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Bronze makes Miller the oldest Olympian to medal in Alpine event

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Joint effort

Chinese troops join US, Thailand in Cobra Gold military exercises

SAKSHI LALIT/AP

U.S. Marines and South Korean soldiers join in the military exercise Cobra Gold on Hat Yao beach in Chonburi province, Thailand, on Friday. About 8,000 military personnel from the U.S., Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Malaysia took part in the annual drill. See more photos on Page 16.

Germany becoming more of a player in regional security

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A new era of security burden-sharing could be on the horizon for a war-weary U.S., with France taking an aggressive lead in Africa and Germany showing a willingness to take a more assertive role in global security matters.

Recently, Germany has begun a cautious rethinking of its policy that often amounts to military abstention. It refused to partici-

pate in the NATO mission against Libya's former strongman, for instance, and has insisted on combat restrictions for its troops deployed to Afghanistan.

"Germany must be ready for earlier, more decisive and more substantive engagement in the foreign and security policy sphere," German Foreign Minister Walter Steinmeier told defense leaders and diplomats during the recent Munich Security Conference. While he advocated force as a "last resort," he added, "Ger-



Alyssa Bick/Courtesy of the German army

A German explosive ordnance disposal trainer teaches Malian soldiers how to use mine detectors as part of the European Training Mission last year.

many is too big merely to comment on world affairs from the sidelines."

SEE PLAYER ON PAGE 4

World War II veteran searches for his 'Ginny'

By KELLY MESSERSCHMIDT
Special to Stars and Stripes

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Bill Burton knows what it feels like to have a bullet whiz by your head.

"It makes a little whispering sound. A little wind will come from it, too. I know about that," the 89-year-old veteran said.

A corporal in the U.S. Army during World War II, Burton was visiting the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum in Birmingham, Ala., recently, when he saw a 1942 Harley Davidson WLA, identical to the one he rode in North Africa and Sicily. "I was sure I saw this motor-

cycle in a storage building on this property on TV," Burton said. "I just had to see it again. There's about four of these

motorcycles on the other floor. I just figured that ... still do."

Bill Burton corporal in the U.S. Army during World War II painted over."

It's possible that it could be the one, according to the museum's technical adviser, Brian Clark.

SEE GINNY ON PAGE 3

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“In a sense, climate change can now be considered the world’s largest weapon of mass destruction, perhaps even the world’s most fearsome weapon of mass destruction.”

— Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking to Indonesian students, civic leaders and officials

See story on Page 9

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The most popular stories on our website:

1. Air Force will take ‘appropriate action’ over viral POW/MIA emblem photo
2. Obama signs debt limit measure into law, restores military benefits
3. Misconduct in Army ranks forcing more soldiers out, data show
4. GALLERY: Arlington National Cemetery in winter
5. Women in Arlington gesture controversy lose their jobs

COMING SOON

Wired World

Robot doctor on duty in ER



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MILITARY



ANDREW SCHNEIDER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS George H.W. Bush departs Naval Station Norfolk on Saturday for its deployment as the flagship for Carrier Strike Group 2 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Carrier Bush leaves for Middle East

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

More than 6,000 sailors departed Norfolk, Va., on Saturday with the USS George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group heading for the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East.

This is only the second deployment for the Navy’s newest Nimitz-class nuclear-powered aircraft carrier — the last of the Nimitz series — which is named after the 41st U.S. president. Four ships and eight aircraft squadrons will accompany the Bush to the U.S. 6th Fleet and 5th Fleet areas of responsibility as part of the carrier strike group, according to a Navy news release.

The departure was delayed for four hours after tiny marine life clogged the vessel’s condensers, local media reports said.

Navy officials said the deployment is expected to last about nine months.

Rear Adm. John C. Aquilino, commander of Carrier Strike Group 2, said in a blog post on the Navy’s official blog site, Navy Live, the deployment is part of a regular rotation of forces to support maritime security operations, to provide a crisis-response capability and to increase theater security cooperation.

Aquilino wrote that the strike group is “capable of executing many missions that span the spectrum from major combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief,” adding that the group is ready to “meet emergent operational requirements around the world.”

Sailors have spent the past year conducting “intensive training and certification exercises” for this deployment, according to the news release.

Currently, the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is in the final months of a scheduled nine-month deployment in the Middle East region. It recently completed five weeks of combined carrier operations with a French Navy Task Force that included the FS Charles de Gaulle. The group entered the 5th Fleet area of responsibility in August to relieve the USS Nimitz in the region.

Earlier this month, more than 4,000 sailors and Marines with the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group departed on an eight-month scheduled deployment also as part of a regular rotation of forces in the 6th Fleet and 5th Fleet AOR.

simoes.hendrick@stripes.com
Twitter: @hendricksimoes



MICHAEL SMEVOG/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors carry supplies aboard the USS George H.W. Bush on Tuesday to prepare for deployment.



