

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 73, No. 171 © SS 2014 MIDEAST EDITION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2014

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

Senate panel votes to limit use of troops in Iraq, Syria

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel approved a war powers bill Thursday limiting the Obama administration's ability to use ground troops against the Islamic State.

Senators on the Foreign Relations Committee who pushed to impose limits on military operations in Iraq and Syria said they feared another open-ended conflict following 13 years of post-9/11 war. But many — mostly Republicans — said ruling out such forces may hinder the nation's ability to defeat the extremists.

The bill is likely to die as Congress prepares to end its session this week. But the 10-8 vote was the first indication of how lawmakers may eventually weigh in on a new authorization for the use of military force, which many on Capitol Hill believe is necessary.

"Let's be honest, I don't think we would have gotten anybody to crystallize their ideas ... unless we started this process," said committee chairman Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.

The bill would prohibit President Barack Obama from deploying large-scale ground forces for combat but makes some exceptions. The troops could be sent in to rescue Americans, collect intelligence, direct airstrikes and conduct operations planning.

"The massive deployment of ground forces in the Middle East ends up creating more enemies than it ends up killing," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn. "I think that is an airtight, take-it-to-the-bank lesson from over the past 10 years."

The authority of the president to wage war would also expire after three years, meaning that Congress would be required to revisit the conflict following the election of the next president.

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., tried to insert an amendment limiting the war to within the geographic boundaries of Iraq and Syria, but the measure failed.

The bill would allow strikes against the Islamic State and associated groups, and Paul noted it could be interpreted as an authorization to strike at as many as 60 radical groups in 30 nations.

SEE TROOPS ON PAGE 10

Super saver

Congress gives commissaries a last-minute reprieve

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Base commissaries are set to dodge budget cuts next year that threatened to reduce shopper savings thanks to a massive omnibus spending bill set for a vote in Congress this week.

The bill would pump \$90 million back into the global system of supermarkets after lawmakers proposed trimming about \$100 million from the commissary budget, according to Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who helped craft it.

Commissary savings may be the only troop benefit on the chopping block to get a last-minute reprieve in the \$1.1 trillion omnibus bill

— Congress is still poised to reduce military pay raises, housing allowances and Tricare prescription coverage. It would also eliminate on-base tobacco discounts in 2015.

The spending bill was likely to be approved during a House vote Thursday and a Senate vote Friday, heading off a possible government shutdown as current funding legislation expires, Sen. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., who headed up the compromise, said Wednesday afternoon.

It will ensure troops, families and military retirees can continue to save what the commissary system says is an average of 30 percent on grocery bills by shopping at the 243 supermarkets on bases in the United States and abroad.

SEE COMMISSARIES ON PAGE 6

INSIDE

\$1.1 trillion spending bill clears hurdle before final vote
Page 10

MILITARY

Questions surface on identification of WWII remains

Page 5

FACES

'Birdman' flies away with 7 nominations for Golden Globes

Page 18



WAR ON TERRORISM

Troops who flew missions over Syria to receive back pay

Page 10



Army-Navy game is more than a rivalry >> Back page

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“Think of it as ‘God on the go.’ We have drive-thru food and drive-thru coffee in our society. This is drive-thru prayer.”

—The Rev. Matthew Vellankal, of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fremont, Calif.

See story on Page 19

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Outgoing sergeant major of the Army calls for return to basics
2. Navy Band’s executive officer relieved of duty
3. After search called off, USS Paul Hamilton picks up man lost at sea for 12 days
4. Stolen valor or just a big mouth? YouTube ‘soldier’ taunts military, sheriff
5. Accuracy questioned in JPAC identification of WWII remains from Philippines

COMING
SOON



Shifting Gears

2015 Ford Mustang runs laps around American competitors

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup 17
Business 20
Comics 21
Crossword 21
Faces 18
Faith 19
Opinion 22-23
Sports 24-32
Weather 20

MILITARY



RICK VASQUEZ/Stars and Stripes

Experts on homelessness and veterans testify Thursday on Capitol Hill. From left are Baylee Crone, executive director at the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; Steven Berg, vice president for programs and policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness; John Downing, chief executive officer at Soldier On; Phil Landis, president and CEO of Veterans Village; Casey O’Donnell, chief operating officer, Impact Services Corp; and Dr. Jon Sherin, executive vice president for military communities and chief medical officer, Volunteers of America.

Veteran homelessness declining

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Veteran homelessness has been reduced 33 percent since 2009, but there is still a long way to go before the U.S. reaches “functional zero,” congressmen and veteran service providers said Thursday in a hearing on Capitol Hill.

In November 2009, President Barack Obama and then-Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki set the ambitious goal of ending homelessness among veterans “within five years.” Since then, the stated deadline has shifted from the beginning of 2015 to the end of 2015, even as the VA and groups across the country worked to quickly implement Shinseki’s comprehensive plan.

A VA inspector general report released last week shows the effort has not been flawless. The VA’s National Call Center for Homeless Veterans missed more than 40,000 opportunities to engage with veterans because of calls going to recordings during

peak hours.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, said the findings would be unacceptable for any government program, but is particularly problematic for a population that faces significant challenges just to make a phone call.

The call center is not Miller’s only concern. He questioned the wisdom of having more than 20 programs “designed to get homeless veterans off the streets and provide them with housing, health care and employment assistance,” in addition to similar programs through the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Labor.

But Baylee Crone, executive director for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, said homeless veterans are not homogenous—they have individual needs.

Some of those needs are being served by multiple programs, Crone said, but that doesn’t mean the programs are being

duplicated.

As the VA has worked to end veteran homelessness, the main focus has been getting veterans off the streets, the leaders of veteran service organizations said. But a significant number of homeless vets have severe mental health, substance abuse or other issues and, for them, housing without treatment is dangerous, said Phil Landis, president and CEO of Veterans Village of San Diego.

Landis said the “housing first” model is “an admirable and reasonable idea for many veterans,” but that treatment programs and transitional housing must remain available for those who need it.

Several veterans who were placed in HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing too soon have relapsed and gone to prison, Landis said. And one 27-year-old veteran who was doing well in a long-term residential treatment program was forced out after he received a 100 percent disability rating from the VA, putting him above the income cap.

About 25 percent of veterans may never get to the point where they can live balanced, self-sustaining lives in permanent housing without ongoing care, the advocates said.

Ending veteran homelessness “is not a moment; it’s a moving target,” Crone said, and as the number of veterans on the streets declines, organizations must be even more diligent to continue the momentum, prevent future homelessness and ensure that needs are met.

Some advocates said homelessness will never be eradicated, but Casey O’Donnell said “functional zero” — enough housing and treatment programs for all veterans who need them — is possible. O’Donnell is with Impact Services Corp., a jobs, housing and economic development group in Philadelphia. He expects the city to make that goal by the beginning of 2016.

hlad.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @jhlad

Stay connected to your military community, no matter how far you are from home.

News, information and more — 24/7

stripes.com STARS AND STRIPES

WAR/MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

Above and below: Afghan security forces secure the scene of a bombing at a French-run cultural center and school in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

Suicide bomber targets cultural center in Kabul

BY HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber attacked a French cultural center in Kabul on Thursday, killing at least one person and injuring more than a dozen others, according to Kabul Police Chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi.

Rahimi said the confirmed fatality was a foreigner, but he could not say what nationality. The Associated Press, quoting the acting interior minister, reported a German national was killed.

Rahimi said the bomber appeared to be in his mid-teens and detonated near the stage in the center's auditorium during a performance called "Heartbeat: Silence After the Explosion."

The center often hosts Afghan musical and theater performances as well as art exhibits. It is within the grounds of the French-funded Esteghal High School, or Lycée Esteghal.

It was the second deadly attack of the day in Kabul after a period of relative calm. A suicide bomber also detonated Thursday morning near an Afghan National Army bus, killing six soldiers, according to the AP.

Also Thursday morning, in the Western province of Herat, insurgents laid siege to a district center not far from the Afghan air force's main training ground.

The capital had been relatively quiet for about a week after a period late last month that saw a spasm of violence, including several attacks aimed at foreigners.

Afghanistan relies heavily on foreign assistance to fund basic



services as well as its army and police.

The violence comes at a crucial time as many international organizations are deciding the extent of their involvement in Afghanistan with a much smaller foreign troop presence.

International combat troops are set to leave Afghanistan at the end of the month, raising worries that an emboldened Taliban could step up attacks. Already, casualties among the Afghan security forces have spiked as they have taken on most of the day-

to-day fighting and international troops have largely pulled back to their bases.

The U.S.-led international military coalition here will leave behind 13,000 troops for a mission focused on training, advising and counterterrorism, but will still be able to provide crucial air support to Afghan forces. American leaders recently announced an increase of 1,000 troops to their post-2014 commitment.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
druzin.heath@stripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

US shuts last detention center in Afghanistan

BY BRIAN BENNETT
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military shut its last detention center in Afghanistan on Wednesday, a day after a Senate Intelligence Committee report highlighted torture of terrorism suspects at former CIA-run prisons in the country.

The U.S. military shuttered its prison at Bagram Air Field north of Kabul after handing over two Tunisian prisoners to Afghan authorities and releasing a Jordanian prisoner who will be sent home or resettled with the help of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Pentagon officials said.

Under a bilateral security agreement that takes effect Jan.

1, the government of Afghanistan will be responsible for all detention facilities in the country. The Bagram facility thus closed three weeks earlier than it might have.

The Tunisians — Ridha Ahmad Najjar and Lutfi al-Arabi al-Gharisi — will be imprisoned by Afghan authorities. The Jordanian, Taher Halaf, is not considered a security threat and was set free in Afghanistan, officials said.

In a statement, Mark Wright, a Pentagon spokesman, said that the last three prisoners in U.S. custody were transferred "after careful review" by the Defense and State departments.

"Effective Dec. 10, 2014, the Defense Department no longer operates detention facilities in Afghanistan or maintains custody of any detainees," he said.

Family of Afghan former translator joins him in US

BY MARK EMMONS
San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

SAN FRANCISCO — For nearly a year, Mohammad Usafi has been living safely in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Taliban could no longer harm him. But he still feared that they would go after his family — his father already had been murdered — because he had helped the U.S. Marines as an interpreter in his native Afghanistan.

Not anymore.

When Usafi's mother and seven younger siblings emerged from customs at San Francisco International Airport on Wednesday, a year's worth of worry disappeared. A smiling Usafi first embraced his mother in a long hug and then, one by one, he warmly welcomed each of his five brothers and two sisters to their new country.

The poignant moment was the culmination of the family's harrowing exit from their homeland that forced them to hide from people looking for them right up until their plane left the ground in Afghanistan.

"The last week has been so scary," said Usafi, 25. "I haven't slept because we've been so scared." The U.S. Consulate told them: "You have to leave. It's not safe for you here anymore."

Usafi then moved to the U.S. last January thanks to the dogged efforts of his comrade-in-arms, Adrian Kinsella, an active-duty Marine captain who now attends the University of California, Berkeley School of Law.

Since then, they've led an intensive lobbying effort that stretched

from the Bay Area to Washington to help Usafi's family follow him out of harm's way. The family, which had been hiding in Pakistan, received the good news last month that their long-shot application to enter the United States under what's called the "humanitarian parole" program had been approved. But that also put them in even more jeopardy.

After learning that unknown people were looking for them, the family slipped across the border into Afghanistan. They drove 11 hours in three vehicles, then stayed secretly in Kandahar for two days, anxiously waiting for their flight. The day after they left Pakistan, Usafi said, people from "the government" came looking for them.

About 80 people worked on letter-writing and social-media campaigns that resulted in 13 congressional offices inquiring about the family. More than 93,000 people signed an online petition.

The tipping point was an appearance by Usafi on the HBO show "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver," which uses humor to shed light on serious issues. Within weeks, the wheels suddenly were in motion for Usafi's family to come to the U.S. The family now can stay in the country for one year as they apply for asylum.

Usafi paid dearly for his service. His father was killed in 2009 after Usafi's work as a translator was discovered by the Taliban. Later, his youngest brother, Musameel, then 3, was kidnapped and Usafi had to pay a ransom of \$35,000 — his life savings — to secure his release.

MILITARY

New cyberspace unit seeks running start

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The fledgling U.S. Cyber Command is trying to hit the ground running, aware that it's playing catch-up with often-archaic equipment, dealing with constantly evolving threats and trying to justify its existence amid budget cuts and force reductions.

The cyberforce is expected to be fully in place by the end of 2016 with a staff of 6,000, said Lt. Gen. James McLaughlin, deputy commander of U.S. Cyber Command. Roughly 2,400 have been hired since fiscal 2013 began, and they are now in teams that have at least "initial operating capability," McLaughlin said Wednesday at the annual TechNet Pacific conference.

"That's something that's in play right now," he said.

McLaughlin said the Cyber Mis-

sion Force was being formed into 133 teams.

"They're basically tactical units," he said.

He said he couldn't provide much detail about where the teams will be placed, but said half would be used for defensive measures. At least part of the other half presumably will focus on offensive measures in the cyberspace realm.

"A few of the combatant commands — based on just the scope of responsibility and base of operation — have more of the teams than others, but every combatant command is being supported," he said.

"We're just beginning to have



McLaughlin

these teams formed," he said. As each team is established, representatives of combatant commands have met with U.S. Cyber Command and set a short list of priorities, he said.

U.S. Cyber Command treats cyberspace as a warfare domain in the way the services regard the air, the sea and the land.

"The real challenge for some of the teams is because of the infancy of the domain," McLaughlin said.

He compared creating these fledgling cyberspace teams to building an F-22 fighter jet squadron.

"They've been checked out on the F-22, and they'd shown up at their unit, and the whole unit is mainly new lieutenants who'd just been checked out on the F-22," he said. Their commander hadn't "grown up as an offensive fighter," nor had the unit been trained as an entity and certified to go

into combat, as normally would be done with such a squadron.

"He didn't have a training environment where they train every day so that you could certify individuals, certain elements of the team and the entire squadron," he said. "Those things don't exist yet in cyber, but we're creating it as fast as we can."

U.S. Cyber Command is looking to hire more people to fill those higher-level gaps.

"We need additional people to work the command and control, those intermediate-level set of tasks either in our combatant commands or in our service components that really translates senior commander intent into plans and then into operations that the lead commander can then control," he said.

The command's domain includes the vast array of linked computer systems within the Defense Department, parts of which

are arcane, archaic and exposed.

When a new cyberthreat is announced, it can take weeks for technicians to even determine what parts of the network are running software that's vulnerable.

"We don't have weeks," he said. "A lot of what we're doing today is reacting to what happened, so we spend a lot of time chasing our tails in the Cyber Command."

He said the command's goal is to get ahead of such threats, perhaps through the analysis of big data from the network that will reveal anomalies to prevent outside incursions before they happen.

McLaughlin acknowledged that pressure is on the Cyber Command to justify its hiring binge and increased budget at a time when most other areas in the Defense Department have dealt with cutbacks.

"This is the year of 'prove it,'" he said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com



Courtesy of Bell Helicopter

A V-22 Osprey successfully test-fired forward-firing rockets and missiles last month in Yuma, Ariz.

Forward-firing tests on the V-22 Osprey are successful

Stars and Stripes

The makers of the V-22 Osprey have successfully tested forward-firing rockets and missiles on the helicopter/airplane hybrid, officials said this week.

The testing was performed during an exercise in November at the U.S. Army Proving Ground in Yuma, Ariz., according to a statement Monday from Bell Helicopter, which began initial designs in mid-2013.

Forward-firing capabilities have long been discussed as a necessity for the tilt-rotor aircraft, which has been increasingly relied upon during humanitarian and combat operations in recent years. Three CV-22 Osprey came under fire a year ago during an evacuation mission in southern Sudan, leading to the injuries of four servicemembers.

"The forward-firing demonstration was a great success,"

Vince Tobin, vice president and program manager for the Bell Boeing V-22, said in the statement.

"We've shown the V-22 can be armed with a variety of forward-facing munitions, and can hit their targets with a high degree of reliability."

Adding the weapons will increase the aircraft's mission set, Tobin said.

Bell Boeing has delivered 242 MV-22 Ospreys to the Marine Corps and 44 CV-22s to the Air Force Special Operations Command through the end of the third quarter of 2014, the statement said.

The aircraft has been a focal point of protests on Okinawa in southern Japan despite positive reviews by pilots.

Japan plans to begin procurement of its own Osprey fleet next year.

AF secretary backs transgender ban end

By USA PAGE
USA Today

ARLINGTON, Va. — Now that the U.S. military has opened more jobs to women and allowed gay men and lesbians to serve openly, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James says the ban on transgender troops is likely to be reassessed and should be lifted.

"Times change," she told Capitol Download, saying the policy "is likely to come under review in the next year or so." Asked whether dropping the ban would affect military readiness, she replied, "From my point of view, anyone who is capable of accomplishing the job should be able to serve."

In a wide-ranging interview at the Pentagon, James also described progress in the bombing campaign against the Islamic State and said the U.S.-led military coalition has gotten help from an unlikely source: Iran.

The Pentagon last week confirmed Tehran has conducted airstrikes against Islamic State targets in eastern Iraq, creating a de facto alliance with the United States despite the lack of formal relations between the two long-time adversaries.

"There has been no coordination between the U.S. and coalition effort on the one hand and the work of the Iranians on the other," she said. "I would have to

say, however to the degree that the Iranian efforts are helping to degrade or destroy ISIL in some way, that can't help but be helpful to the overall effort," she said, referring to the group by one of several common acronyms.

James, 56, a former House staffer and executive in the national security industry, was direct and blunt-spoken Tuesday in USA Today's weekly video newsmaker series. The hallway outside her office is lined with portraits of her 22 predecessors, all but one of them male.

She apparently is the first secretary of a branch of the armed forces to support the idea of ending the ban on transgender troops, though House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi, of California, and some other members of Congress have urged the Pentagon to lift it.

The Williams Institute, a think tank based at UCLA, has estimated that about 15,500 transgender people are now serving in the U.S. military. Supporters of the prohibition say allowing transgender troops would create complications on issues from housing to health care.

The Air Force has been leading the battle against the Islamic State, a military campaign that wasn't on the horizon when James was sworn in almost exactly a year ago.

"The very fact that we have

this campaign at this moment is a surprise. I think most Americans would agree," she said. "We did believe that we would have a bit of a strategic pause in the Middle East as we wound down the combat operation in Afghanistan."

Still, "very solid progress" is being made, she said.

"On the ground, of course ISIS isn't waving that flag around quite so openly anymore, so our efforts have succeeded in getting them to change their tactics, their techniques. They're going much more underground," she said. But, she cautioned, "We need to have strategic patience because this will be a long ball. This will be a fight which will likely take years."

James worked for a decade for House Armed Services Chairman Les Aspin, D-Wis., who became a secretary of defense in the Clinton administration.

Experienced Defense Base Act Lawyers
Gillis, Mermell & Pacheco, P.A.

- Injured in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria or Kuwait?
- We specialize in representing injured workers covered by the Defense Base Act.
- You may be entitled to medical care and a large cash settlement.
- You do not have to be a United States citizen.
- We have obtained over \$125,000,000 in benefits for our clients.

Contact us today by e-mail at mail@gmcpcomlaw.com, by phone at 1-305-595-3350, or by fax at 1-305-595-6996

Visit our website at www.dbalawyers.com

Tired of companies refusing to ship to your APO or FPO address? Sign up for your free US mailing address at APOBox.com and start getting what you need, where ever you are.

ship it
track it
get it

APO Box.com
One Address - One World

MILITARY

Doubts rise on identification of WWII remains

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

As the Defense Department attempts to identify World War II remains exhumed in the Philippines August, questions have surfaced about the identification years ago of four sets of remains that were returned to families and buried.

The revelations are the latest in the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command effort to identify 14 servicemembers and Navy employees who died at the hands of Japanese captors on Nov. 19, 1942, at the Cabanatuan prisoner of war camp in Luzon and were buried in communal grave 717.

After the war, remains of four of the men in that grave were allegedly identified and were sent home to their families. What were thought to be the remains of 10 others were moved to the Manila American Cemetery and were buried as unknowns.

Following a lawsuit by one of the families of the unknown men, their remains were exhumed and samples were sent to the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory, or AFIDIL, for DNA testing.

Documents obtained by Stars and Stripes show that in the past five years, three accounting officials believed that the four identifications made after the war were incorrect, which would hamper current attempts to identify the others.

Documents released last month in district court in Texas revealed that the remains of 11 people were found in the 10 exhumed caskets, and that accounting personnel are unable to provide "reportable results" on all of the samples sent to the AFIDIL, although testing is ongoing.

The AFIDIL's mitochondrial DNA testing — using DNA from maternal lineage — "supports the indication of a minimum of 11 individuals in the assemblage," according to a status report obtained by Stars and Stripes.

From among the 149 bone and tooth samples, DNA had been ex-

‘They’ll send them back to Manila and bury them again. I hate to think the worst of anyone, but these people have demonstrated no regard for the truth.’

John Eakin

cousin of WWII servicemember who is unaccounted for

tracted "at least once and, when possible, two or more times," the report said. Yet of the 10 samples provided to the AFIDIL by the JPAC laboratory, four did not yield said results.

"The remaining four samples of the original 10 have been extracted multiple times and have been determined to be not reportable at this time," the report said. Families of the missing believe that the unreportable results could be attributed to incorrect IDs made after the war.

Officials from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office declined to comment due to the ongoing litigation.

The report also states that the agencies do not have all of the family reference samples to make the identifications, and that nuclear DNA inherited from both parents, which has been heralded as a superior testing method by experts, has not been used.

The disclosures of extra body parts and shaky identifications leave the Defense Department's accounting agencies in a quandary. Will they repatriate the extra portion of remains with an already "identified" buried owner or dispose of it?

After the war, it had been standard practice to bury portions of remains in caskets marked as unknowns, even in cases in which already identified and buried owner. In recent years, extra portions were cremated and disposed of in a landfill. However, that practice was stopped after public backlash. Portions of remains are now cremated and buried at sea.

It is unknown whether there

are plans to exhume the four sets of already identified remains, but the move has been recommended by accounting personnel.

"The previous 4 identifications may have been premature," anthropologist Debra Prince Zinni wrote to Tom Holland, JPAC scientific director and deputy to the commander for Central Identification Laboratory operations, in an Oct. 19, 2011, memo. Family reference samples for the four identified cases "must also be collected prior to disinterment."

The Zinni memo followed a similar one a year earlier by Heather Harris that cast a shadow on the identifications.

■The remains turned over to the family of Pfc. Daniel Bain were done so primarily because of an ID tag, which is often unreliable.

