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No. 1 Florida lineup draws comparisons to 2007 champions

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# EXPIRATION DATE: Absolute 'zero'?

## Existing status of forces deal would cover US troops in Afghanistan after 2014

By DEB RIECHMANN ■ *The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has threatened to withdraw all American forces from Afghanistan if a new security agreement is not signed by the end of the year, but there is no legal reason the U.S. has to resort to the “zero option,” as administration officials have repeatedly claimed.

Legally, the 33,600 U.S. forces still deployed are covered by an existing status

of forces document that took effect shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, and the start of America’s engagement in Afghanistan. The existing agreement has no expiration date and prevents U.S. military personnel from being prosecuted under Afghan law — a must-have for status of forces agreements the U.S. signs with countries around the world.

SEE SOFA ON PAGE 3

## Dunford pushes for post-2014 US presence in Afghanistan

By CHRIS CARROLL  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — A full withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan this year could precipitate an Iraq-style security breakdown, allowing al-Qaida to regroup there and again threaten the United States, the top U.S. general in Afghanistan told senators on Wednesday.

Testifying before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. reiterated U.S. military support for a NATO force of 8,000 to 12,000 troops — primarily

provided by the United States — to train and advise Afghan forces after combat forces leave by the end of this year.

A few thousand more troops would be needed as well to conduct a counterterrorism mission against al-Qaida, which he said is currently in “survival mode.”

SEE DUNFORD ON PAGE 4



Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. testifies on Capitol Hill on Wednesday.

AP

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

“And he just sort of calmly looked up at me and said ‘I’m dying.’ And that was the last thing he said.”

— Justin Lyons, Steve Irwin’s long-time cameraman, describing the “Crocodile Hunter’s” last moments after a stingray attacked him

See story on Page 14

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# MIDEAST

# Kandahar security office attacked

## 3 armed assailants killed in gun battle

By CID STANDIFER  
Stars and Stripes

Three suicide bombers attacked a National Directorate of Security station in Kandahar City on Wednesday, wounding two employees before the attackers were killed in a firefight, according to Afghan officials.

Zia Durrani, a Kandahar police spokesman, said Taliban fighters attacked an NDS office in the Shahidan Chowk area of the city around noon using guns and hand grenades. Taliban spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi confirmed that the organization was behind the attack.

According to Durrani, the NDS compound used to house an investigation department, but is now used as residential quarters for NDS employees. Two employees sustained minor injuries, but no NDS personnel or civilians were killed, he said.

The NDS is Afghanistan’s domestic intelligence agency, which was set up and trained largely by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The Taliban has carried out a handful of high-profile attacks on alleged NDS facilities in the past. Last May, Taliban attackers staged a lengthy firefight in Kabul at the sight of a guest house it claimed housed CIA trainers who were helping the NDS. In fact, the house was used by the International Organization for Migration, a nonprofit agency that often works with the United Nations.



ANIA NIEDRINGHAUS/AP

Afghan National Security Forces members arrive after an attack by heavily armed insurgents on the former Afghan intelligence headquarters in the center of Kandahar, Afghanistan on Wednesday.

NATO coalition officials have touted in recent years their success in wresting Kandahar City from insurgent control. Kandahar, the second-largest city in Afghanistan, lies in the heart of

Taliban country and is 10 miles from a farm Osama bin Laden once used as a training camp and home.

Periodic attacks demonstrate that while the city may be more

peaceful now than in 2011, insurgent activity there is still far from over.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. standifer.cid@stripes.com

# Marines, Afghans join forces to free stuck camel

By JENNIFER HLAJ  
Stars and Stripes

Just in time for hump day, the Marines have released the heartwarming story of Marines and Afghans working together ... to help a stranded camel.

The camel got stuck last week in a ditch outside Camp Dwyer,

Helmand province, Afghanistan, said 1st Lt. Garth Langley, a Marine spokesman, and the Marines and Afghan soldiers worked overnight to free it.

While there were no reports of spitting, the camel was “noticeably concerned,” that he or she could not get out of the ditch, Langley said.

Once freed, the camel “seemed relieved” and “walked away freely into the surrounding desert area,” Langley said.

Maj. Eric Pickelsimer, commanding officer of Task Force Dwyer, said the Marines had heavy equipment on standby, but they did not want to frighten the

camel. Instead, Marines used their boots and hands to move dirt until the dromedary could climb out of the ditch on its own.

“We were happy the camel was unharmed and on his way home, wherever that is,” Pickelsimer said.

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MIDEAST

# SOFA: US officials continue to push Afghanistan to sign new agreement

**FROM FRONT PAGE**

"Unless the Afghans or the United States cancel the existing SOFA, it remains in effect," said retired Col. Manuel Supervielle, who was the lead lawyer for U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2005 and 2006, worked on such agreements for U.S. troops stationed across the globe and advised on the drafting of the current bilateral security agreement that Afghan President Hamid Karzai says he won't sign.

U.S. officials privately acknowledge there is no legal reason that would force Obama to withdraw all troops if the new security agreement is not signed by Dec. 31, when the international combat mission ends.

Yet even though a full troop exodus is not the administration's preferred option, blunt rhetoric coming from U.S. officials has continued to put the onus on Afghanistan: Sign the new bilateral security agreement or every U.S. servicemember will be forced to leave.

National Security Adviser Susan Rice conveyed that message to Karzai when she was in Afghanistan in November.

According to the White House account of their meeting, Rice told Karzai that "without a prompt signature, the U.S. would have no choice but to initiate planning for a post-2014 future in which there would be no U.S. or NATO troop presence in Afghanistan."

Last month, Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters traveling with him in Afghani-

stan that while the U.S. remains committed to helping Afghanistan after this year, "I can't ask the young men and women to serve in a country without the protections afforded by a bilateral security agreement."

Daoud Yaqub, a former official at Afghanistan's National Security Council, said there is no legal

foundation for that argument because the existing status of forces agreement would remain in effect.

"To state that there is no legal cover for U.S. troops in Afghanistan beyond 2014 is not accurate, in my view," Yaqub said. "Whoever is making such an assumption is not motivated by legal issues,

but by other things — perhaps politics."

Both the existing status of forces agreement and the new bilateral agreement give the U.S. criminal jurisdiction over American personnel and troops accused of crimes while they are in Afghanistan, preventing them from being subject to Afghan

prosecution.

Other nations with troops in Afghanistan have said they won't stay without a U.S. presence and the exit of all international forces would jeopardize billions in foreign aid pledged to fund the Afghan security forces and help finance development in the impoverished country.

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Horner

It was a rare assassination of a foreigner in the capital and raised fears of increased violence ahead of the April 5 presidential election.

The Feday-e-Mahaz said in a statement posted Wednesday on its website that it targeted Horner because he was a spy for Britain's MI-6 agency, not a journalist.

The group was created by loyalists of slain Taliban commander Mullah Dadullah.

The group broke with the Taliban following the announcement of talks with the United States.

# MIDEAST

## Dunford: General says pullout would boost al-Qaida

### FROM FRONT PAGE

The so-called "zero option" of no U.S. troop presence after 2014 has been squarely on the table since November, when Afghan President Hamid Karzai refused to sign a bilateral security agreement negotiated by his administration and approved by a national council of tribal and local leaders he convened.

Without a signed BSA, which grants U.S. troops immunity from the Afghan legal process and establishes a framework for cooperation, the Obama administration and members of Congress alike have said no troops can remain.

Dunford characterized that potential outcome as a disaster for Afghanistan and a threat to the United States.

"If we leave at the end of 2014, the Afghan security forces will begin to deteriorate, the security environment will begin to deteriorate, and I think the only thing to debate is the pace of that deterioration," he said.

A full U.S. withdrawal would be a huge morale boost for al-Qaida, he said, and would allow the terrorist group to reconstitute itself in the region. He was asked by Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., whether the United States or the West could then expect another devastating attack like 9/11.

"I absolutely believe there'll be another attack," Dunford said.

Each presidential candidate vying to replace Karzai in elections next month has committed to signing the BSA, Dunford said. Even if the outcome requires a runoff—creating uncertainty the military believes could stretch to August—there would still be time to plan for either continued presence or withdrawal, he said.

"If we have a new president by August, I'm comfortable that we will be able to maintain the options through that time without any difficulty," he said.

If the BSA isn't signed by then, however, "the risk to orderly withdrawal begins to be high in September."

Dunford praised the development of the Afghan military and police forces.

When it comes to tactical operations, he said, the military has made great strides. Alluding to criticism that security in the country did not change or improve from 2012 to 2013, he said it failed to take into account the vast decrease in numbers of Western troops in the country.

"That's true, and when put in perspective, it's also extraordinary, because security remained roughly the same with Afghans assuming the lead and with over 50 percent of the coalition re-

deploying during that period of time," he said.

Dunford predicted the ANSF could reliably provide security for the upcoming presidential election, and said the forces are not militarily threatened by the Taliban.

Still, they are not ready to stand on their own, and need help with aviation, intelligence, support systems and logistics, and at the ministerial level, he said.

Withdrawal would also put gains made by women in Afghanistan at great risk, he said in response to questions from Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., asked Dunford why the United States should continue to risk troops' lives and spend money trying to remake Afghan society when the original intent of the war was simply to dislodge al-Qaida.

West Virginians don't shy away from a good fight, Manchin said, but added, "This one makes no sense to any West Virginian at all, anywhere I go in my state."

Security for the United States still demands a presence in Afghanistan, Dunford responded, saying, "If we don't stay there ... we'll actually have a good fight."

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PATRICK BLANCHARD/Canadian Forces

The last Canadians involved in the NATO mission in Afghanistan board an American Chinook helicopter Wednesday as they leave the International Security Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul.

# Canada step closer to leaving war zone

Stars and Stripes

The last Canadian troops lowered their flag in Kabul on Tuesday in preparation for leaving Afghanistan for good.

More than 40,000 Canadian servicemembers fought in Afghanistan over the years, beginning in 2001. At least 1500 troops died there, according to the website iCasualties.org.

As part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, Canadian troops made their mark in the volatile Kandahar province in

the south.

"The Canadian Armed Forces have been a reliable and significant partner in the success of the ISAF mission," U.S. Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., ISAF commander, said in a statement.

NATO is preparing to withdraw all combat troops by the end of 2014, but there are ongoing negotiations over an extended advising mission. ISAF says the Canadian government has committed to spending \$330 million to help fund Afghan security forces.

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## MILITARY

# Navy, USMC leaders detail risks of budget cuts

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Navy and Marine Corps leaders warned lawmakers about the consequences of further defense cuts Wednesday as the Navy struggles to return to a 300-ship fleet.

The fiscal 2015 Navy budget proposal, which was supposed to be the topic of Wednesday's House Armed Services Committee hearing, was largely ignored as senior military leaders and members of Congress painted a picture of looming disaster if sequestration-mandated budget cuts are allowed to go into effect in 2016 and beyond.

The Defense Department is requesting \$496 billion for next year, which is the maximum amount allowed under last year's bipartisan budget deal. It is \$45 billion less than what Pentagon leaders wanted last year.

Over the course of the next five years, DOD is requesting \$113 billion less than it hoped to receive when last year's long-term budget plans were submitted. The Navy and Marines are requesting \$38 billion less over the course of the Future Years Defense Program than they wanted last year.

If current law stands, large se-

questration cuts to the military budget will go back into full effect in fiscal 2016, the department will get \$115 billion less than it believes it needs to meet strategic requirements, and all the services will be hit by the cuts.

"I don't even know why we're going through this [budget discussion] this year because the [\$496 billion] number is already set," committee chairman Rep. Buck McKeon said. "[But] it's important that we have a good debate about this [and] that the American people understand ... what the numbers look like going forward for the next several years. I think it's putting us in great jeopardy."

McKeon called impending force level reductions "a fundamental, piecemeal dismantling of the world's greatest Navy."

Rep. Adam Smith, the top Democrat on the committee, also focused on future years' budget projections.

"As bad as the FY15 budget is for a lot of the cuts that have been proposed, it's going forward beyond that I think is the real challenge," he said. "If we leave sequestration in place ... then the 2015 budget is going to be looked back on as the high-water mark of what we've accomplished in na-

**'The Asia-Pacific is important. ... [But] if you go from 11 to 10 carriers, you exacerbate what is already a very difficult [force requirement] problem to the point where the deterrence factor goes down dramatically.'**

Adm. Jonathan Greenert  
chief of naval operations

tional security."

The Navy and Marine Corps service chiefs echoed lawmakers' warnings.

Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of Naval Operations, laid out the consequences of allowing sequestration to go forward.

He said force reductions precipitated by sequestration would leave the Navy too small to fulfill four of its 10 primary missions, as laid out in the national defense strategy.

He said it would necessitate the elimination of one of the service's 11 aircraft carriers and a naval air wing. That would jeopardize the military's Asia pivot, according to Greenert.

"The Asia-Pacific is important. And we are rebalancing toward

it," he said. "[But] if you go from 11 to 10 carriers, you exacerbate what is already a very difficult [force requirement] problem to the point where ... the deterrence factor goes down dramatically when you have gaps [like that]. And it's a risk that we assume and I worry about."

Gen. James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, outlined the problems that would result from dropping down Marine Corps active-duty end strength to 175,000 and 21 Marine infantry combat battalions, which would be required under sequestration.

He described it as a "moderate risk" force.

"What this means is your Marine Corps would be all in [in the event of a large contingency op-

eration] involved ..." Amos said. "There's risk involved with that because there's other places around the world where things might well be happening that would require a presence of Marines. This is going to require a presidential recall of our Reserves [to deal with another contingency] ...

"There is a sense of the units that remain back home will be less ready ... It will be longer for them to get there ... and eventually when you start running out of Marines in a major theater war, you're going to go from boot camp to battlefield," Amos said.

Navy force levels have dropped significantly since Sept. 11, 2001, despite a massive increase in the overall defense budget since that time.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus told lawmakers that in 2001 the service had 316 ships, but by 2008 that number had dropped to 278. By 2020, Navy plans call for the fleet to increase to 300 ships, but that won't be possible under sequestration, according to Mabus.

Navy officials have said that 306 ships are needed to meet national security requirements. Greenert said he would need a 450-ship Navy to meet all the demands put forth by the geographic combatant commanders.

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### Almost St. Patty's Green Day

*Sunday, March 16*

Join us in the lounge on Sunday night for green beer and Irish snacks.

# MILITARY

## Gas being restored to Lakenheath residences

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Work to restore gas to more than 600 residences at RAF Lakenheath, England, seems to be proceeding ahead of an official estimate.

A contractor working in Liberty Village on Wednesday told Stars and Stripes that gas had been restored to more than half of the residences already and predicted all homes would have gas restored on Wednesday. Base officials announced Tuesday that gas would not be restored to all residences until Friday.

Many residents who spoke to Stripes said their gas had been restored Wednesday or earlier.

Gas was shut off to Liberty Village on Monday after a leak was detected near the tanks that supply the residences.

The shutdown caused a loss of pressure in the system, forcing contractors to turn off the valve to each house.

Contractors are “working on this issue around the clock to visit each home individually, and we have contracted with Calor Gas



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

**A contractor's van sits on a street in Liberty Village on RAF Lakenheath, England, on Wednesday. The base is using contractors to restore gas to more than 600 homes after a gas leak was detected.**

for additional 24-hour manpower until resolved,” the base posted on its website. “We're estimated to have all units back online by close of business Friday, March 14.”

Residents are not required to be present for contractors to restore service, but they must leave their exterior gates and mechanical and electrical rooms unlocked, the release said. Pets should be kept indoors.

Residents can check out space heaters from the base Self-Help store, according to the release. Families with children under 5 have priority.

The United Kingdom's Met Office predicts temperatures will drop as low as about 37 degrees Fahrenheit between Wednesday and Friday in the Lakenheath area.

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## 5th Fleet commander Miller nominated for deputy CNO

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — The commander of U.S. 5th Fleet, Vice Adm. John W. Miller, has been nominated to deputy chief of naval operations at the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Tuesday.

Miller has served as commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet since May 2012. A replacement has not yet been named.

If confirmed by the Senate, Miller would be responsible for operations, plans and strategy at the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, according to a Pentagon announcement.

Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water area around the volatile



Vice Adm. John W. Miller

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# PACIFIC

‘These facts are troubling reminders that the DOD still has a lot of work ahead in its efforts to avoid wasteful spending ...’

U.S. senators' memo

# Senators want DOD to explain parts spending

By ERIC SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

The Senate wants answers from Pentagon officials on why the Defense Department spent more than \$754 million last fiscal year on parts it didn't need.

The Pentagon reduced its "on-order excess inventory" from \$1.3 billion in 2009 to \$609 million in 2011, but has since regressed, according to a March 11 memo signed by Sens. Tom Carper, D-Del., and Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

"These facts are troubling reminders that the DOD still has a lot of work ahead in its efforts to avoid wasteful spending by better aligning inventory with demand," the memo stated.

On-order excess parts are "already purchased but likely to be excess due to changes in requirements," according to the 2013 General Accountability Office's High Risk Report. The same report notes that in September 2011, even as DOD was cutting the excess items it was ordering, the department still had \$9.2 billion worth of excess inventory in stock.

The senators' memo called for Alan Estevez, undersecretary of defense for acquisitions, technology and logistics, to explain by April 25 why the inventory amount increased and what steps will be taken to reduce the excess. According to the memo, the Pentagon previously stated that the increases in excess were due to the shrinking budget, which led defense planners to be "more conservative" about canceling orders.

The senators' assertions indicated that cuts to excess orders would be particularly useful in an era of declining budgets.

"This is another example of how the Department can reduce wasteful spending by simply canceling unneeded orders, using the inventory it has, and freeing up funds for the critical needs of our military," the memo stated.

The Defense Department's supply chain management has been included on the GAO's High Risk Report — a list of areas prone to fraud, waste and abuse — since they began compiling the biannual report in 1990. More than one-third of the government programs placed on the list have

been removed since 1990 due to improvement, according to the GAO.

In its 2013 report, the GAO stated that "a number of challenges, including incomplete delivery data for many surface shipments to Afghanistan, have hindered the distribution of supplies and equipment to the warfighter, and will likely continue to affect operations in Afghanistan and limit DOD's visibility and oversight of the supply chain."

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# USFK says South Koreans no longer facing furloughs

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean employees working for the U.S. military will not face furloughs next month, even if Seoul does not ratify a defense cost-sharing agreement with the United States, U.S. Forces Korea announced Wednesday.

As many as 8,500 employees, or about 70 percent of all Korean employees on the peninsula, could have been affected by furloughs starting as early as April 1.

A statement issued Wednesday by USFK said there would be "no personnel actions" due to funding shortfalls related to the Special Measures Agreement. Korean employees would continue to receive pay, with the U.S. making up the funding shortfall.

"USFK is working closely with the U.S. Department of Defense and the Republic of Korea Ministry of National Defense and is confident that a funding solution will be found," the statement said.

USFK would not address whether the matter would be reconsidered at any point.

In January, the U.S. and South Korea agreed on a new SMA that increases Seoul's annual contribu-

tions toward the upkeep of U.S. troops on the peninsula by about 6 percent — to 920 billion won, or about \$861 million. Under the new agreement, yearly increases due to inflation will be capped at 4 percent.

**Some South Korean lawmakers have argued that the SMA should be renegotiated.**

The five-year deal was signed Feb. 2 by U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Sung Kim and South Korean Foreign

Minister Yun Byung-se. It must be ratified by South Korea's National Assembly before it takes effect.

Some South Korean lawmakers have argued that the SMA should be renegotiated and include additional provisions to increase oversight of USFK's use of the money. Negotiations over the SMA began last summer but dragged on because of disagreement over how much Seoul should contribute and oversight concerns.

The Korean government pays as much as 71 percent of the salaries of the U.S. military's Korean employees. But in late February,

with the National Assembly not expected to address the matter until April at the earliest, USFK warned that "uninterrupted employment (of Korean employees) is contingent upon the Republic of Korea's timely ratification of the SMA."

However, USFK said Wednesday that while the South Korean government "may not provide its normal contribution, we have decided to provide interim funding from U.S. sources in order to maintain operational readiness and keep faith with the Korean National force."

It added, "Korean National employees are an important part of the USFK team and play a key role in maintaining operations and in the combined defense of the Republic of Korea."

The previous SMA was signed in January 2009, setting South Korea's contribution for that year at about \$775 million, with provisions for increases for inflation in following years.

