all come on the road during the streak. They came to Philadelphia following a three-game sweep at defending World Series champion Boston.

They battered the Phillies with 25 runs and 38 hits in the three-game sweep. Milwaukee has batted .320 and has outscored opponents 42-18 during the streak.

Mets 6, Braves 4: Eric Young Jr. got three hits, stole three bases and scored four times and New York overcame Justin Upton's two home runs to beat host Atlanta.

Led by Young, the Mets stole five bases. Young also used his speed to lead off a two-run third inning with a bunt single.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 5 (10): Tony Campana hit an RBI single with two outs in the fourth inning to lead Arizona to its first back-to-back wins of the season with a victory over host San Francisco.

Cliff Pennington had two RBIs and scored the winning run for the Diamondbacks, who won the final two games of the series.

AL roundup

Pineda's hand draws attention in Yankees' win

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Pineda won while pitching with some substance smudged on his hand as the New York Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 4-1 Thursday night.

New Yankees star Jacoby Ellsbury drew all the pregame attention after switching sides during the offseason. But it was the dark brown, seemingly tacky substance on the lower palm of Pineda's pitching hand that quickly became the focus.

Close-up camera shots clearly showed Pineda (1-1) pitching for the first four innings with something on his hand, and there was speculation it was pine tar to help him get a better grip on a chilly night. The game was never stopped for an umpire to examine him, and it was gone by the fifth.

Pineda said it was merely dirt, rubbed on his sweaty right hand. Red Sox manager John Farrell said that he found out about it only after Pineda's hand was cleaned up.

Pineda (1-1) took a two-hit shutout into the seventh. He allowed four hits in his first Yankees win, struck out seven and walked two.

Ellsbury scored in the fourth and singled in the fifth off Buchholz (0-1).

White Sox 7, Indians 3: Rookie Jose Abreu connected for his second multi-homer game in three days and Chicago ended a 14-game losing streak against visiting Cleveland.



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Yankees starting pitcher Michael Pineda delivers a pitch during the first inning of Thursday's game in New York. Pineda pitched for the first four innings with a dark substance on the lower palm of his pitching hand, but it was gone by the fifth.

Abreu hit tape-measure drives in the second and fifth innings and drove in three runs. The Cuban slugger hit the first two homers of his major league career Tuesday in Colorado.

Abreu has four homers and 14 RBIs in 10 games.

Alexei Ramirez homered and drove in three runs for Chicago. The Indians had outscored the White Sox 102-45 in a

streak that dated to last June.

John Danks (1-0) overcame a rocky start. Indians starter Danny Salazar (0-1) struck out 10 in 3½ innings, but also gave up five runs and six hits.

Astros 6, Blue Jays 4: Robbie Grossman and Jonathan Villar homered off R.A. Dickey and visiting Houston avoided a three-game sweep by beating Toronto.

Dallas Keuchel (1-1) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings. Anthony Bass got his first save.

Villar hit a three-run homer. Grossman had a two-run shot and Jason Castro added a solo drive.

The Astros prepared to face Dickey (1-2) and his knucklers by taking swings in an indoor cage before the game against former major league knuckleballer Steve Sparks, now a Houston radio announcer.

Athletics 6, Twins 1: Dan Straily pitched three-hit ball for seven innings and Sam Fuld hit a rare home run to help visiting Oakland complete a three-game sweep over Minnesota.

Straily (1-1) gave up one run and struck out five. The Athletics have gone nine straight games to start the season without their starter allowing more than three runs.

Fuld hit just his sixth homer in 738 career plate appearances and singled. Josh Donaldson also hit a two-run homer.

Mike Pelfrey (0-2) gave up six runs on nine hits and four walks in five innings.

Brian Dozier hit his third home run of the season for Minnesota.

SPORTS



Off to a good start
Defending champion Scott opens with a 69 | **Golf, Page 29**

MLB

Mellowing with age

Morneau just trying to 'keep it simple'

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

DENVER

Justin Morneau laces up his cleats right next to the locker once belonging to Todd Helton, the first baseman whose shoes he's now trying to fill.

Merely a coincidence, though. The Colorado Rockies slugger selected that space in the clubhouse only because good friend Michael Cuddyer resides on the other side.

Morneau insists he's not trying to replace the retired Helton, only "do the things I'm capable of doing."

He's certainly off to a solid start, hitting .387 and scooping up just about everything thrown in his vicinity at first — just like Helton used to do.

"Justin's not trying to be Todd Helton," said Cuddyer, who was Morneau's longtime teammate in Minnesota. "Justin's a relentless worker and continues to get better, to make our team better. He's not coming

SEE SIMPLE ON PAGE 29

Did you know

Justin Morneau was taken by the Twins in the third round of the 1999 amateur draft out of New Westminster High School in New Westminster, British Columbia.



SOURCE: Baseball-reference.com

Colorado first baseman Justin Morneau is off to a good start replacing first baseman Todd Helton, a Rockies icon who retired at the end of last season after 17 years in Colorado.

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP



By the numbers

.278

Justin Morneau's career batting average.

.387

Morneau's average this season through 31 at bats.

2

Number of times Morneau has struck out this season.

SOURCE: ESPN.com

Coyotes' playoff hopes dealt blow by Predators

NHL, Page 27

Spurs beat Mavericks for ninth straight time

NBA, Page 31