■Pfc. Juan Gutierrez was identified by two officers from the Dental Corps even though "no dental forms were available for comparison," Harris wrote, citing his 1946, "Report of Internment."

■Sgt. Lawrence Hanscom was identified based on the comparison of multiple dental extractions

and restorations. However, the memo states that matching up the charts was a challenge because problematic teeth were often pulled during imprisonment and malnutrition the men experienced caused tooth loss.

No height, age or race could be determined for comparison.

■The remains identified as Pfc. Harvey Nichols showed a restoration in the teeth where none was listed in his records. "More troubling is the lack of restorations on teeth shown to have restorations present in PFC Nichols' records," Harris wrote. The remains were also estimated to be 4 or 5 inches shorter than Nichols, Harris wrote.

"The possibility that the resolved casualties were misidentified cannot be excluded," said former JPAC investigator Rick Stone, quoting a report he drafted on the four sets of remains on behalf of JPAC's deputy to the commander for external relations and legislative affairs Johnnie Webb.

Stone declined to provide copies to Stars and Stripes because they were labeled "for official use only."

John Eakin, cousin of one of the unknowns, filed suit against the government demanding a timely identification on behalf of the Kelder family Pvt. Arthur "Bud" Kelder is one of 73,652 servicemembers unaccounted for from the war. His family believes Kelder was one of the more than 8,500 American servicemembers from World War II buried as an unknown in American cemet-

ries around the world. He, other families and JPAC whistleblowers believe that more can be done to identify remains, but claim the defense accounting agencies have refused.

Eakin said he understood why JPAC was reluctant to exhume the remains and to attempt to make the IDs. Identifications from previous conflicts, before DNA testing, could become suspect.

"It confirms the research memos and investigative reports" that the IDs made after the war were incorrect, he said.

Eakin fears the accounting agencies will refrain from disturbing the four families of the previously identified remains, and will instead dispose of the 11th set of remains and place the four unreportable cases back into unknown graves.

"They'll send them back to Manila and bury them again," Eakin said. "I hate to think the worst of anyone, but these people have demonstrated no regard for the truth."

Despite the questionable identifications, Zinni believes the remains could be identified using modern technology.

"Although the remains are described as eroded and lacking identifiable characteristics, advances in technology ... may help in identification of remains from Common Grave 717," she wrote.

burke.matt@stripes.com

Police: Officer in Marines admits role in hit-and-run

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa police say a Marine Corps major assigned to Camp Courtney admitted his involvement in a hit-and-run accident that left a 67-year-old man unconscious in Okinawa city.

Maj. John Jeonghoon Ahn, 40, was identified by prefectural police Wednesday as the driver who struck a moped from behind on Highway 75 north about 5 a.m. on Dec. 4.

Police said Ahn was traveling to work from his home on Camp Kinser. They matched a side mir-

ror found at the scene to Ahn's car. Police said he later confessed, telling them that he fled out of fear.

Police officials said there was no indication of alcohol involvement.

The driver of the moped, Seiki Kamimura, of Okinawa city, remained unconscious in a local hospital Thursday, police said. They have yet to refer the case to the Naha public prosecutor's office.

Ahn is in U.S. military custody pending charges, police said.

Marine Corps officials did not immediately respond to requests seeking comment.

burke.matt@stripes.com

DO THE RIGHT THING
Report Fraud
Involving U.S. Reconstruction Dollars to SIGAR
www.sigar.mil

sigar.hotline@mail.mil

Afghanistan | 0700107300 (cell) | 318-237-3912 x7303 (DSN)
United States | +1-866-329-8893 (int'l line) | 94-312-664-0378 (DSN)

MILITARY

Congress rejects DOD proposals to cut costs

By Tom Philpott

House and Senate conferees negotiating a package to fund the Department of Defense through September 2015 have protected commissary operations by restoring 90 percent of a planned \$100 million cut.

Once again, lawmakers thwarted a cost-saving initiative targeting military compensation and endorsed by the Joint Chiefs as a way to dampen personnel costs so more dollars can be spent on training, weapon purchases and other readiness accounts victimized by arbitrary "sequestration" cuts.

Only last week, House and Senate conferees on a different bill, the 2015 Defense Authorization Act, unveiled a deal to lower the Defense Commissary Agency's annual \$1.3 billion budget to \$1.2 billion. DeCA said it could absorb the knock without affecting customer savings or services.

The military resale industry challenged that notion, saying a cut of more than 7 percent inevitably would affect staffing and store hours.

This week, conferees shaping a final defense appropriations bill that is part of a massive spending package for the entire federal government restored \$90 million of the commissary budget cut in the authorization bill.

"This essential funding ensures that DeCA ... will continue delivering a core benefit of military compensation," said Patrick Nixon, president of the American Logistics Association, which represents manufacturers and vendors of products sold in military stores.

In rejecting almost every Defense Department proposal this

MILITARY UPDATE

year to hold down personnel costs, lawmakers said time after time that these changes should await the final report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, due in February. Appropriators echoed that point in restoring commissary funding.

■ **COLA minus 1 percent.** The plea to "wait for the commission" was used again in the authorization bill to delay adoption of a COLA-minus-1 percent formula aimed at dampening retirement costs of future members.

Congress last year replaced the pearl of full cost-of-living adjustments in retirement for members who entered service on or after Jan. 1, 2014. Their COLAs, 20 years hence, will be set a percentage point below annual inflation. The new bill moves the date of that change to affect only members entering on or after Jan. 1, 2016, giving Congress time to meld this idea with commission recommendations for reshaping future retirement.

Thousands of career-minded personnel who first entered service after Jan. 1 last year just dodged a bullet that would have devalued their retirement benefits significantly.

■ **Tobacco prices rising.** The authorization bill blocks any attempt to ban sale of tobacco products on base but also narrows the price discounts. Cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco are not to be sold on base at prices lower

than the most competitive prices in the local community.

Affected will be Army and Air Force exchanges and commissaries where tobacco products still can be sold 5 percent below the most competitive prices off base. In 2012, the Navy Department ordered Navy and Marine Corps stores to raise tobacco prices to match competitive local prices.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus earlier this year floated the idea of pulling all tobacco products from exchanges, commissaries and ship stores. That led House Republicans to insert bill language to block such a move. But in a deal cut with Senate conferees last week, the bill also declares that on-base tobacco prices cannot be set lower than the most competitive price off base.

About 25 percent of military folks say they smoke, a rate higher than found among civilian peers. Studies blame that in part on tobacco discounts.

Critics also find the 5 percent rule ineffective, arguing that discounts at Army and Air Force stores actually average about 20 percent when price comparisons include all retail tobacco outlets.

The Defense Department estimates it spends \$1.6 billion per year on tobacco-related medical care. It is committed to lowering tobacco usage sharply by 2024. On-base tobacco sales, however, totaled \$711.4 million in 2012 and generated profits of \$125.7 million. That's money the military plows back into its morale, wel-

The new defense policy bill also amends the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act to help protect servicemembers from losing custody of children over deployment.

fare and recreation programs. ■ **Child custody protection.** The new defense policy bill also amends the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act to help protect servicemembers from losing custody of children due solely to military deployment.

Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, has fought for this for almost a decade, facing stiff opposition from family advocates, lawyers and defense officials who say his bill is a solution in search of a problem. They argue it won't help anyone and could confuse military families and drive up their litigation costs.

The bill modifies the SCRA to say unequivocally that state courts must not use current or future deployments as a sole reason to deny members child custody. It also says the length of a temporary custody order when a custodial parent deploys should be for a period justified by the deployment, not longer.

Attorney Mark E. Sullivan, an Army retiree and family law expert who wrote the military child-custody law for North Carolina, said neither he nor Turner nor the Department of Defense could identify a single case in

which a member in a child custody fight would be protected by this change to SCRA.

So, Sullivan asked, "Why put a law on the books that isn't needed and can only cause problems?"

Past defense secretaries opposed the bill on advice of family law experts who said it needlessly would create a right of federal court review in custody cases, driving up legal costs for families, bringing custody disputes before judges having little family law experience and tipping outcomes in favor of servicemembers over the interests of children.

After Turner briefed Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, the department dropped its opposition. The language also was modified to make clear that federal courts still have no right of action in child custody matters. "We think this is still unnecessary and potentially harmful," said Joyce Wessel Raezer, executive director of the National Military Family Association, with language added that could "confuse both servicemembers and judges."

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centreville, VA, 20120; email philpott@aol.com; or twitter: TomPhilpott@MilitaryUpdate.

Commissaries: DOD aims to close stores, lower savings

FROM FRONT PAGE

Durbin's office said the funding was given while Congress and the Defense Department await a commission study on military benefits expected to be finished in February and to become a guidepost for future reforms.

The stores cost the DOD \$1.4 billion per year. The Pentagon wants to reduce that annual budget to just \$400 million, to close some locations and eventually to bring savings down to about 10 percent.

Top brass lobbied Capitol Hill earlier this year to start with a \$200 million reduction next year. Congress had met the Pentagon halfway by reducing commissary funding by \$100 million in its National Defense Authorization Act, an annual bill that sets defense priorities and is also up for a final vote in the Senate this week. Lawmakers anticipated the supermarkets could suck up the

cut by being more efficient. The omnibus bill restored enough money to keep operations at current levels, according to Senate staff involved with creating the legislation.

Meanwhile, the omnibus and the NDAA will push forward with other cuts in troop benefits. Pay raises will be capped at 1 percent, down from 1.8 percent increases. Basic housing allowances will go from covering 100 percent to 99 percent of costs, while the military wants to bring that down eventually to 95 percent.

Troops also will be asked to pay \$3 more out of pocket for Tricare pharmacy copayments and will no longer be able to buy cheaper cigarettes and smokeless tobacco on military bases, meaning troops will have to pay about 5 percent to 20 percent more, depending on the location.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

DBA LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR FREE

INCLUDING NON-US CITIZENS

The Law Offices of Barnett & Lerner, P.A.
KNOW AND PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

INJURED CIVILIAN WORKERS

If you work for a company under contract with the United States Government outside the U.S., and fall ill or are injured at work, you may be entitled to benefits under the **Defense Base Act**. This law protects all **injured employees, regardless of their citizenship or nationality**. Under law, you may be entitled to select a doctor and you may be entitled to wages if unable or restricted from working.

HIRE US ON YOUR COMPUTER

www.injuredoverseas.com

You can now hire Barnett & Lerner, P.A. from your computer

Phone: 954.920.7400 US Toll Free: 888.732.7425

DON'T BE FOOLED BY FANCY WEBSITES

Before hiring an attorney, check their trial experience at www.oalj.doi.gov. Type "David C. Barnett" or "Barry Lerner" in the "For" box on the top right side of the home page and you will find over 300 rulings after trial. **NO ONE CAN MATCH OUR EXPERIENCE**



EUROPE



German third- and fourth-graders and U.S. soldiers sing carols to senior living home residents on Thursday.

Troops, students spread holiday cheer with carols

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

See more photos and a video of the caroling event at stripes.com/go/cheer

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — U.S. soldiers joined up with dozens of German elementary school students to sing carols to elderly and sick residents at a hospital and senior living facility here Thursday.

For the past 15 months, the Army's single soldiers program at Smith Barracks has been working with third- and fourth-grade classes at the Grundschule Götschied in Idar-Oberstein, offering instruction in the English language and teaching about American holidays and traditions.

One of the first events the soldiers and students did together was a caroling event last year at a home for seniors, Götschied principal Nicole Bier said, and

they wanted to do it again.

About 45 students from her school and a dozen personnel from Baumholder's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers, or BOSS, program performed for patients and residents at a hospital and senior home adjacent to Smith Barracks.

The collaboration offers the German students the opportunity to learn English from native speakers, and it gives soldiers a way to contribute to the community off post, officials said.

"The kids love them," Bier said of the soldiers.

millham.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @mattmillham



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from Baumholder's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program sing carols along with German elementary school children Thursday at a senior living home just outside the gate of the U.S. Army's Smith Barracks in Baumholder, Germany.



Students from the school hold up signs while singing.

Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES®

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

WAR ON TERRORISM

CIA, Senate Democrats spar over torture report

BY BRADLEY KLAPPER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA and several of its past leaders are stepping up a campaign to discredit a five-year Senate investigation into the CIA's harrowing interrogation practices after 9/11, concerned that the historical record may define them as torturers. Instead of patriots and expose them to legal action around the world.

The Senate Intelligence Committee's report doesn't urge prosecution for wrongdoing, and the Justice Department has no interest in reopening a criminal probe. But the threat to former interrogators and their superiors was underlined as a U.N. special investigator demanded those responsible for "systematic crimes" be brought to justice, and human rights groups pushed for the arrest of key CIA and Bush administration figures if they travel overseas.

Current and former CIA officials responded on Wednesday, determined to paint the Senate report as a political stunt by Senate Democrats tarnishing a program they claim is America's only "one-sided study marred by errors of fact and interpretation — essentially a poorly done and partisan attack on the agency that has done the most to protect America," former CIA directors George Tenet, Porter Goss and Michael Hayden

wrote in a Wall Street Journal opinion piece.

Hayden was singled out by Senate investigators for what they said was a string of misleading or outright false statements he gave in 2007 about the importance of the CIA's brutal treatment of detainees in thwarting terrorist attacks. He described the focus on him as "ironic on so many levels" as any wrongdoing predated his arrival at the CIA. "They were far too interested in yelling at me," Hayden said in an email to The Associated Press.

The intelligence committee's 500-page release concluded that the CIA inflicted suffering on al-Qaida prisoners beyond its legal authority and that none of the agency's "enhanced interrogations" provided critical, life-saving intelligence. It cited the CIA's own records, documenting in detail how waterboarding and lesser techniques such as "nocturnal feeding" were actually employed.

Public defense

The CIA is now in the uncomfortable position of defending itself publicly, given its basic mission to protect the country secretly. Its 136-page rebuttal suggests Senate Democrats searched through millions of documents to pull out only the evidence backing up predetermined conclusions. "That's like

doing a crossword puzzle on Tuesday with Wednesday's answer's key," the CIA said in an emailed statement.

Challenging one of the report's most explosive arguments — that harsh interrogation techniques didn't lead to Osama bin Laden — the CIA pointed to questioning of Ammar al-Baluchi, who revealed how an al-Qaida operative relayed messages to him from bin Laden after he departed Afghanistan. Before then, the CIA said, it knew only that courier Abu Ahmad al-Kuwaiti interacted with bin Laden in 2001, when the al-Qaida leader was accessible to many of his followers. Al-Kuwaiti eventually led the U.S. to bin Laden's compound in Pakistan.

Porting over the same body of evidence as the investigators, the CIA insisted most of the 20 case studies cited in the Senate report actually illustrated how enhanced interrogations helped disrupt plots, capture terrorists and prevent another 9/11-type attack. The agency said it obtained legal authority for its actions from the Justice Department and White House, and made "good faith" efforts to keep congressional leaders informed.

Former CIA officials responsible for the program echoed these points in interviews.

John McLaughlin, then deputy CIA director, said waterboard-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., leads the Senate chamber Tuesday after releasing a report on the CIA's harsh interrogation techniques at secret overseas facilities.

ing and other tactics transformed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed into a U.S. "consultant" on al-Qaida.

Tenet, the director on Sept. 11, 2001, said the interrogation program "saved thousands of Americans lives" while the country faced a "ticking time bomb every day."

'Full of crap'

Former Vice President Dick Cheney also responded, saying in a Fox News interview that the Senate report "is full of crap."

In no uncertain terms, Cheney said the CIA's approach to interrogating terrorism suspects was necessary after the 9/11 attacks, and the people who carried them out were doing their duty.

"We asked the agency to go take steps and put in place programs that were designed to catch the

bastards who killed 3,000 of us on 9/11 and make sure it didn't happen again, and that's exactly what they did, and they deserve a lot of credit, not the condemnation they are receiving from the Senate Democrats," he said.

Former top CIA officials published a website — <http://ciasaveslives.com> — pointing out decade-old statements from Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Jay Rockefeller in apparent support of agency efforts. The two Democrats spearheaded the Senate investigation.

The Intelligence Committee's Republicans issued their own 167-page "minority" report and said the Democratic analysis was flawed, dishonest and, at \$40 million, a waste of taxpayer money. Feinstein's office said Wednesday most of the cost was incurred by the CIA trying to hide its record.

Architects of brutal methods had little experience

BY KEN DILANIAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the CIA set out to design a program to elicit intelligence from captured terrorists, it turned to two former Air Force psychologists with no practical interrogation experience and no specialized knowledge of al-Qaida, according to a Senate investigation released this week.

What the two men did have was an understanding of the brutal methods employed on American prisoners of war by governments such as North Korea and Vietnam, methods that were later used to help train U.S. soldiers and airmen to resist torture.

The spy agency ended up outsourcing much of its interrogation program to the pair, who formed a company that ultimately was paid \$81 million, the Senate report says. The report adds new details to what has long been known about the integral role the two psychologists played in some of the harshest treatment of CIA detainees.

The report refers to the men using pseudonyms, Grayson Swigart and Hammond Dunbar. But current and former U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity about information that is

not public, have identified them as James E. Mitchell and Bruce Jessen.

The CIA told Congress in 1989 that "inhumane physical or psychological techniques are counterproductive because they do not produce intelligence and will probably result in false answers," the report notes. But Mitchell and Jessen convinced top officials at the CIA's Counterterrorism Center, then run by Cofer Black and Jose Rodriguez, that breaking people was the key to unraveling terrorism plots.

They reverse-engineered the military training techniques, which had never been studied as a form of interrogation. Among their recommendations were humiliation, painful stress positions, confinement, sleep deprivation — and waterboarding.

"On the CIA's behalf, the contract psychologists developed theories of interrogation based on 'learned helplessness,' and developed the list of enhanced interrogation techniques that was approved for use against Abu Zubaydah and subsequent CIA detainees," the Senate report said, referring to the first significant al-Qaida figure captured, taken to a secret prison and subjected to a battery of techniques.

The psychologists' person-

ally conducted interrogations of Zubaydah and other significant detainees using those techniques. They also evaluated whether detainees' psychological states allowed for the continued use of the CIA's enhanced interrogation techniques."

Some CIA officials were troubled by the conflict of interest, the report notes. One CIA officer emailed that the pair had a "vested interest" in waterboarding.

Another accused them of "arrogance and narcissism."

The CIA, in its response to the Senate report, acknowledged that the conflict "raised concerns and prompted deliberation," leading to a new rule in early 2003 that no contractor could issue a definitive psychological assessment of a detainee.

But the agency defended hiring the two psychologists.

"We believe their expertise was so unique that we would have been derelict had we not sought them out when it became clear that CIA would be heading into

the uncharted territory of the program," the agency said in its written response.

Jessen helped interrogate detainee Gul Rahman at a dungeon-like Afghanistan prison called the Salt Pit, the report says, a session that included "48 hours of sleep deprivation, auditory overload, total darkness, isolation, a cold shower and rough treatment."

A few days later, after Jessen left, Rahman was found dead of hypothermia.

Both men helped waterboard 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, and threatened his children, the report said.

Rodriguez, who has criticized the Senate report, said he had nothing to add beyond the account of his 2012 memoir, "Hard Measures," which says he asked the psychologists to help interrogate Zubaydah days after he was captured — before it was known whether he would cooperate.

The Senate report says Zubaydah offered up intelligence to FBI agents before he was tortured.

Black, in an email, said he never met Mitchell and Jessen, and declined further comment.

Reached at his home in Florida, James E. Mitchell said he could not confirm his involvement with the CIA, citing a secrecy agree-



Mohammed

WAR ON TERRORISM

A direct hit to Obama's policy aspirations

Like Gitmo and fight against Islamic State, Senate report diverts from president's preferred path

By GREG JAFFE
AND JULIET EILPERIN

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A report that President Barack Obama hoped would end the debate over the CIA's brutal interrogation program has instead brought into sharper focus the lingering obstacles the president faces as he tries to move the country beyond what he has described as the fearful excesses of the post-9/11 era.

Within hours of the report's release Tuesday, Obama and one of his most trusted advisers released what appeared to be dueling statements about its conclusions. The president said the Senate Intelligence Committee's investigation had revealed actions "contrary to our values." His CIA director, John Brennan, countered that the same techniques had helped "save lives."

The awkward exchange, highly unusual between a president and a senior national security official, highlighted the challenges before

Obama as he works to end the war in Afghanistan, fight a new war in Iraq and Syria, and unwind many of the controversial policies implemented after the deadliest attack on U.S. soil.

Brennan, who has been perhaps Obama's most trusted national security adviser during the president's time in office, will play a crucial role in executing Obama's strategy against the Islamic State and in helping shape the political argument for closing the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Both are essential to Obama's foreign policy legacy.

Asked on Wednesday about Obama's view of Brennan following the report's release, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the CIA director is someone "the president relies on, on a daily basis, to keep this country safe."

Earnest avoided discussing the apparent split between Obama and Brennan over whether interrogation techniques such as waterboarding, sleep deprivation

and rectal hydration produced valuable intelligence.

"These techniques undermined our ability to use this very powerful tool," Earnest said.

The dispute with the CIA director is indicative of the broader resistance to Obama's efforts to take the country off a permanent war footing.

In the remaining two years of his presidency, Obama will work to rein in the chaotic aftermath of an Iraq War he once derided as "dumb," end the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan and close an offshore military prison that Obama has called "a mess" and a "misguided experiment."

The prison at Guantanamo, which Obama has been trying to shutter for the past six years, remains a top priority for the president and a potent symbol of his struggle to translate his principles into an enduring foreign policy legacy.

"He recognizes that it is emblematic of this entire set of policies and we aren't going to move

past this chapter with Guantanamo open," said Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser.

Since taking office, Obama has tried to overcome congressional opposition to closing the prison.

Earlier in his administration, Obama insisted that Guantanamo represented bad foreign policy, undermining the United States' "moral authority" in the world. Brennan, too, has advocated for the facility's closure. Of late, the president and his CIA director have settled on a more incremental approach, stepping up transfers of prisoners who have been cleared for release but can't be returned to their home countries.

One hope is that the smaller number of prisoners and the passage of time will yield a less emotional debate, making it possible to move the remaining inmates to a prison on U.S. soil.

"The real problem in closing Guantanamo is the politics and not the policy," said Steve Vladeck, a law professor at Amer-

ican University. "That's what the president has to change."

Two weeks before Islamic State fighters took Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, the president in a speech at the U.S. Military Academy outlined his vision of a foreign policy less reliant on military force. Instead, the United States would use foreign aid, diplomatic alliances and economic sanctions to "steer the currents of history." U.S. troops would increasingly train local allies to fight their own battles.