Under the new agreement, USFK must submit an annual report on SMA funds to the National Assembly, and the South Korean government must approve every contract that uses SMA funds.

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## MILITARY

# Lawmakers want DOD to change Sikh policy

By Chris Carroll  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of legislators is asking the Pentagon for a policy change to ensure Sikh troops are never forced to violate their religion by shaving their beards, cutting their hair or getting rid of their turbans.

The Pentagon in January released a new policy that says servicemembers can receive waivers to follow their religions' grooming standards based on "sincerely held beliefs" so long as the exceptions don't harm readiness or unit cohesion.

Sikh groups and the handful of Sikh members of the armed forces say that doesn't go far enough.

The policy requiring waivers from top service branch officials to wear the religion's mandatory beards and turbans means recruits as well as troops transferring to new assignments might suddenly become liable to regular grooming standards.

A bipartisan group of 105 House members echoed those concerns in a letter sent Monday to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that called for an end to the "presumptive ban" on Sikhs in the military.

"(We) believe it is time for our military to make inclusion of practicing Sikh Americans the rule, not the exception," said the letter from Reps. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., and Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

**Army Reserve Maj. Kamal S. Kalsi, right, speaks with U.S. Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., before the start of a Jan. 29 House hearing on a Defense Department directive that provides guidance on uniforms and grooming with respect to religious beliefs.**

said Tuesday that the Pentagon was still waiting on the letter. He said the Defense Department wants to allow as much religious freedom to members as possible.

"It's our policy to accommodate religious requests for service unless they have an adverse effect on readiness, mission accomplishment and unit cohesion," he said.

The legislators said devout beard- and turban-wearing Sikhs have served in the U.S. military since World War I and are serving freely in the Canadian, Indian and British armed forces.

Traditional Sikh grooming fell afoul of U.S. military regulations when grooming standards were tightened in the 1980s.

Three Sikh soldiers currently have grooming waivers, and have demonstrated the ability to meet operational require-

ments, including achieving seals with gas masks, the letter said.

"Throughout the world, and now in the U.S. Army, Sikh soldiers are clearly able to maintain their religious commitments while serving capably and honorably," legislators wrote.

Outside a packed House hearing on the matter in January, Army Maj. Kamal S. Kalsi, a military doctor, said Sikhs want to serve while staying true to their faith. "I'm not a lobbyist; I'm just a soldier," he told Stars and Stripes. "I'm proof of concept that a Sikh can wear a helmet, can wear a gas mask and get a seal ... that we can do everything that is needed by any soldier, with our articles of faith intact."

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# Fight over handling of sex assaults is not over

By Richard Lardner  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The turmoil over how to end an epidemic of sexual assaults in the U.S. military is far from over as Congress haggles over legislative remedies and new details emerge about a high-profile case involving an Army general and a female captain under his command.

In a rare display of bipartisanship, the Senate unanimously approved legislation this week to better protect victims within the ranks and ban the "good soldier defense" to make sure a defendant's fate is determined solely by evidence. But the House has signaled it will not take up the bill immediately despite the momentum generated by the Senate's 97-0 vote.

The trial at Fort Bragg, N.C., of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair also may act as a referendum of sorts on whether more dramatic changes in the military justice system are necessary. The Senate last week defeated a bill by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat, that would have stripped commanders of their authority to prosecute sexual assault cases, placing such cases with military lawyers.



Sinclair

A recent ruling in the Sinclair case by the judge, Col. James Pohl, could aid Gillibrand and her supporters in their efforts to revive the bill. Sinclair, the former deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, is accused of twice forcing a female captain to perform oral sex on him in Afghanistan in 2011 during a three-year extramarital affair. He has admitted to the affair but denied assaulting the woman.

After reviewing a series of emails connected to Sinclair's case, Pohl said a decision by military officials at Fort Bragg to reject a plea bargain with the general may have been improperly influenced by political concerns. In the emails, military officials warned that allowing the general to plea bargain and avoid trial would "send the wrong signal," Pohl said.

On Tuesday Pohl dismissed the jury to allow the defense time to work out a new plea deal with the military.

Sinclair's attorneys said the Army pressed ahead with a weak case for fear of the political backlash if they had dropped charges against such a high-profile defendant.

"This case is Exhibit A for why the Senate should pass the Gillibrand bill when they next have an opportunity," said Eugene R. Fidell, who teaches military justice at Yale University Law School.

# Contractor to plead guilty in secrets case

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A civilian defense contractor accused of giving military secrets to a Chinese girlfriend half his age will be entering a guilty plea, his attorney said Tuesday.

Benjamin Bishop was expected to plead guilty in federal court on Thursday to one count of transmitting national defense information to a person not entitled to receive it and one count of unlawfully retaining national defense documents and plans.

Bishop, 60, was arrested last March at the headquarters for the U.S. Pacific Com-

mand, where he worked.

A document for the plea agreement filed Tuesday said Bishop emailed his girlfriend classified information on joint training and planning sessions between the U.S. and South Korea.

It said Bishop had classified documents at his Hawaii home, including one titled "U.S. Department of Defense China Strategy," another on U.S. force posture in Asia and the Pacific and a U.S. Pacific Command joint intelligence operations center special report.

An FBI affidavit last year alleged the then-59-year-old gave his 27-year-old girl-

friend classified information about war plans, nuclear weapons, missile defenses and other topics.

Bervar has said the two were in love and that the case was about love, not espionage.

Bishop has been in federal detention in Honolulu for the majority of time since his March 2013 arrest.

U.S. District Court Judge Leslie Kobayashi allowed him to move to a halfway house last June. But a magistrate judge ordered him back to jail in December after he violated the terms of his release by emailing his girlfriend and writing her a letter.

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NATION

# Senate's CIA investigation stirs controversy

By DAVID ESPO  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A marathon Senate investigation into allegations of CIA torture during the Bush-era war on terrorism is using toward partisan political theater and possibly the federal courts after unusually pointed accusations against the spy agency, including potential criminal wrongdoing.

As a result of Sen. Dianne Feinstein's remarks Tuesday, yet another investigation may be in the

offing to sort out what the CIA did — or didn't do — to help or hamper Senate investigators.

Already, the episode has the markings of a classic Washington controversy as interpretations of facts diverge, some lawmakers choose sides, others suggest the new probe and the White House seeks a middle ground.

At its core, the controversy involves Feinstein's allegation that a CIA search of a computer network it set up for Senate investigators may have violated the Constitution and federal law.

"As far as allegations of the CIA hacking Senate computers, nothing could be further from the truth," the agency's director, John Brennan, said Tuesday, denying an allegation that Feinstein, D-Calif., did not make in her extensive remarks on the Senate floor.

Brennan said the agency had not sought to thwart Senate investigators put to work investigating the issue. He added that the agency was eager to put to rest the controversy stemming from the interrogation of detainees in the war on terrorism, and said agen-

cy personnel "believe strongly in the necessity of effective, strong and bipartisan congressional oversight."

Bipartisanship seemed to erode in the wake of Feinstein's speech, in which she said the CIA's search of the dedicated computer system possibly violated the Constitution as well as federal law and an executive order that prohibits the agency from conducting domestic searches.

Several Democrats praised her, while some Republicans pointed to her not.

"I support Sen. Feinstein unequivocally, and I am disappointed that the CIA is apparently unrepentant for what I understand they did," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., told reporters in the Capitol.

Sen. Saxby Chambliss, of Georgia, the top Republican on the Intelligence Committee, said he disagreed with Feinstein on the dispute with the CIA, without fully specifying how. "Right now we don't know what the facts are," he said. "We're going to continue to deal with this internally."

## Terrorism trial witness describes experience of training with al-Qaida

By TINA SUSMAN  
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK — Saajid Badat had been through all the training, from firing weapons while riding a motorcycle to watching dogs and rabbits, trapped under glass, die slow, agonizing deaths as he learned poisoning techniques.

He had laughed with other al-Qaida members as the self-confessed mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, scanned a list of tall buildings and crossed out the World Trade Center towers weeks after hijackers had destroyed them.

Now, Badat was ready to carry out al-Qaida's next big mission, a plan to down two U.S. jetliners using bombs hidden in shoes. He even had his shoe bombs, one for each foot.

The plan fell apart after he visited his mother and father in England.

"My mother and father sat me down. My father said, 'You better not be one of those sleepers,'" a reference to terrorist sleeper cells, Badat said Tuesday during several hours of testimony in a federal terrorism trial. His mother also registered her disapproval of terrorists, not knowing that her son had spent more than three years training to become a suicide bomber.

"It was then I decided to back out of the mission," said Badat, 34, who was testifying in the trial of Sulaiman abu Ghaiith, described by U.S. officials as the

highest-ranking al-Qaida leader to face trial in the United States on terrorism charges.

Prosecutors allege abu Ghaiith was al-Qaida's chief propagandist and knew of plans to target the United States. On Monday, they showed portions of videos that abu Ghaiith made after Sept. 11 warning of more attacks, including a "storm of airplanes."

Badat testified that he never saw abu Ghaiith during his years in Afghanistan, from January 1999 to 2002, even as he attended events and meetings with high-ranking al-Qaida chiefs, including Osama bin Laden. Even so, prosecutors say that the shoe-bomb plot was being hatched at the same time

abu Ghaiith was warning of future attacks shows that abu Ghaiith was part of a conspiracy to kill Americans.

Badat testified via video from an undisclosed location in Britain, where he grew up and where he spent 6½ years in prison after his arrest in November 2003 on charges of conspiracy to harm an aircraft.

He could not come to New York to testify because he is under indictment here.

**'My father said, 'You better not be one of those sleepers.''**

**Saajid Badat**  
witness in trial of al-Qaida spokesman Sulaiman abu Ghaiith



ANDY JONES, THE TAMPA (FLA.) TRIBUNE/AP

Republican David Jolly heads to the stage to thank his supporters Tuesday in Clearwater Beach, Fla. Jolly edged Democrat Alex Sink in a Tampa-area House district that had been held by the late Rep. Bill Young, who died in October.

## GOP win in Fla. seen as crucial test

The Associated Press

CLEARWATER BEACH, Fla. — A Republican won a special election in a Florida Congressional district where President Barack Obama's health care overhaul got its first test ahead of November's midterm elections and Democrats and Republicans spent millions of dollars auditioning national strategies for the rest of the year.

With almost all votes counted Tuesday night, David Jolly had 48.5 percent of the vote to Democrat Alex Sink's 46.7 percent. A third candidate, Libertarian Lucas Overby, had 4.8 percent.

The Tampa-area election was to replace 42-year Republican Rep. CW Bill Young, who died in October of cancer.

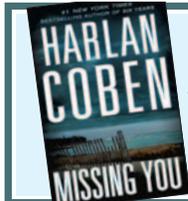
Young had been the chairman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the purse strings of the Defense Department. The chairman is now Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J.

The implications of the dueling messages for the midterm elections inspired both parties to call in star advocates like President Bill Clinton and former vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan, in addition to blanketing the district with ads, calls and mailings. More than \$11 million has been

spent on the race, according to the Sunlight Foundation, a non-profit group that tracks government information.

The battle for Florida's 13th District seat was a prequel of sorts to the national fight this year over who controls Congress in the last two years of Obama's final presidential term. The House is expected to remain under Republican control.

In the Senate, Republicans are hoping to leverage Obama's unpopularity and the new health care law's wobbly start to gain the six seats required to control the 100-member chamber.



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

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NATION

# 2 killed after explosion levels 2 NYC buildings

By VERENA DOBNIK AND JAKE PEARSON  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A thunderous explosion that may have been caused by a gas leak flattened two East Harlem apartment buildings Wednesday, killing at least two people, injuring 18 and leaving an undisclosed number missing.

Utility workers were on the way to check out a report of a gas odor at the time of the 9:30 a.m. blast, which shattered store windows for blocks, hurled debris onto elevated commuter railroad tracks close by, cast a plume of smoke over the skyline and sent people running into the streets.

The two five-story brick buildings on Park Avenue at 116th Street were reduced to a burning heap of bricks and metal.

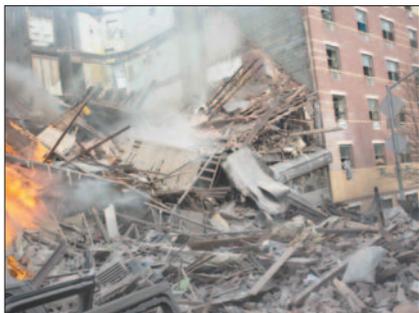
"It felt like an earthquake had rattled my whole building," said Waldemar Infante, a porter who was working in a basement nearby. "There were glass shards everywhere on the ground and all the stores had their windows blown out."

Police said two females died, but they had no further details.

Mayor Bill de Blasio said authorities were trying to locate "a number of missing individuals, some of whom may have fled to safety."

Con Edison had received a report of a gas leak 15 minutes before the explosion, de Blasio said. The blast occurred before the emergency teams arrived, according to the mayor.

The East Harlem neighborhood stood at a standstill as police set up barricades to keep residents away. Thick, acrid smoke rose into the air, causing people's eyes to water. Many wore surgical masks, while others held their hands or scarves over their faces.



JEREMY SAILING/AP

**Emergency workers respond to the scene of an explosion and building collapse in the East Harlem neighborhood of New York on Wednesday. The explosion leveled two buildings and sent flames and black smoke billowing above the skyline.**

Sidewalks for blocks around were littered with broken glass. Witnesses said the blast was so powerful it knocked groceries off the shelves of nearby stores.

One of the side-by-side Park Avenue buildings had a piano store on the first floor, the other a storefront church. Building Department records don't show any work in progress at either address, but the building with the church had obtained permits to install new gas pipes in June.

A resident of the one of the buildings, Eusebio Perez, heard news of the explosion and hurried back from his job as a piano technician.

"There's nothing left," he said. "Just a bunch of bricks and wood."

Perez, 48, said he shared an apartment with a roommate and was unsure what his next steps

would be.

"I only have what I'm wearing," he said. "I have to find a place to stay for tonight and organize what's going to be my next steps."

A man who lives several blocks from the scene of the blast said he heard the explosion, ran to the window and saw flames consuming one building and smoke rising into the air.

"I was in my bedroom and the explosion went off, it kind of shook the whole building," Eoin Hayes, 26, said. "You could feel the vibrations going through the building."

Hayes said the fire consumed one building and then moved to the one next to it before the flames eventually subsided.

The fire department said it sent nearly 170 members to the scene.

# Fire ravages San Francisco site

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco firefighters prevented a five-alarm fire from spreading from a condominium construction site to nearby buildings Tuesday.

The fast-moving blaze, which sent an enormous plume of black smoke into the sky, began around 5 p.m. in the city's Mission Bay neighborhood, a onetime industrial area that lies along the San Francisco Bay and is home to a University of California, San Francisco campus.

Nearly buildings were evacuated as more than 150 firefighters battled the flames, using about 90 firetrucks, the San Francisco Chronicle reported. Residents of Strata at Mission Bay, a building across the street, told the paper

that heat from the fire blew out of some front windows.

Fire Capt. Matthew McNaughton said that the roof of a UCSF research building, a block away from the construction site, briefly caught fire.

San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White told the Chronicle the fire was the city's largest in several years.

The burning building was part of a residential development project with 172 units, according to BRE Properties, the building's owner. Fire-suppression systems had not yet been installed in the building, making the battle more difficult, fire officials said.

One of the six-story structure's walls collapsed about an hour after the fire began, and the rest

of the building was not expected to remain standing, officials said.

The cause of the blaze wasn't immediately clear. Hayes-White said most of the construction workers finished work for the day around 4 p.m.

McNaughton said several workers were still at the site when firefighters arrived.

The fire was expected to burn into the night, and firefighters were likely to be working in the area until daybreak, officials said.

"Thanks to the leadership and determined action of our Fire Department, the very real potential of severe damage to other homes, businesses, and structures in the neighborhood was avoided," Mayor Ed Lee said in a statement Tuesday night.

# La. death row inmate freed

The Associated Press

ANGOLA, La. — A man who spent nearly 26 years on death row in Louisiana walked free of prison hours after a judge approved the state's motion to vacate the man's murder conviction in a 1983 killing of a jeweler.

Glen Ford, 64, had been on death row since August 1988 in connection with the death of Isadore Rozeman, 56, a Shreveport jeweler and watchmaker for whom Ford had done occasional yard work. Ford had always denied killing Rozeman.

Ford walked out of the maximum security prison at Angola on Tuesday afternoon, said Pam Laborde, a spokeswoman for Louisiana's Department of Public Safety and Corrections.

Asked as he walked away from the prison gates about his release, Ford told WAFB-TV, "It feels good; my mind is going in all kind of directions. It feels good."

Ford told the broadcast outlet he does harbor some resentment at being wrongly jailed. "Yeah, cause, I've been locked up almost 30 years for something I didn't do."

"I can't go back and do anything I should have been doing when I was 35, 38, 40, stuff like that," he added.

State District Judge Ramona Emanuel on Monday took the



Ford

step of voiding Ford's conviction and sentence based on new information that corroborated his claim that he was not present at or involved in Rozeman's

death, Ford's attorneys said. Ford was tried and convicted of first-degree murder in 1984 and sentenced to death.

"We are very pleased to see Glen Ford finally exonerated, and we are particularly grateful that the prosecution and the court moved ahead so decisively to set Mr. Ford free," said a statement from his attorneys.

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# UKRAINE UNREST

# Breedlove: Forces in Crimea are Russian

By John Vandiver  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — NATO Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Philip Breedlove asserted Tuesday that soldiers surrounding Ukrainian bases in Crimea are Russian forces, dismissing accounts that the troops are pro-Russia local militia.

"After extensive review of multiple information sources, we believe these are Russian military forces acting on clear orders to undermine Ukraine forces in Crimea," Breedlove wrote in his blog, From the Cockpit.

The identity of the heavily armed men surrounding Ukrainian military bases in the contested region of Crimea has been a source of debate. While some media outlets have described the soldiers as "local militia," many Western observers have made the deduction that troops in the Russian-style fatigues are, in fact, Russian.

Breedlove said NATO experts have determined that the soldiers are Russian and will treat them as such.

"This conclusion, although hastily stated



Stars and Stripes

**U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO supreme allied commander Europe, says soldiers surrounding Ukrainian bases in Crimea are Russian forces.**

by some members of the press, is based on deliberate and painstaking scrutiny of the many sources of data available to our professional military analysts," Breedlove said. "As we move forward and continue to

closely monitor the situation in Ukraine, it will be with the understanding of the real identity of these forces."

Breedlove's assertion comes as the U.S. and NATO are bolstering their military presence in eastern Europe in response to the crisis. Already, NATO has beefed up its air policing mission in the Baltics as part of an effort to reassure allies with a long history of antagonism with Russia. In Poland the U.S. has hastened a pre-planned rotational training mission, sending in 12 Air Force F-16s for a joint mission with Polish military. In addition, the Navy's USS Truxtun, a guided-missile destroyer, is now in the Black Sea for what the Navy calls a routine visit to Bulgaria and Romania. If it chooses, the military could elect to extend the destroyer's stay in the Black Sea to reassure and train with wary allies.

Meanwhile, NATO has deployed E-3 AWACS reconnaissance aircraft to Poland and Romania to monitor the unfolding crisis in Ukraine.

In a sign of how high the stakes are, President Barack Obama is slated to meet with new Ukrainian Prime Minister Ar-

seniy Yatsenyuk at the White House on Tuesday.

John Deni, a professor of security studies at the U.S. Army War College, said the crisis in Ukraine has put Europe back into the security forefront as the West contends with an unpredictable Russian president in Vladimir Putin.

"The U.S. should press pause on any military drawdown plans for Europe," Deni said. "By doing that, you're sending a signal to Russia that we're taking this seriously. You're also reassuring allies and maintaining the ability to train with them, which NATO very much needs."

While Putin has so far balked at Western threats of sanctions, Deni suggested the U.S. and other oil- and gas-producing allies should seek to ramp up production as part of an effort to drive down oil prices, a measure that would hit hard Russia's resource-dependent economy.

"There is no appetite for military conflict, but we sometimes don't recognize the power we have and the other tools at our disposal," Deni said.

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FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP

**A NATO AWACS plane takes off from the NATO Airbase in Geilenkirchen, Germany, on Wednesday. NATO is deploying surveillance aircraft over Ukraine and the Black Sea.**

## NATO deploys surveillance planes

The Associated Press

GEILENKIRCHEN, Germany — NATO deployed two surveillance aircraft Wednesday to monitor Ukraine's air space and Black Sea ship movements as Russia consolidated its military buildup in Crimea.