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MILITARY

Ginny: WWII vet thrilled Harleys have a sweet home in Alabama

Bill Burton spoke at length with Kelly Messerschmidt, communications manager at Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum. Here are some excerpts:

On Gen. George Patton:

I was in the Army for five years. Under Gen. Patton. And Gen. Patton slapped a lil old boy in the hospital in Sicily. Well he slapped two of them, there in the hospital. I was visiting there. One of our boys had been hurt, and me and another fellow, and the hospital was about 40 x 60. We were at the other end, but when he slapped that youngun', you could hear it all the way where we were, heard it all across the hospital. [Why did he slap him?] That little ol' boy said, "Your blood and our guts." That's how he got the name Blood and Guts Patton. I witnessed all that.

On "Ginny":

We made an invasion of North Africa Nov. the 8th, 1942. And I was riding a motorcycle then, that year. This was my third and final motorcycle. I tore up two, woke up in the hospital two times. I rode this one three years.

On Belgian camaraderie:

One time, this was in Belgium, in a place, there's an old boy, and a crew, and a Sherman tank, pulled in about where I was. I asked him if I could sleep under his tank at night because out there you have no protection. He said, "Nah, I can't let you do that because when they call me, I've got to go then." I said, "Well, I'll be right over here, against a wall, a rock wall, so don't run over me." They had some canned ham. "Boy," he says, "you had any supper?" I said, "No." He a couple of me a couple of ham sandwiches and some coffee, and boy that was good, good, good.

On his guardian angel:

This [soldier] was digging up a bomb. The ol' lieutenant was sitting on a hood of a truck drinking wine. I stopped, he said, "You want some of this wine?" I said, "No sir, I don't want none." He says, "This one's still ticking." Boy ... I said, "Man get the heck away from here, and do it now!" And I took off, and I got about 75-80 yards and that thing went off. It killed every one of them. I went back, when the debris cut falling. I went back; that's where that guardian come in, that time.



Photos courtesy of Kelly Messerschmidt

Bill Burton, 89, stands next to a military Harley Davidson, identical in vintage to the one he rode while a soldier in World War II, at the Barber Vintage Motorsports Museum in Birmingham, Ala.

FROM FRONT PAGE

"When we bought them, they were already painted; they were already finished," he said. "Who knows? They're 60-70 years old; you never know."

Standing next to the military Harley — the same vintage as his "Ginny" — Burton looked on with a mix of nostalgia and pride.

"I feel like I could get up on it, crank it up and take off," he said.

Burton rode three motorcycles during his service, but "Ginny" was his favorite. When he was issued the bike, it already wore the name, which happened to be his mother's name.

Burton said he was 16 when he went off to war because he'd falsified the paperwork. "My mom wouldn't sign it, but my daddy did," he said. "He scribbled her name on there and went on."

Of the 12 children in his family, only a dead sister didn't serve. He said he told his mother she should get a medal for having so many kids who served.

The museum is home to more than 1,300 motorcycles and contains the largest vintage Lotus racer collection in North America. George Barber, an Alabama native, began collecting motorcycles 24 years ago. The collection grew over the years, and the Barber Museum became the largest philanthropic project taken on by an individual in the history of the state.

The museum is a working exhibit. On the lower level, technicians spend their workweek restoring vehicles to near-original condition. Virtually every vehicle on display can be ready to drive within an hour. As members and guests walk through automotive history, they hear the sound of machines being brought back



Then-Cpl. Burton, shown with "Ginny" on Sicily in 1943, said he rode that Harley for three years during the war.

to life. Outside on the racetrack, cars and motorcycles are heard and seen racing on most days and weekends as part of the 830-acre motorsports park.

Burton, of nearby Bessemer, Ala., shared his war stories with family members and museum staff.

"I could tell you things, some bad ones and some good ones," he said. "I could write a book. I'm 89 years old, not too old for anything."

Burton said that after the war he had an opportunity to buy another Harley, but his wife gave him an ultimatum.

"I carried it down to the house, and she looked at that thing, she said, 'It's either me or the motorcycle — which one do you want?' And I got to thinking about that, I

hadn't been married for long, and I said, 'Heck, I better take this thing back to that man.'" Burton said.

The museum's executive director, Jeff Ray, was enthusiastic about Burton's visit and believes the museum holds many more stories.

"Every motorcycle here had a rider, and every car here had a driver," Ray said. "This means each exhibit offers its own unique story. The stories are what bring life to this place, and we have an incredible collection that we're excited to share."

Burton stood next to the 1942 Harley, surrounded by dozens of other military motorcycles in the Barber collection.

"I loved that motorcycle," he said. "Still do."

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com

**Military spouses' underemployment**

The Military Officers Association of America and the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University conducted a study that found that 90 percent of female spouses reported being underemployed or overqualified for the positions they hold.

Readers respond:

There was a time, in this country of mine, when a young spouse could say; "I took care of my husband, my house, and my baby today."

— **mytaikes**

That's all well and good, but the decision to be a homemaker should be up to the spouse, not some archaic concept of what women "should" do.

— **wtrwllk**

Time to update the management of military personnel, and eliminate or at least significantly decrease the number of PCS moves a service member should need to make during a career.

— **Unexpected_View**

My wife worked at a CDC overseas and told me that a lot of spouses quit when they [found] out it was a flex schedule, was not up to their expectations, or they thought the job was beneath them.

— **OT-Ohio**

What happened to spouses talking to each other before joining the military about this issue or if getting married after one is in the military, discussing the implications of being a military family and related hardships?