In Iraq and Syria, the new model collided with a rapacious enemy: the Islamic State. White House officials said the U.S. trainers and airstrikes have helped the Iraqis make modest gains in recent weeks and that they expect the country's forces to retake some major cities from the Islamic State next year. In Syria, the battle probably will stretch well past Obama's presidency.

For the White House, the focus these days is on "sustainability" rather than victory.

'Enhanced' interrogation works — for Hollywood

By TERENCE MCCOY

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — On a January day in 2004, from his perch inside a Little Rock, Ark., hospital, President George W. Bush introduced the American people to an al-Qaida operative named Hassan Ghul, announcing his capture. Bush proclaimed the country now had "one less enemy to worry about." As the Iraq War raged, the announcement attracted only modest attention.

But that operative would prove more important than most. Hassan Ghul would ultimately divulge vital information that would lead to Osama bin Laden's death.

It didn't take much for him to spill it, according to Tuesday's U.S. Senate report on the CIA's interrogation methods. He "opened up right away and was cooperative from the onset," telling interrogators bin Laden was "likely living in Peshawar area" in Pakistan.

There was more, he said. Bin Laden "always" with his courier. The information did not save Ghul from "enhanced" interrogation later, but the Senate report

said it "provided no other information of substance."

According to the Senate report, the successes of harsh interrogation in the hunt for bin Laden were substantially fewer than what both the CIA has claimed and what the Hollywood film "Zero Dark Thirty" subsequently showed. But in 2011, CIA Director Leon Panetta publicly claimed such interrogations were key to finding bin Laden — which "Zero Dark Thirty" reflected. The movie, which amassed several Oscar nominations, included several interrogation scenes that strongly implied waterboarding and other methods helped suss out bin Laden's location.

That narrative contrasts with the Senate report's central conclusion: Harsh interrogation isn't successful. Though the CIA disputes that, the report found severe interrogation was more likely to induce false information, if anything, at all.

But that's how it looks on TV. Harsh interrogation, as an effective means of eliciting crucial information, has become firmly entrenched in popular culture.



Courtesy of Fox Broadcasting Co.



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Left: Kiefer Sutherland played Jack Bauer on TV's "24." **Right:** Jessica Chastain played a member of the elite team of spies and military operatives that tracked Osama bin Laden in the film "Zero Dark Thirty."

From "24" to "Homeland," "Scandal" to "Spooks," the decision to use harsh interrogation methods is often conveyed on television as a difficult but necessary compromise of ethics to protect national security. The tactics, like those of Jack Bauer in "24," are often brutal and violent — incorporating electricity, knives, drugs, bare hands. But they're unnervingly successful. Over eight tense seasons, Bauer, who operated under the edict of "whatever it takes," consistently beat answers out of obstinate terrorists, who almost always divulged vital secrets that helped foil terrorism plots.

"You're talking about torturing this man?" a fake president at one

point asked Bauer.

"I'm talking about doing what's necessary to stop this warhead from being used against us," replied Bauer, who then extracted the information with a knife.

"Isn't it obvious that if there was a nuke in New York City that was about to blow — or any other city in this country — that, even if you were going to go to jail, it would be the right thing to do?" asked "24" producer Joel Surnow.

Scholars call such a paradox the "Necessity Doctrine." It describes a familiar "ticking bomb" scenario, in which action must be taken — and taken now.

It's a choice viewers are more willing to consider following the

consumption of shows like "24," a recent American University study by scholars Erin Kearns and Joseph Young found. The researchers found 150 students harsh interrogation scenes from the show. Sometimes the method worked, rearing key clues. Other times, the scenes were cut short before the students could determine whether the method had been successful.

Then they interviewed the students on their opinion. It turned out the scene's resolution mattered a great deal.

"This may suggest that being primed on torture leads people to believe that it works," the report said.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
LETTERS@STRIPES.COM

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KATHRYN PETERSON
peterson.kathryn@stripes.com
+49 (0) 173 313 6411

CIRCULATION

VAN ROWELL
rowell.van@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9111 DSN 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KATHRYN PETERSON
peterson.kathryn@stripes.com
+49 (0) 173 313 6411

CIRCULATION

ROBERT REISMANN
reismann.robert@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

YUKO SAITO
CustomerHelp@Stripes.com
+81(3) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

CIRCULATION

MARI MATSUMOTO
CustomerHelp@Stripes.com
+81(3) 6385.3171 DSN 315.229.3171

WAR ON TERRORISM



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., joins other members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to discuss a proposal to authorize the limited use of U.S. armed forces against the Islamic State militant group during a session on Capitol Hill on Thursday.

Troops: Panel gives OK for limited war powers in fight against Islamic State group

FROM FRONT PAGE

"There is tendency for executives from both parties to abuse these resolutions and make them mean anything they want," he said.

Fellow Republicans rejected limitations on the war effort through the authorization for the use of military force, saying the decision on ground troops should be left up to the president and military commanders.

"I agree with everyone who says we really don't want to use ground troops there," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz. "It is fine for the president to say it. He can change his mind any time he warrants it, but

putting [a restriction] in an AUMF is not the way to go."

Secretary of State John Kerry testified before the Senate on Tuesday and requested that the chamber leave the option for ground troops open. Obama has continued to maintain he will not allow another land war in Iraq, but commanders have signaled it may be necessary to defeat the Islamic State group.

"Why would we authorize the use of force if we are not fully committed to victory?" said Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

DOD marks Syria missions for danger pay

Pentagon plans to give back pay to hundreds of troops

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is giving hundreds of troops thousands of dollars in back pay for flying airstrike and surveillance missions over Syria since mid-September, due to an oversight in danger pay guidelines, defense officials said Wednesday. Acting Assistant Defense Secretary Stephanie Barna signed a new memo this week designating the airspace over Syria as a dangerous location so troops can now receive additional money when they fly through there.

Until this week, U.S. forces could receive imminent danger pay for serving on the ground in Syria as well as a number of other warzone locations, but the Syrian airspace was not listed. Under the new guidance, troops flying through the airspace can now receive \$7.50 per day, up to a maximum of \$225 a month.

According to Lt. Cmdr. Nathan Christensen, the Pentagon estimates that about 600 servicemembers per week are entitled to

the pay, and it will cost the Pentagon about \$18,000 each month.

While a number of fighter jets carry one pilot or a pilot and weapons officer, other aircraft such as the E-2 early warning aircraft or other sophisticated surveillance planes can have from four to a dozen or more crew members, depending on the mission.

"The Department recognized that there was an imminent threat of physical harm to servicemembers conducting operations above Syria and we wanted to ensure that they received the additional compensation they deserve," said Christensen, adding that the change was requested by U.S. Central Command, endorsed by the Joint Staff and approved by the Pentagon.

Troops routinely receive the stipend if they serve, for example, in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Yemen and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula. The list has evolved over many years, with countries added as they became more dangerous hot spots.

Military leaders do periodic reviews of the list.

\$1.1T spending bill clears major hurdle

By ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A \$1.1 trillion U.S. governmentwide spending bill narrowly cleared a major hurdle Thursday and headed toward a final vote later, despite opposition from tea party Republicans over immigration and Democrats angry over last-minute changes to bank regulations and looser rules on campaign spending.

The 214-212 vote came on a resolution to start debate. Republicans were upset that the measure fails to block President Barack Obama's recent actions on immigration and anger came from Democrats over the two provisions they consider poison pills.

The White House put out a statement endorsing the measure.

With lawmakers facing a midnight Thursday deadline to prevent a government shutdown, Congress was also expected to pass a measure to keep the government running for two days. The aim is to approve the longer-term bill before adjourning

Friday, though that could slip into the weekend.

Passage later Thursday was in at least some doubt because Democrats, whose votes Republican leaders need to adopt the bill, were furious over provisions that weaken regulations on risky financial instruments called swaps and another that allows wealthy donors to flood political parties with campaign cash. The two items, neither of which was disclosed until late in this week's negotiations on the bill, are particularly toxic to Democrats.

Many Democrats tended to focus more on the bad than the good since the 1,603-page bill was released late Tuesday. Large swaths of Republicans praised it for cutting spending for the IRS and the Environmental Protection Agency.

But Democrats won victories, too, and the alternative is to boot the unfinished spending bills into next year, when Republicans will have retaken the Senate and bolstered their numbers in the House. Republicans were cautiously confident that they

would get the Democratic votes they need to pass the bill.

The underlying measure funds the day-to-day operations of every agency of government in a year in which such so-called discretionary spending has been frozen at current levels for both domestic agencies and the Pentagon. It's the biggest remaining item on the agenda of the current Congress that hopes to adjourn by week's end.

The compromise bill permits virtually the entire government to operate normally until the fiscal year ends next year on Sept. 30, with the exception of the Homeland Security Department.

Funds for that agency will run out on Feb. 27, when Republicans are expected to try to use the expiration as leverage to force Obama to roll back a decision suspending the threat of deportation for an estimated 4 million immigrants living in the country illegally. The measure adheres to the tight budget caps negotiated previously between the White House and Republicans.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senators, from left, Bob Corker, R-Tenn.; James Risch, R-Idaho; John McCain, R-Ariz.; and Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, rush to the Senate floor in Washington on Thursday for a procedural vote on the \$585 billion defense bill.

NATION

Driving while black? App developers want to help

By STEVEN DUBOIS
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Though the developers of the soon-to-be released "Driving While Black" smartphone application want motorists to download their product, there is a time when they definitely don't want users searching for it.

"Do not reach for your phone when you are talking to police," stressed Melvin Oden-Orr, one of two Portland lawyers creating the app.

Avoiding moves that could make police think you're reaching for a gun is just one tip included in the app that educates drivers about how to safely deal with police during traffic stops.

Despite its attention-grabbing name, Oden-Orr said the app due for release in late December will provide common sense advice to motorists of all races and outline what civil rights you have during a stop. With the phone — hopefully, in a hands-free device — the app allows drivers to send an alert to friends and family that they have been pulled over. There's also a recording function to document the interaction with an officer.

The app is coming to market

'It's about being safe during a traffic stop so that everyone goes home alive.'

Melvin Oden-Orr
co-creator of the "Driving While Black" app

as protesters around the country to keep attention on instances of deadly encounters with police in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City. Similar apps also are aimed at helping people navigate interactions with police.

Three Georgia teenagers created "Five-O," an app released last summer that lets people rate their interactions with law enforcement. Last month, American Civil Liberties Union affiliates in four states unveiled "Mobile Justice," an app that allows users to take video of police encounters and upload the video to the ACLU. It's modeled on "Stop and Frisk Watch," an app released for New Yorkers in 2012.

"It's obviously in the forefront of everybody's mind; the police know they are being recorded and people in public know they can record," said Sarah Rossi, director of advocacy and policy for the ACLU Missouri affiliate. "I think the benefit of this app

(Mobile Justice) specifically is it goes straight to the ACLU and we can review it for any due-process violations."

The apps also include a "Know Your Rights" section that informs people about their rights when contacted by police.

Portland attorney Mariann Hyland got the idea for "Driving While Black" after learning of an app for drivers suspected of drunken driving. She approached Oden-Orr in April, and the two have been working on the app since summer with software developer James Pritchett.

The app will include a directory of lawyers for drivers who believe they were wrongfully stopped or searched. The app itself won't provide legal advice, such as telling users how to beat a traffic ticket.

"It's about being safe during a traffic stop so that everyone goes home alive," Oden-Orr said.

Lost Hawaii fisherman found after weeks at sea

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — When the Coast Guard told Zakary Ingraham they were suspending a search for his father, a Hawaii fisherman, he didn't want to believe the father he lost contact with for at least 15 years was gone.

His father, Ron Ingraham, had been missing since Thanksgiving when he put out a mayday call saying he was in danger of sinking nearly 50 miles from the Big Island. The Coast Guard suspended the search on Dec. 1.

"I thought, well, at least dad died doing what he loved," the son recalled. "I was trying to emotionally quell myself. But at the same time, I kind of had that feeling he wasn't gone yet."

Then, he got word his father was found Tuesday, dehydrated and hungry but uninjured. Ron Ingraham arrived at sea Tuesday on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, where he lives on his boat that was towed to shore by the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard had no details yet about what went wrong on Ron Ingraham's boat or how he survived.

Efforts by The Associated Press



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

Cmdr. John Barsano welcomes Ron Ingraham aboard the USS Paul Hamilton after rescuing him Tuesday near Hawaii.

to reach Ron Ingraham through the Coast Guard on Wednesday were unsuccessful.

When the Coast Guard received the Thanksgiving mayday, officials sought to contact his next of kin, son Zakary, 43, in Missouri. They were unable to reach him until the following Monday, the day they decided to suspend the search.

"It's tough to put into words," Zakary Ingraham said in a phone interview Wednesday from St. Joseph, Mo., as his father was en route to Molokai.

"You're crushed, and you don't know what to do," he said. "And of course, I'm in Missouri so that made it feel worse. I couldn't go out and look for him. It was horrible."

For Coast Guard officials, call-

ing off a search is the hardest choice they have to make, Lt. Scott Carr said.

"You're making a decision to stop searching when you don't have a resolution," he said. "We searched for five days... We used every resource we had, and we weren't able to find him."

A Navy ship was nearby when the Coast Guard received Ron Ingraham's mayday Tuesday. Crew members from that vessel, guided-missile destroyer the USS Paul Hamilton, gave him water and food.

"It's the holidays. We all have family who we love and miss, being here stationed far away from the continental U.S.," Carr said. "Anytime we rescue a mariner is a great day."



ERIC RISSBERG/AP

Commuter M.L. Mann struggles to make her way to a ferry to San Francisco on Thursday. A severe storm that swept across the San Francisco Bay Area knocked out power and delayed travel.

California storm knocks out power and delays flights

By SUDHIN THANAWALA
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A storm expected to be one of the windiest and rainiest in five years swept across the San Francisco Bay Area on Thursday, knocking out power to tens to thousands and delaying travel by air, train and ferry.

Pacific Gas & Electric was reporting outages are widespread across the Bay Area due to weather, but officials weren't immediately available to give a specific number of outages.

A spokesman for Bay Area Rapid Transit said a PGE transformer appeared to have malfunctioned near the system's Montgomery Street station. Jim Allison said the station has been shut to both BART trains and

trains from the city's Muni transit system and there's no estimate on when it will reopen.

High winds canceled some ferry service east of San Francisco. At least 10 ferry departures around the region were canceled Thursday due to weather conditions, the San Francisco Bay Ferry reported on its website.

Brief gusts of wind blasted the Golden Gate Bridge and high waves were crashing.

Some flights arriving at San Francisco International Airport were facing delays averaging three hours and 40 minutes, the Federal Aviation Administration reported on its website.

Public schools in several Bay Area cities, including San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley, and some private schools canceled Thursday classes.

Car jumps the curb in Manhattan, injuring 7

NEW YORK — Police say a car jumped a curb in the Herald Square shopping district in midtown Manhattan, injuring seven people, including five pedestrians.

It happened about 10 p.m. Wednesday on West 34th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

Authorities said the 34-year-old female driver and her male passenger were among the injured.

All seven were hospitalized with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said the driver is in custody. She's being investigated for possible drunken driving.

They said she was traveling east on 34th Street when she rear-ended a vehicle. She then backed up, entered the westbound lanes heading the wrong way and struck another vehicle. Police said the car then mounted the sidewalk, hitting the pedestrians.

From The Associated Press

NATION



Garret Ean, one of many self-proclaimed "Robin Hooders," puts money in expired meters ahead of parking enforcement officers in Keene, N.H.

JIM COLK/AP

NO QUARTER

NH city wants 'Robin Hood' meter feeders to back off from parking officers

The Associated Press

KEENE, N.H.

The self-styled "Robin Hooders" race to the rescue of the parking peasantry, pumping quarters into their expired meters and leaving behind cards informing them they have been saved from "the king's tariff."

Nobody, not even the king — in this case the quaint New Hampshire college town of Keene — disputes their right to use pocket change as political capital in what they view as a fight against government oppression.

But city officials say the not-so-merry band leaves behind more than cards with a cartoon Robin Hood and a suggestion to pay their good deed forward: stressed-out parking enforcement officers. Now the New Hampshire Supreme Court is deliberating if there is a line to be drawn between protecting free speech rights and protecting government employees from harassment.

The six Robin Hooders won round one last December when a superior court judge dismissed the city's request for an order restricting how close the protesters can come to the officers, some of whom claim they have been bumped and assailed with profanities. That court ruled the Robin Hooders' actions amount to protected political expression that can't be restricted.

The city is supported in its legal battle by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, whose lawyers claim the lower

court did not weigh the government's interest in protecting employees from harm and impediments to doing their jobs. The New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union falls squarely on the side of the Robin Hooders.

One of the city's three parking enforcement officers — Alan Givetz, a veteran of Iraq — quit the job in July 2013 after repeatedly being harassed and called a "coward" and a baby-killer by the Robin Hooders, court documents say. The city claims another, Jane McDermott, was followed to a restroom and called a "liar" and a "thief."

The Robin Hooders — affiliates of the rabble-raising Free Keene group that protests government intervention on issues ranging from guns to marijuana — say they're the ones with the motorists' well-being at heart as they feed meters, sometimes walking just ahead of the parking enforcement of-

ficers who would write a ticket.

An online recruitment effort last year to enlist additional Robin Hooders added, "As a bonus, you get to have fun as you deny the local government gang the hard-earned dollars of the good people of Keene."

Lawyers for Keene argue that a buffer zone of 15 feet around their parking enforcement officers would not infringe on the free speech rights of the Robin Hooders. The justices have not indicated when they will rule.

Attorney Charles Bauer, representing Keene, said even 5 feet back would be beneficial.

"The proximity is the key to this case," he argued to the justices last month. He said later that duration is also an issue.

"These people are haranguing them constantly," Bauer said.

Though its employees have reported

'As a bonus, you get to have fun as you deny the local government gang the hard-earned dollars of the good people of Keene.'

online recruitment ad to enlist parking meter "Robin Hooders"

harassment and physical contact with the Robin Hooders, Bauer said the city has no interest in arresting the protesters. "We say, 'Continue your protest, but do it 5-10 feet back, please.'"

Attorney Jon Meyer, representing the Robin Hooders, said the city is highlighting several contentious incidents among thousands of interactions between the protesters and enforcement officers over the past several years. He said testimony at a hearing last year indicated the demonstrators were respectful and "almost always stepped back" when asked.

But even then, the peace of mind of the enforcement officers is irrelevant, Meyer told the Supreme Court.

"One of the prices of public service is you have to put up with a certain amount of grief," he argued.

WORLD

'I DO NOT WANT MY CHILDREN TO DIE IN THIS TRASH'

Woman sought good life in New Delhi, but found rags

The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Six months ago, Marjina stepped off a train in New Delhi with her two children, hoping to find a better life after her husband abandoned them without so much as a goodbye.

She thought leaving her home in West Bengal to find work in the Indian capital would give her children a chance at a better life. But the only job she could find was as a "rag picker" — picking through other people's garbage to find salvageable bits to resell or recycle.

It is filthy, dangerous work, performed by millions of people across India. Rag picking is effectively the primary recycling system in India. But the work is by no means environmentally friendly, and very far from being secure. While the rag pickers offer invaluable services to the city, they have few rights. Every day, they are exposed to deadly poisons.

Marjina, who goes by only one name, and her children — daughter Murshida, 12, and son Shahid-ul, 7 — spent their days at a landfill in Gazipur, on the outskirts of New Delhi. The next morning they would sit outside their single-room shanty and sort the trash into metal, plastic and paper. The children counted themselves lucky if they found a discarded toy or a piece of plastic jewelry to play with. The family earned just \$26 per month. Rent was \$9.

The work took a toll on the family's health. Marjina's children were constantly sick. Her daughter contracted dengue fever and had to be hospitalized.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched a "Clean India" campaign in which he asked people to help keep their surroundings tidy. But there were no benefits announced for people like Marjina.

After months of poverty, illness and shame, Marjina and her children returned to that train station in New Delhi on Nov. 18, headed back to an uncertain future in West Bengal.

"I do not want my children to die in this trash," she said.

Daily wage labor back home would earn Marjina barely enough to survive. Her children, who did not go to school in New Delhi, likely won't in West Bengal, either, though all Indian children have a right to free education.

Whatever awaits the family, Marjina said, it could not be worse than life as a rag picker in New Delhi.

Murshida, 12, daughter of rag picker Marjina, lies on a sack of trash outside their rented shanty on the outskirts of New Delhi, India, after she fell ill.

PHOTOS BY ALTAF QADRI/AP



Young waste pickers look for recyclable items at a landfill on the outskirts of New Delhi.



Above: Murshida sits on the lap of her mother, Marjina, as the train leaves for their West Bengal village.

Left: Murshida helps Marjina lift a sackful of trash outside their shanty.

WORLD

Running out of room

Officials want to limit the time bodies can be buried in Mexico City cemeteries

By **OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ**
The Associated Press

Edgar Galvan watched as two gravediggers shoveled muddy soil from his father's grave until they reached a set of bones mixed with wood chips, the remnants of the coffin he was buried in seven years earlier.

The gravediggers placed the bones in a black plastic bag and handed them to Galvan, who planned to cremate them and put the ashes in a small crypt the family bought in a church.

"I've had to go through two difficult moments, first burying him and now unburying him," the 42-year-old carpenter said as he stood in the San Isidro cemetery in the Mexico City borough of Azcapotzalco.

Mexico's capital is rapidly running out of gravesites, and many residents of this growing metropolis of 9 million people have to exhume the remains of their loved ones once the burial rights expire to make room for new bodies. Officials say there is no public land available for new cemeteries.

The lack of cemetery space has prompted the city's legislative assembly to propose a law that would reduce the time a body can remain in a grave and encourage people to cremate the bodies of their loved ones, a move that critics say will threaten Mexico's long and rich traditions surrounding burying and celebrating the dead.

Assemblywoman Polimnia Sierra, who proposed the law, said the city's 119 cemeteries have only 71,000 gravesites available and that each year about 30,000 people die in the capital.

"In less than three years (the cemeteries) will be completely filled," Sierra said in defense of the law which was passed by the assembly last summer but sent back by Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera who wanted changes to its language. A vote on the revised law is expected soon. It would require that the city government educate people about cremation as an option and build more crematoriums — there are currently just two public crematoriums. It would also lower the maximum grave-site tenure from 21 years to 15 years, as long as cemetery rights are paid.

Complicating matters is that the regulations aren't applied consistently, with borough officials administering and sometimes setting their own grave time limits in the cemeteries in their areas. Sierra said there have been cases of cemeteries



PHOTOS BY REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Graves lie tightly packed together in a nearly full San Isidro cemetery in northern Mexico City in September. Officials say there is no room available in the capital for new cemeteries.

exhuming graves to bury someone else in as little as one year.