NATO headquarters spokesman Lt. Col. Jay Janzen said one aircraft based in England would observe Russian air and sea movements from Polish air space, while the other based in Germany would fly over Romania. Both Poland and Romania are NATO members and border Ukraine, and Romania's Black Sea coast is only about 140 miles from the Crimean peninsula.

Janzen said the planes — both Boeing E-3 Sentry aircraft that sport a rotating radar dome above the fuselage — would be able to monitor military movements covering an area of 115,000 square miles and will not leave NATO air space. "Regardless, we can

observe, we can look, a very long way," he said.

The Sentry is also known as AWACS, short for "airborne warning and control system," and is the main battlefield command and surveillance aircraft for NATO air forces.

The 28-nation NATO alliance decided Monday to use AWACS to monitor Russia's military buildup, and the first Sentry sortie over Romania happened Tuesday, Janzen said.

The Tuesday and Wednesday sorties had previously been planned as training flights before NATO's decision, but were then reconfigured to be part of the new mission, Janzen said. More operations are now being planned.

The U.S. Air Force already has deployed extra combat fighters to NATO bases in Eastern Europe, including six F-15s last week in Lithuania and a dozen F-16s this week in Poland.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Navy destroyer joined Bulgarian and Ro-

manian naval forces in the Black Sea for exercises a few hundred miles off the Crimean Peninsula.

The drills on Wednesday include the guided-missile destroyer USS Truxtun, the Bulgarian naval frigate Drazki and three Romanian vessels.

Bulgaria's Defense Ministry said in a statement that the drills were planned in 2013 and were in no way related to the recent events in the Ukraine.

## Russia denies it's preparing invasion

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine accused Russia on Wednesday of conducting a large military buildup near its border that raises the threat of an invasion, but Moscow denied that.

Andriy Parubiy, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, told reporters in Kiev that Russia has deployed more than 80,000 troops, up to 270 tanks and 140 combat planes close to the border, creating the "threat of a full-scale invasion from various directions."

Parubiy said Russian troops are based in the immediate vicinity of the Ukrainian border, some of them as close as a two- or three-hour drive from Kiev, the Ukrainian capital.

In Moscow, Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov denied a military buildup on the nearly 1,250-mile border.

He also said Moscow has accepted a request that Ukraine had made Tuesday to conduct a surveillance flight over the Russian territory under the Open Skies treaty, which was designed to build confidence.

Antonov said that while Russia was not obliged to allow such a flight, it decided to issue permission for one so Ukraine can see for

For the latest news of the Ukraine unrest, go to [stars.com/go/ukraine](http://stars.com/go/ukraine)

itself that "Russian armed forces aren't conducting any military activities near the border of Ukraine that could threaten its security."

Russian forces have secured control over Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, and President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow is ready to "use all means" to protect Russian speakers in eastern Ukraine.

The Kremlin-controlled parliament has granted Putin permission to use the Russian military in Ukraine.

Parubiy said Russia could try to stage the seizure of government buildings in the eastern regions of Ukraine, followed by demands for a referendum there.

He said that such plans have been thwarted, thanks to efforts of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

Parubiy added that Ukrainian authorities have denied 3,700 Russian citizens permission to enter Ukraine because they were suspected of being involved in extremist and sabotage.

Crimea, which Russia maintains its Black Sea Fleet base, became the epicenter of tensions in Ukraine after President Viktor Yanukovich fled last month.

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OPINION

Military justice bungles latest day in court

By MARGARET CARLSON  
 Bloomberg News

**B**rig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair's trial on sexual assault charges began the week after the Senate blocked a bill that would change the way such cases are handled. Sinclair, the former deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division and a onetime rising star in the Army, is Exhibit A in why the current system needs to be changed — and it isn't the reason you may think.

In a nail-biting roll-call vote last Thursday that pitted allies against one another, woman against woman and veteran against veteran, 10 Republicans supported a measure sponsored by Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand that would have removed sexual assaults and other major crimes from the military code of command. Ten Democrats voted against it. Sens. Ted Cruz and Rand Paul, who are potential Republican presidential candidates, voted yes and were warned by Sen. Lindsey Graham that he would remind folks that they showed themselves "willing to fire every commander in the military."

Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, who has proposed a bill that changes the way sex crimes are handled but keeps responsibility for prosecution within the chain of command, voted against Gillibrand's version, which got 55 votes but failed. (On Monday, McCaskill's bill passed the Senate 97-0.)

Everyone agrees something has to be done about this plague. The fight is over what that something should be. Rapes and assaults are rampant in the military — perhaps 26,000 in 2012, according to the Pentagon. A year's worth of Senate hearings showed that the crime isn't being handled appropriately in house. If an assault is reported — many aren't — there's no confidence justice will be done. Too many friendships, too many institutional relationships, too much raw power in the

hands of the accused cloud judgment. Complainants are pressured to grin and bear it in the interests of unit cohesion. Those who speak up are often isolated, sidelined or transferred.

It's a complicated mess, as the 2012 Oscar-nominated documentary "The Invisible War" and many television series, including "House of Cards," show.

A new plot twist is playing out in the Sinclair case at Fort Bragg, N.C. The judge on Monday dismissed the jury while he considered an email chain, revealed over the weekend, between the prosecution team and a top Pentagon lawyer. Sinclair, who is married, is charged with forcing himself on a captain 21 years his junior with whom he'd had a consensual affair. The general acknowledged the affair and pleaded guilty to lesser charges, including possession of pornography and adultery, in hopes of getting more serious assault charges, which he denies, dropped. By ordering the prosecution to reject the plea, the judge ruled that the brass had exerted "undue command influence."

The emails showed that prosecutors were concerned because the accused had testified truthfully at an earlier hearing. Concluding the victim had lied, the former lead prosecutor in the case, Lt. Col. William Helixon, resigned last month after he tried, and failed, to get the brass to accept the plea and drop the most serious charges against Sinclair. In December, a lawyer for the accused had argued in a letter that the plea should be tuned down because accepting it would "have an adverse effect on my client and the Army's fight against sexual assault."

The recently disclosed emails showed the prosecutors discussed her letter, a potential violation of the military code of justice, which requires cases to be decided on the evidence and without regard to political implications.

This isn't fiction, but real life. And it raises the question of whether the political

winds are now blowing in favor of victims. Are commanders now overcompensating for years of turning a blind eye to sexual abuse by prosecuting even when their own lawyers urge restraint?

The events at Fort Bragg are a demonstration of the need for the kind of change Gillibrand has demanded: Cases must be removed from the chain of command to ensure they aren't exposed to pressure from generals in the Pentagon. Prosecutions shouldn't be subject to politics, Gillibrand says, or to "the discretion of a senior officer or a commander who may like the perpetrator or might like the victim."

Crimes involving sex and violence are no easier to handle inside the military than outside. They may even be harder to prosecute in a closed system where everyone knows everyone and where victims and perpetrators continue to work side by side, sometimes for each other.

Opening day on Friday gave us a taste of what such trials could be like. The accuser testified that Sinclair threatened to kill her family and forced her to have oral sex after she tried to end the affair. For its part, the defense cited a letter in which captain told Sinclair how much she enjoyed sex with him after he allegedly did those things. One of the messages was from the very day she decided to tell Sinclair's superior officer that the general had assaulted her. She was furious, the defense contends, when the defense lawyer was having an affair with another woman.

It's a new day for Sinclair with the ruling in his favor that his initial plea was rejected because of undue influence. On Tuesday, his attorneys said they had decided to try to negotiate another bargain with new representatives from the military. And the trial is suspended. The finding also is proof that Gillibrand has been right all along. She just didn't know that the most prominent case to prove her point would favor the accused.

Margaret Carlson is a Bloomberg View columnist.

Alaska's 'road to nowhere' still a boondoggle

By BRUCE BABBITT

**I**t has been said that nothing dies harder than a bad idea.

Nearly two decades ago, while I was serving as U.S. secretary of the interior, Alaska's Sens. Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens wanted to build a 38-mile gravel road in their state, with 11 miles going through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The road would connect the salmon canneries in King Cove, population 948, with a larger airport in the neighboring town of Cold Bay to expand and speed shipping.

My boss at the time, President Bill Clinton, promised to veto the bill for a simple reason: It was a bad idea. Based on federal and state documents, the Wilderness Society has estimated the total cost of the "road to nowhere" to U.S. taxpayers at more than \$75 million, or \$79.13 per resident of King Cove. The project would also set a dangerous precedent as the first new road ever authorized through a congressionally protected wilderness area, one of the most stunning estuaries on the planet.

Time has passed, and a few things have changed, but a boondoggle is still a boondoggle.

Today, it is Sen. Lisa Murkowski, the daughter of one of the idea's original champions, who insists the road must be built. And it is a new secretary of the interior, Sally Jewell, who has rightly said no.

The road's proponents have changed their sales pitch over the last 20 years. They now claim they have no intention of hauling seafood over the road. They say

the road is simply needed for emergency medical evacuations.

But despite pledges and promises to the contrary, the real purpose for building the road is the same as it ever was: moving fish and gear to and from King Cove's canneries. Today, Peter Pan Seafoods, wholly owned by the Japanese company Maruha Capital Investments Inc., is the largest cannery in King Cove. A local assemblyman acknowledged in 2010 that the road would help Peter Pan better transport "fresh product." And the local borough has been clear about its ambition to ship "live crab directly from the Aleutians East Borough 'hub' port of Cold Bay to markets in China and other Asian countries."

Moreover, in an agreement I helped negotiate with Stevens in 1998, U.S. taxpayers have already accommodated alternative solutions to King Cove's concerns about medical emergencies, with the clear understanding that the road would therefore not be built.

Instead of constructing the proposed road — which would be impassable in severe weather — taxpayers invested \$37.5 million to upgrade the health clinic at King Cove and to purchase the first air-hovertcraft for medical evacuations. The hovertcraft performed medevacs so well that the borough's mayor called it a "lifesaving machine" in 2008. Nonetheless, after a successful three-year record of medical transports, the borough assigned the hovertcraft to a different community to provide ferry transportation services for seasonal workers at another seafood plant.

Murkowski and the proponents of the road are still pushing for it as if the 1998 deal never happened, insisting the road is needed for medical emergencies. Anyone who says otherwise, they argue, is putting Alaskan lives at risk. And they are irate that Jewell, after conducting a thorough scientific review of the project and gathering public input, rejected the road in December.

Murkowski has called the rejection of the road "callous and coldhearted," hinted at the need for "civil disobedience" and promised "to be a hell-raiser on this."

She is demanding that President Barack Obama and Jewell reconsider: the decision. She says the road is among the reasons why she has been delaying and is now opposing the Senate's confirmation of the president's nominee to oversee national parks and wildlife refuges.

And if the history of this issue is any guide, Murkowski probably will attempt to override Jewell — and the results of exhaustive scientific review — by attaching a legislative rider to a bill mandating that the project be built at taxpayer expense.

All this is justified, Murkowski argues, because the residents of King Cove "are not being treated fairly."

Nonsense. U.S. taxpayers shouldn't be fooled. The road to nowhere is what it was 20 years ago: a fairy tale as unchanging as Peter Pan.

Bruce Babbitt was secretary of the Department of the Interior from 1993 to 2001. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

OPINION

# Obama's not branching out in the right way

By JONATHAN TURLEY

Recently, a bizarre scene unfolded on the floor of the House of Representatives that would have shocked the framers of the Constitution. In his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama announced that he had decided to go it alone in areas where Congress refused to act to his satisfaction. In a system of shared powers, one would expect an outcry or at least stony silence when a president promised to circumvent the legislative branch. Instead, many senators and representatives erupted in rapturous applause; they seemed delighted at the notion of a president assuming unprecedented and unchecked powers at their expense.

Last week, Obama underlined what this means for our system. The administration unilaterally increased the transition time for individuals to obtain the level of insurance mandated by the Affordable Care Act. There is no statutory authority for the change — simply the raw assertion of executive power.

The United States is at a constitutional tipping point: the rise of an uber presidency unchecked by the other two branches.

This massive shift of authority threatens the stability and functionality of our tripartite system of checks and balances. To be sure, it did not begin with the Obama administration. The trend has existed for decades, and President George W. Bush showed equal contempt for the separation of powers. However, it has accelerated at an alarming rate under Obama. Of perhaps great concern is the fact that the other two branches appear passive, if not inert, in the face of expanding executive power.

James Madison fashioned a government of three bodies locked in a synchronous orbit by their countervailing powers. The system of separation of powers was not created to protect the authority of each branch for its own sake. Rather, it is the primary protection of individual rights because it prevents the concentration of power in any one branch. In this sense, Obama is not simply posing a danger to the constitutional system; he has become the very danger

that separation of powers was designed to avoid.

A glance at recent unilateral moves by Obama illustrates how executive power has expanded, largely at the cost of legislative power. The suspension of a portion of the ACA is only the latest such action related to the health care law:

- The heart of the health care law was a set of minimum requirements for insurance plans. After Obama was embarrassed by the cancellations of millions of nonconforming plans (when he had said no one would lose a plan they had and liked), he created first one temporary exemption and then, last week, another, adding two years to the compliance deadline set by law.

- On his own authority, Obama also chose other dates for compliance with the employer mandate.

- Congress ended a subsidy for members of Congress and their staffs so that they would obtain insurance under the ACA on the same terms as other citizens. Obama ordered that the same subsidies would continue, in defiance of the law.

- The president has shown similar unilateral intentions in other areas.

- He asked Congress to change the law to exempt certain classes of immigrants — particularly children — who are in the U.S. illegally from deportation. Congress refused to pass the so-called Dream Act, but did not proceed to order agencies to effectively guarantee the very same changes.

- The administration ordered all U.S. attorneys to stop prosecuting nonviolent drug crime defendants who would be subject to what Attorney General Eric Holder called "disproportionate" fines and sentences. The new rule effectively negates sentencing provisions set by Congress.

- Obama opposed the No Child Left Behind Act and in effect nullified it through waivers of his own making.

- For years, the Wire Act was interpreted to mean that Internet gambling was prohibited, which some states and businesses opposed. The Obama administration declared the act would now be treated as having the inverse meaning.

Some of these changes are admittedly



close questions, and federal agencies give considerable discretion in crafting regulations. For example, the Obama administration repeatedly asked Congress to limit greenhouse gases but was rejected. The administration proceeded to create its own national regulation of the gases along the very lines debated and rejected in Congress. Yet the new regulations are based on a broadly written Clean Air Act and were upheld in part by the Supreme Court. However, this regulatory scheme was still initiated without any approval of Congress.

Not even the power of the purse, which belongs exclusively to Congress, is sufficient to deter the White House. The Obama administration took \$454 million from a fund established to help prevent illness and put the money instead toward paying for the federal health insurance exchange. Even leading Democratic members denounced this as "a violation of both the letter and spirit of this landmark law."

I happen to agree with many of the president's policies. However, in our system, it is often more important how we do something than what we do. Priorities and

policies and presidents change. Democrats will rue the day of their acquiescence to this shift of power when a future president negates an environmental law, or an anti-discrimination law, or tax laws.

To be clear, Obama is not a dictator, but there is a danger in his aggregation of executive power.

Our system is changing in a fundamental way without even a whimper of regret. No one branch in the Madisonian system can go it alone — not Congress, not the courts, and not the president. The branches are stuck with each other in a system of shared powers, for better or worse. They may deadlock or even despise one another. The Founders clearly foresaw such periods.

Whatever problems we face today in politics, they are of our own making. They should not be used to take from future generations a system that has safeguarded our freedoms for more than 200 years.

Jonathan Turley, a professor of law at George Washington University, recently testified in Congress about presidential violations of the separation of powers. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

# Anti-war Russians become endangered minority

By LEONID BERSHIDSKY

Bloomberg View

Crimea's non-Russian minorities aren't the only ones whose rights may be trampled as Russian President Vladimir Putin moves to annex the Ukrainian peninsula. His critics in Russia, too, face a frightening future.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, once Russia's richest man and until recently the country's best-known political prisoner, assured Ukrainians in Kiev last weekend that not all Russians agree with Putin's decision of invasion of Ukrainian territory. He extolled the actions of anti-war protesters detained in Moscow, saying they represent "a totally different Russia," people "for whom friendship between the Russian and Ukrainian nations is more important than their own liberty." His words were greeted with a chorus of "Russia, arise."

Bravo to the protesters. The Russian protesters numbered only in the hundreds — a drop in the bucket for a country of 140 million. Most Russians appear to support Putin's moves. Polls by different organizations, from pro-Kremlin VTsIOM to the liberal-leaning Levada Center, suggest that Putin's popularity is at its highest since his re-election in 2012. "The nation

will be united, and an overwhelming majority will share the leader's ideology and enrich this ideology with its unity," Putin's press secretary Dmitri Peskov told the Russia 1 television channel, calling the dissenters "professional critics" and a "nano-fifth column."

Already, a team of pro-Putin activists has created a website that carries a list of dissenters: the site's anonymous creators wrote. Anton Sorvachev, a lawyer, maintains his own "blacklist" on LiveJournal, warning media that supporting Ukraine is tantamount to high treason. University lecturer Arkady Minakov called on Putin to "neutralize" the pro-Western fifth column.

The hate-mongering is not directly backed or recognized by the Kremlin, but then neither are the unmarked troops who now control the Crimea. Just as Putin wages his strange war of intimidation in Ukraine, his propaganda machine is creating a climate of intolerance for dissent. "The nation is consolidated," columnist

Ivan Davydov wrote on Colta.ru. "The opponents of war (that is, excuse me, Russia's upcoming great geopolitical triumph) are a tiny minority. The discussions are over. What could jubilant patriots discuss with traitors to the nation? Now we insult in place of arguments."

The shift in Russian society could be deep and long-lasting. Once the Crimea's annexation is set in fact, Putin will be motivated to control dissent at home as much of the outside world condemns Russia's actions and possibly hits it with sanctions. People who disagree with Putin's policies will be intellectually isolated, forced to adapt to the new environment.

"This will be a completely different society," the political scientist Alexander Morozov, who predicted the Crimea invasion, wrote on Russ.ru. "Life will continue under this new Berlin wall. For some people, Putin's pseudo-Iran will provide great new opportunities. Other will emigrate. Others yet will fall silent, and still others will look for new forms of loyalty."

I can see this "different society" — Morozov's, not Khodorkovsky's — congealing around me. Many people I talk to, from colleagues to guys at the gym, believe Russia is right to claim the Crimea. Even if they did it long before, they do now, perhaps tactically and temporarily,

but heatedly. ... Whether dissenters will face reprisals or not, they are increasingly marginalized and irrelevant to the new Russia that Putin carried far years in his mind — and just revealed to the world.

"Putin doesn't intend to have a conversation with anyone, but even if he did, there would be nobody for him to talk to," Gleb Pavlovsky, once a close adviser to Putin and now his opponent, told Colta.ru. "This 'total collapse of the Russian intelligent class,' he said, "is a more serious catastrophe than the Crimea."

It may also be a bigger victory for Putin than the annexation. The war he is winning is not in Ukraine, where a whole nation will now see Russians as natural enemies, and not in the West, where Russia will be even more deeply mistrusted. It is a domestic war against people who want a different image and a different future for their country. Only two years ago, tens of thousands of people marched against Putin in Moscow and were seen as a serious enough challenge that the Kremlin even made some concessions. Now, Putin's opponents are a demoralized handful expecting to be kicked around and spat at as traitors.

Leonid Bershidsky writes on Russia, Europe and technology for Bloomberg View.

WORLD

# Families wait for answers

By William Wan and Liu Liu  
The Washington Post

BEIJING — For days, relatives awaiting word on the vanished Malaysia Airlines jet have endured a cruel roller coaster of emotions.

First came the shock. Then, with each development that has emerged, they have careened between hope and despair. But by Monday, the predominant emotion was anger.

Gathered at a hotel in northeast Beijing, many still resented Malaysia Airlines for having sent no one to explain anything during the first 15 hours after the plane's disappearance. They blamed the Chinese government for not even meeting with them on Monday, three days into the crisis.

More than 100 of them signed a petition demanding answers and government assistance. Representatives selected from the families brought their protests to the Malaysian Embassy in Beijing.

Monday afternoon, when Malaysia Airlines officials returned for yet another briefing with little more to offer, some relatives threw water bottles at them in frustration.