— **mikengermany**

I'm very surprised at the lack of empathy I'm seeing in these comments. Yes, military life has certain hardships, but there is a certain mentality of "it sucked for me so it should suck for all future generations forever and always." Don't we owe it to our future generations of Soldiers and Families to try to improve this situation?

— **RangerJoe12**

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/spousesandwork

MILITARY



Allyssa Bieri/Courtesy of the German army

A German army trainer explains equipment used to build fighting positions as part of the European Training Mission in Mali in July 2013.

Player: Germany's reluctance to use force rooted in its militaristic history

FROM FRONT PAGE

Although France increasingly is the face of Western interventions in African trouble spots, the Germans are pledging to contribute more toward international efforts to bring stability to places such as Mali. Thus Africa is emerging as the proving ground for Europe's economic powerhouse as it pursues a bold new foreign policy.

'Reluctant to use force'

Germany's historical tendency toward pacifism and reluctance to meddle in the area of messy foreign security is born of its militaristic history, particularly Nazi Germany's rout of Europe in World War II, German analysts say.

"We've been reluctant to use force and we've been reluctant to lead diplomatically, and it is a direct consequence of World War II," said Thorsten Benner, director of the Berlin-based Global Public Policy Institute. "It's justifiably rooted in the experience. Germany shouldn't be trigger-happy."

Illustrative of the tentative change in Germany's mind-set, the country has plans to beef up a military training mission in Mali as part of an effort to bolster indigenous troops in the fight against Islamic militants. It also has pledged more logistical support to international peacekeeping efforts in the Central African Republic, where bloody religious-based fighting is stoking fears of potential ethnic cleansing.

Germany is even considering sending troops to Mogadishu as part of an effort to train forces in the virtual failed state of Somalia, where a fragile government has been in a long struggle with the terrorist group al-Shabab.

The combined effects of broweeting by frustrated allies, an increasingly tolerant public and a desire to have greater sway at the international negotiating table have led to a profound shift in Germany as decades of reflexive pacifism begin to give way, experts say.

"We have a Germany that's been criti-

cized now for the better part of a decade and that has sunk in," said Jan Techau, director of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's European center. "In the end, that criticism actually does produce results. People start to rethink things."

Increased participation

Political leaders have recently declared that a sense of guilt over the country's Nazi past can't be used as a "shield for laziness" in the future.

While Germany, the undisputed economic powerhouse of Europe, has long feared foreign entanglements, it now appears eager to shake a reputation for punching below its weight in the area of security cooperation. Of late, German officials have sounded almost hawkish, if still cautious about engaging in a way that could mean a major commitment of troops in a combat zone.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, speaking during the Munich conference, welcomed a proposal by Germany's defense minister, Ursula von der Leyen, calling for Europe to push forward with a German-proposed "framework nation" concept that groups large and small countries together to jointly develop sets of forces and capabilities.

"The U.S. has supported France's leadership and efforts," Hagel said. "And we also welcome the German defense minister, Von der Leyen's, recent proposal to increase German participation" in Mali and the Central African Republic.

Europe stepping up

However, while calling on Germany to become more active in security matters, Von der Leyen also said the European Union as a whole must do more.

"If we Europeans want to remain a credible actor in security policy, we must plan and act together," Von der Leyen said. "European nations ought to be prepared to

take over a fair share of the trans-Atlantic burden — in a combined, consensual and efficient manner."

The U.S. has long been critical of Europe in general for not stepping up more to intervene in crises that have implications on both sides of the Atlantic. France's recent involvement in Francophone Africa follows from its colonial past. The country has put thousands of troops on the ground to take part in dangerous combat and peacekeeping missions in Mali and the Central African Republic, enduring casualties along the way.

More German engagement

To be sure, Germany's baby steps pale compared with French and U.S. military operations across Africa.

Techau, a longtime critic of German reluctance to engage in global security challenges, said the trend of greater German involvement will likely continue with an eventual role in more direct counterterrorism activities.

"Don't expect it to happen next week, but I think over the mid-term that will happen at some point," he said. "The Germans will not be able to abstain for too long. The French are answering to an urgent security need in Africa, which also is important for Germany."

Benner also sees more German engagement occurring gradually over time.

"I would say it will come to fruition slowly," Benner said. "This is mostly to prepare the public, per-emptively, that if the need arrives, Germany is ready and willing to contribute."

'Loss of influence'

Criticism from the U.S. and others over German caution has been stinging at times, notably in connection with the war in Afghanistan where NATO brass have long been critical of so-called German "caveats" that put significant restrictions on the types of operations its troops can conduct.

Germany's refusal in 2011 to take part in NATO's mission in Libya provoked additional angst among allies. While many other nations in the alliance also didn't take part, the major NATO players — the U.S., France, the United Kingdom and Italy — were all in.

"Ever since then, especially after Libya, there has been a loss of influence for Germany within NATO and parts of the EU," Techau said. "If you always stand on the sidelines, you lose influence."

Part of Germany's newfound assertiveness could be linked to the need to bolster its standing inside the European Union and keep the political alliance glued together, some experts suggest.