Once remains are exhumed, families commonly put them in above-ground niches offered by the cemetery, cremate them, bury them in a different cemetery or, if no one claims the remains, they are reburied at the same grave but underneath the coffin and tombstone of the new body.

While other countries around the world reuse graves, it is a sensitive issue in Mexico where celebrating the dead is still a living part of the culture. The law has become a tug-of-war between government officials in the center of this sprawling metropolis, which is increasingly growing vertically, and residents of its outer, more rural boroughs who preserve pre-Columbian traditions.

The law's opponents say above-ground mausoleums and crypts don't allow for the traditional Day of the Dead celebrations on Nov. 1 and 2, when Mexicans honor the dead by building elaborate altars on their tombstones, laden with candles, flowers, colorful sugar skulls and the favorite food and drink of the departed. Families gather in cemeteries

brightened by flickering candles to pray and share memories of their loved ones, whose photos sit on the graves.

Jesus Guzman, a member of the Autonomous Union of Native Towns and Neighborhoods of the Federal District, said many indigenous Mexicans prefer burial and are reluctant to accept cremation.

"Their worldview is not the same as ours," Guzman said of city officials backing the law. "Can you imagine that with the stroke of a pen they can erase All Saints Day and the Day of the Dead? They have no idea what they are doing."

In June, his group blocked a major avenue to protest the law.

In Mexico City's outer boroughs it's still common to see a nightlong wake being held on the patio of a home, then mourners carrying the coffin on their shoulders through traffic-clogged streets toward the cemetery. The processions are often accompanied by brass bands or mariachis.

"What really bothers us is that they don't respect our loved ones," said Jose Jimenez, who helps administer the San Francisco cemetery in the borough of Magdalena

Contreras. "They come a year or two after we bury them, take them out of the grave and bury whoever is next. We won't allow them to take away our resources, our cemetery."

At the Azcapotzalco cemetery where Galvan's father was buried, 63,000 older gravesites are sold in perpetuity — burial time limits were established in 1984. Another 22,000 have limited tenure. Some graves have fresh flowers, but many others are overgrown with weeds. Records are kept in old ledgers, some barely legible, and officials say it's unclear how many graves have been abandoned.

Like many Mexicans, Galvan says mausoleums and crypts still seem like a foreign option to him. His family has bought a crypt in a church in Mexico City's Tlatelolco neighborhood. Galvan said his mother wants her ashes, her husband's ashes, and two of her children's ashes, including his, to be in the same crypt. "I told her that's fine; my ashes can be in that crypt but first I want to be buried. I want to be in the ground for at least a year," he said.



Discarded tombstones and grave markers lie smashed following exhumations to make room for new burials at San Isidro cemetery.



Flowers decorate burial niches at San Isidro cemetery in September.



A coffin containing human remains is hauled away after being exhumed to free up space for new burials at the San Isidro cemetery.



“Your Holiday Bill Is On Us!” SWEEPSTAKES

Each time you use your MILITARY STAR® card at any Army and Air Force Exchange facility or shopmyexchange.com between November 1 – December 31, 2014 you will be automatically entered to win one of these prizes!

Grand Prize (3 winners)

Your private label MILITARY STAR® bill paid in full!

Second Prize (10 winners)

\$1000 credit on MILITARY STAR® private label bill.

Third Prize (25 winners)

\$500 credit on MILITARY STAR® private label bill.



Use your MILITARY STAR® card at any Army and Air Force Exchange Service facility or shopmyexchange.com from November 1 – December 31, 2014 and be automatically entered into the MILITARY STAR® Sweepstakes. Every purchase you make with your MILITARY STAR® card during this time frame counts as one entry. The more purchases you make with your MILITARY STAR® card increases your chances of winning.

For alternative method of entry and complete details, See Official Rules at www.MyECP.com/CustomerAds/Page/Exchange.com

WORLD



KIN CHEUNG/AP

Police officers clear protesters' belongings Thursday at the occupied area outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong police arrest protesters in main camp

By KELVIN CHAN
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong authorities cleared away the last barricades and tents of a 2½-month protest movement Thursday but the dozens of student leaders and other activists they took away vowed their fight for greater democracy wasn't over.

Hundreds of police officers carried out a methodical, peaceful operation to shut down the protest site that sprawled across a normally busy highway on the edge of the specially administered Chinese city's financial district.

The student-led demonstrators were protesting Beijing's restrictions on the first election for Hong Kong's leader, though the movement's momentum has been fading in recent weeks.

Hundreds of remaining protesters heeded police warnings

to leave the protest zone, but dozens of students, pro-democracy lawmakers and others, including middle-aged and elderly supporters, remained sitting on the street Thursday afternoon. They chanted "I want true democracy" and "We will be back" but offered no resistance as they were taken away one by one, many lifted off the ground.

Among those police took away were pro-democracy media mogul Jimmy Lai, Cantonese pop singer Denise Ho, veteran pro-democracy activist Martin Lee and pro-democracy legislators including Albert Ho.

Earlier Thursday, workers removed a court order removed barricades on the edge of the protest site before officers moved in and dismantled tents and obstructions from the rest of the site. They had warned protesters that they faced arrest if they did

not leave.

"I think the spirit of the movement still lives, but the idea of occupying streets is over," said student Andrew Chan, 20, as he left the site. "We can't even get a big crowd to come out today to fight the police clearing the site."

Tents and canopies that had housed water and other supplies for the protesters lay in heaps among discarded newspapers, flip-flops, cardboard boxes and umbrellas — which became a symbol of the protest movement after students used them to deflect police pepper spray.

One of the student leaders, Alex Chow, had rallied the crowds as the police approached, saying their fight was not over and they would find other ways to press forward in the days to come.

"People will come back again; they will come back with stronger force," he said.

Palestinian official's death cause disputed

By KARIN LAUB
The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israeli and Palestinian pathologists disagreed Thursday on whether a blow to the body or a bad heart was the main cause of death of a Palestinian Cabinet minister who collapsed shortly after scuffling with Israeli troops during a West Bank protest.

Palestinian doctors said Ziad Abu Ain, 55, died from a blow, not natural causes. Israeli doctors said he died from a blockage of the coronary artery due to arterial bleeding that could have been caused by stress.

Abu Ain's death, along with the Palestinian autopsy findings, could further inflame tensions between Israel and the Palestinians. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has said Abu Ain was the victim of a crime and of a "barbaric act" and decreed three days of mourning.

Abu Ain's funeral procession began at Abbas' Ramallah headquarters Thursday. Several thousand mourners, including Abbas, gathered in the walled compound and said prayers over the minister's coffin, draped in a Palestinian flag. From there, the procession headed toward a nearby cemetery, with some in the crowd shooting into the air.

Anticipating Palestinian protests over Abu Ain's death, the Israeli military sent troop reinforcements to the West Bank. Earlier Thursday, several dozen Palestinian stone throwers clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Hebron. Abu Ain died Wednesday, short-

ly after a West Bank confrontation between Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers that included pushing and shoving. At one point, a member of Israel's paramilitary border police grabbed Abu Ain by the throat and pushed him. Troops also fired tear gas during the confrontation.

Several minutes after the scuffle, Abu Ain collapsed to the ground, clutching his heart. He received first aid and was evacuated, but died en route to a hospital.

An autopsy was conducted later Wednesday by Palestinian, Jordanian and Israeli pathologists.

Palestinian pathologist Saber Aloul, citing preliminary findings, said Thursday that the "cause of death was a blow, and not natural causes."

He said that some of Abu Ain's front teeth were knocked out and dropped to the back of his mouth, and that regurgitated food entered the airway.

Palestinian Health Minister Jawad Awad said that "the results of the autopsy show that the ones who killed the martyr Ziad Abu Ain are the Israeli occupying forces."

Awad said two Jordanian pathologists also signed off on those findings, but that the Israeli doctors held off on a signature. The Israeli health ministry said the Israeli doctors didn't sign because it was a preliminary report, not a final report.

Israeli pathologists Chen Kugel and Maya Furman said Abu Ain had a bad heart, including 80 percent blockage by plaque in the blood vessels of his heart, and that this "caused him to be more sensitive to stress."

Ruble under pressure despite rate rise

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The ruble continued to slide Thursday even after Russia's Central Bank sought to ease the selling pressure on the currency following the drop in oil prices by raising interest rates again.

The Central Bank raised its key interest rate by a percentage point to 10.5 percent, citing an increasing rise in consumer prices and "significant inflation risks." The bank said inflation is expected to hit 10 percent for 2014 and

to rise further in the first quarter of 2015.

Despite the increase, the ruble remained under pressure. The currency broke above 55 rubles to the dollar for the first time ever as it struck its new all-time low of 55.45. Against the euro, it was heading toward the 70-ruble threshold for the first time. In early afternoon trading, it hit 68.99 rubles to the euro before recovering slightly.

The ruble has lost about 42 percent of its value since January, battered by Western sanctions

imposed over the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the drop in the price of oil, the backbone of the Russian economy.

The Central Bank said it would continue to raise its key rate "in the case of further aggravation of inflation risks."

The Russian economy is unlikely to see any growth in 2015 or 2016, the bank said.

The Russian government recently revised its economic forecast for next year, predicting a drop of 0.8 percent instead of 1.2 percent growth.



Before you go shopping for a home of your own, get the best loan rates available for veterans from a veteran-owned and operated company that partners with veteran nonprofits and carefully selected lenders.

STARS & STRIPES
VA Loan Center
Get Real Time Pricing on VA Loans
visit stripes.com/valoans today!

Powered by VA Loan Captain

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jewel thieves follow, then attack victims

MN MARION TOWNSHIP — Investigators believe jewelry thieves followed their victims for several hundred miles from a trade show in Chicago before pulling off a \$500,000 heist in less than 2 minutes at a rest stop in southeast Minnesota.

The smash-and-grab robbery occurred early Monday morning at a rest stop along Interstate 90, according to Olmsted County Sheriff's officials.

Local authorities have contacted the FBI and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension to help investigate. The loss value could climb once the dealer does a complete inventory of his jewelry and precious metals, sheriff's Capt. Scott Behrns said.

3 killed at scene of car crash with bear

FL MIAMI — Three good Samaritans were killed Sunday night when they were struck by a car after they'd stopped along a dark, two-lane road in the Florida Everglades to assist another motorist whose vehicle hit a black bear.

The accident took place on Snake Road, in the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation, about halfway between Fort Lauderdale and Naples.

Seminole police spokesman Gary Bitner told The Associated Press that Caroline Billie was driving a sport utility vehicle when she saw the bear crossing the road just before 7 p.m. Sunday and couldn't stop in time to avoid hitting it. A short time later, three vehicles that were traveling together stopped on the side of the road to assist the woman.

Another vehicle, heading in the opposite direction and driven by Gary McInturf, of Hollywood, hit the SUV and sideswiped one of the stopped vehicles, sending it into the people standing on the road's shoulder, Bitner said. Three people were killed, and five of the injured were treated and released.

Troopers help deliver baby in parking lot

OH DEFIANCE — Troopers in northwestern Ohio helped deliver a baby girl in the parking lot of their State Highway Patrol post.

Three troopers and a sheriff's deputy jumped into action early Monday in Defiance when a woman driving her pregnant granddaughter to the hospital realized they weren't going to make it. They pulled into the patrol post's parking lot where the baby was delivered around 11 a.m.

The troopers say both the baby and the mom were taken to the Defiance Regional Medical Center where they are doing just fine.

Rescue Mission ends no-strings shelter

KS WICHITA — The Union Rescue Mission in Wichita is evaluating a decision to end a policy of providing a hot meal and foot for the homeless with no strings attached.

THE CENSUS

240

The number of hours a French tourist will have to spend cleaning a Manhattan jail for scaling the Brooklyn Bridge to take photos. Yonathan Souid, of Esnandes, France, got the community service sentence on Tuesday. His lawyer said Souid "prefers cleaning a jail than to actually living in one." Souid said it wasn't his intention to hurt anyone and he climbed the bridge last month because he has a passion for photography.



MATT ROURKE/AP

Blowin' in the wind

A women's umbrella is upset by the wind during a rainstorm Tuesday in Philadelphia.

The mission decided to phase out the policy after realizing some men had used the mission for decades. Now, it is experimenting with programs designed to help the men move on, without shutting the doors on them.

Director Denny Bender said the mission hasn't seen as much progress as he'd hoped. But it has been able to allocate 10 beds a night for a program that provides a place to stay for men who work but are still homeless.

Man, 102, dies after receiving Scout award

PA CARNEGIE — A 102-year-old Pittsburgh-area man died a day after receiving the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Esther Queneau told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that her husband, Bernard, "just hung on" so he could receive the award Saturday. That also happened to be her 90th birthday.

The Scott Township man died Sunday, a day after receiving the

honor from the Laurel Highlands Boy Scout Council and the National Eagle Scout Association.

Bernard Queneau volunteered for 20 years with Meals on Wheels, volunteered at a local library and as an escort at St. Clair Hospital.

Inmates work as elves for charity gift program

ND BISMARCK — North Dakota inmates are helping bring holiday cheer to Bismarck by working as Santa's elves for a charity gift-giving program.

The minimum-security inmates at the Missouri River Correctional Center have been fixing toys and bicycles as part of the 2014 Christmas Playpen project, the Bismarck Tribune reported.

The project is a partnership between several local entities, including the newspaper and the North Dakota Department of Corrections, to collect and refurbish toys that the Salvation Army distributes to qualifying families during the holidays.

The Missouri River inmates also planned to fix up nearly

300 bikes by Monday's deadline. The Salvation Army will give the bikes to families in the Bismarck and Mandan areas.

"It's something nice to do for the community," said inmate Brad Delzer.

Interstate speed limit raised from 65 to 70

UT SALT LAKE CITY — Motorists are now able to drive a little faster on most urban interstates along Utah's Wasatch Range.

With a few exceptions, the speed limit was raised from 65 mph to 70 mph beginning Monday.

The Utah Department of Transportation decided to proceed with the plan after hearing no arguments urging it to reconsider during a month of taking comments, said Jason Davis, its chief of operations.

Studies show the majority of traffic already travels at 70 mph or more on Wasatch Front interstates, he added.

Video of reunion with Marine has gone viral

MD ODENTON — The video is simple: A Maryland woman sneaks up to surprise her Marine husband, arriving at a California base after he served a year in Afghanistan.

She stands directly in front of him for about a minute before he realizes she's there. He spots her, puts his hand over his eyes and begins sobbing. Another soldier grabs the camera and films as the couple hugs and kisses.

Now, the video — shot about a month ago — has been viewed more than 1 million times on YouTube, and Gunnery Sgt. Fort Taylor III and his wife, Sara, of Odenton said they've heard from people all over the world who've seen it.

"This is crazy. We posted it mainly for us and the kids to see, and maybe some family and friends," Fort, 31, told The Associated Press from Odenton, where he's on leave through Christmas.

From wire reports

FACES

'Birdman' soars with Golden Globes with 7 nominations

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

"Birdman" squawked loudest in the Golden Globes nominations, flying away with a leading seven nods including best picture in the comedy or musical category.

In nominations for the 72 annual Golden Globes announced Thursday morning by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, "Boyshood" and "The Imitation Game" trailed with five nods apiece. Those two films led a best drama category that also included "Foxcatcher," "Selma" and "The Theory of Everything."

In the best picture, comedy or musical category, "Birdman" was joined by "St. Vincent," "Grand Budapest Hotel," "Into the Woods" and — in a surprise — the independent British film "Pride."

Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Birdman, or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance)," in which Michael Keaton plays a Hollywood star trying to mount a serious drama on Broadway, earned nods for Keaton and supporting players Edward Norton and Emma Stone, as well as for its direction, screenplay and score.

Richard Linklater's long-in-the-making coming-of-age drama "Boyshood," thus far the critical darling and the perceived front-runner of Hollywood's awards season, added nominations for Linklater's direction and script, and supporting actors Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette. "The World War II code breaker drama "The Imitation Game," starring Benedict Cumberbatch as mathematician Alan Turing, also went over well with the HFPA. In addition to its best picture nod, the Weinstein Co. release won nods for Cumberbatch as best actor, Keira Knightley for best supporting actress, Graham Moore for best screenplay and Alexandre Desplat for best score.

The other nominees for best actor in a drama were Steve Carell ("Foxcatcher"), David Oyelowo ("Selma") and Jake Gyllenhaal ("Nightcrawler") and Eddie Redmayne ("The Theory of Everything").

Most of the awards-season favorites were rewarded with decent showings Thursday, though some hopefuls failed to break through. Most notably, Angelina Jolie's World War II drama "Unbroken" yielded no nominations at all, though Jolie has seven times previously been nominated (winning thrice), including a nod for best foreign language film for her previous directing effort, "In the Land of Blood and Honey." Clint Eastwood's "Amer-

ican Sniper," starring Bradley Cooper as Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, also went unnoticed. Christopher Nolan's sci-fi epic "Interstellar" landed only a nomination for Hans Zimmer's score.

In the best actress category, 11-year-old Quvenzhané Wallis ("Annie") joined a battery of veteran performers in Julianne Moore ("Maps to the Stars"), Helen Mirren ("The Hundred-Foot Journey"), Amy Adams ("Big Eyes") and Emily Blunt ("Into the Woods").

On the dramatic side, the best actress category was notable for two stars in notably less adorned performances: Reese Witherspoon in the hiking drama "Wild" and Jennifer Aniston for "Cake." Also nominated were Moore (her second, for "Still Alice"), Felicity Jones ("The Theory of Everything") and Rosamund Pike ("Gone Girl").

One of the surprise winners of the day was "Grand Budapest Hotel." Along with a best picture nod in comedy, it earned nominations for Wes Anderson as best actor, and Wes Anderson for screenplay and director.

Fiennes and Keaton were joined in best actor, comedy or musical, by Bill Murray ("St. Vincent") and in a few less expected choices, Joaquin Phoenix for "Inherent Vice" and Christoph Waltz for "Big Eyes."

The Globes are known for sometimes idiosyncratic choices that help populate its red carpet with celebrities, but there weren't many odd picks. The Globes wrapped up the attendance of one star — George Clooney — ahead of Thursday's nominations by selecting the actor-director for its honorary Cecil B. DeMille Award.

Meryl Streep added her 26th nomination — eight wins — with a best supporting actress nod for the Stephen Sondheim musical "Into the Woods." She joins Stone, Arquette, Knightley and Jessica Chastain for "A Most Violent Year."

Among the TV categories, " Fargo" led with five nominations, including best TV miniseries or movie. HBO dominated with 15 nominations, while upstarts "Nurse Jackie" and Amazon (two) also made inroads. The best drama series nominations went to "The Affair," "Downton Abbey," "Game of Thrones," "The Good Wife" and "House of Cards." The nominees for best TV comedy series are: "Girls," "Nurse Jackie" and "Orange Is the New Black," "Silicon Valley" and "Transparent."

For the third time in a row, the Globes telecast will be hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler. The show will air Jan. 11.



CBS sets date for Letterman's last show

More than 32 years of late-night talk will pass into history next May 20, with CBS' announcement Wednesday that David Letterman will host his final "Late Show" on that day.

If Letterman makes all of his scheduled broadcasts until then, CBS said he will have hosted 6,028 versions of the "Late Show" and its NBC predecessor, "Late Night." Letterman moved to CBS in 1993.

"David Letterman has given to all of us a remarkable legacy of achievement and creative brilliance that will never be forgotten," said Leslie Moonves, CBS Corp. president and CEO. "It's going to be tough to say goodbye, but I know we will all cherish the shows leading up to Dave's final broadcast in May."

Letterman, 67, announced his impending retirement last April. CBS later named Stephen Colbert as Letterman's replacement.

CBS has not announced when Colbert will take over the "Late Show."

Letterman debuted on "Late Night" on NBC on Feb. 1, 1982. He jumped to CBS when NBC named Jay Leno instead of him as Johnny Carson's successor on the "Tonight" show.

Woman files defamation lawsuit against Bill Cosby

A woman who has accused Bill Cosby of sexually assaulting her in the 1970s filed a defamation lawsuit Wednesday against the comedian, alleging he "publicly branded" her a liar through statements made by his lawyer and publicist.

Tamara Green said in the lawsuit filed in federal court in Springfield, Mass., that Cosby drugged and assaulted her when she was an aspiring model. Green first spoke publicly about the alleged attack in 2005.

Green says after she did media interviews, Cosby's lawyer and publicist made statements intended to expose her to public contempt and ridicule. The attorney, Walter M. Phillips Jr., declined to comment. Messages left for the publicist, David Brokaw, weren't immediately returned. Cosby is the lawsuit's only defendant.

Cosby, 77, has never been charged in connection with any sexual assault allegations. In 2005, Cosby settled a civil case filed by Andrea Constand, a former employee at Temple University in Philadelphia. Green was one of a dozen women who were prepared to testify in Constand's lawsuit that Cosby sexually assaulted them.

Through his representatives, Cosby has denied renewed allegations by women alleging decades-old sexual assaults.

Los Angeles attorney Martin Singer, who has represented Cosby in the renewed round of allegations, did not immediately return calls seeking comment on Green's lawsuit.

Monaco's Princess Charlene gives birth to twins

For the first time since Monaco was founded in the 13th century, its royal family gave birth to twins on Wednesday, and dozens of cannons were fired to celebrate.

Monaco's Princess Charlene had a girl first and a boy second, but the boy will be the principality's future ruler, reflecting the male priority of Monaco's laws of succession. The royal twins Gabriella Therese Marie and Jacques Honore Rainier — born to Charlene, 36, and Prince Albert II, 56 — are heirs to the centuries-old Grimaldi dynasty that rules the wealthy principality.

Gabriella was born at 5:04 p.m. and her brother Jacques two minutes later, according to a palace statement.

"I have no words," said nominee **Emma Stone**, noting that she was honored to be a part of "the beautiful madness that is 'Birdman.'" "Now can someone please explain who this 'Meryl Streep' woman is?!"

"I've been a bit frantic," said nominee **Eddie Redmayne** on the phone from London. "I'm trying to finish all my Christmas shopping in a day, and now I got this phone call. I'm about to have a few mullered wines to celebrate."

FAITH



“So many times people feel alone and, hopefully, this lets people know that we care, that Holy Spirit cares. Lots of people are suffering, and sometimes the conversation gets emotional, on both sides.”

church volunteer Rosie Ritzman



PHOTOS BY JIM STEVENS, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

Above: The Rev. Mathew Vellankal, left, places his hands on the head of Michael Ramacciotti, 11, and offers a prayer while Michael's mother, Jacquelin, looks on during drive-thru prayer service at Holy Spirit Church in Fremont, Calif., on Nov. 17. **Top:** Amy Wilhelm directs traffic at the start of the prayer service at the church.