All officials reassured the families that they had read their petition. "Your concern is our concern."

Beginning Saturday night, the families were kept in a conference area of the Lido Hotel in Beijing, sectioned off from a media scrum outside, where officials could address them out of journalists' earshot.

On Sunday at 3 a.m., before Ma-



A Shanghai, China, office building bears lights forming the words MH370, the flight number of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane. Malaysian authorities defended their handling of the hunt for the missing Boeing 777 on Wednesday even as they acknowledged they were unsure which direction the plane was headed when it disappeared.

aysia Airlines officials had their first meeting with the families, police entered first and tried to calm them down. Police also removed the chairs for fear that they might be thrown at the officials. But the move backfired, sparking anger over elderly relatives who were forced to stand.

When officials finally addressed the crowd, they had almost no details to offer.

In the absence of information, the hotel became a place of rampant rumor.

There were conspiracy theories and morbid calculation of survival odds, which grew ever darker as the days dragged on.

One of the most eerie rumors came after a few relatives said they were able to call the cell-phones of their loved ones or find them on a Chinese instant messenger service called QQ that in-

dicated that their phones were still somehow online.

A migrant worker in the room said that several other workers from his company were on the plane, including his brother-in-law. Among them, the QQ accounts of three still showed that they were online, he said Sunday afternoon.

Adding to the mystery, other relatives in the room said that when they dialed some passengers' numbers, they seemed to get ringing tones on the other side even though the calls were not picked up.

The phantom calls triggered a new level of desperation and anger for some. They tried repeatedly Sunday and Monday to ask airline and police officials about the ringing calls and QQ accounts. However unlikely it was, many thought the phones might still be on, and

that if authorities just tracked them down, their relatives might be found.

According to Singapore's Strait Times, a Malaysia Airlines official, Hugh Dunleavy, told families that the company had tried calling mobile phones of crewmembers as well and that they had also rung.

For the small group holding out hope over the online QQ accounts of their loved ones, evening brought yet another crushing blow. One man said he had convinced two policemen to come to his home Sunday night to witness the active QQ account on his desktop computer.

But sometime Monday afternoon, when he wasn't paying attention, it had suddenly switched off.

Like so many involved, he was now left with even more questions left unanswered.

# Last words from plane were routine

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — "A right, good night" were the final words heard by air traffic controllers from the missing Malaysia Airlines flight before it vanished over the South China Sea five days ago, relatives of the passengers were told Wednesday.

News of the last communication came as Malaysia defended its handling of the hunt for the missing Boeing 777 but acknowledged it is still unsure which direction the plane was headed when it disappeared, highlighting the massive task facing the search.

Government officials said they asked India to join in the search near the Andaman Sea, suggesting they think the jetliner and the 239 people on board might have reached those waters after crossing into the Strait of Malacca, some 250 miles from the flight's last known coordinates.

The mystery over the plane's whereabouts has been confounded by confusing and occasionally conflicting statements by Malaysian officials, which have led to allegations of incompetence or even cover-up, adding to the anguish of relatives of those on board the flight, two thirds of them Chinese.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein described the multinational search as unprecedented. Some 43 ships and 39 aircraft from at least eight nations were scouring the area of 35,800 square miles to the east and west of Peninsular Malaysia.

Malaysian officials met in Beijing on Wednesday with several hundred Chinese relatives of passengers.

If all those on board are confirmed dead, it would be the deadliest commercial air accident in 10 years.

# Cameraman recounts Irwin stingray attack

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australia's famed "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin knew he was dying after a massive stingray stabbed him in the chest hundreds of times, the only witness to the fatal 2006 attack said in his first detailed public account of the beloved conservationist's death.

"We're saying to him things like, 'Think of your kids, Steve — hang on, hang on, hang on,'" Justin Lyons, Irwin's longtime cameraman, told Australia's Studio 10 morning show this week. "And he just sort of calmly looked up at me and said, 'I'm dying.' And that was the last thing he said."

In the nearly six years since Irwin's death, Lyons has said little publicly about how the fatal encounter with the stingray unfolded. Now, he said, he wants to clarify exactly how Irwin died, including dismissing reports that he pulled the stingray's barb out of his own chest.

"The stories at the time of Steve's death — none of them were accurate because no one else was there," Lyons said in an interview Wednesday. "And that always bothered me."

Lyons is also speaking out now because he has just finished producing a documentary, "E-Motion," which examines the impact that repressing negative emotions can have on the body.

Lyons still vividly remembers the day he lost his friend, who rose to fame via his TV series, "The Crocodile Hunter." The two were shooting a wildlife documentary in the Great Barrier Reef when they spotted an 8-foot-wide stingray.

They had been filming the creature for several minutes in chest-deep water and decided to try and get one final shot of the stingray swimming away. Suddenly, the animal began wildly stabbing Irwin with the barb on its tail — hundreds of strikes within seconds, Lyons said. The barb

went through his chest "like a hot knife through butter," piercing his heart, Lyons said.

"I didn't even know it had caused any damage. It wasn't until I panned the camera back that Steve was standing in a huge pool of blood that I realized something had gone wrong," he said.

Lyons performed CPR on the boat, but the damage was too severe. The 44-year-old died later that day, leaving behind his wife, Terri, and two young children.

The fact that Irwin — who was notorious for his extremely close encounters with crocodiles, sharks and other potentially lethal animals — died after a run-in with a normally docile creature shocked the public. But Lyons said he always had a sense his friend would meet an unusual end.

"It was never going to be a croc or a shark," he said Wednesday. "He was so good with animals."



Steve Irwin, "The Crocodile Hunter" holds a nine-foot alligator while posing with his wife, Terri, and his "Australia Zoo" in 1999. Irwin knew he was dying after a stingray attack in 2006, the only witness said Wednesday in his first detailed public account.

WORLD

# Militants flee 5 Somali towns

By ABDI GULED  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Columns of African Union and Somali troops are moving deeper into land controlled by al-Qaida-linked militants, forcing fighters to flee from five towns in quick succession in a further squeezing of al-Shabab's strongholds.

Al-Shabab has put up little resistance as the AU and Somali troops surged toward their strongholds over the last several days. Towns in the interior of So-

malia with little relevance to the outside world — Rabdure, Ted, Hudur, Wajid and Buudhubow — are now in the nominal control of Somalia's Mogadishu-based government, a further step of success following al-Shabab's ouster from Mogadishu in 2011.

"This current operation is against extremists and will continue until we recapture all territory," Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said in a statement Monday.

"We want to give back to the long-suffering Somali people

an environment conducive to good governance and public services."

The U.S. State Department said it welcomes the joint efforts by the AU and Somali soldiers to push al-Shabab from the towns.

Nicholas Kay, the U.N. envoy to Somalia, told the Security Council by videoconference from Mogadishu that the military advance is "significant and geographically extensive," and he praised its "notable successes."

"Somalia and Somalia desperately need improved security"

which is "a vital task for 2014," Kay said. "But the political dimension of state-building and peace-building is equally vital this year" and "national reconciliation must be fast-tracked."

In response to the military incursion, al-Shabab's reclusive leader, Ahmed Abdi Godane, spoke on the militants' radio station and urged Somalis to join their ranks and fight against the offensive. He made explicit reference to Ethiopian troops taking part in the African Union military campaign.

## Avalanches, heavy snow kill 14 across Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India — Unusually heavy snowfall unleashed avalanches and collapsed homes in the Himalayan region of Kashmir, killing at least 14 people on both sides of the de-facto border between India and Pakistan, officials said.

Ten died in the Indian-controlled portion of the territory, police said, while Pakistan's military reported another four dead in an avalanche on that side of the border.

On the Indian side, dozens were evacuated from high-risk areas Wednesday after avalanches killed two Indian army soldiers camped in the Kargil region and another three Nepalese laborers.

Another five people were killed when dozens of homes crumpled under the weight of snow in the southern Kulgam and Shopian areas, and the Indian-controlled state, police officer Intiyaz Husain said.

Pakistan's military said an avalanche killed four soldiers late Tuesday near the northern district of Astore.

## Thousands gather for Turkish teen's funeral

ISTANBUL — Thousands of people gathered in Istanbul for the funeral of a Turkish teenager who died nine months after slipping into a coma from being hit by a police tear-gas canister during anti-government protests.

The death of Berkun Elvan, 15, on Tuesday sparked clashes between protesters and riot police in several cities.

On Wednesday, thousands converged in front of a house of worship, calling for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to resign.

## Ousted prime minister leaves Libya despite ban

TRIPOLI, Libya — Libya's ousted prime minister has left the country despite a ban on travel, hours after parliament removed him from office in a no-confidence vote.

Officials in Tripoli on Wednesday could not confirm the departure of Ali Zidan, Libya's first democratically chosen leader who had struggled for 15 months to stem the country's spiraling descent into chaos.

In nearby Malta, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat told state-owned television that Zidan had made a brief stop-over on the Mediterranean island late Tuesday before traveling on.

## Japanese lab may retract stem cell paper

TOKYO — A Japanese government-funded laboratory said Tuesday it is considering retracting a research paper describing a simple way of turning ordinary cells from mice into stem cells.

The RIKEN Center for Developmental Biology in Kobe, Japan, has been looking into questions raised over images and wording in the paper, co-authored by lab scientist Haruko Obokata.

RIKEN said Tuesday that it may retract the paper because of credibility and ethics issues, even though an investigation is continuing.

From The Associated Press



AP  
Syrian President Bashar Assad, center left, visits a shelter of internally displaced people in the Damascus suburb of Adra, Syria, on Wednesday in this photo released on the official Syrian presidency Facebook page.

## Syrian president makes rare visit to front lines

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — In a rare public appearance, President Bashar Assad on Wednesday visited displaced Syrians in a front-line suburb of the country's capital, where he vowed to keep up the fight against gunmen whom he blamed for driving people from their homes, state TV said.

The visit to a shelter for displaced people in the Damascus suburb of Adra, just northeast of the capital, coincides with advances by his troops battling rebels who captured parts of the suburb in December, displacing thousands from the area.

The visit comes nearly four months before Assad's seven-year term officially expires.

Syrian officials have said the presidential elections would be

held on time, according to the constitution.

Assad has suggested he would run again but has not confirmed it. The election must be held between 60 and 90 days before Assad's term ends July 17.

The visit to Adra was Assad's first public appearance outside Damascus since August, when he toured the suburb of Daraya, once a rebel stronghold, and in the same week took part in a public infirmary, the meal that breaks the dawn-to-dusk fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"The state will continue to fight terrorism and terrorists who displace people from their homes and commit ugly crimes against them," Assad said.

His government refers to opposition fighters as terrorists.

## Israel passes law to draft ultra-Orthodox into military

By TIA GOLDENBERG  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli lawmakers passed a contentious law on Wednesday meant to draft ultra-Orthodox Jews into the military, the culmination of a drive for reforms that has seen mass protests by the religious community in Israel and beyond.

The issue of conscription of the ultra-Orthodox is at the heart of a cultural war in Israel. The matter featured prominently in elections last year that led to the establishment of the center-right government, which has pushed for the new legislation.

Wednesday's vote passed 67-1 in the 120-member Knesset. Opposition lawmakers — all 52 of them — were absent, boycotting the vote to protest what they say are strong-arm tactics by the ruling coalition meant to push through a series of laws in parliament this week.

The change begins tomorrow morning and it is expected to



AP  
Hundreds of thousands of ultra-Orthodox Jews rally in a massive show of force against plans to force them to serve in the Israeli military on March 2 in Jerusalem.

transform the face of Israeli society unrecognizably," said Yaakov Peri, from the Yesh Atid party, which has led the drive for draft reforms.

Since Israel's founding in 1948, the ultra-Orthodox, who make up about 8 percent of Israel's 8 mil-

lion citizens, have largely been allowed to avoid military service in order to pursue religious studies.

In contrast, most secular Jewish men perform three years of compulsory service. The ultra-Orthodox insist

their young men serve the nation through prayer and study, thus preserving Jewish learning and heritage. But the exemptions have enraged secular and modern Orthodox Israelis who say the ultra-Orthodox are not doing their fair share.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## 'Octomom' pleads not guilty to welfare fraud

**CA** LOS ANGELES — "Octomom" Nadya Suleman pleaded not guilty Tuesday to one count of welfare fraud and agreed to return to court next month for another hearing if her case isn't resolved with a plea deal before then.

The 38-year-old mother of 14 children previously pleaded not guilty to three similar felony counts accusing her of failing to reveal earnings she was receiving from videos and personal appearances while cashing welfare checks last year. With the addition of the fourth count, authorities say she owes the state about \$26,000 in restitution.

During a hearing that lasted barely five minutes, Suleman spoke only once, to softly say yes, when Superior Court Judge David M. Horowitz asked if she agreed to waive her right to trial to return to court April 16 for another hearing.

## Former teacher gets 25 years in child porn case

**DC** WASHINGTON — A former Washington private school teacher who was captured in Nicaragua after a year on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" fugitives list was sentenced Tuesday to 25 years in prison in a child pornography case.

Eric Toth, who acknowledged using a hidden camera disguised as an air freshener to capture video of children using a school bathroom, was sentenced in federal court in Washington.

A prosecutor had asked he be sentenced to 30 years. Toth's lawyer said he should spend 22 years in prison.

## Police probe possible selfie on stolen iPad

**CO** LOVELAND — Police are investigating whether a man who apparently snapped a selfie with an iPad reported as stolen from a Colorado gymnastics studio played a role in its disappearance.

A picture of the dark-haired, bearded man with a cigarette clamped in his mouth appeared Saturday in Premier

Gymnastics-ties in a Cloud account. After police in Loveland released the photo and asked the public for help finding him, Lt. Rick Arnold said Monday that investigators have identified him. Police aren't releasing his name because it's unclear whether he has any connection with the March 1 burglary.

## Elephants enamored with golf course sand

**OR** PORTLAND — Not all sand is created equal. Just ask Lily, the Oregon Zoo's youngest elephant.



DELCIA LOPEZ, THE (McALLEN, TEXAS) MONITOR/AP

## Climbing on his high horse

Wade Henry rides a unicycle named Charlie Horse at the Mercedes Livestock Show grounds in Mercedes, Texas, on Monday.

Children, even young elephants, love a sandbox. And this one, a just-completed chunk of the new \$57 million Elephant Lands exhibit, is elephant-sized.

The special sand that covers the new outdoor Encounter Habitat was found after a year of testing to find the right mix of cushion and porosity.

The deciding factor came from the elephant pack, said Bob Lee, the zoo's elephant curator. The elephants were given chances

to try different sands before the zoo picked what project engineer Wayne Starkey dubbed the "Goldilocks," the kind that was just right.

## Campus president uses YouTube on spring break

**MI** ALLENDALE — What did the president of a Michigan university do on spring break? He made a snow angel napped on an empty bus and

read a book in a greenhouse.

Tom Haas apparently has a sense of humor. Grand Valley State University posted a video on YouTube that portrays him as a lonely guy stuck on the snow-covered campus in Allendale while students likely dashed to warmer destinations.

At the end of the video, Haas welcomes students back to campus and says, "Let's finish out this semester in grand fashion." Classes resumed Monday.



## THE CENSUS

**20** The length in feet of bratwursts that participants will be challenged to eat during the Wurst Challenge in Ypsilanti, Mich., on March 20. Each brat weighs close to 6 pounds. Awards will be given to the biggest eater as well as the one with the best bratwurst-eating style. Nine participants are registered so far, including Mayor Paul Schreiber. The event is a fundraiser to benefit a local arts center — Ypsilanti's Wurst Bar will donate 10 cents an inch for the sausage consumed.

## Wax museum selling historical figures

**PA** GETTYSBURG — A life-sized animatronic Abe Lincoln is among the historical figures and tableau scenes from a Gettysburg wax museum set to hit the auction block just months after the town celebrated the 150th anniversary of his "Gettysburg Address."

The American Civil War Wax Museum recently underwent an extensive renovation and wants to take a new approach to history. As part of those changes, it is preparing to unload dozens of its historical figures — most made of vinyl, not wax — in what the auctioneer calls a once-in-a-lifetime sale.

## Dead eagles used by Native Americans

**NE** NORTH PLATTE — The carcasses of dead bald and golden eagles found in Nebraska are collected and recycled for religious purposes.

The North Platte Telegraph reported the state is part of an unusual federal recycling program that provides parts of eagle carcasses to Native Americans who hold valid permits.

The feathers and other body parts of eagles are considered sacred by some Native Americans. Federal laws designed to protect the birds make it illegal for most people to possess any part of a golden or bald eagle.

## Historians unravel mystery of Lincoln note

**IL** SPRINGFIELD — The cryptic note penned by Abraham Lincoln identifies its recipient only as "my dear Sir" and has a small section carefully clipped out.

Who was he writing to and why was a key piece of information later removed so meticulously?

Researchers at the Papers of Abraham Lincoln project concluded Lincoln was writing to an ally to ask him to maintain a secret relationship with a political insider during the 1860 election campaign.

From wire reports

FACES



El Rey Network/MCT

D.J. Cotrona as Seth Gecko in a scene from "From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series."

El Rey Network/AP

Robert Rodriguez, creator of such films as "From Dusk Till Dawn," the "Spy Kids" movies and "Sin City," has founded a new network, El Rey, aimed at English-speaking Hispanics and those who love his innovative filmmaking. His TV version of "From Dusk Till Dawn" (left) began airing on March 11.

By FRAZIER MOORE  
The Associated Press

In the past year, Netflix Inc., with its online, all-at-once D.C. thriller "House of Cards," has jolted the medium we used to know as "television."

TV could be rocked by another game changer. Say hello to Robert Rodriguez, who, down in the Lone Star State at his aptly named Troublemaker Studios, is ready to rewrite more rules.

It's not just that Rodriguez, a prolific, much-admired filmmaker, has recently launched a TV network. Cable networks with a big name attached (remember Oprah Winfrey's?) don't inevitably rock the world.

But El Rey, Rodriguez's gift to the 500-channel universe, could prove radically different — and disruptive. Here's a channel spawned by a demonstrated, multifaceted auteur; a boutique network that could leverage its founder's rambunctiously personal vision into a mainstream outlet carrying a chorus of other independent voices.

The revolution, if that's how it turns out, could be sparked by

El Rey's first scripted original, "From Dusk Till Dawn: The Series," which premiered on March 11. (El Rey is now available in 40 million TV homes.)

This supernatural crime series is a reimagining of his 1996 cult classic of the same name written by Robert Kurtzman and Quentin Tarantino with a cast including George Clooney and Salma Hayek.

The series (Rodriguez is directing several of the 10 episodes) centers on the British bank-robbing Gecko brothers (played by D.J. Cotrona and Zane Holtz), who are sought by two Texas Rangers (Don Johnson and Jesse Garcia) after a bank heist leaves several people dead. The brothers flee to Mexico and take refuge in a stripper bar. But the bar turns out to be the lair of vampires.

Judging from the premiere, this could be a fascinating ride. But it's just the beginning, Rodriguez said.

El Rey is billed as a channel for young men "and what we call 'kick-ass females,'" he said during a chat far removed from his Austin, Texas, headquarters as snowflakes fell outside a



**"I've had people tell me, 'You just bypassed the whole system! It's an insurrection.' But it makes sense."**

**Robert Rodriguez**  
Filmmaker, El Rey chairman

Manhattan restaurant. El Rey has been described as an English-language network catering to Latino viewers and a general audience that might not even realize it has a Spanish name (It means "the king").  
What Rodriguez seems to re-

ally have in mind is much more basic: a network that programs stuff he gets off on (whether masterminded by him or by others), aimed at any viewer who shares his cool wavelength — or might be ready to take the plunge into this culture.

"I don't really want the network to be niche," he declared. "With us doing a show like 'Dusk Till Dawn,' people say, 'Is that the kind of shows you'll be doing?' But our next (original) series will be a little broader."

That series, debuting in July, is "Matador," created by Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman ("Sleepy Hollow," "Fringe"). It focuses on a globe-trotting soccer champ and playboy who, unbeknownst to his adoring public, is a top-secret CIA operative.

"Then our next show after that might open things up even more," Rodriguez went on. "We'll keep surprising people."

Rodriguez's mission is a distribution channel that connects him and others in his TV salon directly with their audience, no network suits or number crunchers in the way.

"I've had people tell me, 'You just bypassed the whole system!'"