"Berlin believes that holding the European Union together requires adding another dimension that it heretofore has withheld in its dealing with the bloc: military-political relations," Stratfor, the Texas-based security think tank, said in a recent analysis.

Meanwhile, there is a growing recognition that pursuing a policy of engagement in security matters doesn't necessarily translate into repercussions from an electorate uneasy with the idea of deploying troops.

While the general public generally opposes sending troops abroad — German polls consistently show opposition to the idea of a more expeditionary military — the issue is not a major point of discussion during election season.

"I think the German political elites have learned that one of their biggest fears is unfounded — that military engagement leads to losing votes. They aren't losing votes on this," Techau said.

Nevertheless, German Chancellor Angela Merkel "is generally quiet on these matters, and she will not go out there and give driving forceful speeches on military issues, but there is her implicit green light in all of this," Techau said. "She has been in power for so long now, she knows exactly what she can get away with."

vandiver.john@stripes.com

MILITARY

Academy sex assault case records scrutinized

By ANNYS SHIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A highly publicized sexual assault case at the U.S. Naval Academy has turned a microscope on military legal procedure, including the authority of military commanders to charge or punish defendants and the cross-examination of alleged victims before trial.

Now, another standard practice in military sexual assault cases is quietly being challenged in courtrooms across the country: the review and release of an accuser's mental health records.

During the past several months, lawyers for the reputed victim in the Naval Academy case have been trying to block a judge from reviewing years of counseling records. The young woman sought therapy after a suspected assault by three former Navy football players at an off-campus party in 2012. Charges were dropped against two of the midshipmen, but a third, Joshua Tate, is scheduled for court-martial next month.

If the case goes forward, the therapy records could wind up being used against the reputed victim. The latest appeal by her attorneys is pending, but the presiding judge in the case, Col. Daniel Daugherty, already has reviewed some of the records and agreed to release portions to the defense.

Military defense lawyers said asking to see counseling records in sexual assault cases is routine. Greg Rinckey, a former military prosecutor now in private practice, said those records can help expose inconsistencies in an alleged victim's statements.

Advocates for sexual assault victims say the practice of going after mental health records undercuts the military's efforts to get more victims to come forward and thwarts their treatment.



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An F-35 Joint Strike Fighter test aircraft flies over Fort Worth, Texas.

Officials: Pentagon to seek fewer F-35s

By TONY CAPACCO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will request 34 Lockheed Martin Corp. F-35 jets in its budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, eight fewer than previously planned, according to officials.

The fiscal 2015 request, to be released on March 4, will include funds to buy 26 of the Air Force's model, six of the Marine Corps' short-takeoff and vertical-landing jets and two of the Navy's version for aircraft carriers, according to the officials familiar with the plans who asked not to be identified because the budget hasn't been made public.

Even with the decrease from past plans, the defense budget reflects pledges by officials to do all they could to insulate the costliest U.S. weapons program from federal budget cuts. Marilyn Hewson, chairman and chief executive officer of Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, predicted in a Feb. 10 interview that its F-35 program is "going to continue to grow and become a larger part of our portfolio."

While the budget request will be down from the 42 fighters the Defense Department had projected it would buy next year, it's an increase from the 29 the Pentagon requested and Congress approved for the current fiscal year.

"It would be inappropriate to comment or speculate prior to the

formal budget release," Lockheed spokeswoman Laura Siebert said in an email when asked about the F-35 plans.

The projected price tag of \$391.2 billion for an eventual fleet of 2,443 F-35s is a 68 percent increase from the estimate in 2001, measured in current dollars. The number of aircraft is 409 fewer than called for in the original program. The Pentagon's chief tester repeatedly has questioned the plane's progress, finding last month that the fighter wasn't sufficiently reliable in training flights last year.

The five-year defense budget plan through 2019 also calls for 55 F-35s for the U.S. military in fiscal 2016, seven fewer than planned, and adds a projection for 96 of the jets in 2019. The figures don't include purchases by other nations that are partners for the F-35. Among them are Britain, Norway, Australia, Italy and Canada.

S. Korea won't audit SMA funds

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean government audit board has decided not to investigate whether U.S. Forces Korea improperly used funds contributed by Seoul toward the upkeep of U.S. troops, saying it would be "inappropriate" in light of national security and diplomatic concerns.

The Board of Audit and Inspection had been reviewing documents from several government agencies, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense and the Seoul Regional Tax Office, to determine whether to launch a formal investigation.

The review apparently focused on whether the U.S. has tried to evade taxes on interest earned on unspent defense contributions from Seoul — an allegation U.S. Forces Korea has denied.

The board dismissed the case late Thursday afternoon, and had found no evidence of USFK wrongdoing, according to an auditor and board spokeswoman, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

"We decided it was unsuitable to audit the case since the matter is related to the defense cost-

sharing agreement with USFK," she said. It was unclear whether the case was dropped solely because of political concerns.

The auditor said neither the South Korean government nor USFK had asked that the case be dropped.

She would not release documentation about the board's decision to Stars and Stripes, saying it could not be made public.

A left-wing civic group, Solidarity for Peace and Reunification of Korea, requested the audit in October. According to South Korea's Yonhap News, the group alleged that unspecified "data" showed the U.S. has left unspent more than \$944 million in Korea-provided defense funds.