Church offering drive-thru prayer for the heartsick and hurried

By CHRIS DE BENEDETTI/*The Oakland (Calif.) Tribune*

M.J. Johnson drove onto the Holy Spirit Catholic Church parking lot and, as her car's motor idled and its headlights pierced the evening darkness, she prayed with a church volunteer, asking God to help her father as he grieves for his late wife.

"I always feel that God is all around us and, if you ask for help, God will try to help you," Johnson said, choking back tears afterward. "Prayer is such a powerful thing."

That sentiment predominated on a recent Monday night, when dozens of people parked their cars — or a bicycle, in one case — to participate in Holy Spirit's first-ever drive-thru prayer night.

"Think of it as 'God on the go,'" said the Rev. Mathew Vellankal, Holy Spirit's pastor. "We have drive-thru food and drive-thru coffee in our society. This is drive-thru prayer."

Vellankal said that a Florida parish was the first recently to offer drive-thru praying, and a quote from Pope Francis inspired him to bring the service to Fremont.

"Pope Francis says we should go where the people are," Vellankal said. "We live in a fast-paced society and if people don't have an hour to pray, they might have a few minutes. So we

want to offer a little comfort and solace to people who are extremely busy."

The church had been promoting drive-thru prayer through its newsletter and by word of mouth. Then parishioner Lulu Paul stood at the busy intersection of Fremont Boulevard and Central Avenue during the Monday evening rush hour waving a sign that read "Drive-Thru Prayer."

The ad hoc marketing worked, as a handful of church volunteers greeted about 35 visitors during the program's inaugural hour, taking a few minutes to pray with each motorist.

Some prayed for divine intervention to heal an ailing family member, volunteers said. Others were stressed over life's daily struggles and seemed in need of the human touch of talking with a stranger about their troubles.

Sometimes, the short prayer session left both visitor and volunteer in tears, said church volunteer Rosie Ritzman.

"So many times people feel alone and, hopefully, this lets people know that we care, that Holy Spirit cares," she said. "Lots of people are suffering, and sometimes the conversation gets emotional, on both sides."

The church intends to continue the drive-thru prayer sessions indefinitely, 5 to 6 p.m. weeknights.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, founded in 1886, is one of the area's oldest churches. With 5,000 parishioners, it's also one of the largest, church leaders said.

Vellankal said he wants to keep trying new ways to bring prayer to people because he suspects that even devout parishioners can get tired of church routine.

"We try to go to the level of the people," he said. "We want to reach out to all of those around us with peace and love."

'GOD ON THE GO'

BUSINESS/WEATHER

42.9M Americans have medical debt

By **JOSH BOAK**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly 20 percent of U.S. consumers — 42.9 million people — have unpaid medical debts, according to a new report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The findings suggest that many Americans are being trapped by debt because they are confused by the notices they get from hospitals and insurance companies about the cost of treatment. As

a result, millions of Americans may be surprised to find they are stuck with lower credit scores, making it harder for them to borrow to buy homes or automobiles.

"When people fall ill and end up at the hospital with unexpected bills, far too often they have entered into a financial maze," CFPB director Richard Cordray said in a speech to be delivered Thursday in Oklahoma City.

On average, a person with only overdue medical debt owes \$1,766. Someone with unpaid

medical bills and other sources of debt — possibly credit cards or back taxes — owes an average of \$5,638. More than half of all debt on credit reports stems from medical expenses.

The report by the federal regulator indicates that much of this trouble could be avoided. About half of consumers who carry only medical debt have no other signs of being under financial distress. But complaints to the CFPB indicate that consumers are routinely baffled by medical bills.

Unwieldy insurance and hospital statements leave them uncertain as to how much money they owe, the deadlines for payment and which organizations should be paid.

The confusion tends to generate disputes from consumers about the unpaid debts. This has prompted the CFPB to also announce Thursday that it will require major consumer reporting agencies to provide regular reports on how they investigate and respond to disputed charges.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (Dec. 12)	\$1.2786
Dollar buys (Dec. 12)	€9.7814
British pound (Dec. 12)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Dec. 12)	116.00
South Korean won (Dec. 12)	1,072.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5682/0.6377
Canada (dollar)	1.1524
China (Yuan)	6.1909
Denmark (Krone)	6.9007
Egypt (Pound)	7.1485
Euro	\$1.2395/0.8068
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7518
Hungary (Forint)	248.35
Israel (Shekel)	3.9309
Japan (Yen)	119.18
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2918
Norway (Krone)	7.2565
Philippines (Peso)	44.47
Poland (Zloty)	3.37
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7537
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3138
South Korea (Won)	1,103.25
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9693
Thailand (Bath)	32.83
Turkey (New Lira)	2.4879

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.25
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.83

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.883	\$3.185	\$3.375	\$3.838
Change in price	-9.9 cents	-9.6 cents	-9.2 cents	-7.0 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.015	\$4.277	\$4.209
Change in price	---	-13.2 cents	-14.1 cents	-13.5 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.155	\$4.039	\$3.808
Change in price	---	-9.6 cents	-1.1 cents	-7.0 cents
Azores	---	---	\$3.686	---
Change in price	---	---	no change	---
U.K.	---	\$3.084	\$3.347	\$3.325
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$3.822	\$4.229*
Change in price	---	---	-12.6 cents	-21.6 cents
Italy	---	---	\$4.277	---
Change in price	---	---	no change	---

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.159	---	\$3.619
Change in price	---	-9.0 cents	---	-7.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.819	---	---	\$3.619
Change in price	-5.0 cents	---	---	-7.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.809	---	\$3.199	\$3.659
Change in price	-10.0 cents	---	-9.0 cents	-7.0 cents
Guam	\$2.799**	\$2.999	\$3.189	---
Change in price	-9.0 cents	-9.0 cents	-9.0 cents	---

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Dec 13-19

MARKET WATCH

	Dec. 10, 2014
Dow Jones	-268.05
Industrials	17,533.15
Nasdaq composite	-82.44
	4,684.03
Standard & Poor's 500	-33.68
	2,026.14
Russell 2000	-26.19
	1,161.86

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC

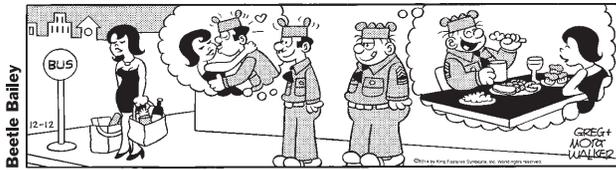
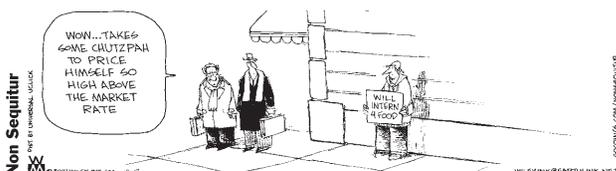
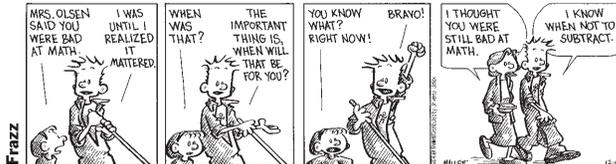


The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2d Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	53	30	Cir	Fort Wayne	40	30	Cldy	Louisville	45	33	Pcldy	Pocatello	54	35	Cir	Slous City	46	44	Cldy
Ablene, Tex	68	55	Cldy	Cheyenne	62	33	Pcldy	Fresno	58	43	Cldy	Lubbock	67	47	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	44	30	Cir	South Bend	41	31	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	36	28	Cldy	Chicago	41	33	Cldy	Goodland	59	41	Cldy	Macon	61	31	Cir	Portland, Ore.	51	41 <th>Cir</th> <th>Springfield, Ill.</th> <th>43</th> <th>34</th> <th>Cldy</th>	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	43	34	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	59	34	Cldy	Cincinnati	41	27	Cir	Grand Junction	54	31	Pcldy	Madison	47	31	Cir	Providence	40	30	Cir	Spokane	43	31	Rain
Albuquerque	57	37	Pcldy	Cleveland	37	29	Cldy	Grand Rapids	40	30	Pcldy	Medford	51	36	Rain	Pueblo	63	30	Cir <th>Springfield, Mo.</th> <th>52</th> <th>43</th> <th>Rain</th>	Springfield, Mo.	52	43	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	40	24	Cldy	Colorado Springs	63	36	Cir	Great Falls	58	34	Pcldy	Memphis	54	39	Cir <th>Raleigh-Durham</th> <th>54</th> <th>31 <th>Cir</th> <th>Tampa</th> <th>66</th> <th>45</th> <th>Cir</th> </th>	Raleigh-Durham	54	31 <th>Cir</th> <th>Tampa</th> <th>66</th> <th>45</th> <th>Cir</th>	Cir	Tampa	66	45	Cir
Amarillo	68	36	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	59	30	Cir	Green Bay	34	28	Cir <td>Miami Beach</td> <td>69</td> <td>54</td> <th>Cir <th>Rapid City</th> <th>64 <th>39</th> <th>Cir</th> <th>Tulsa <th>62</th> <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> </th></th></th>	Miami Beach	69	54	Cir <th>Rapid City</th> <th>64 <th>39</th> <th>Cir</th> <th>Tulsa <th>62</th> <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> </th></th>	Rapid City	64 <th>39</th> <th>Cir</th> <th>Tulsa <th>62</th> <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> </th>	39	Cir	Tulsa <th>62</th> <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th>	62	45	Rain
Anchorage	26	19	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	60	34	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	51	30	Cir <td>Midland-Odessa</td> <td>70</td> <td>52</td> <th>Pcldy <th>San Antonio</th> <th>62</th> <th>49</th> <th>Cir</th> <th>Tulsa</th> <th>62</th> <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> </th>	Midland-Odessa	70	52	Pcldy <th>San Antonio</th> <th>62</th> <th>49</th> <th>Cir</th> <th>Tulsa</th> <th>62</th> <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th>	San Antonio	62	49	Cir	Tulsa	62	45	Rain
Ashville	52	26	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	38	26	Pcldy	Harrisburg	39	30	Cir <td>Milwaukee</td> <td>37</td> <td>32</td> <th>Cldy <th>Richmond <th>50 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Waco</th> <th>68</th> <th>55</th> <th>Cldy</th> </th></th></th></th>	Milwaukee	37	32	Cldy <th>Richmond <th>50 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Waco</th> <th>68</th> <th>55</th> <th>Cldy</th> </th></th></th>	Richmond <th>50 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Waco</th> <th>68</th> <th>55</th> <th>Cldy</th> </th></th>	50 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Waco</th> <th>68</th> <th>55</th> <th>Cldy</th> </th>	32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Waco</th> <th>68</th> <th>55</th> <th>Cldy</th>	Cir	Waco	68	55	Cldy
Atlanta	59	34	Cir <td>Concord, N.H.</td> <td>35</td> <td>24</td> <th>Cldy</th> <td>Hartford-Spfd</td> <td>38</td> <td>29</td> <th>Cir <td>Minneapolis</td> <td>41</td> <td>37</td> <th>Cir <th>Roanoke</th> <th>48 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Washington</th> <th>44 <th>35 <th>Pcldy</th> </th></th></th></th></th></th>	Concord, N.H.	35	24	Cldy	Hartford-Spfd	38	29	Cir <td>Minneapolis</td> <td>41</td> <td>37</td> <th>Cir <th>Roanoke</th> <th>48 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Washington</th> <th>44 <th>35 <th>Pcldy</th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Minneapolis	41	37	Cir <th>Roanoke</th> <th>48 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Washington</th> <th>44 <th>35 <th>Pcldy</th> </th></th></th></th>	Roanoke	48 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Washington</th> <th>44 <th>35 <th>Pcldy</th> </th></th></th>	32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Washington</th> <th>44 <th>35 <th>Pcldy</th> </th></th>	Cir	Washington	44 <th>35 <th>Pcldy</th> </th>	35 <th>Pcldy</th>	Pcldy
Atlantic City	41	29	Cldy	Corpus Christi	74	61	Cldy	Helena	47	28	Pcldy	Missoula	39	29	Cir <th>Rochester</th> <th>31 <th>26</th> <th>Snow</th> <th>Wichita</th> <th>54 <th>47</th> <th>Rain</th> </th></th>	Rochester	31 <th>26</th> <th>Snow</th> <th>Wichita</th> <th>54 <th>47</th> <th>Rain</th> </th>	26	Snow	Wichita	54 <th>47</th> <th>Rain</th>	47	Rain
Austin	70	47	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	68	55	Cldy	Honolulu	82	70	Pcldy	Mobile	70	52	Cir <th>Rockford <th>40 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Wichita Falls</th> <th>56 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Rockford <th>40 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Wichita Falls</th> <th>56 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> </th></th></th></th>	40 <th>32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Wichita Falls</th> <th>56 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> </th></th></th>	32 <th>Cir</th> <th>Wichita Falls</th> <th>56 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> </th></th>	Cir	Wichita Falls	56 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> </th>	52 <th>Cir</th>	Cir
Baltimore	43	30	Cldy <td>Dayton</td> <td>38</td> <td>27</td> <th>Pcldy</th> <td>Houston</td> <td>70</td> <td>52</td> <th>Cir <td>Montgomery</td> <td>59</td> <td>34</td> <th>Cir <th>Sacramento <th>56 <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> <th>Wilmington, Del.</th> <th>43</th> <th>29 <th>Cldy</th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Dayton	38	27	Pcldy	Houston	70	52	Cir <td>Montgomery</td> <td>59</td> <td>34</td> <th>Cir <th>Sacramento <th>56 <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> <th>Wilmington, Del.</th> <th>43</th> <th>29 <th>Cldy</th> </th></th></th></th>	Montgomery	59	34	Cir <th>Sacramento <th>56 <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> <th>Wilmington, Del.</th> <th>43</th> <th>29 <th>Cldy</th> </th></th></th>	Sacramento <th>56 <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> <th>Wilmington, Del.</th> <th>43</th> <th>29 <th>Cldy</th> </th></th>	56 <th>45</th> <th>Rain</th> <th>Wilmington, Del.</th> <th>43</th> <th>29 <th>Cldy</th> </th>	45	Rain	Wilmington, Del.	43	29 <th>Cldy</th>	Cldy
Baton Rouge	65	44	Cldy <td>Daytona Beach</td> <td>64</td> <td>43</td> <th>Cir</th> <td>Huntsville</td> <td>53</td> <td>34</td> <th>Cir</th> <td>Nashville</td> <td>49</td> <td>30</td> <th>Cir <th>St. Louis <th>44 <th>37 <th>Cir</th> <th>Yonkers</th> <th>44</th> <th>35 <th>Snow</th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Daytona Beach	64	43	Cir	Huntsville	53	34	Cir	Nashville	49	30	Cir <th>St. Louis <th>44 <th>37 <th>Cir</th> <th>Yonkers</th> <th>44</th> <th>35 <th>Snow</th> </th></th></th></th>	St. Louis <th>44 <th>37 <th>Cir</th> <th>Yonkers</th> <th>44</th> <th>35 <th>Snow</th> </th></th></th>	44 <th>37 <th>Cir</th> <th>Yonkers</th> <th>44</th> <th>35 <th>Snow</th> </th></th>	37 <th>Cir</th> <th>Yonkers</th> <th>44</th> <th>35 <th>Snow</th> </th>	Cir	Yonkers	44	35 <th>Snow</th>	Snow
Bendigoport	49	30	Cir	Denver	36	29	Cir	Indianapolis	41	32	Cir	New Orleans	63	47	Pcldy <th>St. Petersburg</th> <th>64 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> <th>Youngstown</th> <th>35</th> <th>27 <th>Cldy</th> </th></th></th>	St. Petersburg	64 <th>52 <th>Cir</th> <th>Youngstown</th> <th>35</th> <th>27 <th>Cldy</th> </th></th>	52 <th>Cir</th> <th>Youngstown</th> <th>35</th> <th>27 <th>Cldy</th> </th>	Cir	Youngstown	35	27 <th>Cldy</th>	Cldy
Birmingham	55	34	Cir	Des Moines	47	40	Cir <td>Jackon, Miss.</td> <td>56</td> <td>41</td> <th>Cir <td>New York City</td> <td>38</td> <td>30</td> <th>Cir <th>St. Thomas <th>85 <th>74 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Jackon, Miss.	56	41	Cir <td>New York City</td> <td>38</td> <td>30</td> <th>Cir <th>St. Thomas <th>85 <th>74 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	New York City	38	30	Cir <th>St. Thomas <th>85 <th>74 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	St. Thomas <th>85 <th>74 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	85 <th>74 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	74 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Cir				
Bismarck	49	30	Cir	Detroit	38	29	Pcldy	Jacksonville	61	44	Cir <td>Newark</td> <td>41</td> <td>37</td> <th>Cir <th>Salerno, Ore. <th>52 <th>41 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Newark	41	37	Cir <th>Salerno, Ore. <th>52 <th>41 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Salerno, Ore. <th>52 <th>41 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	52 <th>41 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	41 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Cir				
Boise	53	32	Rain	Duluth	35	32	Cldy <td>Juneau</td> <td>39</td> <td>33</td> <th>Rain <td>Norfolk, Va.</td> <td>50</td> <td>35</td> <th>Pcldy <th>Salt Lake City <th>62 <th>39 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Juneau	39	33	Rain <td>Norfolk, Va.</td> <td>50</td> <td>35</td> <th>Pcldy <th>Salt Lake City <th>62 <th>39 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Norfolk, Va.	50	35	Pcldy <th>Salt Lake City <th>62 <th>39 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Salt Lake City <th>62 <th>39 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	62 <th>39 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	39 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Rain				
Boston	38	30	Cldy <td>El Paso</td> <td>70</td> <td>46</td> <th>Pcldy <td>Kansas City</td> <td>48</td> <td>44</td> <th>Cir <td>North Platte</td> <td>57</td> <td>39</td> <th>Cir <th>San Angelo <th>69 <th>55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th></th>	El Paso	70	46	Pcldy <td>Kansas City</td> <td>48</td> <td>44</td> <th>Cir <td>North Platte</td> <td>57</td> <td>39</td> <th>Cir <th>San Angelo <th>69 <th>55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th>	Kansas City	48	44	Cir <td>North Platte</td> <td>57</td> <td>39</td> <th>Cir <th>San Angelo <th>69 <th>55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th>	North Platte	57	39	Cir <th>San Angelo <th>69 <th>55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	San Angelo <th>69 <th>55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	69 <th>55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	55 <th>Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	Cir <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>				
Bridgport	29	27	Cldy <td>Elkins</td> <td>35</td> <td>23</td> <th>Cldy <td>Key West</td> <td>69</td> <td>60</td> <th>Pcldy <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>59</td> <td>52</td> <th>Rain</th> <th>San Antonio <th>71 <th>57 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Elkins	35	23	Cldy <td>Key West</td> <td>69</td> <td>60</td> <th>Pcldy <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>59</td> <td>52</td> <th>Rain</th> <th>San Antonio <th>71 <th>57 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Key West	69	60	Pcldy <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>59</td> <td>52</td> <th>Rain</th> <th>San Antonio <th>71 <th>57 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Oklahoma City	59	52	Rain	San Antonio <th>71 <th>57 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	71 <th>57 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	57 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Cir				
Brownsville	75	62	Cldy	Erie	36	30	Cldy <td>Knoxville</td> <td>50</td> <td>27</td> <th>Cir <td>Omaha</td> <td>45</td> <td>42</td> <th>Cir <th>San Diego <th>65 <th>54</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Knoxville	50	27	Cir <td>Omaha</td> <td>45</td> <td>42</td> <th>Cir <th>San Diego <th>65 <th>54</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Omaha	45	42	Cir <th>San Diego <th>65 <th>54</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	San Diego <th>65 <th>54</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	65 <th>54</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	54	Rain				
Buffalo	33	27	Cldy	Eugene	49	40	Rain	Lake Charles	67	49	Cir <td>Orlando</td> <td>66</td> <td>44</td> <th>Pcldy <th>San Francisco <th>61 <th>49</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Orlando	66	44	Pcldy <th>San Francisco <th>61 <th>49</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	San Francisco <th>61 <th>49</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	61 <th>49</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	49	Rain				
Burlington, Vt.	34	26	Snow <td>Evansville</td> <td>43</td> <td>32</td> <th>Cldy <td>Lansing</td> <td>39</td> <td>30</td> <th>Pcldy <td>Paducah</td> <td>46</td> <td>35</td> <th>Cir <th>San Jose <th>60 <th>41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th></th>	Evansville	43	32	Cldy <td>Lansing</td> <td>39</td> <td>30</td> <th>Pcldy <td>Paducah</td> <td>46</td> <td>35</td> <th>Cir <th>San Jose <th>60 <th>41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Lansing	39	30	Pcldy <td>Paducah</td> <td>46</td> <td>35</td> <th>Cir <th>San Jose <th>60 <th>41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Paducah	46	35	Cir <th>San Jose <th>60 <th>41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	San Jose <th>60 <th>41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	60 <th>41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	41 <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Rain				
Caribou, Maine	36	30	Snow <td>Fairbanks</td> <td>-4</td> <td>-15</td> <th>Cir</th> <td>Las Vegas</td> <td>56</td> <td>44</td> <th>Rain</th> <td>Pandeton</td> <td>47</td> <td>31</td> <th>Rain</th> <th>Santa Fe <th>55 <th>32 <th>Pcldy <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Fairbanks	-4	-15	Cir	Las Vegas	56	44	Rain	Pandeton	47	31	Rain	Santa Fe <th>55 <th>32 <th>Pcldy <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	55 <th>32 <th>Pcldy <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	32 <th>Pcldy <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	Pcldy <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>				
Casper, Wyo.	53	32	Pcldy	Fargo	42	32	Cldy <td>Lexington</td> <td>43</td> <td>30</td> <th>Cir</th> <td>Peoria</td> <td>42</td> <td>35</td> <th>Cir <th>St. Marie <th>49 <th>39 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Lexington	43	30	Cir	Peoria	42	35	Cir <th>St. Marie <th>49 <th>39 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	St. Marie <th>49 <th>39 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	49 <th>39 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	39 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	60	34	Cir	Flagstaff	49	31	Cir	Lincoln	50	42	Cir <td>Philadelphia</td> <td>42</td> <td>31</td> <th>Cir <th>Savannah <th>60 <th>33 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Philadelphia	42	31	Cir <th>Savannah <th>60 <th>33 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Savannah <th>60 <th>33 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	60 <th>33 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	33 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	42	27	Pcldy	Flint	38	29	Pcldy <td>Little Rock</td> <td>52</td> <td>42</td> <th>Cir <td>Phoenix</td> <td>77</td> <td>55</td> <th>Cir <th>Seattle <th>51 <th>43 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th></th>	Little Rock	52	42	Cir <td>Phoenix</td> <td>77</td> <td>55</td> <th>Cir <th>Seattle <th>51 <th>43 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Phoenix	77	55	Cir <th>Seattle <th>51 <th>43 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Seattle <th>51 <th>43 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	51 <th>43 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	43 <th>Cir</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	55	31	Cir	Fort Smith	54	47	Cldy <td>Los Angeles</td> <td>64</td> <td>52</td> <th>Rain <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>36</td> <td>26</td> <th>Cir <th>Shreveport <th>58 <th>48</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th></th>	Los Angeles	64	52	Rain <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>36</td> <td>26</td> <th>Cir <th>Shreveport <th>58 <th>48</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th></th>	Pittsburgh	36	26	Cir <th>Shreveport <th>58 <th>48</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th></th>	Shreveport <th>58 <th>48</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </th>	58 <th>48</th> <th>Rain</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>	48	Rain				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 82, at Yuma, Ariz.
Lo: Wed., 2, at Alamosa, Colo.