It's an insurrection," Rodriguez said with a laugh. "But it makes sense."

He might be a TV newcomer, but this 45-year-old Texan, the son of Mexican-American parents, has always worked outside the system, beginning two decades ago with the film "El Mariachi." It was made for \$7,000 and became a Sundance Film Festival winner.

As the need arises, he's a producer, director, screenwriter, cinematographer, editor and musician. He even shoots the photos for his film posters.

As a mega-multi-hyphenate, Rodriguez created the "Spy Kids" franchise, "Sin City," "Grindhouse" and "Machete," among his many films.

Now he has a pipeline for them and other stuff he likes, running straight from Austin to the screens of his loyal fan base and the broader viewership he means to cultivate.

"As we grow," he said, "our priority will be more about hiring and training the right people to run the network. But I'll still have to be pretty hands-on. And right now, I do everything. But turn your TV on for you."

Leno, Murdoch among latest TV Hall of Fame inductees

From wire reports

There are six new members of the Television Academy Hall of Fame.

During a ceremony Tuesday night in Beverly Hills, Calif., the academy inducted Jay Leno, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, media baron Rupert Murdoch, writer-producer David E. Kelley and former ABC executive Brandon Stoddard.

Sound pioneer Ray Dolby was inducted posthumously, with his wife and son ac-

cepting the honor.

Leno got a spirited introduction from Bill Maher, who said his friend didn't deserve the heat he took over Conan O'Brien's short-lived tenure as "Tonight Show" host.

Murdoch, the chairman of News Corp. and 21st Century Fox, noted he was being honored on his 83rd birthday — a coincidence that he called particularly annoying because he doesn't like to look back.

Other news

■ **Chris Pine**, known for playing Captain Kirk in the "Star Trek" movies, has been charged with drunken driving in Wellington, New Zealand. The 33-year-old American is due to make his first court appearance in the case on Monday, court officials said Wednesday.

■ Rolling Stones songwriter and guitarist **Keith Richards**, who delivered a best-

selling memoir in 2011 with "Life," is now set to write a children's book slated to publish in September. "Gus & Me: The Story of My Granddad and My First Guitar" will be a collaboration between Richards and his daughter, Theodora Richards, who is supplying the illustrations for the picture book that relates the story of Keith's introduction to music by his grandfather, Theodor Augustus Dupree, who played in a jazz big band.



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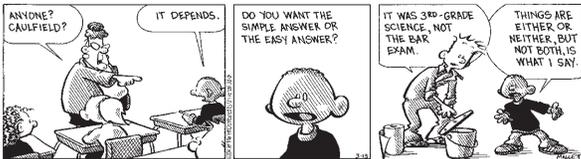
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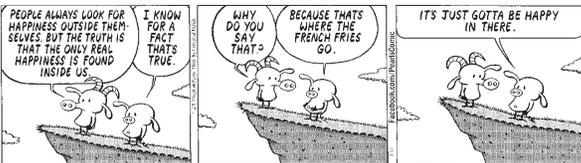
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



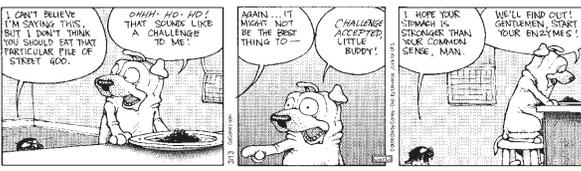
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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				52		53			54	55
56				57					58	
59				60					61	

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cock and bull?
  - 4 Coffee
  - 8 Hendrix of rock
  - 12 Eggs
  - 13 Culture medium
  - 14 Grandscale
  - 15 Tramp
  - 17 — out (fall asleep)
  - 18 Wall Street whiz, for short
  - 19 When my prince will come
  - 21 Hot time?
  - 24 Abrade
  - 25 Lennon's lady
  - 26 Crimson
  - 28 Station
  - 32 Avian creature
  - 34 Visibility hindrance
  - 36 Dalai —
  - 37 Precipitous
  - 39 Bankroll
  - 41 Jewel
  - 42 Tavern
  - 44 Presidential middle name
  - 46 Word in Einstein's equation
  - 50 Wrestling win
  - 51 Family member
  - 52 Periodical
  - 56 Take the bus
  - 57 State
  - 58 Zero
  - 59 Commotons
- DOWN**
- 60 Hide
  - 61 Tattooist's supply
  - 23 Ump
  - 27 Stock market name
  - 29 Violinist Niccolo
  - 30 Bad sign, maybe
  - 31 — shanter
  - 33 Formal arguments
  - 35 Wander
  - 38 Golf stat
  - 40 Go
  - 43 Alter the chart
  - 45 "30 Rock" role
  - 46 Gilbert of "The Bible Talk"
  - 47 British pound, slangily
  - 48 Loosen
  - 49 Host Letterman
  - 53 Hair product
  - 54 Diarist Ana's
  - 55 Wapiti

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

**3-13 CRYPTOQUIP**

AE SGVNWII V DITM QSL  
 CAUWL TM S RAX AVSCAM  
 AICSM L IQW BAXQV QSUW

RWM GAGWCD ENTB IAGACD.  
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# SCOREBOARD

## College basketball

### Sports on AFN

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

### Tennis

#### BNP Paribas Open

**Tuesday**  
At the Indian Wells Garden  
Indian Wells, Calif.  
**Purse: Men: \$6.17 million (Masters 1000)**  
**Womens: \$4.53 million (Premier)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**

**Singles**  
**Men**  
Marin Cilic (2), Croatia, def. Tommy Robredo (16), Spain, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2  
Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Alejandro Gonzalez, Colombia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2  
Ernesto Guzman (20), Latvia, def. Grigor Dimitrov (1), Bulgaria, 2-6, 6-1, 7-5, 7-5  
John Bennetoune, France, def. Dominic Thiem, Austria, 6-4 (6), 6-3, 6-3  
Julien Inzer (12), United States, def. Lu Yen-Hsun, Taiwan, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3

**Fourth Round**  
Simona Halep (6), Romania, def. Eugenie Bouchard (18), Canada, 6-2, 1-6, 6-4  
Jelena Jankovic (7), Serbia, def. Caroline Wozniacki (10), Denmark, 6-3, 6-1  
Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Lauren Davis, United States, walkover  
Agnieszka Radwanska (2), Poland, def. Alisa Kleybanova (12), Slovakia, 6-3, 6-2  
Flavia Pennetta (20), Italy, def. Camilla Giorgis (7), Italy, 6-2, 6-1  
Simona Halep (6), Romania, def. Alisa Kleybanova, Russia, 6-3, 7-5  
Dominika Cibicki (12), Slovakia, def. Petra Kvitová (8), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-2  
Li (1), China, def. Aleksandra Wozniacka, Canada, 6-1, 6-4

**Second Round**  
Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, def. Julien Bennetoune and Eduard Roger-Vasselin, France, 6-3, 6-2  
**Quarterfinals**  
Alexander Peya, Austria, and Bruno Soares (2), Brazil, def. Great Britain, Philip King, and Dominic Inglot, Britain, 7-6 (4), 7-3, 10-8, 6-3

**Women**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Lucie Hradecká (3), Czech Republic, and Zheng Jie (8), China, def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Katriona Srebotnik (4), Slovenia, 7-5, 5-7, 10-3

### Pitt pro baseball

#### Spring training

**Tuesday's games**  
Tampa Bay vs. Milwaukee at Tampa Bay  
Atlanta vs. Philadelphia 1  
Boston (ss), Baltimore 5  
Detroit 3, Detroit 2  
Washington 3, N.Y. Yankees 2  
N.Y. Yankees 2, St. Louis 8  
L.A. Dodgers 7, Kansas City 5  
Chicago White Sox vs. Texas at San Francisco  
San Diego 6, Oakland 5  
Colorado 13, Chicago Cubs 0  
Pittsburgh 7, Arizona 3

**Wednesday's games**  
Philadelphia vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.  
Washington (ss) vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Atlanta (ss) vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Tampa Bay at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Tampa Bay vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.  
Detroit vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.  
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.  
Chicago White Sox vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
San Diego vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.  
Kansas City vs. Oakland at Phoenix  
Milwaukee vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz.  
Arizona vs. L.A. Dodgers at Glendale, Ariz.  
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.  
Cincinnati vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
Arizona vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.

#### Tuesday's men's scores

**EAST**  
Princeton 70, Penn 65  
Milwaukee 69, Wright St. 63  
**TOURNAMENTS**  
**Big East Conference**  
**First Round**  
East Carolina 79, UTSA 76  
North Carolina 63, FAU 59  
North Texas 63, Rice 62, OT  
UTSA 61, FAU 59  
**Horizon League**  
**Championship**  
Milwaukee 69, Wright St. 63  
**Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**  
**First Round**  
Coppin St. 75, Bethune-Cookman 68  
Florida A&M 65, Delaware St. 61  
Howard 53, NC A&T 47  
**Northwest Conference**  
**Championship**  
Mount St. Mary's 89, Morris Morris 71  
**Southwestern Athletic Conference**  
**First Round**  
Grambling St. 84, Jackson St. 75  
Prairie View 79, MVSU 63  
**Summit League**  
**Championship**  
N. Dakota St. 60, IPFW 57  
**West Coast Conference**  
**Championship**  
Gonzaga 75, BYU 64

#### Men's NCAA automatic bids

North Carolina, Big South Conference  
Delaware, Colonial Athletic Association  
Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference  
Gonzaga, West Coast Conference  
Iowa, Ivy League  
Manhattan, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference  
Morehead, Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference  
Miami, Atlantic Sun Conference  
Milwaukee, Horizon League  
North Dakota State, Summit League  
North Dakota State, Summit League  
Wichita State, Missouri Valley Conference  
Wofford, Southern Conference

#### NCAA Men's Division II Tournament

**First Round**  
**Saturday, March 15**  
**At New Haven, Conn.**  
Le Moyne vs. Saint Anselm  
Wilmington vs. New England  
Bridgport vs. Southern Connecticut State  
Philadelphia vs. Franklin Pierce  
**At Mankato, Minn.**  
Fort Hays State vs. Central Southern State  
Kansas Tech vs. Central Missouri  
Harding vs. Minnesota State Mankato  
Northwest Missouri State vs. Winona State

**At Lakeland, Fla.**  
Delta State vs. Barry  
West Alabama vs. Saint Leo  
Tuskegee vs. Florida Southern  
North Alabama vs. Tennessee State  
**At Denver**  
Arkansas-Fort Smith vs. Midwestern State  
Texas A&M-International vs. Tarleton State  
Metro State vs. Colorado-ColoSprings  
Colorado Mines vs. St. Mary's (Texas)

**At Springfield, Mo.**  
Southern Illinois vs. Michigan Tech  
Bellarmine vs. Indianapolis  
Indiana vs. Wisconsin-Parkside  
Findlay vs. Lake Superior State  
**At East Stroudsburg, Pa.**  
Druce (Pa.) vs. West Chester  
Glennville State vs. West Liberty  
East Stroudsburg vs. Livingston  
Charleston (W. Va.) vs. Gardner-Whitman

**At Aiken, S.C.**  
Georgia Southwestern vs. Montevallo  
Carson-Newman vs. Lincoln Memorial  
South Carolina A&S vs. Limestone  
Orangeburg vs. Anderson  
**At San Bernardino, Calif.**  
Cal Poly Pomona vs. Dillard State  
Cal State Stanislaus vs. Seattle Pacific  
State Chico vs. California Baptist  
Chaminade vs. Cal State Bernardino

#### NCAA Men's Division III Tournament

**Third Round**  
**Friday, March 14**  
**At Amherst, Mass.**  
Morrisville State vs. Richard Stockton  
Plattsburgh at Amherst  
**At Fredrickburg, Va.**  
Williams vs. Alburtus Magnus  
Virginia Wesleyan at Mary Washington  
**At Stevens Point, Wis.**  
Wisconsin-Whitewater vs. Texas-Dallas  
Emory vs. Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
**At Bloomington, Ind.**  
Calkins vs. Wheaton (Ill.)  
Delkin at Illinois Wesleyan

#### NCAA Women's Division III Tournament

**Third Round**  
**Friday, March 14**  
**At Amherst, Mass.**  
Morrisville State vs. Richard Stockton  
Plattsburgh at Amherst  
**At Fredrickburg, Va.**  
Williams vs. Alburtus Magnus  
Virginia Wesleyan at Mary Washington  
**At Stevens Point, Wis.**  
Wisconsin-Whitewater vs. Texas-Dallas  
Emory vs. Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
**At Bloomington, Ind.**  
Calkins vs. Wheaton (Ill.)  
Delkin at Illinois Wesleyan

#### Tuesday's women's scores

**EAST**  
Penn 80, Princeton 64

#### TOURNAMENTS

**Atlantic Sun Conference**  
**First Round**  
Florida Gulf Coast 92, Lipscomb 53  
Fresno St. 90, UNLV 69  
Metz 59, Jacksonville 36  
C-Uspace 76, ETU 57  
**Big East Conference**  
**Championship**  
DePaul 65, IU 59  
**Big West Conference**  
**First Round**  
Long Beach 60, Fullerton 60  
UC Davis 58, UC Santa Barbara 57  
**Conference USA**  
**First Round**  
FIU 85, Rice 65  
Louisiana Tech 77, North Texas 59  
Marshall 80, FAU 73  
UTSA 99, Tulsa 89  
**Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**  
**First Round**  
Bethune-Cookman 64, SC State 55  
Howard 74, NC Central 59  
**Mountain West Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
Colorado St. 72, Utah St. 67  
Fresno St. 80, UNLV 69  
Nevada 53, San Diego St. 48  
Wyoming 61, Boise St. 56  
**Southwestern Athletic Conference**  
**First Round**  
Alabama A&M 65, Alcorn St. 62  
Grambling St. 83, Ark.-Pine Bluff 81, OT

#### Summit League Championship

South Dakota 71, Wyoming 71  
**West Coast Conference**  
**Championship**  
Gonzaga 71, BYU 57

#### Women's NCAA automatic bids

Albany (N.Y.), America East Conference  
Baylor, Big 12 Conference  
Chattanooga, Southern Conference  
DePaul, Big East Conference  
Fordham, Atlantic Sun Conference  
North Dakota State, Summit League  
Wichita State, Missouri Valley Conference  
Marist, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference  
Nebraska, Big Ten Conference  
Eastern Dime, Atlantic Coast Conference  
Pennsylvania, Ivy League  
South Dakota State, Summit League  
Southern Cal, Pacific-12 Conference  
New York State, Empire 8 Conference  
North Central, American Athletic Conference  
UT-Martin, Ohio Valley Conference  
Winthrop, So. Atlantic Conference

#### NCAA Women's Division II Tournament

**Friday, March 14**  
**At Hickory, N.C.**  
Fort Hays State vs. Missouri 14  
Arkansas Tech vs. Central Missouri  
Limestone vs. Clayton State  
Belmont vs. North-Rhine College  
Columbus vs. Northern Georgia  
**At Canyon, Texas**  
Tarleton State vs. Texas A&M International  
Colorado Mesa vs. Midwestern State  
St. Edward's vs. West Texas A&M  
Texas State-Pueblo vs. St. Mary's (Texas)

**At Searcy, Ark.**  
Southwestern Oklahoma State vs. Emporia State  
Wayne State (Pa.) vs. Pittsburg State  
C. Kyle Co.  
Concordia-St. Paul vs. Harding  
Central Missouri vs. Northern State  
**At Fort Lauderdale, Fla.**  
Rollins vs. Saint Leo  
Maryland vs. West Virginia  
Benedict vs. Nova Southeastern  
Alabama State vs. North Carolina State

**At Glenville, W.Va.**  
Glennville vs. Shaw  
Glenville vs. Charleston (W.Va.)  
Glennville State vs. West Liberty  
Blountsburg vs. Virginia State  
**At Pomona, Calif.**  
Western Washington vs. Simon Fraser  
Montana State Billings vs. Acadia  
Art vs. State Dominguez Hills vs. Cal State Chico  
Alaska-Anchorage vs. Cal Poly Pomona

**At Waltham, Mass.**  
LIU Post vs. Southern 7  
Adelphi vs. New Haven  
Bentley vs. Bloomfield  
Columbia vs. Stonehill  
**At Springfield, Mo.**  
Missouri State vs. Southern 7  
Lewis vs. Missouri-St. Louis  
Truman vs. Druce  
Northwestern Michigan vs. Quincy

#### NCAA Women's Division III Tournament

**Third Round**  
**Friday, March 14**  
**At Madison, N.J.**  
Montclair State vs. Texas-Dallas  
Baldwin Wallace vs. FDU-Florham  
**At Bedford, Mass.**  
Ithaca vs. Amherst  
Turfs vs. Castleton State  
**At Greensboro, N.C.**  
Wis.-Oshkosh vs. Wis.-Whitewater  
Carthage vs. DePaul  
**At Walla Walla, Wash.**  
Texas-Tyler vs. Thomas More  
Christopher Newport vs. Whitman

### Deals

#### Tuesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**American League**  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Agreed to terms with RHPs Brad Branch, Kevin Gausman, Miguel Gonzalez, Steve Johnson, Josh Simon and Jeff Straker.  
**MIKE BELFIORE**, Tim Lincecum, Zach Britton and J.P. McFarland (LHP) were traded to Johnny Monell and Michael Ohlman; INFs Steve Clevinger and Matt Adams were traded to Schoop and Jenlle Weeks; and OFs David Loug and Henry Urrutia on one-year contracts. Renewed the contract of 3B Manny Machado.  
**SEATTLE MARINERS** — Traded RHP Zach Stewart to Atlanta for cash.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Assigned LHP Santos Rodriguez outright to Reno (PCL). Agreed to terms with LHP Oliver Perez on a two-year contract.  
**CINCINNATI REDS** — Optioned RHP Carlos Gonzalez, RHP Daniel Corcino, LHP David Holmberg, OF Ryan LaMarre, OF Dan Reynolds and RHP Chad Green to Louisville of the International League. Optioned OF Juan Duran, LHP Ismael Pineda and OF Ryan Hanigan to Pensacola of the Southern League. Reassigned to minor league affiliates: RHP Tim Lincecum, RHP Michael Lorenzen, IF Ryan Hanigan and RHP Robert Stephenson. Released INF Henry Rodriguez.

**MINNESOTA TWINKES** — Optioned RHP Matt Magill to Albuquerque (PCL). **MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Optioned RHPs Frías and Red Patterson and INFs Brandon Kintzler and Clint Robinson to minor league camp.

**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Assigned OFs Kenyon Klayton, Mitch Guter, INFs Hector Gomez and Taylor Green and RHPs Ryan Braun, Ryan Sweeney, Carlos Frías and INF Hunter Morris, LF/OF Jason Heyward and RHPs Jhonny Peralta and Aramis Peña to Nashville (PCL) and RHPs Brock Holt and Kevin Shackelford to Huntsville (G). **NEW YORK GIANTS** — Optioned LHP Justin Otero to Triple-A.

**SAN DIEGO PADRES** — Optioned LHP Justin Otero to Triple-A.  
**NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**NBA** — Suspended Phoenix Suns F P.J. Tucker for one-game without pay for violating the Phoenix Mercury's Gretchen Kizer and a first-round draft pick.

**FOOTBALL**  
**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Agreed to terms with TE Jake Ballard. Agreed to one-year contracts and DE Frodo Bellore and DE/Linebacker Antonio Gandy. Released G Barry Collier.  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Agreed to terms with Jonathan Babineaux on a three-year contract. Agreed to terms with OL Joe Hawley on a two-year contract and G Jon Asamoah, DE Tyson Jackson and LB Tahir Whitehead. Released S Thomas DeCouture.

**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Re-signed TE Mike Coats and PK Dan Carpenter. Released QB Kevin Kolb.  
**CINCINNATI BENGALS** — Re-signed WR Brandon Tate. Terminated the contract of WR Mike Anderson.  
**CHICAGO BEARS** — Agreed to terms with DE Leonard Little on a two-year contract and LB D.J. Williams and LB Jordan Hicks on one-year contracts. Terminated the contract of DE Julius Peppers.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Released DE Demarcus Ware.