USFK said in a previous email to Stars and Stripes that it "does not earn any interest on (Special Measures Agreement) funds deposited in the burden-sharing account, nor does USFK make any additional money off the SMA burden-sharing account."

Under the SMA, Seoul will increase its contributions 5.8 percent in 2014. In addition to paying 920 billion won — about \$866.6 million — South Korea will make unspecified contributions toward labor, logistics and construction.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com
chang.yooyong@stripes.com



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NATION

Debt limit lifted, younger vets' benefits restored

By Darlene Superville
The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — President Barack Obama on Saturday signed separate measures into law to lift the federal debt limit and restore benefits that had been cut for younger military retirees.

Obama signed the bills during a weekend golf vacation in Southern California.

The debt limit measure allows the government to borrow money to pay its bills, such as Social Se-

curity benefits and federal salaries. Failure to pass the measure, which the Senate passed 67-31 last week and sent to Obama for his signature, most likely would have sent the stock market into a nose dive.

The Treasury Department is now free to borrow regularly through March 15, 2015, meaning lawmakers won't have to revisit the issue until a new Congress is sworn in after the November elections.

Separate legislation passed in December would have held annu-



Obama

was designed to hold the line on the soaring cost of government benefit programs, which have largely

al cost-of-living increases for veterans age 62 and younger to 1 percentage point below the rate of inflation, beginning in 2015.

The measure was designed to hold the line on the soaring cost of government benefit programs, which have largely

escaped trillions of dollars in deficit cuts over the past three years.

The cuts were enacted less than two months ago, with a projected savings to the government of \$7 billion over a decade. Veterans groups and some lawmakers said the cut was a mistake, and they began campaigning to have the benefits restored.

The pensions go to veterans who retire after 20 years of service, regardless of their age. Nearly 2 million retirees currently are eligible, including about 840,000

under age 62, according to the Pentagon.

For a sergeant first class who leaves the service at age 42 after two decades, the bill passed in December would have meant an estimated \$72,000 in reduced pension payments.

Quick action by lawmakers on this year's debt limit bill stands in contrast to lengthy showdowns in 2012 and last fall, when Republicans sought to use the must-pass bill as leverage to win concessions from Obama.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/AP

A cellphone and cigarettes were found Jan. 25 inside a camouflage package near a Florida state prison.

Prisoners' use of smuggled phones on rise

By Brendan Farrington
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — They're hidden in babies' diapers, ramen noodle soup packages, footballs, soda cans and even body cavities.

Not drugs or weapons, but cellphones. They're becoming a growing problem in prisons across America as they are used to make threats, to plan escapes and for inmates to continue to make money from illegal activity even while behind bars.

"You can pick states all across the country and you'll see everything from hits being ordered on individuals to criminal enterprises being run from inside institutions with cellphones," said Michael Crews, head of Florida's Department of Corrections.

When two murderers serving life sentences escaped from Florida Panhandle prison last fall, a search of their cells turned up a cellphone used to help plan the getaway, drawing attention to the burgeoning problem. It was just one of 4,200 cellphones confiscated by prison officials last year,

or 11 per day.

"The scary part is, if we found 4,200, we know that's not all of them," Crews said.

And while prison officials are trying their best to keep cellphones out, it's not such an easy task. Jamming cellphone signals is prohibited by federal law, and it costs more than \$1 million each for authorized towers that control what cellphone calls can come in and out of prisons. Some prisons even have to police their own corrections officers who sometimes help inmates receive contraband.

In Texas, a death row inmate made several calls with a cellphone to state Sen. John Whitmire, who chairs the Criminal Justice Committee. Whitmire didn't believe it when he started receiving calls from death row inmate Richard Tabler.

"He held his phone out, I guess outside his cell and there was a very distinct prison noise. He said, 'Did you hear that?' and I said, 'Yup. That's a prison,'" Whitmire said. "I said, 'How'd you get that phone?' He said, 'I paid \$2,100 for it.' I said, 'How do

you keep it charged?' He said, 'I have a charger.'"

Infamous murderer Charles Manson, imprisoned in California, was found with a cellphone under his mattress, twice.

Two Indiana prisoners were convicted of using cellphones smuggled in by guards to run an operation that distributed methamphetamine, heroin and other drugs.

In Oklahoma, a newspaper investigation found dozens of prisoners using cellphones to maintain Facebook pages. The Oklahoma found about three dozen inmates who were disciplined by prison officials and its reporters found about as many who hadn't been caught.

Florida prisoners have also been using social media with cellphones.

"We've got inmates running their own blogs and all kinds of stuff. We stop it when we catch it, but it's very difficult to police the whole Internet. We don't have Internet police on our staff," said assistant corrections secretary James Upchurch.

Report: Document shows surveillance of law firm

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Security Agency was involved in the surveillance of an American law firm while it represented a foreign government in trade disputes with the United States, The New York Times reported in a story based on a top-secret document obtained by former NSA systems analyst Edward Snowden.

The February 2013 document shows that the Indonesian government had retained the law firm for help in trade talks, the Times reported in a story posted on its website Saturday.