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		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Sandwich meat
 - 4 Rat's challenge
 - 8 Pleads
 - 12 Id counterpart
 - 13 Talon
 - 14 Between jobs
 - 15 Homeowner's payment
 - 17 Acute
 - 18 Spud's buds
 - 19 Reinforced, in a way
 - 20 Inline
 - 22 Emerald City visitor
 - 24 Inlet
 - 25 Actress Emily
 - 29 Time of your life?
 - 30 Long stories
 - 31 Praise in verse
 - 32 Casablanca denizen
 - 34 Plumbing problem
 - 35 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
 - 36 Singing ability (SL)
 - 37 Get more magazines
 - 40 Mediocre
 - 41 Branch-leaf angle
 - 42 Virtue
 - 46 NFL Hall-of-Famer Marchetti
 - 47 Microwave, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 Height of fashion?
 - 2 Back
 - 3 And
 - 4 "NCIS" techie
 - 5 "Sad to say..." phone
 - 7 Ram's mate
 - 8 Revealing swimwear
 - 9 Paradise
 - 10 Merriment
 - 11 Transmit
 - 16 Work at the keyboard
 - 19 Many, many
 - 20 Hoodwink
 - 21 Trademark symbol
 - 49 Undo a dele
 - 50 Test the waters
 - 51 Wildebeest
 - 22 Boston airport
 - 23 Mideast nation
 - 25 Spiked club
 - 26 Transforming via CGI
 - 27 Adams or Falco
 - 28 Congress folks
 - 30 Garbage barge
 - 33 Feral feline
 - 34 Use a rotary phone
 - 36 Flat surface
 - 37 Tatters
 - 38 Egress
 - 39 Baseball team
 - 40 Raised
 - 42 Do some yardwork
 - 43 Eggs
 - 44 X rating?
 - 45 Second person

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

12-12 CRYPTOQUIP

OE ERD SXAWOID BCEDPCDE
 WOQD, RSCHPK XOEPVCA OPD
 VQQDPDZ WYXIBYDCEOPK
 XBD O IO YVZDY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEFORE THE TROOPS
 ADVANCED TO BEG FOR HANDOUTS, THEIR
 SUPERIORS GAVE THEM MOOCHING ORDERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals A

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croyley, Managing Editor for Content
 croyley.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 wey.teddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)1631.365.1310; cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3-0885.5377; cell (080)583.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 +1(202)761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Fowler, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: +1(202)761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: +1(202)761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday (except for the Star Line). Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Stars and Stripes, Unit 45450, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Stars and Stripes, Unit 45450, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for reproduction in remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or sale without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014
 stripes.com

OPINION

Obama's envoy picks: bold, not beautiful

By JAMES GIBNEY
 Bloomberg News

The confirmation last week of two spectacularly unqualified political nominees to head U.S. embassies in two budding autocracies, Hungary and Argentina, prompted some predictable tut-tutting.

Sadly, President Barack Obama's approach to State Department appointments has deeper problems than garden-variety patronage. Political hirelings have been insinuated much lower into the department bureaucracy. And after trumpeting tough ethics rules, the administration has carved out loopholes for hiring former lobbyists and "special government employees" who can earn outside income while in their official posts. Never mind the impact this breach of boundaries has on Foreign Service officers' dreams of future policy greatness. It's a recipe for flawed, and potentially corrupt, policymaking.

Of course, even the uber-diplomatic George H.W. Bush had his undiplomatic appointments. My favorite: Peter Secchia, a Michigan building magnate who, before arriving to take up his post, Rome, said: "I saw the new Italian Navy. Its boats have glass bottoms so they can see the old Italian Navy."

The Obama administration, however, has taken the practice of bringing in the underqualified to new extremes, and not just because it's willing to send a soap opera producer, Colleen Bell, producer of the "Bold and the Beautiful" up against a Putin Mini-Me (Hungary's Viktor Orban). Since 2009, 35 percent of ambassadors have been political appointees, more than in the administrations of either George H.W. Bush (30 percent) or Bill Clinton (28 percent).

Political appointees have filled an efflo-

rescence of "special envoy" slots — more than 40 at last count, many of them created under Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Remember Ronan Farrow's great achievements as "Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues"? Didn't think so. There are also special envoys to Muslim communities, civil society, faith-based and community initiatives, global intergovernmental affairs, international information programs — each one a political appointee supplemented by sundry strap-hangers. Within established bureaus, according to the American Foreign Service Association, this administration has also made more mid-level management appointments than its predecessors. So-called "schedule B" employees — brought in from outside the Civil Service or the Foreign Service — more than tripled between 2008 and 2012.

Smart outsiders can bring valuable experience to an institution that John F. Kennedy once derided as "a bowl full of jelly" with "all those people who are constantly smiling." (Full disclosure: I smiled from 1989 to 1997.) Moreover, as the government studies guru James Q. Wilson observed, presidents like to sprinkle their own people throughout the government because they "see much of the bureaucracy as their natural enemy and are always searching for ways to bring it to heel."

But even assuming smart appointees, going too deep with them can backfire. According to the National Academy of Public Administration, the average appointee stays for only 2.5 years. All that churn can weaken institutional memory and operational skill. Special envoys short-circuit the policy process and sideline expertise.

Why not to create a new Arctic Council associate for whom you already have a whole Bureau of Ocean and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs?

Mandela ended apartheid, but not inequality

By BERNADETTE ATUAHENE

Nelson Mandela's selfless brand of leadership surprised the world and won him universal accolades during his lifetime. After being confined to Robben Island for most of his 27 years in prison, Mandela became South Africa's first black president, and his goal was always reconciliation rather than revenge. But now that we have had a year to mourn him, it's important to also begin to critically evaluate his legacy, including his role in converting the land and inequalities created under colonialism and apartheid.

Starting in the 18th century, colonial and apartheid governments systematically stole property from black South Africans and gave it to whites at nominal cost. As a result, when Mandela took office in 1994, whites owned about 87 percent of the land, although they constituted less than 10 percent of the population.

In a political bargain with the outgoing apartheid regime, Mandela and his party, the African National Congress, allowed whites to keep their property. This meant that even if, for instance, the apartheid government had forcibly removed a village of black people in order to sell their land to a white farmer at far less than its value, the farmer would retain clear title to that land post-apartheid. If the new government later decided to take the land and return it to its former owners, then the state would have to pay the white farmer just compensation.

In exchange for this sizable concession, blacks were promised land reform, which is outlined in South Africa's post-

apartheid Constitution. Millions of blacks who were robbed of ownership or tenancy rights after 1913 could file claims for compensation; those who never owned land could gain land through the redistribution program; and through tenure upgrading, blacks who were allowed to be tenants only under white rule became owners. The ANC's land reform goal was to redistribute 30 percent of the land in the first five years of the new democracy.

But if the promises sounded equitable in theory, in practice they have been far from fair. Only one side of the bargain has been upheld: South African whites kept their property, but blacks still have not received their respective market-based compensation in South Africa, and only 10 percent of the land has changed hands from whites back to blacks. Political apartheid may have ended, but economic apartheid lives on.

For a recent book, I interviewed 150 South African whites and was amazed during colonialism and apartheid and who received either money or land through the land restitution program. Their stories illuminate the ongoing injustice.

When the post-apartheid state expropriated land for redistributive purposes from current owners (who are mostly white), equity demands that black and white owners should either both receive symbol-

ic compensation or both receive market-related compensation. Whites should not continue to get higher rates of compensation than blacks.

Some argue that these inequalities exist because the ANC is corrupt. Although corruption is undoubtedly a problem, the bigger problem in this case is the injustice of the initial political bargain. White South Africans benefited immediately from the new policies with assurances that they had the right to keep their land or receive just compensation. Blacks, on the other hand, had to wait for institutions to be created and claims to be evaluated. And the programs established to benefit them were underfunded, because they had to compete with other urgent funding priorities such as the AIDS pandemic, a broken education system and spiraling crime rates.

Land reform is failing and land inequalities persist, in large part because of structural flaws in the political bargain that Mandela struck. The upside of the bargain was that it ensured South Africa transitioned from apartheid to democracy without massive bloodshed or economic disintegration. Mandela may well have chosen the best option available to him. But was the system fair? Hardly.

As we pay homage to Mandela on the first anniversary of his death, he should not be deified. He was a man forced to make hard choices, and he left a legacy of both reconciliation and inequality.

Bernadette Atuahene is a professor of law at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Kent, and is an author of the book "Land and Justice from South Africa's Land Restitution Program." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

James Gibney writes editorials on international affairs. He was previously features editor at the Atlantic, deputy editor at the New York Times on-ed page and executive editor at Foreign Policy magazine.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Putin's position poses threat Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who loves to strut on the world stage, appears intent on regaining his nation's lost stature. But the reality is that Russia is a nation in decline.

Global oil prices have tumbled to a five-year low, and Russia's ruble has fallen 40 percent against the dollar so far this year. Economists predict that inflation may soon reach 9 percent and continue climbing.

Even more serious for Putin, although likely to draw less attention from the Russian people, is another prediction by economists: Capital flight is expected to reach \$128 billion.

In other words, Russia has serious financial problems that Putin had not anticipated. It is something for which he is to blame, however.

"It is a completely new reality for him," said Sergei Guriev, an economist who chose exile last year.

"Whenever Russia wanted the oil price to go up, it has gone up," Guriev said. "He has always been lucky, and this time he is not lucky."

In the U.S. we have long worried about Russia's dependence on foreign oil. In Russia, there's an even more striking dependency on domestic oil production, which provides 60 percent of the nation's exports.

Though Americans may rejoice in the recent drop in prices at the gasoline pump, the resulting price repricing is a clear threat to Russia's economy and, if less directly, to Putin's stewardship. ... The West's big fear? That Putin may see war as a way out of his troubles. Then our present domestic worries would seem insignificant.

How torture report is patriotic Seattle Times

Torture is abhorrent to the American sensibility — especially when the perpetrator is America.

But if this is the nation it purports to be, America must press up to the revolting conclusions of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee's torture report presented Tuesday.

In its 500 page-inducing pages, the executive summary of the report details the CIA's campaign of secret and illegal "enhanced interrogation techniques" used on suspects detained following the 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon.

Among other things, detainees were subjected to the report's "waterboarding" practice of simulated drowning. One lost an eye, another died of hypothermia, and others were required to stand on broken legs or force-fed through a disturbing procedure called "rectal rehydration."

These revelations become more deplorable as the report's conclusion that the CIA misled Congress and the White House about its program, and that none of the barbarism led to information that kept Americans safe.

The cringe-worthy sadism done in the name of national security ranks among America's most heinous contraventions of its laws. At the same time, President Barack Obama has yet to fulfill his 2008 campaign promise to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility where some torture took place.

But the nation's saving grace comes in its historic insistence on admitting to its mistakes.



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

People hold anti-immigration reform signs as President Barack Obama arrives in Nashville, Tenn., on Tuesday to speak about his recent executive actions on immigration.

"One of the things that sets us apart from other countries is that when we make mistakes, we admit them." Obama told TV network Telemundo on Tuesday.

The nation admitted to 144 years of gender-based voter discrimination when it ratified women's suffrage in 1920. It took 134 years after abolition for an apology for slavery in 1997. And it took two years for the U.S. government to acknowledge in the midst of the Vietnam War that U.S. soldiers slaughtered hundreds of unarmed civilians in the My Lai massacre in 1968.

Only when the country acknowledges such mistakes and holds itself to the moral standards it preaches globally can it truly claim to be the great nation politicians casually profess it to be.

No excuse of Nashville snub Paris (Tenn.) Post-Intelligencer

The sad thing about President Barack Obama's visit Tuesday to Nashville was the complete politicization of the occasion.

The president of the nation comes to town for a speech, and the governor doesn't even show up. Neither do our U.S. senators.

Why this snub? The governor and our two senators are Republicans, and party loyalty is more important than official niceties these days.

Once upon a time, any official of any importance would consider it mandatory to welcome the president to town. Political differences were put off for the time being. No longer.

The only dignitaries present on Tuesday were Democrats. The occasion turned into a partisan rally. About the only Republicans who turned out were protesters bearing anti-Obama signs.

A show of official courtesy would be to automatic on such occasions. If the president happened to make any critical remarks, the response was to grin and bear it. After all, he's the elected leader of the nation. Politics were to be played out in Congress.

Now it's politics from day one, politics now and forever. Our nation is the worse for it.

Suits won't stop file sharing Los Angeles Times

The entertainment industry spent years suing Internet users, file-sharing companies and websites over illegal music and movie downloading while the companies that make high-speed downloads possible — broadband providers such as Time Warner Cable and AT&T — watched from the sidelines. That showed last week, when music publishers BMG Rights Management and Record Hill Music sued one of the country's larger Internet service providers, cable TV operator Cox Communications, for not cutting off customers accused repeatedly of illegal file sharing. The publishers are right to expect Cox to help fight piracy, but the courts should resist their

attempt to turn ISPs into bare-knuckled enforcers.

The publishers' lawsuit is based on the 1998 Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which absolves ISPs from liability for their users' copyright violations if they meet certain conditions. According to the publishers' complaint, Cox failed to comply with the law's requirement to implement a policy cutting off repeat infringers of its users. The publishers say their anti-piracy contractor, Rightscope, notified Cox of millions of infringements on roughly 200,000 Cox accounts, yet the accounts have remained open "without consequence."

Rightscope monitors file-sharing networks, then threatens legal action against those whose broadband accounts were allegedly used for piracy unless they pay a small fine. In other words, it seeks a cheaper, easier way to enforce copyrights than rights holders can obtain through the courts and their pesky due-process rules. Its aim, each word says, is to ensure ISPs don't identify the account holders, and they're under no legal obligation to do so unless the copyright owner has filed suit.

The larger question raised by the publishers' lawsuit is: At what point do ISPs have to disconnect subscribers whose accounts are used repeatedly to violate copyrights? Yet BMG, Record Hill Music and Cox don't need to answer that to make headway against piracy. The Copyright Alert System jointly developed by the major movie studios, record labels and largest ISPs doesn't threaten to cut off anyone's Internet access, but it does send out warnings and take increasingly intrusive steps to prod broadband subscribers to stop piracy. The system sent out more than 2 million warning letters to users in its first year, and the vast majority responded by stopping the infringements in short order.

Cox has a similar "graduated response" system, but it lacks the clarity and standardization of the other ISPs' effort. Rather than trying to impose new rules through the courts, the publishers should join Cox in making the existing warning system work for all concerned.

Income inequality kills growth Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Americans should be pleased at November's job figures released last Friday, which showed 321,000 new positions created and average weekly earnings for ordinary employees up 0.7 percent.

At the same time, the unemployment rate stayed stubbornly at 5.8 percent and a scalding report released Tuesday by a global economic think tank, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, underscored the negative relationship between income inequality and economic growth.

With the 34 member countries of the organization, the richest 10 percent earned

9.5 times as much as the poorest 10 percent. That compares with seven times as much in the 1980s. The report said the rich-poor gap is now the largest in 30 years.

The OECD estimates that the United States lost 6 to 7 percentage points in economic growth over that period due to income disparity. The report gauges that the economy of the United Kingdom would have grown an additional 20 percent if the income gap, enhanced by so-called "trickle-down" economic policies, had not worsened. A primary reason is the additional income, put in the hands of the rich by government policy, did not, in fact, trickle down.

As to November's U.S. jobs numbers, it still cannot be said that the country is experiencing a rapid recovery from the recession which started in 2007. One reason for the slowness of the turnaround is the chronic stagnation in middle-class wages. That leads to pallid personal consumption, which is the core of the U.S. economy.

The OECD prescription for income inequality is, first, higher taxes on those with greater incomes to pay a larger share of a country's expenses and, second, policies to raise the standard of living for the lower 40 percent on the income scale. If OECD's contention is correct that closing the wage gap would produce a bigger economic pie for everyone, then the policy change makes perfect sense.

An Obamacare success story San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

As Republicans in Congress gear up in January for their most aggressive attack yet on President Barack Obama's health care reforms, here's something they probably won't mention: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced last week that U.S. health care spending grew just 3.6 percent in 2013.

That's the slowest growth rate on record since 1960 and the fifth straight year of low health spending growth. It's also less than half the average annual increase during President George W. Bush's eight years in office.

The Affordable Care Act isn't the whole reason. Continued recovery from the recession helps. But the drop in health insurance premium growth from 4 percent in 2012 to 2.8 percent last year indicates the president's reforms are working as planned.

That's just one measure of success. Here's another: The number of uninsured Americans has dropped from 21 percent to 13 percent of the population in just the past year. And that's before the upcoming enrollment period, when more citizens are expected to join the insured.

As to the charge that if the ACA went into effect, it would stifle medical innovation in the United States: The pharmaceutical industry announced that it would drop drug launches in 2013 than in any of the past 10 years.

These facts are extremely important since Democrats lost control of the Senate. With Republicans in charge of both houses of Congress, it's expected to be even bolder in striking the president's chief domestic legacy regardless of its successes.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., is expected to lead the charge to end the individual mandate, which Obama reluctantly accepted to help make the financing work. Republicans are also expected to require that employers with more than 50 full-time workers offer some form of health care insurance or pay a fine. If nothing else, the GOP wants to force the president into a veto of two of the least popular aspects of the Affordable Care Act.

While the 34 member countries of the organization, the richest 10 percent earned

NHL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NHL roundup

Ducks win 5th straight

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Ducks' roster is an injury-plagued mess, and they haven't won a game by more than one goal in nearly seven weeks.

The Ducks are still leading the entire NHL, thanks to a team-wide tenacity that the Edmonton Oilers just couldn't match.

Matt Beleskey scored his 14th goal and Frederik Andersen made 21 saves in Anaheim's fifth consecutive victory, 2-1 over the spiraling Oilers on Wednesday night.

Ryan Kesler also scored for the Ducks, who held off last-place Edmonton's late charge for their eighth win in 10 games. Anaheim (9-6-5) is three points ahead of Detroit in the overall standings despite the absence of top goal-scorer Corey Perry, who has the club's latest major injury.

"We have a lot of good players on this team, and experience makes players better," said Kesler, who has 10 goals in 30 games with his new team. "When guys go down, guys have opportunities, and they make the most of it. We don't let much define us in here when we deal with adversity — or the numps."

The Ducks' last 12 victories were by just one goal.

Maple Leafs 2, Red Wings 1 (SO): Mike Santorelli scored his team's second shootout goal, and visiting Toronto beat Detroit.

Santorelli, the Maple Leafs' third shooter, got the puck past Jimmy Howard to lift Toronto to its third straight win and even the season series with its Atlantic Division rival.

Tyler Bozak also had a shootout goal for Toronto. Pavel Datsyuk netted the lone goal for the Red Wings in the tiebreaker.

Detroit broke a scoreless tie late in the second period when Tomas Jurco flicked a rebound of his shot to Gustav Nyquist, who spun and wristed the puck past puny goalie James Reimer.

Toronto made it 1-1 early in the third when Phil Kessel tapped in James van Riemsdyk's centering pass for his 15th goal.

Reimer made 41 saves. Howard stopped 18 shots.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	25	17	8	3	39	172
Tampa Bay	29	18	8	3	39	101
Montreal	30	18	9	3	38	77
Toronto	28	16	9	3	35	95
Boston	28	11	13	3	25	81
Florida	26	11	18	7	29	58
Ottawa	27	11	11	5	27	74
Buffalo	26	10	13	3	22	68

Metropolitan Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	28	19	9	0	39	88
N.Y. Islanders	28	19	9	0	38	79
Washington	29	18	9	2	38	74
N.Y. Rangers	26	13	10	4	28	77
New Jersey	29	11	13	5	27	68
Philadelphia	27	10	13	4	23	70
Columbus	27	10	15	2	22	64
Carolina	27	9	16	3	20	59

Western Conference

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	28	19	8	1	39	88
Nashville	28	18	8	2	38	73
St. Louis	28	18	8	2	38	80
Winnipeg	29	15	9	5	35	69
Minnesota	26	15	10	1	31	75
Dallas	28	10	13	5	25	81
Colorado	29	10	13	6	24	92

Pacific Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	29	18	9	2	43	87
Vancouver	29	18	9	2	38	88
Calgary	29	17	10	2	36	90
San Jose	30	15	11	4	34	88
Los Angeles	28	14	9	5	33	72
Arizona	29	10	15	4	23	66
Edmonton	29	7	17	5	19	83

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

Tuesday's games
 Chicago 3, New Jersey 2, SO
 Columbus 3, Philadelphia 2, OT
 Buffalo 1, Los Angeles 0
 Toronto 2, Vancouver 1
 Washington 5, Tampa Bay 3
 Minnesota 5, N.Y. Islanders 4
 Winnipeg 5, Dallas 2
 Nashville 3, Colorado 0
 San Jose 5, Edmonton 2

Wednesday's games
 Toronto 2, St. Louis 0
 Anaheim 2, Edmonton 1

Thursday's games
 Chicago at Boston
 Calgary at Buffalo
 New Jersey at Philadelphia
 Columbus at Washington
 Los Angeles at Ottawa
 Carolina at Tampa Bay
 N.Y. Islanders at St. Louis
 Winnipeg at Colorado
 Nashville at Arizona
 Minnesota at San Jose

Friday's games
 Calgary at Pittsburgh
 Los Angeles at Montreal
 Florida at Detroit
 Anaheim at Edmonton

Wednesday
Maple Leafs 2, Red Wings 1 (SO)
 Toronto 1, Detroit 0
 Detroit 0, Toronto 1

Toronto won shootout 2-1
Second Period: 1. Detroit, Nyquist 13 (Jurco, Zetterberg), 17:52.