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#### College baseball

#### Tuesday's scores

**EAST**  
Chestnut Hill, Lincoln (Pa.) 0-0  
Rutgers 13, Hofstra 9  
**SOUTH**  
Arkansas St. 7, Murray St. 7  
Belhaven 5, Texas-Tyler 2  
At Anderson 12, Memphis 10  
Belmont Abbey 7, North-Rhine 4-2  
Bethune-Cookman 10, South Carolina 10  
Catawba 10, Mount Olive 9  
Centenary 12, Loretoun 6  
Clemson 10, Southern 7  
Charlotte 5, VCU 4  
Clemson 10, Carolina 10  
Cumberlands 5-11, Asbury 2-7  
Duke 6, Quinn 5  
E. Kentucky 19, Youngstown St. 14  
Eastern Mennonite 9, Christopher Newport 9  
Emory 9, Henry 24, Lancaster Bible 9  
Florida St. 11, UCF 10  
Francis Marion 9, Barton 3  
Fred-Hardman 7-6, Blue Mountain 6-2  
Georgia Southern 13, North Florida 13  
Indiana 12, Memphis 10  
GRU Augusta 6, Erskine 4  
Indiana 10, Spalding 6  
Limestone 7, Mars Hill 5  
Lipscomb 14, Austin Peay 6  
Louisville 8-5, U.S. 10  
Loyola (No. La.) 4, Eureka 2-2  
Lyons at Spring Hill  
Maryland 10, Delaware 1  
Mid-Continent 2-2, Campbellsville 1-3

#### DEVELOPMENTAL

**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Released TE Owen Daniels.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Re-signed QB Adam Vinatieri. Agreed to terms with DE Arthur Jones, Re-signing DE Vontae Davis and RB Ahmad Bradshaw.  
**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — Released RB Justin Forsett. Agreed to terms with LB Larry Taylor.  
**MINNESOTA VIKINGS** — Re-signed LB Zachary Tabor. Agreed to terms with QB Matt Cassel on a two-year contract and DE Everson Griffen.  
**MIAMI PATRIOTS** — Agreed to terms with S Julius Brzyden on a six-year contract.

**NEW YORK JETS** — Re-signed K Nick Folk to a multiyear contract.  
**MIAMI PATRIOTS** — Agreed to terms with OL Rodger Saffold on a five-year contract. Re-signed RB Darren McFadden to a one-year contract.  
**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — Agreed to terms with P Donnie Jones and S Malcolm Jenkins in three-year contracts. Released S Patrick Gunter.  
**PITTSBURGH STEELERS** — Released LB Lavelle Saunders.  
**SAN DIEGO CHARGERS** — Agreed to terms with RB Donald Brown on a three-year contract.  
**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Released CB Carlos Rogers and RB Trent Richardson. Re-signed from Jacksonville Jaguars for a 2014 contract. Re-signed RB Matt Jones to a conditional 2015 pick. Agreed to terms with K Phil Dawson on a two-year contract.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Signed TE Anthony Bryant to a two-year contract.  
**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Agreed to terms with K/RB Leon Washington on a one-year contract.  
**WASHINGTON REDSKINS** — Re-signed WR Santana Moss to a two-year contract and LB Perry Riley. Agreed to terms with S Shaw. **HOCKEY**  
**NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE**  
**DALLAS STARS** — Recalled FS Chris Mueller and Coton Scavieur from Texas Stars.

**FLORIDA PATRIOTS** — Recalled F Joey Galloway and D Kevin Anderson from Antio (Ark.).  
**NEW YORK JETS** — Agreed to terms with RB De Levin Zucerman on a two-year, entry-level contract.  
**WASHINGTON REDSKINS** — Recalled F Casey Wellman and D Patrick Weir from Hershey (Pa.). **SOCCER**  
**SPORTING KANSAS CITY** — Signed M Antonio Davila.  
**Chicago Red Stars** — Announced the termination of contract of M Kristine Sinclair.  
**WASHINGTON SPIRIT** — Named Katie Jo Spisak assistant coach.

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NHL



CHRIS LEE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

St. Louis Blues left wing Brenden Morrow (10) battles with Dallas Stars defenseman Alex Goligoski (33) for control of the puck in front of Stars goalie Tim Thomas, right, during the third period of Tuesday's game at Scottrade Center in St. Louis. The Stars won 3-2 in overtime.

# Stars shine in St. Louis

## Benn scores winner in OT as Miller drops first game with Blues

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — After the morning skate, captain Jamie Benn vowed that the Dallas Stars would play to honor ill teammate Rich Peverley.

With the forward watching the Stars' St. Louis Blues game from a hospital bed in Dallas, Benn put his team over the top.

Stars coach Lindy Ruff said Peverley, who is sidelined because of a heart issue that caused him to collapse on the bench on Monday, was well aware his teammates beat the Blues 3-2 in overtime on Tuesday.

"I texted him right after the

game and he responded," Ruff said. "He was happy. He said 'Keep rolling.' I just said at the end, 'See you tomorrow.'"

Benn scored 3:42 into overtime to end the NHL-best Blues' five-game winning streak.

"Obviously, (Monday) night was a scary situation but today is a new day," Benn said. "We were thinking about Rich back home, but I thought we did a great job getting mentally ready for this game."

Defenseman Alex Pietrangolo and Roman Polak ended lengthy goal droughts for the Blues, who lost for the first time in five games with new goalie Ryan Miller.

"You've got to give them credit. They've been through a lot in the last 24 hours," Blues forward Steve Ott said. "It's pretty honorable for them to play like that."

Colton Sceviour, one of two call-ups by the Stars with Peverley out indefinitely and teammate Alex Chiasson also hospitalized due to emotional distress after his teammate's "cardiac event," scored on a power play in the first period.

The Stars' home game against Columbus was postponed Monday night after Peverley fell ill. Peverley remained hospitalized in stable condition on Tuesday while undergoing tests.

## Roundup

# Jagr lifts Devils to win over Flyers

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jaromir Jagr isn't acting his age and the New Jersey Devils are thrilled.

Jagr scored the winning goal to snap a third-period tie and lead the New Jersey Devils to a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

"He's done that all year for us," Devils coach Pete DeBoer said. "Nothing surprises me about him. That's why he's one of the best of all time."

It was the 21st goal of the season and sixth game-winning tally for Jagr. It also marked the 702nd career goal for the 42-year-old forward, who became the seventh player to top the 700-goal mark. Travis Zajac had the other goal for New Jersey (29-24-13), which won for the fifth time in seven games to move within two points of the third-place Flyers in the tight Metropolitan Division.

Adam Henrique was held in check by the Flyers as his six-game goal streak was snapped. Henrique had nine goals and two

### Did you know

Jaromir Jagr's third-period goal against Philadelphia on Tuesday was the 124th game-winner of his career, the most in NHL history.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

assists during that run. Nicklas Grossman scored for the Flyers (33-25-7), who are 7-2-1 in their past 10 games. Martin Brodeur was solid in net for New Jersey, making 30 saves to improve to 50-31-10 against Philadelphia all-time.

**Penguins 2, Capitals 0:** Marc-Andre Fleury made 32 saves from his fifth shutout of the season,

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA
Boston	64	42	17	5	89	242
Toronto	67	35	24	8	78	298
Montreal	66	25	24	17	77	266
Tampa Bay	65	34	24	7	75	187
Detroit	65	29	22	13	71	173
Ottawa	65	28	23	14	69	193
Florida	65	24	34	7	55	209
Buffalo	65	19	38	8	46	128

Metropolitan Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	65	44	9	12	206	159
N.Y. Rangers	66	35	27	4	74	175
Columbus	65	34	26	5	73	179
Philadelphia	65	33	25	7	73	189
New York	66	29	24	13	63	168
Carolina	67	30	29	10	70	193
N.Y. Islanders	65	28	28	9	65	185
N.Y. Jets	67	25	39	9	59	188

### Western Conference

Central Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	65	44	14	7	95	213
Chicago	65	38	13	14	90	223
Colorado	65	42	18	5	89	172
Minnesota	65	34	22	9	77	161
Dallas	65	32	23	10	74	188
Winnipeg	66	30	28	8	68	132
Nashville	66	28	28	10	66	195

Pacific Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	65	43	15	7	93	208
San Jose	65	41	17	7	91	209
Los Angeles	66	38	22	6	82	139
Phoenix	66	36	24	11	73	184
Vancouver	67	29	28	10	68	187
Calgary	67	30	29	10	67	191
Edmonton	66	23	35	8	54	166

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

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 Pittsburgh 3, Washington 2  
 Nashville 4, Ottawa 3, 0  
 Toronto 3, Winnipeg 2, OT  
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 Carolina 3, Vancouver 4  
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 Columbus at Dallas, susp.

**Tuesday's games**  
 Edmonton 4, Minnesota 3, 50  
 New York at Buffalo  
 New Jersey 2, Philadelphia 1  
 Carolina 3, Rangers 1  
 Columbus 4, Detroit 1  
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 Dallas 3, St. Louis 2, OT

**Wednesday's games**  
 Boston at Montreal  
 Vancouver at Winnipeg  
 Chicago at Colorado  
 Anaheim at San Jose

**Thursday's games**  
 Phoenix at Montreal  
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**Friday's games**  
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### Stars 3, Blues 2 (OT)

Dallas 1 0 1 1-3  
 St. Louis 1 0 1 0-2  
**First Period**—1, Dallas, Pietrangolo 7 (Paajarvi, Lapiere), 13:01. 2, Dallas, Sceviour 4 (Goligoski, Whitney), 19:07 (pp).  
**Third Period**—1, Dallas, Rousseau 11 (A. Benn), 2:19. 4, St. Louis, Polak 4 (Tarsenko, Bernum), 5:19.  
**Overtime**—5, Dallas, Ja.Benn 26 (Daley, Semak), 3:42.  
**Shots on Goal**—Dallas 10-5-13-2-30. St. Louis 9-11-8-2-30.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Dallas 1 of 2; St. Louis 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Dallas, Thomas 18-20-3 (30 shots-28 saves). St. Louis, Miller 19-22-4 (30-27).  
 A—16,763 (19,150). T—242.

### Coyotes 3, Panthers 1

Phoenix 1 0 1 1-3  
 Florida 0 0 1-1  
**First Period**—1, Phoenix, Ribeiro 15 (Verdiel, Vrblata), 17:45 (pp).  
**Second Period**—2, Phoenix, Ekman-Larsen 11 (Verbiak, Korpikoski), 9:43.  
**Third Period**—2, Phoenix, Verbiak 19 (Vermette, Boodker), 5:52. 4, Florida, Pirri 7 (Kulikov, Bjugstad), 8:54 (pp).  
**Shots on Goal**—Phoenix 14-9-3-26. Florida 11-11-11-3-26.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Phoenix 1 of 2; Florida 1 of 5.  
**Goalies**—Phoenix, Smith 24-19-10 (32 shots-21 saves). Florida, Lunn 20-18-6 (26-23).  
 A—12,211 (17,040). T—227.

### Penguins 2, Capitals 0

Washington 0 0 0-0  
 Pittsburgh 1 0 1-2  
**First Period**—1, Pittsburgh, Jokinen 17 (Nielsen, Malkin), 16:41.  
**Third Period**—2, Pittsburgh, Crosby 21 (Clemmensen), 14:37.  
**Shots on Goal**—Pittsburgh 6-20-30. Washington 11-11-11-3-26.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Washington 0 of 2; Pittsburgh 0 of 2.  
**Goalies**—Washington, Halak 25-11-4 (34 shots-32 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 34-16-23 (32-27).  
 A—18,646 (18,387). T—217.

### Devils 2, Flyers 1

New Jersey 1 0 1-2  
 Philadelphia 0 0 1-1  
**First Period**—1, New Jersey, T.Zajac 12 (Jagr, Ruff), 7:56.  
**Second Period**—2, Philadelphia, Grossmann 10 (Korczyk, Giroux), 4:47.  
**Third Period**—3, New Jersey, Jagr 21 (Zajac, Ruff), 11:07.  
**Shots on Goal**—New Jersey 13-7-26. Philadelphia 12-13-31-3-26.  
**Power-play opportunities**—New Jersey 0 of 3; Philadelphia

NFL

# Cowboys release DE Ware for cap space

## Bears cut ties with veteran DE Peppers, look to free agency to improve defense

The Associated Press

A couple of accomplished NFL pass rushers suddenly became available when DeMarcus Ware and Julius Peppers were released to create room under the salary cap in two of the biggest moves at



Tuesday's start of the free-agency signing period.

The Bears cut ties with Peppers, who has 118½ sacks in 12 seasons, as part of a series of moves aimed at improving their defense, including a five-year contract with former Raiders end Lamarr Houston.

The Cowboys let Ware and his 117 sacks go.

"A decision like this, involving a man who is a cornerstone player in the history of your franchise, is extremely difficult," Dallas owner Jerry Jones said. "We were also in very strong agreement that playing for the Dallas Cowboys would be one of the options we would both be exploring."

With the cap rising \$10 million to a record \$133 million, a crop of players quickly found new homes as soon as the market officially opened Tuesday afternoon — and safeties and offensive linemen were popular commodities.

About 5½ hours after free agency began, one of the top players available, three-time Pro Bowl safety Jairus Byrd, agreed to terms with the Saints, part of a merry-go-round of moves at his position. Other safeties swapping clubs: Michael Jenkins, from Saints to Eagles; Donte Whitner from 49ers to Browns; Antoine Bethea from Colts to 49ers; T.J. Ward from Browns to Broncos; Mike Mitchell from Panthers to Steelers; Ryan Mundy from Giants to Bears.

In addition to jettisoning Peppers and adding Houston and Mundy, Chicago agreed to one-year deals with linebackers Jordan Senn and D.J. Williams.

Two of the most sought-after cornerbacks also got on the move. Alterraun Verner, who had

five interceptions for Tennessee last season, agreed to a four-year contract with Tampa Bay and Aqib Talib left New England for a six-year deal with Denver.

Verner, 25, could wind up being a replacement for Darrelle Revis, who might be traded or cut to create more salary-cap room for the Buccaneers.

Deals for offensive linemen were highlighted by Pro Bowl left tackle Branden Albert's five-year contract with the Dolphins. Albert left Kansas City to take over the position played at the start of last season by Jonathan Martin, whose exit from Miami in October led to an NFL inquiry into bullying on the team.

Left tackle Jared Veldheer and the Cardinals agreed to a five-year contract worth up to \$35 million. Veldheer left the Raiders, who replaced him by giving former Rams lineman Rodger Saffold a five-year deal. Another left tackle, Eugene Monroe, agreed to a five-year contract to stay with the Ravens.

Former Jets right tackle Austin Howard agreed to a five-year, \$30 million contract, with \$15 million guaranteed after starting every game the past two seasons.

Guards switching teams: Zane Beadles was joining the Jaguars from the Broncos, pending a physical; the Falcons agreed to terms with Jon Asamoah, who left the Chiefs; the Redskins struck a deal with Shawn Lauvao, who left the Browns.

The Redskins also agreed to terms with Cardinals receiver Andre Roberts and special teams standout Adam Hayward and scheduled a visit with cornerback Corey Graham.

The Jaguars also were busy, including a trade that sent quarterback Blaine Gabbert to the 49ers for a sixth-round draft pick, an agreement with former Vikings running back Toby Gerhart, and re-signing cornerback Will Blackmon to a two-year deal.

Kick returner and receiver Dexter McCluster went to the Titans from the Chiefs; defensive end Arthur Jones joined the Colts from the Ravens; defensive



LM Otero/AP

The Dallas Cowboys released franchise sacks leader DeMarcus Ware to save salary cap room after the worst season of his career.

### Dolphins deal Martin to 49ers

By JAMIE McCULLY  
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Jonathan Martin has had Jim Harbaugh's support all along, from his early college days at Stanford to the offensive tackle's tumultuous year in which he accused a Dolphins teammate of bullying, and even in a formal NFL investigation into the situation in Miami.

Now, Harbaugh is giving Martin a football fresh start. In a safe environment around former Stanford coaches who

consider him a friend.

Martin was traded from Miami to the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday night to play one more for Harbaugh, who publicly expressed his support of Martin last year and called him a "personal friend."

The Dolphins announced the move late on the first day of NFL free agency. San Francisco then confirmed the trade, saying only that it would send an undisclosed draft choice to Miami and that Martin still must pass a physical to complete the deal.

end Tyson Jackson and defensive tackle Paul Soliai joined the Falcons; and defensive tackle Earl

Mitchell left the Texans for the Dolphins.

On Wednesday, the Buffalo

Bills signed free-agent offensive guard Chris Williams to a four-year contract. The team announced the move a few hours after Williams visited the Bills' facility.

Amid it all, the Ware and Peppers departures might have been the most significant developments.

The 31-year-old Ware, who went to seven Pro Bowls while in Dallas, was set to count \$16 million against the salary cap. By releasing him now, the Cowboys, who were right up against the cap, saved more than \$7 million. Ware had a career-low six sacks last season, his ninth in Dallas. He missed time with a thigh injury, then had offseason elbow surgery.

Others released included Bills quarterback Kevin Kolb (who failed a physical), Falcons safety Thomas DeCoud, Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley, 49ers cornerback Carlos Rogers, Eagles safety Patrick Chung and Bengals center Kyle Cook.

Among players staying put:

- RB Darren McFadden was given a \$4 million, one-year contract by the Raiders.
- KR-WR Brandon Tate re-signed with the Bengals.
- PK Adam Vinatieri, the 41-year-old with four Super Bowl rings, agreed to a two-year contract with the Colts. Other PKs getting new deals: Nick Folk (Jets), Phil Dawson (49ers), Dan Carpenter (Bills), Jay Feely (Cardinals).
- CB Vontae Davis re-signed with the Colts.
- RB Joique Bell is now signed with the Lions for \$9.3 million over three years, with \$4.3 million guaranteed.
- LB Perry Riley and WR Santana Moss re-signed with the Redskins.
- DT Jonathan Babineaux got a three-year contract from the Falcons.
- TE Anthony McCoy got a one-year deal from the Super Bowl champion Seahawks after he missed all of last season with a torn Achilles tendon.
- WR Andre Caldwell got a two-year contract with the Broncos.

# The 2013

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# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

## Kubasaki girls want title back

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP LESTER, Okinawa** — The eight returning players for Kubasaki's girls soccer team remember last year's Far East championship game and the memories aren't grand. They say they plan to rectify that this season.

"We talk about it a lot," Dragons' sophomore Peyton Lewis said of losing the D-I final, 2-0 to American School in Japan, the third straight year the teams met for the championship. "We were so close last year. We're just trying to bring the banner home. We have a solid varsity team. We think our chances at Far East are very good."

ASIJ vs. Kubasaki has become the premier Far East D-I rivalry; the two have faced one another for the banner four times since 2008. ASIJ prevailed in 2011 and 2008 and the Dragons won in 2012.

Although viewing the rivalry and the two teams from afar as a teacher at Lester Middle School, first-year Kubasaki coach Rob Loyd led the two teams: "They're consistently competitive at Far East."

To get back the banner, a Dragons team solid up front with junior Marissa Mesquita and Sydney Johnson and with junior goalkeeper Harleigh Lewis must get through a Mustangs unit featuring a slew of veterans, including All-Kanto East selections Katey Hewick and Joey Yamada.

"We've got a lot of energy," Loyd said. "They've come out wanting to play. They play exceptionally well together."

Other teams to watch include DODDS Japan power Kinnick, the 2012 Kanto Plain champion that placed third last year. Kaile Johnson, with 77 goals in three years, returns for her senior season.

Seoul American, with 12 players back, expects to contend in Korea as well as Far East.

The season begins this weekend with DODDS officials still not certain where the D-I tournament will be played. Kinnick is hosting it, but a venue has yet to be determined; a decision is expected next week.

At the Division II level, Sung Flouide returns to Osan's girls team after coaching the boys last year. The question for the Cougars, who won their Pacific-record eighth D-II title last May, is how to replace Ebony Madrid's 40 goals. She's now at Ramstein.

The D-II races in Japan and Korea figure to be wide-open ones.

In Japan, Zama is back healthy and M.C. Perry is rebuilding a bit, with a new coach in Suzette Lopez who has to replace three players who combined for 58 goals and 23 assists last season.

Japan plays what is a team to watch in Korea. Freshman twins

Sophia and Isabella Nocera, move in from Germany, where they were Olympic Development Program players. They join another ODP veteran and freshman Kaylee Spielman. Richard Walrath coaches the first-year program with several ex-Osan players.

Daegu, rich in veterans and with versatile senior Monica Morales all the way back from an anterior cruciate ligament tear, could also figure in the Korea race. But replacing departed seniors Sarah Wright (States) and Lari Robertson (tracks) could be difficult.