The law firm was not identified in the document, but the Chicago-based firm Mayer Brown was advising the Indonesian government on trade issues at the time, according to the newspaper.

The document itself is a monthly bulletin from an NSA liaison office in Canberra, the capital of Australia. The NSA's Australian counterpart, the Australian Signals Directorate, had notified the NSA that it was conducting surveillance of the talks, including communications between Indonesian officials and the American law firm, and offered to share the information, the Times reported.

Liaison officials asked the NSA's general counsel's office, on behalf of the Australians, for guidance about the spying.

The bulletin notes only that the counsel's office "provided clear guidance" and that the Australian eavesdropping agency "has been able to continue to cover the talks, providing highly useful intelligence for interested U.S. customers," according to the Times story.

The NSA and the Australian government declined to answer questions about the surveillance, the Times reported. In statements to the newspaper and The Associated Press, the NSA said it "does not ask its foreign partners to undertake any intelligence activity that the U.S. government would be legally prohibited from undertaking itself."

Officials have said Snowden took 1.7 million documents with him when he fled the U.S. last year and has shared some of them with

journalists. He has been granted temporary asylum in Russia and has been charged with theft and espionage in the U.S.

Duane Layton, a Mayer Brown lawyer involved in the trade

talks, told the Times that he did not have any evidence that he or his firm had been under scrutiny by Australian or U.S. intelligence agencies.

"I always wonder if someone is listening because you would have to be an idiot not to wonder in this day and age,"

Duane Layton
lawyer with
Mayer Brown

he said in an interview with the newspaper. "But I've never really thought I was being spied on."

The NSA is prohibited from targeting Americans, including businesses, law firms and other organizations based in the U.S., for surveillance without warrants, the Times reported.

Intelligence officials have repeatedly said the NSA does not use the spy services of its partners in an alliance of intelligence operations — Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand — to skirt the law.

Most attorney-client conversations do not get special protections under American law from NSA eavesdropping, according to the newspaper.

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NATION



KELLY JORDAN, THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION/AP

Denise Hunt tears up outside the Duval County Courthouse in Jacksonville, Fla., on Saturday as she finds out the jury deadlocked on the first-degree murder charge for Michael Dunn.

Fla. man might be retried on murder charge in teen's death

The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A 47-year-old software developer was convicted of attempted murder for shooting into a carful of teenagers after an argument over what he called their "thug music," but jurors couldn't agree on the most serious charge of first-degree murder.

After more than 30 hours of jury deliberations over four days, a mistrial was declared Saturday on the murder charge that Michael Dunn, who is white, faced

in the fatal shooting of one of the black teens. The 12 jurors found him guilty of three counts of attempted second-degree murder and a count of firing into an occupied car.

Dunn was charged with fatally shooting Jordan Davis, 17, of Georgia, in 2012 after the argument over loud music coming from the SUV occupied by Davis and three friends outside a Jacksonville convenience store.

Each attempted second-degree murder charge carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in pris-

on, while the fourth charge he was convicted on carries a maximum of 15.

State Attorney Angela Corey said her office would consider seeking a retrial of Dunn on a first-degree murder charge.

Dunn claimed he acted in self-defense, testifying he thought he saw a firearm pointed at him from the SUV as the argument escalated. No weapon was found in the SUV.

Dunn's attorney, Cory Strolla, said he plans to appeal.

NM facility monitored for radiation

The Associated Press

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Officials checking the presence of airborne radiation at an underground site in southeastern New Mexico where the U.S. government seals away low-grade nuclear waste say surface tests have detected no contamination.

Samples were taken at several sites around the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant after an air

monitor found radiation on the underground levels of the facility around 11:30 p.m. Friday, the U.S. Department of Energy said in a news release.

No workers were underground at the time and no injuries or damages have been reported. A fire at the site earlier this month prompted an evacuation.

"Monitors at the WIPP boundary have confirmed there is no danger to human health or the en-

vironment," the department said Saturday night. "No contamination has been found on any equipment, personnel, or facilities."

Energy Department spokesman Roger Nelson said the 139 workers aboveground at the site near Carlsbad were told Saturday to stay where they were as a precaution. None of them tested positive for contamination, and all nonessential personnel were released, Nelson said.

Pa. woman claims she killed more than 20

The Associated Press

SUNBURY, Pa. — A Pennsylvania woman charged along with her newlywed husband in the murder of a man they met through Craigslist admitted to the slaying in a jailhouse interview with a newspaper and said she has killed more than 20 others across the country, claims police said they are investigating.

In an interview with the Daily Item in Sunbury, Miranda Barbour, 19, said she wants to plead guilty to killing Troy LaFerrara in November. She also said in the interview that she has killed at least 22 other people from Alaska to North Carolina in the last

six years as part of her involvement in a satanic cult.

"I feel it is time to get all of this out," Barbour told the newspaper. "I don't care if people believe me. I just want to get it out."

Sunbury Police Chief Steve Mazzeo told the newspaper that investigators have been in contact with the FBI and law enforcement in several other states. Prosecutors are seeking the



Elytte Barbour



Miranda Barbour

death penalty against Barbour and her husband, Elytte Barbour, 22. Authorities said Miranda Barbour told investigators she met the victim after he responded to her Craigslist ad offering companionship for money. Police allege in court papers that Elytte Barbour told investigators they committed the crime because they wanted to kill someone together.