Third Period: 2. Toronto, Kessel 15 (van Riemsdyk, Bozak), 5:09.

Shootout: Toronto 2 (Bozak, G. Lupul, N. Santorelli) 0, Detroit (Datsyuk, G. Nyquist, NG, Fatar), NG.

Powerplay opportunities: Toronto 0 of 4; Detroit 0 of 4. Reimer: 5-30 (42 shots, 3 saves). Detroit, Howard: 13-5 (19, 18).

A- 20:027 (20:027). T=2:40.

Ducks 2, Oilers 1
 Edmonton 0, Oilers 1
 Anaheim 0, Oilers 1

First Period: 1. Anaheim, Beleskey 14 (Pavol, Raskell), 8:59 (opt).

Second Period: 2. Anaheim, Kesler 10 (Lidstrom, Anderson), 10:26.

Third Period: 3. Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 7, 25.
 Anaheim 15-12-7-34.
Shootout: Anaheim-Edmonton 0-0
 0 of 2; Anaheim 1 of 4.

Powerplay opportunities: Anaheim 1 of 4 (4 shots-32 saves). Anaheim, Andersen: 15-4 (22-21).
 Edmonton, Reimer: 5-30 (42 shots-32 saves). (17:174). T=2:25.

AP Top 25 roundup

Unranked Columbia gives No. 1 Wildcats tough test

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Top-ranked Kentucky was so startled by Columbia's fast start that the Wildcats still weren't sure what to make of it even after they seized the tempo and eventually the outcome.

After all, Kentucky hadn't faced a double-digit deficit this season until the Ivy Leaguers scored the first 11 points Wednesday night. But the Wildcats recovered for a 56-46 victory in a game that served more as a wakeup call than the tuneup they sought for Saturday's showdown against No. 21 North Carolina.

"At tipoff, we were down 11-0 and the guys were kind of deflated," Kentucky freshman forward Trey Lyles said after scoring seven points and grabbing 10 rebounds.

"They came in, played well and hit shots. We had to fight from behind for the majority of the game, but we came out, played as a team and got the win."

Kentucky still trailed at halftime and finally shook off its slow start to finally take a lead it never relinquished despite some tense moments at the end.

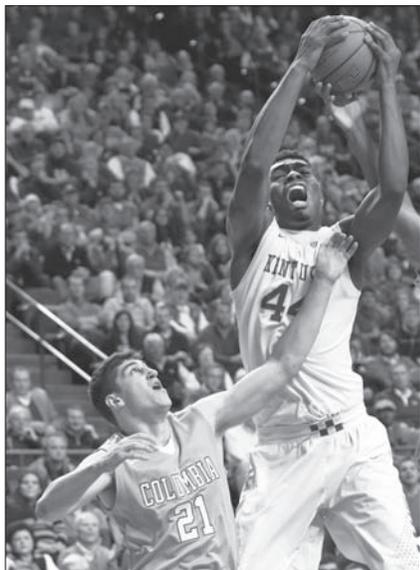
In a college basketball season already marked by several big upsets, the Wildcats (10-0) got their toughest challenge yet from the pesky Lions. Columbia led for nearly 27 minutes before Aaron Harrison and Co. took control.

Set to face UNC, UCLA and Louisville in their next three games, the Wildcats had trouble from the outset against Columbia (5-3).

No. 5 Wisconsin 93, Milwaukee 54: Frank Kaminsky scored 18 points and Sam Dekker added 17 as the visiting Badgers extended their dominance over the in-state rival Panthers.

No. 9 Gonzaga 81, Washington State 66: Przemek Karnowski tied a career high with 22 points and the host Bulldogs beat the Cougars.

No. 10 Kansas 75, Georgetown 70: Brannen Greene went 5-for-5 from three-point range and scored a career-high 19 points as the visiting Jayhawks made a basketball statement, even as Hoyas players were making a



JAMES CRISP/AP

Kentucky's Dakari Johnson, top, pulls down a rebound next to Columbia's Noah Springwater during the second half of Wednesday's game in Lexington, Ky. Kentucky won 56-46.

societal statement by wearing "I CAN'T BREATHE" T-shirts for the national anthem.

No. 12 Ohio State 97, High Point 43: Kam Williams scored a career-high 23 points, including 13 in a row for the host Buckeyes in the first half against the Panthers.

No. 13 Utah 65, BYU 61: Delon Wright had 16 points and 11 rebounds to help the visiting Utes beat the Cougars.

No. 18 San Diego State 60, Long Beach State 59: Dwayne Dickinson 52; D'Angelo Harrison scored 26 points and Phil Greene IV had 16 to lead the host Red Storm past the Knights.

the 49ers.

No. 19 Maryland 67, NC Central 56: Richard Pask scored 17 points, Jake Layman added 15 and the host Terrapins took control in the first half before coasting past the Eagles.

No. 23 Northern Iowa 65, Denver 55: Seth Tuttle had 12 points and Deon Mitchell scored nine of his 11 in the first half, when the visiting Panthers missed only two shots from the floor against the Pioneers.

No. 24 St. John's 74, Fairleigh Dickinson 52: D'Angelo Harrison scored 26 points and Phil Greene IV had 16 to lead the host Red Storm past the Knights.

YOUR low price JOURNEY STARTS HERE

\$70

GET A **MICHELIN VISA® PREPAID CARD**

WHEN YOU BUY ANY SET OF 4 MICHELIN TIRES.

ONLINE OR MAIL-IN REBATE. VALID 12/16/14 THROUGH 12/20/14.

FREE SAME-DAY SHIPPING!

For most orders. Some restrictions apply.

DISCOUNT TIRE DIRECT

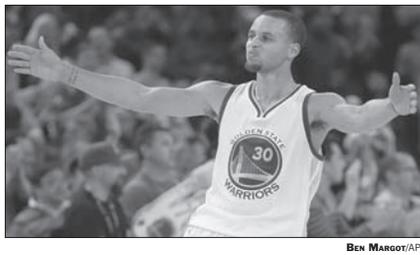
discountiredirect.com

888-459-4058

602-735-1800

M-F: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. SAT: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST

NBA



Ben Margot/AP

The Warriors' Stephen Curry celebrates a basket against the Rockets on Wednesday. The Warriors won 105-93.

Roundup

Warriors extend win streak to 14

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Steve Kerr knew he had a lot of expectations on him after taking over a Golden State Warriors team that Mark Jackson led to a 51-win season and back-to-back playoff appearances.

In less than two months, Kerr has built on his predecessor's success and eclipsed every rookie coach that came before him.

Klay Thompson and Stephen Curry shook off slow starts to finish with a flurry, and the Warriors extended their franchise-best winning streak to 14 games by beating the Houston Rockets 105-93 on Wednesday night.

Golden State improved its NBA-leading record to 19-2 and helped Kerr carve out a slice of history. Kerr became the first rookie coach to win 19 of his first 21 games.

"It means I'm the luckiest coach in NBA history," Kerr said. "Because I inherited a team that was already really good."

And apparently made them even better.

Thompson scored 21 points and Curry added 20 points, seven assists and seven rebounds to power an 11-0 run in the final minutes and turn a tight game into another comfortable win. About the only thing Kerr said he could complain about was the postage mail, and he even laughed that off.

"You just want to pile up wins in the West," Kerr said. "Keep putting some numbers in the win column because being 61 games left."

James Harden played through back pain to finish with 34 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets, who had won four straight and seven of eight despite center Dwight Howard being sidelined.

"They attacked us off the dribble and we didn't handle that very well," Rockets coach Kevin McHale said. "They got some open stuff, and when they went small, it bothered us."

Hawks 95, 76ers 79: Kyle Korver and Paul Millsap each

scored 17 points, and both Atlanta earned its eighth straight victory — the Hawks' longest winning streak in 17 years.

Korver sank five 3-pointers as Atlanta (15-6) posted its best streak since an 11-0 start to the 1997-98 season.

Spurs 109, Knicks 95: Marco Belinelli scored a season-high 22 points and short-handed host San Antonio rolled to its 10th straight.

Hornets 96, Celtics 87: Al Jefferson had 23 points and 14 rebounds, and both Charlotte withstood Boston's fourth-quarter rally to win.

Wizards 91, Magic 89: Bradley Beal converted a lob pass at the buzzer to lift visiting Washington over Orlando.

Clippers 103, Pacers 96: Jannar Crawford scored 18 points and DeAndre Jordan grabbed a season-high 19 rebounds, helping Los Angeles hold off Indiana for its ninth straight win.

Bulls 105, Nets 80: Derrick Rose scored 23 points, Pau Gasol had 16 points and 16 rebounds for host Chicago.

Chicago had six players score in double figures, including all five starters.

Mavericks 112, Pelicans 107: Monta Ellis scored 13 of his 26 points in the final 5 minutes, and host Dallas outlasted New Orleans.

Timberwolves 90, Trail Blazers 82: Andrew Wiggins had 23 points, 10 rebounds and four assists, and host Minnesota stunned Portland.

Corey Brewer had 19 points, eight rebounds, five assists, and five steals for the Timberwolves, who snapped a six-game losing streak.

Nuggets 102, Heat 82: Wilson Chandler scored 17 points and Arron Afflalo had 16 to snap a four-game losing streak.

Chris Bosh had 14 points to lead Miami, which has dropped four of its last five on the road after starting the season 5-2 away from home.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	16	7	70.0	0	
Brooklyn	8	12	40.0	7	
Boston	7	12	36.9	8	
New York	4	20	16.7	11	
Philadelphia	1	25	0.95	13 1/2	

Southeast Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	15	6	71.4	—	
Washington	10	11	47.6	5 1/2	
Miami	10	12	45.5	5 1/2	
Orlando	7	15	31.6	9	
Charlotte	6	15	28.6	9	

Central Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	14	6	69.0	—	
Chicago	13	8	61.9	1 1/2	
Milwaukee	11	12	47.6	4 1/2	
Indiana	7	15	31.8	7 1/2	
Detroit	3	19	13.6	11	

Western Conference					
Southwest Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	17	4	81.0	—	
San Antonio	16	6	72.7	1 1/2	
Dallas	17	7	70.8	1 1/2	
New Orleans	15	11	57.7	4 1/2	

Northwest Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Portland	17	4	77.3	—	
Denver	10	12	45.5	7 1/2	
Oklahoma City	11	12	47.9	7 1/2	
Utah	6	16	27.3	11 1/2	
Minnesota	16	6	72.8	1 1/2	

Pacific Division					
Team	W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	19	2	90.5	—	
L.A. Clippers	12	9	56.8	7 1/2	
Phoenix	12	10	54.5	7 1/2	
Sacramento	11	11	49.1	8 1/2	
L.A. Lakers	6	16	27.3	13 1/2	

Tuesday's games					
Portland 105, Toronto 91					
New Orleans 104, New York 93					
Oklahoma City 114, Milwaukee 101					
Memphis 104, Houston 95					
Miami 103, Phoenix 93					
Utah 100, San Antonio 96					
L.A. Lakers 98, Sacramento 95					

Wednesday's games					
Washington 91, Orlando 86					
Clippers 103, Indiana 96					
Atlanta 96, Boston 87					
Charlotte 95, Philadelphia 79					
Orlando 95, Brooklyn 80					
Dallas 112, New Orleans 107					
Minnesota 90, Portland 82					
San Antonio 109, Heat 95					
Golden State 105, Houston 93					
Denver 102, Miami 82					

Thursday's games					
Cleveland at Oklahoma City					
Portland at Sacramento					

Friday's games					
Oklahoma City at Washington					
Orlando at Atlanta					
Indiana at Toronto					
New York at Boston					
San Antonio at Brooklyn					
Cleveland at New Orleans					
Charlotte at Memphis					
Oklahoma City at Minnesota					
Detroit at Phoenix					
Miami at Utah					
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio					

Wednesday					
Hornets 96, Celtics 87					
BOSTON — Green 6-12-16, Sullinger 2-10-0-5, Tzelzer 6-11-13, Rondo 6-11-0-12, Bradley 2-0-0-0, Alford 4-7-2-3, Turner 4-0-0-0, Smart 2-0-0-0, Bass 5-9-7-0, Thornton 2-0-0-0, Pressey 1-1-0-0, Totals 38-87					

Thursday					
Bulls 105, Nets 80					
CHICAGO — Henderson 3-9-0-0, C. Zeller 3-6-3-9, Jefferson 3-15-6-23, Walker 5-14-7-18, Stephenson 6-14-1-2, Alford 2-10-0-0, G. Odom 2-10-0-0, Gasol 3-1-3-8, Biyombo 10-0-2-2, Neal 1-9-1-2, Rondo 2-4-0-0-0, Totals 92-80					

Friday					
Wizards 91, Magic 89					
WASHINGTON — Pierce 2-10-0-0-8, Humphries 5-12-1-11, Gortat 5-9-0-10, Wall 10-17-0-21, Beal 4-8-0-9, Butler 2-1-2-6, Nene 6-8-0-0, Odom 2-1-2-1, Porter 2-3-1-2-5, Seraphin 4-8-0-8, Totals 89-91					

Saturday					
Orlando 95, Trail Blazers 82					
ORLANDO — Henson 3-11-1-5, Frye 4-8-2-13, Odom 2-10-0-0, Pressey 2-1-0-0, 2-17, Fountain 3-5-0-7, Desmond 2-2-2-6, Payton 15-0-1-2, Nicholson 9-10-0-0, Starks 3-8-4-9-8, Totals 95-82					

Sunday					
Wizards 91, Magic 89					
WASHINGTON — Pierce 2-10-0-0-8, Humphries 5-12-1-11, Gortat 5-9-0-10, Wall 10-17-0-21, Beal 4-8-0-9, Butler 2-1-2-6, Nene 6-8-0-0, Odom 2-1-2-1, Porter 2-3-1-2-5, Seraphin 4-8-0-8, Totals 89-91					



PHILAN M. ERENACK/AP

Wizards guard Bradley Beal tipped in the game-winning basket as time expired Wednesday against Orlando. The Wizards won 91-89.

Bulls 105, Nets 80					
BROOKLYN — Anderson 5-10-0-12, Garnett 6-5-1-12, Plumlee 3-11-2-5-8, Williams 5-15-6-17, Karasev 3-8-0-0-6, Jordan 3-7-4-10, Jefferson 2-6-0-4, Jack 1-5-5-7, Bogdanovic 0-5-0-0, Brown 4-1-1-3, Gutierrez 0-0-0-0, Totals 29-88					

Clippers 103, Pacers 96					
L.A. CLIPPERS — Barnes 4-8-2-11, Griffin 7-17-3-14, Jordan 5-8-2-12, Redick 3-11-0-16, Paul 7-16-3-17, Crawford 7-12-2-18, Hawes 2-0-0-5, Frazier 2-5-0-5, Turkoglu 0-1-0-0, Davis 13-0-0-2, West 2-8-8-12-14,10-3					

Hawks 95, 76ers 79					
PHILADELPHIA — Mamba 5-10-5-12, Noel 3-7-2-8, Sims 0-3-1-2-1, Carter 0-0-0-0, Frazier 0-0-0-0, Totals 30-73-13-22-79					

Warriors 105, Rockets 93					
HOUSTON — Ariza 2-10-0-0, Motiejunas 8-17-2-14, Black 3-0-0-6, Harden 14-27-3-4, Beverley 15-15-0-12, Johnson 2-2-0-0, Brooks 1-0-0-0, P. J. Tucker 1-0-0-0, Daniels 0-1-0-0, Capela 0-1-0-0, Totals 93-105					

Spurs 109, Knicks 95					
NEW YORK — Hardaway Jr. 9-18-1-23, Acy 3-2-2, Stoudemire 4-6-0-8, Calderon 1-4-0-2, Shumpert 4-6-0-8, Dalembert 1-1-0-2, Ja Smith 5-0-4-14, Carlson 2-2-2-3, Chandler 1-0-0-0, Mozil 3-5-0-6, Aldrich 4-7-2-10, Totals 37-76					

San Antonio					
SAN ANTONIO — Anderson 4-5-0-9, Bonner 4-5-1-20, Baynes 1-4-8-8-10, Johnson 3-2-0-0, G. Smith 3-9-0-7, Bellamy 6-13-7-22, Diaw 5-0-0-12, Ayres 5-1-2-11, Davis 1-1-0-0, L. Brown 1-0-0-0, Totals 37-73-25-30-109					

Portland					
PORTLAND — Batum 1-6-2-25, Aldridge 3-14-3-10, Lopez 4-8-0-8, Lillard 9-24-3-22, Matthews 7-1-0-0-18, Blake 0-1-0-0, K. Anderson 4-0-0-0, McCollum 4-0-0-0, Freeman 0-0-0-0, Robinson 1-1-0-0, Wright 0-0-0-0, Totals 34-82-18-27-109					

Mavericks 112, Pelicans 107					
NEW ORLEANS — Babbitt 7-0-0-5, Davis 12-13-0-0, Anderson 4-10-10, Brewer 2-2-0-0, Evans 4-11-0-0, Cunningham 2-2-0-0, Henderson 3-4-0-0, Johnson 1-0-0-0, M. Williams 6-16-11-21, Totals 107-112					

New Orleans					
NEW ORLEANS — 15-27-29-107					

Miami					
MIAMI — Deng 5-10-2-14, Heat 82					

San Antonio					
SAN ANTONIO — Anderson 4-5-0-9, Bonner 4-5-1-20, Baynes 1-4-8-8-10, Johnson 3-2-0-0, G. Smith 3-9-0-7, Bellamy 6-13-7-22, Diaw 5-0-0-12, Ayres 5-1-2-11, Davis 1-1-0-0, L. Brown 1-0-0-0, Totals 37-73-25-30-109					

Portland					
PORTLAND — Batum 1-6-2-25, Aldridge 3-14-3-10, Lopez 4-8-0-8, Lillard 9-24-3-22, Matthews 7-1-0-0, K. Anderson 4-0-0-0, McCollum 4-0-0-0, Freeman 0-0-0-0, Robinson 1-1-0-0, Wright 0-0-0-0, Totals 34-82-18-27-109					

Mavericks 112, Pelicans 107					
NEW ORLEANS — Babbitt 7-0-0-5, Davis 12-13-0-0, Anderson 4-10-10, Brewer 2-2-0-0, Evans 4-11-0-0, Cunningham 2-2-0-0, Henderson 3-4-0-0, Johnson 1-0-0-0, M. Williams 6-16-11-21, Totals 107-112					

New Orleans					
NEW ORLEANS — 15-27-29-107					

Miami					
MIAMI — Deng 5-10-2-14, Heat 82					

San Antonio					
SAN ANTONIO — Anderson 4-5-0-9, Bonner 4-5-1-20, Baynes 1-4-8-8-10, Johnson 3-2-0-0, G. Smith 3-9-0-7, Bellamy 6-13-7-22, Diaw 5-0-0-12, Ayres 5-1-2-11, Davis 1-1-0-0, L. Brown 1-0-0-0, Totals 37-73-25-30-109					

Portland					
PORTLAND — Batum 1-6-2-25, Aldridge 3-14-3-10, Lopez 4-8-0-8, Lillard 9-24-3-22, Matthews 7-1-0-0, K. Anderson 4-0-0-0, McCollum 4-0-0-0, Freeman 0-0-0-0, Robinson 1-1-0-0, Wright 0-0-0-0, Totals 34-82-18-27-109					

Mavericks 112, Pelicans 107					
NEW ORLEANS — Babbitt 7-0-0-5, Davis 12-13-0-0, Anderson 4-10-10, Brewer 2-2-0-0, Evans 4-11-0-0, Cunningham 2-2-0-0, Henderson 3-4-0-0, Johnson 1-0-0-0, M. Williams 6-16-11-21, Totals 107-112					

SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

Briefly

McCoy on track to start vs. Giants

The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — Washington Redskins coach Jay Gruden says Colt McCoy has had a "positive" recovery from a neck injury and is on pace to start this week against the New York Giants.

Gruden said McCoy "looked fine" at practice Thursday. McCoy will seek a final clearance at a doctor's appointment Friday, but the coach says he expects McCoy to get the go-ahead to play.

McCoy sprained his neck when he was sacked in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 27-0 loss to the St. Louis Rams.

Gruden said Robert Griffin III will start if McCoy can't.

Gruden could have gone with Griffin anyway, but the coach said McCoy is "in the lead" among the three quarterbacks who have started for the Redskins this season.

The Redskins are 3-10 and have lost five straight.

In other NFL news:

■ Panthers coach Ron Rivera said Wednesday that quarterback Cam Newton will not play Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, allowing him a chance to begin recovering from an automobile crash that left him with two fractures in his lower back.

Source: Tulsa hires Baylor coordinator

A person familiar with the deal tells The Associated Press that Tulsa is close to an agreement to hire Baylor offensive coordinator Phillip Montgomery as its head coach.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because a deal had not been completed.

Montgomery has been calling the plays for one of the most prolific offenses in college football. Baylor is the only team in FBS to be ranked in the top four in the country in total offense each of the last four seasons.

The 42-year-old Texan has spent most of his career as an assistant to Baylor coach Art Briles, first at Stephenville (Texas) High School and then at Houston (2003-07) and Baylor.

Tulsa fired Bill Blankenship earlier this month after the Golden Hurricane went 2-10.

PETA wants Nebraska player punished

LINCOLN, Neb. — The president of an animal rights group wants Nebraska athletic director Shawn Eichorst to punish a football player for hitting a raccoon that bit him during his attempt to take a picture of himself with the animal.

Jack Gangwish spotted the raccoon on the side of a road near Lincoln on Dec. 3 and stopped to take a selfie. When Gangwish approached, the raccoon bit him on the calf. Gangwish used a wrench

from his truck to kill the raccoon. PETA's president Ingrid Newkirk wrote to Eichorst: "It's time for acts of cruelty to animals committed by players to be taken extremely seriously, and with violence in football culture now under the microscope, this is the time to address the issue."

Hawks hire team's first diversity officer

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Hawks on Thursday hired Nzinga Shaw as the team's first chief diversity and inclusion officer.

The Hawks said Shaw will guide Hawks executives "so that they can engender inclusivity in every facet of the business." She will report directly to Hawks chief executive officer Steve Koonin.

The hiring follows racially charged comments by owner Bruce Levenson and general manager Danny Ferry, which were revealed before the season. Levenson is selling his majority share of the team, and Ferry has taken an indefinite leave of absence.

Shaw said one of her goals is to help rebuild the Atlanta community's trust in the team.

Shaw said she will be part of the team, Shaw said the Hawks can rebuild trust by "emphasizing civility and sportsmanship in an effort to ensure that everyone can be a fan of the team, attend home games, and so that we can serve as a model for inclusion in the NBA."