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DAVE ORNAUER (ABOVE), KRISTA BRUN (RIGHT) Special to Stars and Stripes



Harleigh Lewis, above, backstops a Kubasaki girls soccer team looking for its second Far East Division I title in three years. After missing most of last season with a torn ACL, senior Monica Morales, right, returns to a Daegu squad that figures to be a contender in Korea and D-II.

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# HIGH SCHOOL: BOYS SOCCER

## Perry, Kadema capables of repeat performances

But both defending Far East boys soccer champs face obstacles

By Dave Ornauer  
Stars and Stripes

M.C. Perry's numbers the past two seasons speak volumes. It's not that the Samurai have risen as a DODDS-Japan and Far East Division II boys soccer power, but how they've done so and how it has transformed the program.

Since the start of 2010, the year the Samurai won the first of their three D-II titles, through last season, Perry has gone 111-22-11 and scored 498 goals, including 192 in 2012, the year coach Mark Lange said the program was at its strongest.

"We expect to win now, every time we step on the field," said Lange, starting his 11th season at the Samurai's helm. "The expectation is there. They're playing for the star" on the Samurai jersey crest, emblematic of a Far East championship.

What Lange says he likes best is that from season to season, no matter who dresses in Samurai red and white, the same effort and expectation is there. "The team that won it last year

was totally different from the one in 2010," Lange said.

Quite different from the 2000s, when Lange often remarked how the Samurai were "cones that everybody ran around."

"We remember what it was like. We play with respect every time on the field," he said.

They got off to a bit of a rough start in last weekend's Western Japan Athletic Association tournament in which the Samurai went 1-2-1. But Lange returns a core of veterans who have been part of two straight championships. "One year older, one year wiser," he said.

Leading that charge will be two-time D-II Most Valuable Player Gaku Inoue, the coach's son, now in his fourth and final year before heading off to play at University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif.

Lange scored 52 goals and had 13 assists for the 25-6-4 Samurai, and has 103 goals for his career.

On Okinawa, Yuji Callahan and Kadema eyed as something of a surprise team last spring, having had few matches the first

six weeks and changing coaches midway through the season.

Like the Samurai at D-II, this season, Kadema will surprise nobody, Yuji Callahan said. "They'll [opponents] know what's up now," he said. "Once you have that reputation, you have to work to keep it."

Kadema can put balls in the opposing nets, player and coach said; the question is: can they can keep opponents from doing the same?

"We have to rebuild," Yuji Callahan said, adding that the team isn't so much focused on what went on last season. "Last year was last year, this year is this year. The good aspect of the sport is, you don't know what will happen until the last minute."

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Dave Ornauer/Stars and Stripes

Coach Michael Callahan and his son, Yuji Callahan, teamed up to help Kadema capture its first Far East Division I soccer title since 2006. To repeat, the Panthers need work on shoring up a young defense.

## Boys soccer team capsules

### American South

**2013 record:** 15-4-6, fourth in Far East. **Coach:** Steve Boyd, seventh season. **Key performers:** Hakoyu Adkins, Sr. (8 goals, 14 assists); Andrew Clark, Sr. (M; 12, 4); Jason Lee, Sr. (M; 14, 4); Kevin Orr, Sr. (F; 4, 2); David Neaverth, Jr. (M; 6, 1); Ben Mitchell, Sr. (F; Sam Mitchell, Sr. (G).

**Outlook:** Contending, with eight senior starters returning from last year's Korean-American interscholastic Activities Conference regular-season champion and Far East Division I semifinalist.

**2013 record:** 10-3-1, defending Far East champion. **Coach:** Michael Callahan, 10th season.

**Key performers:** Yuji Callahan, Sr. (M; 27 goals, 11 assists, reigning D-I MVP); Kai Heckerman, Sr. (M; 2, 3); Micah Sikes, Sr. (G; 3); Jake Weicht, Sr. (6, 2); Junta Callahan, Jr. (M; played for FC Ryukyu U-15 club in Tristar Hyundai Cup); Aka Kanta Mustafa, Jr. (def. rebounding-related). **Outlook:** Back line and goalkeeper entirely new. While the Panthers feature enough weapons to put the ball in the net, its keeping opponents out of Kadema's net will be the challenge.

**2013 record:** 10-12-5, fifth at Far East. **Coach:** Christopher Eastman, fifth season.

**Key performers:** Kai Stallings, Sr. (M; 12 goals, 3 assists); Yuri Burgard, Sr. (M; 2 goals); Imani Washington, Jr. (M; 14, 2).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Team features some experience and plenty of athleticism, but not nearly as strong as it was when it played in the D-I finals three years ago. Eastman says it will "take a lot of growth" for the Dragons to return to that level.

**2013 record:** 11-3-6, sixth at Far East. **Coach:** Matt Whipple, second season.

**Key performers:** Micah Swygert, Sr. (def.); Chris Beemsterboer, Jr. (def.); Zach Estabrook, Jr. (M; 10 goals, 10 assists); Hernandez, Jr. (M; Kenal Hadley, Sr. (def.); Noah Macias, Jr. (def.); Keenan McElroy, Sr. (M; Jack Liddle, Jr. (M).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding and hopefully contending. Whipple says good returning core and three key newcomers should help the Panthers be "competitive in the Kanto Plan and at Far East," he said. **2013 record:** 11-3-1, fifth at Far East. **Coach:** Robert Tiffany, fifth season. **Key performers:** Brandon Yoder, Sr. (4 goals, 4 assists); Brady Yoder, Jr. (G); Dustin Wilson, Sr. (6, 3); Keigo Muli, Sr. (3, 4); Ian Dippen, Sr. (3, 3); Joey Marino, Sr.; Shota Henry, Sr.; Bryan Wolff, Sr.

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Hampered, as always, by Misawa Air Base's lengthy winter training practices. Hoping to focus on the team's progress on basics and on defense. Contending for at least two of last two seasons. "If only this dreaded snow will ever melt," Macey says.

**2013 record:** 16-9, fourth at Far East Division II.

### Coach Marc Norton, second season. **Key performers:** Ryan Walls, Jr. (All-Far East for three years, 3 goals, 3 assists); Ben Cook, Sr. (9, 9); Ryuiji Vandusen, Jr. (G; Ralph Morales, Jr. (def.); Jayq Noimannan, Jr. (M; 4, 2); Steven Dykstra, Sr. (M; Logan Perera, Jr. (M; Roman Duarte, Sr. (transfer from Florida); Gabe Brumage, Jr. (M; def.-G; Joey Byrnes, Sr. (M; 5, 5).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Trojans lost a handful of players to unexpected transfers and with their home field being hurtful, they must share a nearby elementary school ground with no goals with the junior varsity and girls teams. "I think we finally realize what (Edgren) struggles with due to lots of snow and limited practice area," Norton said.

**2013 record:** 31-6-4, two-time defending Far East champion, 11th season. **Coach:** Mark Lange, 11th season. **Key performers:** M.C. Perry, Sr. (M; 192 goals, 111 assists, 192 goals, 111 assists); Calvin Barker, Sr. (M; 4, 4); Sam Stiles, Sr. (G; M; 10 goals, 10 assists (16, 11)); Isaac Lucas, Sr. (def.); Eric Saki, Sr. (def.); Matt Ziegler, Sr. (def.); Martin Ziegler, Sr. (def.); Aidan Lewis, Jr. (F; Jared Davis, Jr. (F).

**Outlook:** Reloading-contending. Good core of seniors and veterans. Plenty of firepower return to front, plus experience on the backside, though replacing former defensive starry Naoki Mitsuo will be difficult. Good shot at making a deep run at a third straight D-II title and school's fourth overall.

**2013 record:** 12-19-2. **Coach:** Mark Constantine, third season.

**Key performers:** Daiichi Bellwood, Sr. (3 goals, 6 assists); Steven Ball, Sr. (13, 3); Thomas McGrath, Jr. (F; 6, 2); David Jackson, Jr. (F; Ricky Salinas, Jr. (def.); Vikki Kendall, Sr. (def.).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Good returning core and plenty of talent in the middle and in back, but the Cobras are thin in numbers thus far this season. Constantine trying to find right spots for his new players.

**2013 record:** 5-13-3. **Coach:** Larry Knotts, ninth season. **Key performers:** Preston Sica, Sr. (4 goals, 10 assists); Ryan Truitt, Sr. (10, 10); Matt Kelly, Sr. (M; Gabriel Labrado, Sr. (M; Patrick O'Houlahan, Sr. (F; def.-M).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. As always, Warriors were hit hard by graduations, none so on the program. Hamilton says the league or all-Far East pedigree, but this gives others a shot at stepping up and performing at a higher level. **2013 record:** 8-11-3. **Coach:** Dave Ornauer, fourth season (coached girls team in Division II last season).

**Key performers:** Josh Sumpter, Sr. (1, 2); T. Susano, Jr. (will transfer to midseason); Jose Garcia, Sr. (transfer from Fort Leavenworth; originally from France and another player).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Much of the Cougars' skilled players moved with about half the departing body 10 miles south to Humphreys. Many freshman have come into the program; Hamilton says the change into a few of them, the Cougars may be much better in a year or two.

**Coach:** Gregory Cruz. **Key performers:** Manasseh Narley, Sr. (M; transfer from Osan, 10 goals, 9 assists); Jose Garcia, Sr. (transfer from Osan; third school in three years); Matthew Murphy, Jr. (def.; Von Matheny, Jr. (def.).

**Outlook:** Just starting up. First year for the Blackhawks, who should get a good boost from former Osan players Narley and Cruz.

## Girls soccer team capsules

### Division I

**2013 record:** 16-3-4, fourth at Far East. **Coach:** Kelli Johnson, Sr. **Key performers:** Kellie Madama, Sr. (M; 6 goals, 5 assists); Sarah Caylock, Sr. (M; 5 goals); Sarah Cronin, Sr. (G; Rachel Phillips, Jr. (F; 3 goals); Kaleigh Williams, Jr. (M; 6 goals); Jordan Jackson, Jr. (F; 3); Emily Mitchell, Jr. (F; 2).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding-reloading. While eight players return, the Panthers must fill out the rest of the roster. Key transfers: Anika Yamakawa, Katelyn Sult, Emily Beemsterboer and Meghan Mitchell, each lost to graduation. Third coach in three seasons: Panthers, who had just one from 2004-12.

**2013 record:** 11-13-1, third at Far East. **Coach:** Nicholas Hindle, 12th season. **Key performers:** Kaitlyn Johnson, Sr. (F; 39 goals, 10 assists); Aaliyah, Sr. (M; 3); Raena Schoeff, Jr. (M; Erin Strand, Jr. (M; Courtney Bacon, Sr. (def.); Charla Johnson, Jr. (def.-M; Alicia Madama, Sr. (def.-M; Emily Mitchell, Jr. (F; transfer from Florida); Alyssa Lee, Jr. (transfer from California); Kiraelyn Kawachi, Jr. (M).

**Outlook:** Reloading-contending. Much firepower and backline help remain from the 2012 Kanto Plan champions and Far East semifinalist. Last two years, good core of returners and influx of new starters. Kaitlyn Johnson, top scorer, scoring in 2012 and was second in 2013.

**2013 record:** 12-5-3, Far East runner-up. **Coach:** Rob Lloyd, first season. **Key performers:** Naviya Poggio, Sr. (M; 4 goals, 8 assists); Marissa Mesquero, Sr. (M; 3 goals); Kaitlyn Johnson, Sr. (F; 3 goals, 4 assists); Harleigh Lewis, Sr. (M; 2 goals); Sarah Sawyer, Sr. (F; 2); M-F; Angel Washam, Sr. (M; 2 goals); M-F; transfer from M.C. Perry.

**Outlook:** Reloading. Strong base of returning players. D-I runners up. A couple of transfers have helped, along with four freshmen who made the varsity.

**2013 record:** 8-14-3, sixth at Far East. **Coach:** Abe Summers, first season. **Key performers:** Kaitlyn Johnson, Sr. (F; 14 goals). **Outlook:** Rebuilding. Just five return from JV, two moves-in and four freshmen on the roster. Very young team with the potential for growth "if we can come together," Summers said.

### Seoul American

**2013 record:** 8-11-3, seventh at Far East. **Coach:** Scott Bittner, fourth season (acted as interim) Sangju, Sr. **Key performers:** Jessie Gomez, Sr. (F; 12 goals, 7 assists); Cathin Willnow, Sr. (def.); Emily Turner, Sr. (M; 6 goals); Keyla Granado, Sr. (def.); Frano Vido, Sr. (transfer from Osan); Erin Franco, Sr. (F; Josie Imrie, Sr. (def. (returns to Seoul American Transfer).

**Outlook:** Reloading-contending. Falcons returning in experience, have good lead line in defense and on offense; 12 players return from an uncharacteristically down season.

### Division II

**2013 record:** 21-23-1, Far East champs. **Coach:** Sung Plourde, 13th season (coached boys team last season). **Key performers:** Marcia Madison, Sr. (def.); Eric Garrido, Sr. (M; 30 goals, 11 assists); Michelle Tompson, Sr. (G); Andrea Carandang, Sr. (F; 7, 4); Sara Mota, Sr. (def.); Sarah Dewitt, Sr. (F; Nica Villaluz, Sr. (M; Hailey DeYoung, Sr. (def.).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding-reloading. Much work to be done to replace Ebony Madrid's 40 goals. Some key players from last year return, but many new players have come in and the Cougars is some changes are repositioning returners.

**2013 record:** 10-13-1, runner-up. **Coach:** Brian Durrant, second season (acted as interim). **Key performers:** Jeremy Tyrras, Sr. (M; Monica Morales, Sr. (F; got out last season); Kaitlyn Johnson, Sr. (F; 10 goals, 12 assists); Demi Kelly, Sr. (F; Laura Lee, Sr. (M; 10 goals, 10 assists); Sarah Sawyer, Sr. (F).

**Outlook:** Reloading. Good senior leadership. Durrant said, replacing lead-maker Sarah Hyatt (transfer to States), senior Kaitlyn Robertson (now doing track) won't be easy.

**2013 record:** 10-13-1, runner-up. **Coach:** Richard Walrath. **Key performer:** Rebecca Gielemann, Jr. (M; transfer ODP player who also plays on a Korean team) in Isabella Nocera, Jr. (def.); Kaitlyn Johnson, Sr. (F; Heidi Berger selected in Germany); Sophia Naylor, Sr. (def.); Sarah Sawyer, Sr. (F; del.; del.); Amy Burger, Sr. (G; transfer from Osan); Mary Ayele-Mensha, Sr. (F; transfer from Osan); Joana Diaz, Jr. (def.); Sharon Murphy, Sr. (def.).

**Outlook:** Just starting up, but with a good foundation, helped by transfers

and some athletes who played soccer for Osan. The Nocerass can do some special things in and out of the game, the ability of doing great things, Walrath said.

**2013 record:** 14-8-1, third at Far East Division II. **Coach:** Justin Edmonds, fourth season. **Key performers:** Vanessa Black, Jr. (M; 18 goals, 5 assists); Natalie Gammel, Sr. (def.); MF; 4, 11); Madeline Cotton, Sr. (def.); Elaine Cotton, Sr. (def.); Kayla Eversole, Sr. (G).

**Outlook:** To be determined. Hampered, as always, by Misawa Air Base's lengthy winter training practices. Hoping to focus on the team's progress on basics and on defense. Contending for at least two of last two seasons. "If only this dreaded snow will ever melt," Macey says.

**2013 record:** 11-3-6, sixth at Far East. **Coach:** Matt Whipple, second season. **Key performers:** Micah Swygert, Sr. (def.); Chris Beemsterboer, Jr. (def.); Zach Estabrook, Jr. (M; 10 goals, 10 assists); Hernandez, Jr. (M; Kenal Hadley, Sr. (def.); Noah Macias, Jr. (def.); Keenan McElroy, Sr. (M; Jack Liddle, Jr. (M).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding and hopefully contending. Whipple says good returning core and three key newcomers should help the Panthers be "competitive in the Kanto Plan and at Far East," he said. **2013 record:** 11-3-1, fifth at Far East. **Coach:** Robert Tiffany, fifth season. **Key performers:** Brandon Yoder, Sr. (4 goals, 4 assists); Brady Yoder, Jr. (G); Dustin Wilson, Sr. (6, 3); Keigo Muli, Sr. (3, 4); Ian Dippen, Sr. (3, 3); Joey Marino, Sr.; Shota Henry, Sr.; Bryan Wolff, Sr.

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Hampered, as always, by Misawa Air Base's lengthy winter training practices. Hoping to focus on the team's progress on basics and on defense. Contending for at least two of last two seasons. "If only this dreaded snow will ever melt," Macey says.

**2013 record:** 16-9, fourth at Far East Division II.

**Coach:** Charles Strobino, third season. **Key performers:** Tiffany Long, Sr. (G); Mike Baldwin, Jr. (M; Noralis Stoen, Sr. (M; 5 assists); Ariel Hicks, Sr. (G); def.).

**Outlook:** Rebuilding. New coach, Durrant said, replacing lead-maker Sarah Hyatt (transfer to States), senior Kaitlyn Robertson (now doing track) won't be easy.

**2013 record:** 2-18-4. **Coach:** Charles Strobino, third season. **Key performers:** Tiffany Long, Sr. (G); Mike Baldwin, Jr. (M; Noralis Stoen, Sr. (M; 5 assists); Ariel Hicks, Sr. (G); def.).

**Outlook:** Hoping to build on the momentum of last season. Hoping to focus on the team's progress on basics and on defense. Contending for at least two of last two years of experience. Already, the Cobras have one win, in last weekend's Western Japan Athletic Association tournament. Still much inexperience and youth, but seven players return.

# SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Briefly

# Hoefl-Riesch out for rest of season

The Associated Press

LENZERHEIDE, Switzerland — Maria Hoefl-Riesch will miss the rest of the ski season after crashing in a World Cup downhill on Wednesday, leaving Anna Fenninger as the favorite to win the overall title.

Germany team spokesman Ralph Eder told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Hoefl-Riesch will not start the three remaining races this week because of injuries sustained when sliding off course in the downhill.

Fenninger took an 11-point lead over the 2011 champion by placing sixth in the downhill behind winner Lara Gut of Switzerland. Fenninger leads Gut by 235 points and defending champion Tina Maze by 287.

A maximum of 300 points are available in the final three races. Hoefl-Riesch slid off course and became tangled in the safety nets.

A rescue helicopter headed up the mountain from the finish area, but there were no immediate reports on the 29-year-old German's possible injuries.

Hoefl-Riesch clinched the season-long downhill title Wednesday despite not finishing the race, but missed valuable points toward the bigger prize.

Fenninger earned 40 points in what is shaping up to be a back-and-forth duel for the overall title this week.

Gut won in 1 minute, 32.3 seconds, beating Elisabeth Goergl of Austria by 0.05 seconds. Fraenzi Aufdenblatten of Switzerland was third, 0.57 behind.

Gut's sixth World Cup win this season was her second in downhill.

In other skiing news:

■ Aksel Lund Svindal retook the lead in the overall World Cup standings on Wednesday by placing fifth in a downhill race won by Olympic champion Matthias Mayer of Austria in Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

Svindal earned 45 points

to move 41 ahead of Marcel Hirscher of Austria, who skips downhill races.

Mayer earned his first career World Cup win in 1 minute, 29.99 seconds, 0.11 faster than both Christof Innerhofer of Italy and Ted Ligety of the United States, who tied for second.

Ligety's career-best result in downhill lifted him to third in the overall standings. Bode Miller of the United States seemed poised for victory until going wide near the end of his run. He placed eighth, 0.62 behind Mayer.

## Braves sign Santana to bolster rotation

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — The Atlanta Braves on Wednesday signed right-hander Ervin Santana to bolster their injury plagued starting rotation.

Santana agreed to a one-year deal. The 33-year-old went 9-10 with a 3.24 ERA in 32 starts for the Kansas City Royals last season.

Kris Medlen, who had already been named as Atlanta's opening-day starter, left a spring training start on Sunday after grabbing his right elbow. Initial tests showed ligament damage, and he is undergoing further examination to determine if he needs surgery for the second time in less than four years.

Brandon Beachy left a start Monday because of continuing problems with his right elbow, and Mike Minor has yet to pitch this spring because of a sore shoulder.