US critical of Russia as Syria talks peter out

By ANNE GEARAN AND LOVEDAY MORRIS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.N.-sponsored peace talks for Syria ended at an impasse Saturday over the future of President Bashar Assad, and the Obama administration lashed out in frustration at Russia, accusing it of prolonging the conflict.

"They can't have it both ways," a senior Obama administration official said of Russia, which is Assad's principal international backer but also supported the U.S. idea of inviting both sides to the negotiations. Russia can't say it wants that peaceful approach and a "happy Olympics" while it is also "part and parcel of supporting this regime as it kills people in the most brutal way," the official said.

The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the agenda for an unusual meeting Saturday in California between President Barack Obama and Jordanian King Abdullah II at which the two leaders discussed the failing international efforts to broker peace and ease desperate conditions in Syria.

Abdullah requested the meeting, partly to seek additional U.S. help for coping with an overwhelming flow of refugees. His small, Western-oriented nation is deeply uneasy about the near collapse of Syria and the spread of Islamic militancy in the vacuum.

Seizing on Russia's role as host of the Winter Olympics in Sochi, the official said that country was

being disingenuous in its approach to the conflict in Syria, where three years of violence has claimed 140,000 lives.

"It's not good for Syria that we come back for another round and fall in the same trap that we have been struggling with this week and most of the first round," U.N. envoy Lakshmi Brahimi said in Geneva, where the acrimonious talks ended on a somber note.

Brahimi apologized to the Syrian people for the lack of progress after two

Failed talks could mean more barrel bombing in Syria's largest city

Page 8

face-to-face meetings between Assad's representatives and members of the opposition in exile. Brahimi urged

both sides to consider whether they were ready and willing to go on, and for the first time laid blame for the failure at the feet of the Syrian government.

With no date set for a resumption of talks, it seems likely the violence will intensify. Western diplomats have acknowledged they have no Plan B for what to do next should negotiations fail. The Geneva talks represent the only strategy Obama has advanced to try to end the war, and both Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have acknowledged in recent days that it isn't working. Obama reiterated last week that he has ruled out direct military action.

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WORLD

Militants' bomb derails Pakistani train, killing 8

By ADIL JAWAD
The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — A bomb placed by an ethnic separatist group derailed a train in southwestern Pakistan on Sunday, killing eight people, police and the militants said.

Three of the dead were children. Another 20 people were wounded by the blast in Kashmir district, which caused several train cars to run off the track, police official Mohammad Azeem said.

Kashmir is in Sindh province but adjoins insurgency-hit Baluchistan. One of several ethnic Baluch separatist groups operating in the resource-rich province, the Baluch Republican Army, claimed responsibility. Al-Qaida-linked militants also have a pres-

ence there.

The group's spokesman, Sarbaz Baluch, said in a phone call to The Associated Press from an undisclosed location that the attack was a reaction to what he alleged were killings in Baluchistan's Dera Bugri region by Pakistani paramilitaries.

The group also blew up three gas pipelines last week, suspending supplies to millions of household for two days.

Local Pakistani TV channels showed footage of several badly damaged train cars lying off the track. Pakistani Railways Minister Saad Rafiq said officials were working to reopen the track.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed a policeman guarding a polio vaccination drive team in the outskirts of the northwestern city of Peshawar.

Police official Ibrahim Khan said another officer was wounded in the attack during the weekly anti-polio campaign in the Budhni area.

Khan said the two officers were patrolling a road leading to the suburban neighborhood where anti-polio teams were vaccinating children.

Anti-polio teams or their guards have been frequently targeted in Pakistan by Islamic militants, who say the campaigns are a tool for spying and claim the vaccine makes boys sterile.

Pakistan is one of the few remaining countries where polio persists, and most cases are found in its northwest, where militants make it difficult to reach children for vaccination.

No one has claimed responsibility for that incident.



COURTESY OF THE ALEPPO MEDIA CENTER/AP

Syrian citizens inspect an unexploded barrel of explosives in January that was dropped from a Syrian forces helicopter onto a street in Aleppo, Syria.

Crude barrel bombs devastate Syrian city

By LIZ SLY
The Washington Post

KILIS, Turkey — The Syrians who reach this Turkish border town after escaping the northern city of Aleppo bring stories of horror about exploding barrels that fall from the sky.

The worst part is the terrifying anticipation as the barrel bombs are unleashed from warplanes roaring overhead, said one man who fled after three bombs demolished the street where he was living. The sight of rescuers scraping human remains from the wreckage outside her home prompted another of the refugees to leave. A third Syrian, a grandmother, said she left simply because life had become unsustainable in the wrecked, rubble-strewn city, where entire neighborhoods have been almost completely depopulated.

"Aleppo is empty," she said as she sat surrounded by luggage and children after arriving in Turkey last week. "There's no one left — no shops, no markets, no life at all."

As peace talks in Geneva ended in deadlock Saturday, with United Nations mediator Lakhdar Brahimi setting no date for their resumption, the Syrian government's barrel bombing campaign against the rebel-held half of Aleppo offers a glimpse of what may lie ahead for the country now that negotiations have failed.