Cyclones' Dejean-Jones arrested

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State star Bryce Dejean-Jones was arrested and charged with multiple misdemeanors Thursday after police were called to his apartment at a complaint about too much noise.

Ames police spokesman Geoff Huff said Dejean-Jones was arrested around 3 a.m. after officers executed a search warrant because they said they smelled and later found marijuana inside his apartment. Dejean-Jones was charged with gathering where marijuana is used, a serious misdemeanor, and two simple misdemeanors: a nuisance party and noise ordinance violation.

Story County Attorney Stephen Holmstedt of The Associated Press, the net charge was dismissed by a judge in Dejean-Jones's initial court appearance for a lack of probable cause. The other charges were pending.

Iowa State spokesman Matt Shoultz said the Cyclones were still recovering from the incident and had no immediate comment.

Dejean is a fifth-year senior in his first and only season with the Cyclones after transferring from UNLV. He is the latest transfer to become a star under coach Fred Hoiberg, averaging 17.1 points and 6.9 rebounds in a game for the 14th-ranked Cyclones.



WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP

The Red Sox have agreed to trade outfielder Yoenis Cespedes, above, to the Tigers for pitcher Rick Porcello, according to a person familiar with the negotiations. Right-handed pitching prospect Alex Wilson also will go to Detroit as part of the trade, the person said Thursday.

MLB briefs

Red Sox send Cespedes to Tigers for P Porcello

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Boston Red Sox have traded outfielder Yoenis Cespedes to the Detroit Tigers for pitcher Rick Porcello.

Pitchers Alex Wilson and Gabe Speier also went to Detroit as part of the trade, which the Tigers announced Thursday.

The Red Sox acquired Cespedes in July in the deal that sent Jon Lester to Oakland. Cespedes finished the year with a .260 average, 22 home runs and 100 RBIs.

The 29-year-old Cespedes gives Detroit another power-hitting presence in the middle of its lineup, along with Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez, but the Cuban slugger came at a significant price. Porcello does not turn 26 until later this month, and he is coming off a season in which he set career bests with 15 wins, a 3.43 ERA and 204 1/3 innings pitched.

Cespedes and Porcello could both be free agents after this season. Cespedes will make \$10.5 million in 2015. Porcello is arbitration eligible after making \$8.5 million this year.

Detroit already made one addition to its outfield this offseason, acquiring speedy center fielder Anthony Gose from Toronto. Cespedes joins a group of outfielders that also includes J.D. Martinez and Rajai Davis. If J.D. Martinez can repeat his 23-homer performance of 2014, the Tigers should have plenty of power threats.

The Red Sox were in the market for pitching after they were unable to bring Lester back as a

free agent, and Porcello brings plenty of experience. He made his debut with Detroit in 2009 as a 20-year-old, and he's been a mainstay in the Tigers' rotation ever since.

Porcello held hitters to a .53 percent groundball rate, a skill that may be useful at Fenway Park.

Source: Padres reach deal to acquire Kemp

SAN DIEGO — A person with knowledge of the situation says the San Diego Padres have a deal in place to acquire outfielder Matt Kemp and catcher Tim Federowicz from the division rival Los Angeles Dodgers for catcher Yasmani Grandal and two pitchers.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday because the deal hadn't been announced by either team.

The Padres are due to receive some \$30 million to help offset the \$107 million remaining on Kemp's deal, which must be approved by the commissioner's office.

San Diego has been desperate for a power bat to punch up its woeful offense. Kemp had a strong second half in 2014 for the NL West champion Dodgers, finishing with a .287 average, 25 home runs and 89 RBIs.

Scherzer could seek more than Kershaw

SAN DIEGO — Clayton Kershaw is considered the top pitcher in baseball, with three Cy Young

Awards in four years for the Los Angeles Dodgers, an NL Most Valuable Player award and a \$215 million, seven-year contract.

Max Scherzer may be seeking an even bigger deal as his talks on the free-agent market move forward.

Jon Lester became the first top-level, free-agent starting pitcher to reach an agreement this offseason, a \$155 million, six-year deal with the Chicago Cubs.

Scherzer turned down an offer from Detroit last March that would have paid \$144 million from 2015-20. Kershaw has the largest contract for a pitcher in total dollars and has the sport's highest average salary at \$30.7 million.

"The prominent pitchers that have signed, (Justin) Verlander or (Felix) Hernandez or Kershaw, were not free-agent players," agent Scott Boras said. "And certainly if you put a performance like Kershaw into a free-agent market, you're going to get a much, much different calibration of value."

Other players were on the move or close to switching teams.

The Dodgers acquired second baseman Howie Kendrick from the Los Angeles Angels and were working to obtain shortstop Jimmy Rollins from the Phillies in a remake of their middle infield.

The Dodgers deal All-Star second baseman Dee Gordon, right-hander Dan Haren, infielder Miguel Rojas and a player to be named or cash to the Marlins.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HEISMAN TROPHY FINALIST

MARCUS MARIOTA, OREGON



JIM GENSHEIMER, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

Duck's Dynasty

Unassuming junior quarterback puts up brag-worthy season for Pac-12 champs

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

About the flashiest thing quarterback Marcus Mariota has done off the field all season is wear a T-shirt boldly emblazoned with the word "Success."

His showy moments have instead come during games for the playoff-bound Oregon Ducks: His touchdown flip against Wyoming, a creative on-the-run shovel pass against Michigan State, or a perfectly faked handoff for a keeper in the Pac-12 championship game against Arizona.

Spartans coach Mark Dantonio summed it up: "Mariota is an outstanding quarterback. What he does is lead. What he shows is toughness. And what he does is create."

Like Dantonio, all of Oregon and Mariota's opponents this season became big fans.

"He's tough to contain. You put pressure on him and he doesn't feel it. He escapes the pocket, throws the ball down the field,"

Stanford coach David Shaw said after Mariota and the Ducks routed the Cardinal 45-16 this season, summing up: "He's special."

Mariota goes into Saturday's Heisman Trophy ceremony as the clear front runner. Here's how he did it:

Mariota set a Pac-12 record this season with 53 total touchdowns, including a school-record 38 via pass, 14 keepers and one TD reception. He leads the nation with 10 games of four or more touchdowns this season. His 38 touchdown passes are also an Oregon record.

Overall, Mariota has thrown for an Oregon record 3,783 yards and just two interceptions, and he's the Ducks' second-leading rusher with 669 yards.

The mobile junior from Hawaii has

thrown for at least one touchdown in each of the first 39 games he's played in at Oregon, an FBS-level record.

He has set seven different career and season Oregon records, and his 129 total touchdowns to date surpassed former Trojan Matt Barkley's previous Pac-12 career record of 122.

"He's so good. Somebody was talking to me the other day about how easy he makes it look sometimes. What he's doing is really difficult. His decision-making, competitiveness, his command of the team is so outstanding," Oregon coach Mark Helfrich said. "It's great to be around him because he makes you want to work harder as a coach. The other guys feed off of him."

Mariota, however, doesn't take any credit. The guys around him are what make him better, he says.

Soft-spoken, Mariota instead leads by example. When a player is hurt on the field, Mariota often stays to offer encouragement. Teammates have said they've never heard him raise his voice in anger.

"I don't care what anybody says, because he's the best quarterback in the nation," Colorado coach Mike MacIntyre said after Oregon routed the Buffaloes were routed 44-10 at Oregon.

The Ducks (12-1) defeated Arizona 51-13 to win the Pac-12 championship on Friday. They will face undefeated Florida State in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1 for a chance to play for a chance to play for the national championship game.

He'll win votes for: Three Heisman-worthy moments. Among his four touchdowns in Oregon's 48-14 victory over Wyoming was an acrobatic keeper where he somersaulted over receiver Keanon Lowe and a Cowboys defender for the touchdown.

Then there was a creative shovel pass to freshman running back Royce Freeman that gave the Ducks a key first down in their 46-27 victory over Michigan State.

And although the Ducks would lose 31-24 to Arizona on Oct. 2, Mariota got creative to start the second quarter when he handed off Freeman, who lobbed the ball back to Mariota for a 28-yard touchdown.

He'll lose votes for: It's just not in Mariota's nature to promote himself. When he was consulted about a Heisman campaign, he said he didn't want Oregon to do anything. "I didn't really want all that attention," he said. "I'm glad they were kind of able to accept that and respect that decision."

By the numbers

53

Number of total TDs Mariota had in 2014, a Pac-12 record. He threw for a school-record 38.

4

Number of games Mariota has lost as the Ducks starting quarterback.

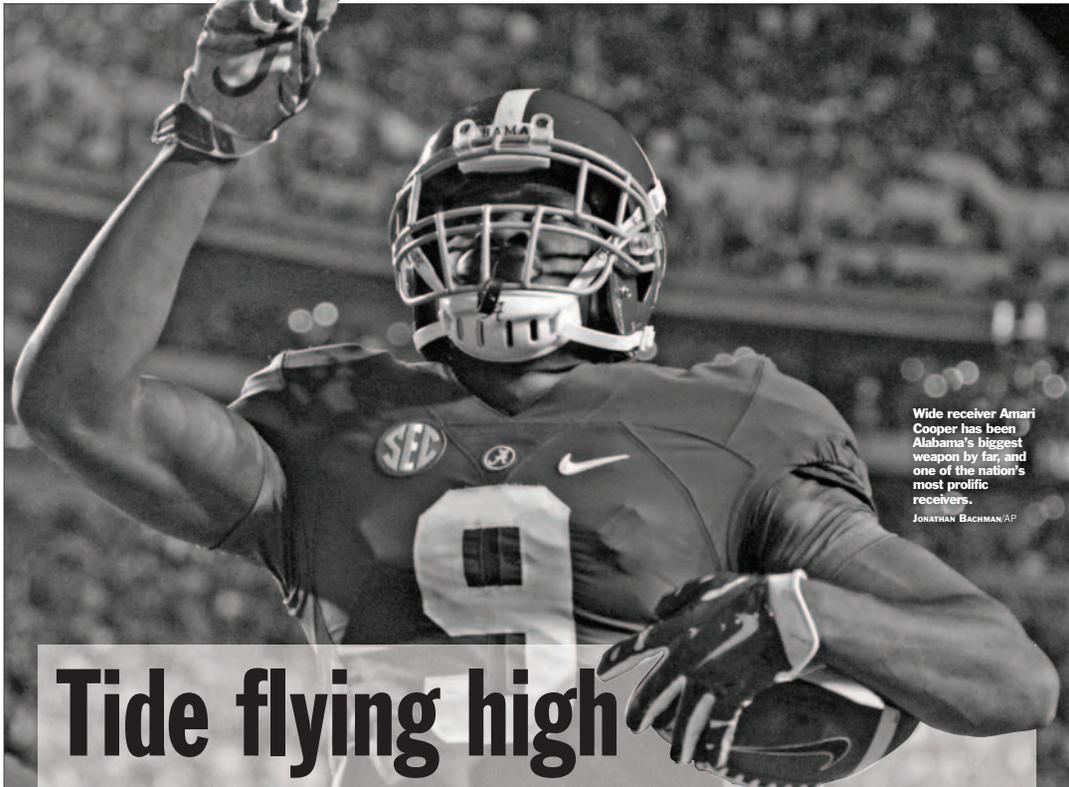
129

Number of total touchdowns in his career, passing the former Pac-12 record of 122 by USC's Matt Barkley.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HEISMAN TROPHY FINALIST

AMARI COOPER, ALABAMA



Wide receiver Amari Cooper has been Alabama's biggest weapon by far, and one of the nation's most prolific receivers.

JONATHAN BACHMAN/AP

Tide flying high

Alabama's top weapon, believe it or not, is a receiver

By **JOHN ZENOR**
The Associated Press

ALABAMA receiver Amari Cooper blew past the defensive back on a deep post, and his offensive coordinator didn't even wait until the ball was in the air to celebrate.

Lane Kiffin raised his hands on the sideline to signal a touchdown. A little early — but he was right. "I guess he's seen me do it," Cooper said.

Much of the country has by now. Cooper has become easily the most dangerous weapon in a program normally defined by tailbacks and defense, while leading the top-ranked Crimson Tide into a College Football Playoff matchup with No. 4 Ohio State and becoming a Heisman Trophy finalist. The award will be presented Saturday night.

Cooper streaked 39 yards for a touchdown midway through the third quarter to spark a comeback win over Auburn in the regular-season finale, just

one of many plays that left the Tide celebrating and opponents dumbfounded.

Something no one — other than Kiffin, perhaps — could have seen coming: a Tide receiver producing 1,656 yards and 14 touchdowns and setting a Southeastern Conference record with 115 receptions. He has demolished previous Alabama marks for yards and catches.

It turned into a perfect combination of Kiffin, Cooper and first-year starting quarterback Blake Sims. Tailbacks T.J. Yeldon and Derrick Henry had to take a backseat to the passing game, at least by Alabama standards.

Cooper has even trumped the numbers produced by the Atlanta Falcons' Julio Jones, the Tide's last superstar receiver. Cooper ranks second nationally in both yards receiving and catches per game.

Praised by coach Nick Saban and teammates for his work ethic, Cooper has three 200-yard receiving performances this season. Tide receivers collectively had produced only two coming into the season.

"To do what he does every Saturday is impressive, man," Alabama tight end O.J. Howard said. "We're like, 'Wow.' We knew he could do it, but he's doing more. So that's impressive."

Ohio State coach Urban Meyer didn't need to dive too deep into film study to proclaim Cooper the nation's biggest downfield threat and "one of the best receivers ever to play college football."

He'll win votes for: Cooper was unstoppable in the Iron Bowl to end the regular season on a huge stage. He had 13 catches for 224 yards and touchdowns of 17, 39 and 75 yards. Then he set an SEC championship game record with 12 catches against Missouri.

But he'll lose them because: Desmond Howard (1991) and Tim Brown (1987) are the only wide receivers to win a Heisman. Unlike Cooper, both those winners also were stars in the return game. Cooper was only shut down once, when Arkansas held him to two catches for 22 yards, but like any receiver he had games in which he didn't put up eye-catching numbers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HEISMAN TROPHY FINALIST

Not to be forgotten

Badgers RB Gordon doesn't want to be remembered as 'just another guy'

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

By the numbers

The voice sounded a little weary. The steps were a bit slow, at least compared to Melvin Gordon's usual gait around Camp Randall Stadium.

Nearing the end of a memorable season, 17th-ranked Wisconsin's star running back sounded and looked like he could use a pick-me-up days after his team's humbling 59-0 loss to Ohio State in the Big Ten title game.

Maybe a chance to win the Heisman Trophy on Saturday will cheer him up.

"You don't want to leave here just being another guy," Gordon said. "You want people to remember you."

He's already put together a remarkable year.

A Big Ten single-season record 2,336 yards rushing — the fourth-highest mark in NCAA history. Twenty-nine touchdowns. He is just Wisconsin's fourth finalist for the Heisman Trophy, joining fellow running backs and winners Alan Ameche (1954) and Ron Dayne (1999); and Montee Ball, who finished fourth in 2011 and finished with an NCAA-record 83 touchdowns.

Yet ask Gordon what he thinks he might be remembered for most, and he sounds a little down.

"I don't really know to be honest. Montee set the touchdown record. Ron — Mr. Dayne — he won the Heisman leading in rushing. I kind of got nothing," Gordon said in an interview Tuesday at the team's training facility.

Gordon did set the single-game record with 408 yards rushing against Nebraska last month. But he held the mark just for a week before it was broken by Oklahoma's Samaje Perine.

Gordon had to be reminded that he still owned several conference and school records. He's also averaging 7.6

29	2,336	7.6	76
Touchdowns scored by Wisconsin RB Melvin Gordon this season	Yards rushing for Gordon this season, a Big Ten season record	Gordon's career average yards per carry, a potential NCAA record	Yards gained by Gordon in a humbling loss to Ohio State last Saturday

SOURCE: The Associated Press

yards per carry for his career, which would set an NCAA record. Wisconsin finishes the season on New Year's Day at the Outback Bowl against No. 19 Auburn.

Winning the Heisman, though, might be a longshot at this point. Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota is the clear front-runner.

The blowout loss to the Buckeyes, in which Gordon ran for 76 yards on 26 carries,

didn't help. "Yeah," Gordon said disappointingly when asked if the loss affected the race. "It definitely did, but you know, what can you do about it, man? That's how the cards played out."

He'll win votes for: The 408-yard game — through three quarters — against Nebraska in what was billed as a Heisman candidate duel with the Cornhuskers' Ameer Abdullah. A career rushing record in a league with a legacy of standout running backs. A good off-field reputation.

He'll lose votes for: A clunker in his last game against Ohio State. Week 2 against Western Illinois also still sticks out for a shocking lack of productivity — 38 yards on 17 carries. To be fair, the

Badgers were still experimenting at quarterback and won with a confidence-building outing for the passing game against a lower-division school. The offensive line didn't play well. Still, 38 yards? Against Western Illinois? Also, lackluster Big Ten schedule outside of Nebraska and Minnesota.

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP



MELVIN GORDON, WISCONSIN

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bigger than a game, more than a rivalry

Army-Navy gridiron showdown rooted in mutual respect

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Not many players have to wake up before dawn, fulfill military obligations, attend classes and then grind through football practice.

For the athletes at Army and Navy, it's all in a day's work.

That is why respect is the operative word in this longtime rivalry.

With the exception of their game against Air Force, the Cadets and Midshipmen usually go up against players who have no idea what it takes to play football for a military academy.

"I know how hard our school is, and I can only imagine how hard their school is," Navy senior captain Parrish Gaines said. "My respect for these guys, it goes way past this game. The respect you've got to have for them is bigger than a football game.

"Those guys do what we do, day in, day out. They're struggling with the same battles, they have the same sleep habits we do."

At Army and Navy, sleep is a luxury when there's so much to accomplish during a typical day. Things are also different on the football field, compared to most Division I schools.

"We've all been told we're not the biggest, not the fastest and not the strongest, but we all play with a chip on our shoulders," Navy fullback Noah Copeland said.

For 60 minutes this Saturday, Army and Navy will do whatever it takes to win. Afterward, as a show of unity, the players and coaches will stand at attention while the bands play the alma mater of each school.

"The thing that's always cool is, as bad as we want to beat them and as bad as they want to beat us, there's a great amount of respect between both schools," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "The sportsmanship after, by us singing each other's alma mater shows that. In a sport where everyone's talking about who's going to be in the top four, it's cool to have two teams that just



JACQUELINE LARMA/AP

In this Dec. 11, 2010, file photo, Navy Midshipmen celebrate after Navy scored a touchdown late in the second quarter of the 111th Army-Navy game in Philadelphia. It takes a special person to attend college classes, fulfill military obligations and hustle through football practice. And unlike the participants in Auburn-Alabama and Michigan-Ohio State, who will sometimes meet again on the field at an NFL game, for the players at Army and Navy, there's a good chance their next meeting will come when they are fulfilling their military obligations together overseas.

play a rivalry for the pure competition."

After they're done playing college football, the participants in Auburn-Alabama and Michigan-Ohio State sometimes meet again on the field at an NFL game. For Army and Navy, there's a good chance the players will be fulfilling their military obligation together overseas.

"We just respect each other because after this game we're going to be brothers in the fleet," Copeland said. "I've been selected to be a Marine Corps officer, and hopefully I can do that. I'm leaning toward infantry. So someone I play against Saturday could

end up being the guy right next to me."

That's one reason why there are seldom any fights or dirty hits.

"Mostly it's good sportsmanship, helping those guys up," Parrish said.

Navy has won 12 in a row, the longest such run by either team in a series that dates back to 1890. Instead of harboring jealousy or resentment, Army defensive end Joe Drummond spoke respectfully about his foe.

"The Naval Academy has just been able to put together a great program that's had tremendous success," he said. "They do a

great job executing their assignments and play with an intensity that is unmatched around the country. Having an opportunity to play on the same field with them, and knowing we're going to on the same team upon graduation, gives the rivalry more luster."

Teammate Raymond Maples, who received a medical redshirt to play his final season, added: "I have a lot of respect for them, and not just because of what they stand for. At the end of the day, we both represent America's military. We're brothers in arms."

Delany: 'Big five' conferences OK with four playoff spots

By RACHEL COHEN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Five power conferences. Four spots in the College Football Playoff.

The leagues knew that when they helped create the new postseason system. Now administrators, coaches, players and fans are living it for the first time.

Big Ten Commissioner Jim Delany experienced the anxiety of wondering whether his conference would be shut out when the inaugural playoff format was announced Sunday. Ohio State wound up getting in, with the Big 12 stuck on the outside.

"I would've been very disappointed" if the Buckeyes had been left out, Delany said Wednesday at the Intercollegiate Athletics Forum in Manhattan. "But we knew when we went



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Jim Delany, Commissioner of the Big Ten Conference speaks during a news conference on Tuesday in New York.

'This is not going to change.'

Bill Hancock

Executive director of the CFP, on whether the four-team playoff could be expanded to eight schools in the near future

into this that either one or two or possibly three conferences might not be involved. I've been No. 3 in the BCS, and I was prepared to be out of it again, because that was the narrative."

College football leaders defended the BCS system through years of angst over whether it was the best method for crowning a national champion. That resistance eroded over time — and now the sport has a four-team playoff.

So cue the questions about whether that will soon expand to eight schools.

"This is not going to change," insisted Bill Hancock, the executive director of the CFP.

Of course, he used to say the same thing about the Bowl Championship Series when he served as its executive director. As Hancock also acknowledged Wednesday, "The appetite for college football is insatiable."

Hancock listed similar concerns about an eight-team playoff as college officials used to voice about the four-team model: the academic calendar, maintaining the importance of the regular season,

protecting the other bowls.

"We knew that four was on the south side of the tipping point, but no one knows where the tipping point is," he said after speaking on a panel at the event.

Ohio State and the Big 12's Baylor and TCU boasted similar resumes when the selection committee made its picks Sunday. Alabama, Oregon and Florida State were widely considered the top three teams.

For now, the leaders of the five power conferences are comfortable with the reality that at least one of them will be excluded from the playoff each year.

Delany was asked if the sting of exclusion would eventually spur his counterparts to expand the field.

He grinned and said, "Might, might not."

SPORTS



Way of the Warriors

Golden State extends franchise-record win streak to 14 games | **NBA, Page 26**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ARMY VS NAVY

Cadets, Midshipmen
prepare for latest
chapter in a historic
rivalry, one built upon
tradition, loyalty, and
above all, respect

★ Page 31 ★



The contenders:

■ Mariota, Cooper, Gordon each have compelling Heisman case | Pages 29-31