In other baseball news:

■ The Houston Astros gave infielder Brett Wallace his unconditional release on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old Wallace played with the Astros for four years, mostly at first base and also at third base. He played in 79 games last season, batting .221 with 13 home runs. In eight games this spring, Wallace batted 2-for-14 with eight strikeouts.

# Now: Which Gators lineup has edge?

FROM BACK PAGE

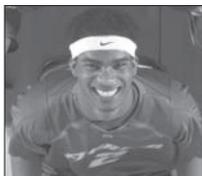


MARY ANN CHASTAIN/AP

Florida's Michael Frazier II set a school record with 11 three-pointers against South Carolina.

## Shooting guard

Lee Humphrey holds the record for three-pointers made in NCAA tournament history (47), including four in the semifinal game and four more in the 2007 title game. He shot 46 percent from behind the arc as a senior. Michael Frazier II is hitting 44 percent from three-point range this season, set a school mark with 11 threes against South Carolina and has more versatility on the offensive end. **EDGE: 2014**



GARY W. GREEN, ORLANDO SENTINEL/KRT

Florida's Corey Brewer in 2006.

## Small forward

Corey Brewer (2007) and Casey Prather (2014) have similar skill sets, with both being long, athletic and dynamic in the open floor. Brewer was a considerably better three-point shooter, ball-handler and defensive stopper than Prather, who leads the Gators in scoring (14.6) and pulls down 5.2 rebounds a game. Brewer's 69 steals in 2007 rank second in school history and are two fewer than Prather has in four seasons. **EDGE: 2007**

## Power forward

The only things Al Horford (2007) and Will Yegute (2014) have in common is they are both relatively quiet and born overseas. Horford was an offensive and defensive force as a junior, with the ability to take over the game in the paint. Yegute is a solid post defender, but limited everywhere else. **EDGE: 2007**



GARY W. GREEN, ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Al Horford dunks against Ohio State during the 2007 NCAA championship game.

## Center

Aside from Tim Tebow, Joakim Noah was the most popular guy on campus in 2007. Patric Young has that distinction now. The league's Defensive Player of the Year, Young has been the team's centerpiece the last three years and has been outspoken about the heart-break of losing in three straight regional finals. Like Noah, Young brings passion and energy to the court. But Noah was a better passer, rebounder and shot-blocker. **EDGE: 2007**



GARY W. GREEN, ORLANDO SENTINEL/KRT

Joakim Noah was a better passer, rebounder and shot-blocker than current Gators' center Patric Young.

## Bench

The 2007 team had the SEC's Sixth Man of the Year in forward Chris Richard as well as center Marreese Speights, forward Dan Werner and guard Walter Hood coming off the bench. Dorian Finney-Smith also won the league's Sixth Man award this season, and guards Kasey Hill and DeVon Walker and highly touted big man Chris Walker give the Gators the depth to press regularly. **EDGE: 2014**

## Final word

"I'm always a little bit guarded starting to compare one team to the next because it's different," Donovan said. "The personalities are different, the players are different, everything's different. What these guys have done in the regular season has been really, really remarkable and special. I would hate to have that accomplishment all of the sudden be compared to something else because what they did has been, in my opinion, totally unique and special."

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# COLLEGE BASKETBALL



JUSTIN HAWORTH/AP

Iowa State guard Naz Long leads the Cyclones into the Big 12 tournament as the No. 4 seed in a tournament that could produce a number of upsets. The Cyclones will face No. 5 seed Kansas State in the quarterfinal round on Thursday.

# Brutal Big 12 tournament promises to be wide open

By Dave Kretz  
THE APRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas coach Bill Self was chatting this week with someone who brought up the possibility that some unfortunate team with a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament might have to play its second game against Oklahoma State, which was once considered a Final Four contender.

"I said, 'Just think if that happens in your conference tournament,'" Self responded.

After winning their 10th straight regular-season title, the Jayhawks earned the top seed when the Big 12 tournament begins Wednesday night at the Sprint Center. But the reward is a first-round bye and a potential matchup with the eighth-seeded Cowboys in Thursday's quarterfinals; the two teams split their two meetings this year.

Oklahoma State plays No. 9 seed Texas Tech in the first game on Wednesday night. Seventh-seeded Baylor takes on No. 10 seed TCU in the nightcap.

"I think we've always had very competitive Big 12 tournaments," Self said, "but I don't know if I can ever remember where if there's a final between whatever seeds there are, it would be absolutely not a major surprise to anybody. It's going to be a pretty special weekend."

The Big 12 has been the runaway leader in conference RPI all season, and some believe that it could land seven or eight teams in the NCAA tournament on Selection Sunday.

Just consider the games that will be played Thursday: Along with Kansas getting Oklahoma State or Texas Tech, second-seeded Oklahoma will play the Baylor-TCU winner, No. 3 seed Texas will play No. 6 seed West Virginia, and No. 4 seed Iowa State will play No. 5 seed Kansas State. "This league," Texas Tech

**"I don't know if I can ever remember where if there's a final between whatever seeds there are, it would be absolutely not a major surprise to anybody."**

Bill Self

University of Kansas head coach



coach Tubby Smith said, "is by far the toughest in the country."

That's why the Jayhawks still believe they can earn a No. 1 seed to the NCAA tourney despite their 23-8 record. Meanwhile, Oklahoma State (20-11) is teetering on the bubble, and a win over Texas Tech might be enough to push the Cowboys firmly into the dance.

Here are five things that fans should look out for at the tournament:

**1 Bubble watch:** Oklahoma State isn't the only team on the NCAA tournament bubble. Baylor (21-10) would feel much better with a win or two, while West Virginia (17-14) hopes the momentum it picked up by knocking off Kansas last weekend will propel it to enough wins in Kansas City to make a case on Selection Sunday. "I think if we won two we'd be in great shape," said Mountaineers coach Bob Huggins, "but I think if we can win that first one that we would be pretty good."

**2 Championship challenge:** Kansas is the only current member to have won the Big 12 tournament since 2005 — twice since then, Missouri won the title. In fact, Oklahoma and Iowa State are the only current schools besides the Jayhawks and Cowboys to have won. "No matter what people say, no matter what other teams do," Oklahoma State's Marcus Smart said, "it goes through Kansas."

**3 Star watch:** There will be stars-a-plenty at the Big 12 tournament. Andrew Wiggins of Kansas is a potential No. 1 draft pick, Iowa State's Melvin Ejim is the Big 12 player of the year and Smart is also a potential lottery pick. But one player who won't be on the floor is Jayhawks center Joel Embiid, who's been ruled out for the Big 12 tournament and unlikely for the first week of the NCAA tournament because of a stress fracture in his back.

**4 Local schools Kansas and Kansas State** always pack the Sprint Center, but Iowa State also tends to draw well — its campus is a reasonable drive from Kansas City. That means it'll be tough to secure a ticket to Thursday's first session, when the Cyclones play the Wildcats and Kansas is also in action in a tantalizing double-header.

**5 Longshots:** Even longshots have coaches concerned this year. Texas Tech is the No. 9 seed but has to win over Oklahoma State, Baylor and Texas on its résumé. And nobody thought TCU would go winless in the league, so the No. 10 seed Horned Frogs could be primed for a first-round upset of the Bears. "We're going to do our best to keep within striking distance and give ourselves a chance down the stretch," TCU coach Trent Johnson said.

## Men's conference tournaments

### AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE

At Albany, N.Y.  
Championship  
Saturday, March 15  
Albany (N.Y.) vs. Stony Brook  
AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
At Memphis, Tenn.  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 12  
Rutgers vs. South Florida  
Temple vs. Central Florida  
Quarterfinals  
Thursday, March 13  
SMU vs. Houston  
Louisville vs. Rutgers-S. Florida winner  
Cincinnati vs. Temple-UCF winner  
UConn vs. Memphis

### ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

At Greensboro, N.C.  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 12  
Wake Forest vs. Notre Dame  
Miami vs. Virginia Tech  
Georgia Tech vs. Boston College  
Second Round  
Thursday, March 13  
Maryland vs. Florida State  
Pittsburgh vs. Wake Forest-Notre Dame winner  
Clemson vs. Miami-Va. Tech winner  
Clemson vs. Georgia Tech-Boston College winner

### ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE

At Brooklyn, N.Y.  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 12  
George Mason vs. Fordham  
Second Round  
Thursday, March 13  
La Salle vs. St. Bonaventure  
Dayton vs. G. Mason-Fordham winner  
Richmond, Duquesne  
UMass vs. Rhode Island

### BIG EAST CONFERENCE

At New York  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 12  
Seton Hall vs. Butler  
Georgia Tech vs. DePaul  
Quarterfinals  
Thursday, March 13  
Villanova vs. Seton Hall-Butler winner  
Purdue vs. Georgetown  
Creighton vs. Georgetown-DePaul winner

### BIG TEN CONFERENCE

At Indianapolis  
First Round  
Thursday, March 13  
Indiana vs. Illinois  
Ohio State vs. Purdue  
Minnesota vs. Northwestern  
Iowa vs. Penn State  
Friday, March 14  
Michigan State vs. Indiana winner  
Nebraska vs. Ohio St.-Purdue winner  
Wisconsin vs. Minnesota-Northwestern

### BIG WEST CONFERENCE

At Anaheim, Calif.  
First Round  
Thursday, March 13  
UC Santa Barbara vs. Texas Tech  
Rice Beach St. vs. Cal State Fullerton  
Oregon State vs. Bowling Green St. O.  
Hawaii vs. Cal State Northridge

### CONFERENCE USA

At Reno, Nev.  
First Round  
Tuesday, March 11  
East Carolina 75, UTSA 76  
New Mexico 54, Bowling Green St. O.  
North Texas 63, Rice 62, OT

### CONFERENCE USA

At Reno, Nev.  
First Round  
Tuesday, March 11  
Tulane vs. North Texas  
Old Dominion vs. Michigan  
UTEP vs. East Carolina  
Alabama vs. Virginia Tech  
Quarterfinals  
Wednesday, March 13  
Tulsa vs. Tulane-North Texas winner  
Middle Tennessee vs. Old Dominion winner  
McHall winner  
Southern Miss. vs. UTEP vs. East Carolina  
Louisiana Tech vs. UAB-Charlotte winner

### CONFERENCE USA

At Green Bay, Wis.  
Championship  
Tuesday, March 11  
Milwaukee vs. St. Mary's  
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
At Columbus, Ohio  
Monday, March 10  
Ohio State vs. Kent State  
Miami (Ohio) vs. Kent State 64  
E. Michigan 72, C. Michigan 60  
N. Illinois 54, Bowling Green St. O.  
Second Round  
Tuesday, March 11  
Eastern Michigan vs. Northern Illinois  
Ohio State vs. Kent State

### CONFERENCE USA

At Akron, Ohio  
Championship  
Thursday, March 13  
Akron vs. Ohio State  
Buffalo vs. E. Michigan, N. Illinois winner

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### MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

At Norfolk, Va.  
First Round  
Monday, March 10  
Norfolk St. vs. Maryland Eastern Shore  
74 Savannah State 61, S. Carolina State 47  
Coppin St. 75, Bethune-Cookman 68  
Florida A&M 65, Delaware St. 6  
Howard 53, NC A&T 47

### CONFERENCE USA

At Las Vegas  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 12  
Utah State vs. Colorado State  
Fresno State vs. Air Force  
Boise State vs. San Jose State  
Quarterfinals  
Thursday, March 13  
San Diego State vs. Utah State-Colorado State  
UNLV vs. Wyoming  
New Mexico vs. Fresno State-Air Force winner  
Nevada vs. Boise St.-San Jose St. winner

### CONFERENCE USA

At Las Vegas  
First Round  
Wednesday, March 12  
Utah vs. Washington  
Colorado vs. Southern Cal  
Oregon vs. Oregon State  
Stanford vs. Washington State  
Thursday, March 13  
Arizona vs. Utah-Washington winner  
California vs. Colorado-USC winner  
Cala. vs. Oregon-Gonzaga winner  
Arizona State vs. Stanford-Washington State winner

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### They're in

- NCAA automatic bids
- Coastal Carolina, Big South Conference
- Delaware, Colonial Athletic Association
- Eastern Kentucky, Ohio Valley Conference
- Gonzaga, West Coast Conference
- Harvard, Ivy League
- Manhattan, Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
- North Carolina State, Atlantic Sun Conference
- Milwaukee, Horizon League
- Mount St. Mary's, Northeast Conference
- North Dakota State, Summit League
- Wichita State, Summit League Conference
- Wofford, Southern Conference

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Conference tournament roundup

## Overlooked all year, Milwaukee answers

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Picked to finish last in the Horizon League's preseason poll.

Seeded No. 5 heading into the conference tournament.

From start to finish, Milwaukee has been mostly overlooked.

Maybe that's why the Panthers so enjoyed cutting down those nets on Tuesday night with everyone watching.

Senior forward Kyle Kelm had a double-double as Milwaukee's front line dominated, and the Panthers led the whole way during a 69-63 victory over Wright State for the Horizon League tournament title.

"I might wear this for two weeks," senior guard Jordan Aaron said, with one of the joyously snipped nets drooped around his neck.

Milwaukee (21-13) is back in the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2000, when the Panthers knocked off Oklahoma in the first round before losing to Florida. They're 3-3 all-time in the tournament.

This one was most unexpected. The Panthers became the first No. 5 seed to win the Horizon League tournament, winning all but one of the tournament games on the road.

"Everything has seemed to come together," coach Rob Jeter said, wearing the other net around his neck. "There hasn't been anything they've slacked in. That's the toughness that's required to represent the Horizon League as champions.

"We never rattled." Kelm had 20 points and nine rebounds, and Aaron scored 18 points as Milwaukee went 9-for-18 from beyond the arc against the league's top defense and had a 35-28 edge in rebounds.

"They really got after us on the boards," said Wright State's Matt Vest, who had 11 points. "That's a credit to them, especially their seniors. Kelm and Aaron really carried them."

Wright State (20-14) had a season-high six-game winning streak snapped. The Raiders were trying to get back to the NCAA tournament for the first time since

2007, but wound up losing the tournament title game for the second year in a row.

A.J. Pacher led the Raiders with 16 points despite spending much of the second half on the bench in foul trouble.

#### Northeast Conference

**Mount St. Mary's 88, Robert Morris 71:** At Moon Township, Pa., Rashad Whack scored 20 points and four of his teammates finished in double figures and Mountaineers clinched an NCAA tournament berth by beating the Colonials in the Northeast Conference title game.

Fourth-seeded Mount St. Mary's (16-16) built a 20-point first-half lead and never looked back, shooting 60.4 percent from the field to win its fourth conference title in school history and first since 2008.

Julian Norfleet scored 17; Taylor Danaher and Sam Prescott scored 15, and Will Miller added 11 for the Mountaineers, whose four NEC championship game victories all came on the road.

Robert Morris (21-13) never led and never pulled closer than 10 points of Mount St. Mary's in the second half. The Colonials won both games between the teams during the regular season.

#### Summit League

**North Dakota State 60, IPFW 57:** At Sioux Falls, S.D., Taylor Braun made a key layup while being fouled with 12 seconds left and added the free throw to lead the Bison past the Mastadons for the Summit League title and their second trip to the NCAA tournament.

North Dakota State (25-6) last earned a berth to the NCAA tournament in 2009 during its first year of Division I postseason eligibility, but lost in the opening round to Kansas 84-74.

TrayVonn Wright led the Bison with 19 points on a mixture of dunks, layups and jumpers, and Braun added 15 points.

Pierre Bland, Luis Jacobo and Michael Kibloski each scored nine points for IPFW (24-10) in its first Summit League title game.



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Gonzaga's David Stockton, left, puts up a shot against BYU's Anson Winder during the first half of the West Coast Conference tournament championship Tuesday in Las Vegas. Gonzaga won 75-64 for its 13th WCC championship.

# Gonzaga downs BYU to claim WCC crown

By JOHN MARSHALL

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Gonzaga has been the class of the West Coast Conference, routinely hoisting regular-season and tournament trophies for nearly two decades.

Even for a team such as this, finishing off another title sweep is a feel-good accomplishment.

Sam Dower Jr. had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Gonzaga held its ground during a second-half rally to beat BYU 75-64 Tuesday night for its 13th WCC championship.

"It never gets old. Never gets old," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "It's obviously something we start talking about it and prepare for way back in the summer. For these guys to step up and make it happen, not only in the regular season but to win here and not share, is just an awesome, awesome accomplishment."

Gonzaga (28-6) raced out to a 21-point lead in the first half, taking advantage of the Cougars' late overtime game the night before. Once the Cougars got their legs and started chipping away at the lead, the Bulldogs had an answer, leaving no doubt about the NCAA tournament by earning

the conference's automatic bid.

Gary Bell Jr. had 14 points and David Stockton dished out seven assists to send the Bulldogs to the NCAA tournament for the 16th straight year.

"We came in with the mindset and us controlling being in the tournament," Stockton said. "We didn't try to think about that, just winning the next game."

BYU (23-11) rallied after a dismal first half, pulling within eight with 3 minutes left. The Cougars couldn't finish off the comeback and now have a long five-day wait until Selection Sunday.

Tyler Haws had 24 points and Kyle Collinsworth added 13 before leaving with a right leg injury in the second half.

"They really went after us at the start," coach Dave Rose said. "But our guys battled. We battled the whole game, got it to single digits, but couldn't get over the hump."

Gonzaga and BYU split two meetings during the regular season.

The Zags won the first one by 15 after hitting 10 of 22 three-pointers in Spokane. The Cougars were much better guarding the perimeter in Provo, limiting the Bulldogs to 4-for-18 shooting from three-point range.



DON WRIGHT/AP

Mount St. Mary's Julian Norfleet, left, drives to the hoop as Robert Morris' Lucky Jones defends Tuesday during the second half of the Northeast Conference championship in Moon Township, Pa. Mount St. Mary's won 88-71.

# SPORTS



**Free agency begins**  
Cowboys cut Ware; Bears release Peppers; Martin traded | Page 25

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# Now & then

### No. 1 Florida's lineup drawing comparisons to 2007 champs

By **MARK LONG**  
*The Associated Press*

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The comparisons have started and surely will continue the further Florida advances in the postseason. They're inevitable, really, since the football-first school is a little short on basketball tradition. Throw in everything the top-ranked Gators have accomplished this season, and it makes sense to measure them against coach Billy Donovan's best.

Florida has won a school-record 23 consecutive games, clinched the Southeastern Conference regular-season title for the third time in four years and became the first team from a major conference to go 18-0 in league play since Indiana in 1976. The team is a virtual lock to be a No. 1 seed, maybe even the overall top seed, in the upcoming NCAA tournament.

No doubt, the Gators are good. But how well do they stack up against the 2007 team? Those Ga-

tors, who were the overall No. 1 seed, handled season-long hype and all-or-nothing expectations to become the first since Duke in 1993 to win back-to-back national titles. Most would say it's not really close.

"The talent level is totally different," Donovan said Monday. "If you're looking at the talent level in terms of guys going on and playing in the NBA, you know, we had three guys get drafted in the top 10."

The current group doesn't have nearly as many projected NBA players, with forward Casey Prather and center Patric Young considered second-round picks at best. But the senior-laden Gators are far from overmatched when sized up against their popular and prolific predecessors who went 18-0 in postseason play in 2006 and 2007.

Here's a look at how they compare:



PHIL SANDLIN/AP

**2014**  
Florida guard **Scottie Wilbekin** (5), forward **Casey Prather** (24), center **Patric Young** and forward **Will Yeguete** (15) have won a school-record 23 straight games and became the first team from a major conference since 1976 to go 18-0 in league play.



GARY W. GREEN, ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

**2007**  
Florida coach **Billy Donovan** talks to his starters, from left, **Corey Brewer**, **Al Horford**, **Taurean Green**, **Joakim Noah** and **Lee Humphrey** in the final minutes of the Gators' 65-57 victory over Butler in the 2007 NCAA Midwest Regional semifinal. They went on to win the national championship.

**Florida guard Scottie Wilbekin**

PHIL SANDLIN/AP



### Point guard

**Taurean Green** led the Gators in scoring in 2007, averaging 13.3 points a game, shot 40 percent from three-point range and rarely missed from the free-throw line. **Scottie Wilbekin**, the SEC Player of the Year, has posted similar numbers this season, has a better assist-to-turnover ratio and is arguably the best perimeter defender in the country. **EDGE: 2014**

SEE NOW ON PAGE 29

### Inside:

■ Conference tournament finals, Page 31