The campaign, which began in December, intensified as the peace talks got underway last month, underlining one of the biggest impediments to a negotiated settlement, said Salman Shaikh, of the Brookings Doha Center in Qatar.

"The regime feels it can win this on the battlefield and they feel they can win this politically," giving it little incentive to compromise in the peace talks, he said.

During the past week, the attacks reached a new peak, triggering a fresh exodus of panicked people in the surrounding countryside and across the border into Turkey.

The barrels — crude cylinders stuffed with TNT that are being tipped out of warplanes at the rate of 20 per day — have killed hundreds and have injured thousands. They are almost all being dropped over residential areas, and though they lack precision, they are systematically hitting one neighborhood after another, suggesting an intent to drive people out, residents say.

Barrel bombs are also increasingly being deployed in other rebel strongholds around Syria, bringing a new dimension to the violence of a war already renowned for its brutality. Unlike the sarin gas and ballistic missiles that the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad previously has deployed to crush the rebellion, barrel bombs are cheap and easy to manufacture from readily available components, and the government has a seemingly unlimited supply.

"They are also powerful enough to demolish apartment buildings, to obliterate homes and to incinerate people, and their stepped-up use has been the primary cause of a sharp increase in deaths in Syria during the past three weeks," The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights estimates that 3,400 people have been killed since the Geneva talks began.

Key Shiite Iraqi cleric al-Sadr says he decided to quit politics

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — One of Iraq's most influential Shiite clerics, Muqtada al-Sadr, says he has decided to quit politics, distancing himself from any political movement that uses his name.

Al-Sadr has made such announcements before, but the current declaration comes only two months before national parliamentary elections. Sadrists hold 40 out of 325 seats in the legislature, making them the largest single Shiite bloc, and hold six Cabinet seats.

In the late Saturday statement, al-Sadr said his move was to "preserve the reputation of the al-Sadr (family)... and to put an end to all the wrongdoings that were conducted, or could be conducted, under their title." It did not explain further.

"I announce here that I will not interfere in politics. There is no political entity that represents me anymore nor any position in parliament and government," it said. "Whoever acts against this will be subjected to legal and religious action."

He also ordered all al-Sadr political offices to be closed down.

The move did not appear to be expected. Al-Sadr officials could not be reached for contact. The movement announced a news conference, only to cancel it.

Al-Sadr came to prominence in the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, whose regime killed his father and grandfather. He established his Mahdi Army militia that fought the Americans and is blamed by many Iraqis for much of the sectarian violence that raged in Iraq in 2006 and 2007.

Meanwhile, Iraq's main al-Qaida breakaway group on Sunday claimed responsibility for an audacious attack on a military barracks that killed 15 troops last week.

The troops were assigned to protect an oil pipeline that sends Iraqi crude oil to international markets, as well as to guard a nearby highway outside the northern city of Mosul. Eight of the soldiers were beheaded in the Monday attack while the rest were killed by gunfire.

Along with the statement, post-

ed on a website commonly used by jihadists, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant put up an image of the beheading of one of the soldiers, as well as captured arms and vehicles. They statement listed other attacks against security forces in and around Mosul, about 225 miles northwest of Baghdad.

The authenticity of the statement couldn't be independently verified, but its style was consistent with previous statements.

Violence continued on Sunday.

Gunmen attacked a police checkpoint outside the northern city of Kirkuk, killing five policemen, Col. Abbas Hussein said. Armed with weapons fitted with silencers, the gunmen first shot two policemen who were manning the checkpoint then moved to a trailer to kill the rest, Hussein said.

In Baghdad's northern neighborhood of Chikok, a parked car bomb ripped through a commercial area, killing four civilians and wounding 14 others, a police officer and a medical official said.

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WORLD

Egypt: Explosion kills 3 Korean tourists in Sinai

CAIRO — Egyptian security officials said suspected car bombs exploded near the Taba border crossing between Egypt and Israel in the Sinai Peninsula, killing three South Korean tourists.

The officials said Sunday's explosion took place near a bus carrying the tourists and wounded 13 more. They said the bus was carrying 33 South Korean tourists and had arrived at Taba from the ancient Greek Orthodox St. Catherine's monastery in central Sinai.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Huge Filipino charity walk breaks records

MANILA, Philippines — A Philippine Christian sect has broken two records for organizing the largest charity walk in an effort to raise funds for survivors of last year's Typhoon Haiyan, a Guinness World Records official said Sunday.

Guinness adjudicator Kirsty Bennett said 175,509 members of the Iglesia ni Cristo took part in Saturday's record-setting walk along a scenic Manila seaside boulevard. The previous record was set in Singapore in 2000, when 77,500 people walked to promote healthy living.

Bennett told a news conference in Manila on Sunday that Iglesia ni Cristo members in 28 other countries held similar walks over the weekend, with the number of participants reaching 519,221 worldwide — a record for the largest charity walk in multiple venues.

Ukrainian protesters end city hall occupation

KIEV, Ukraine — Anti-government demonstrators in Ukraine's capital have vacated Kiev City Hall as promised in exchange for the release of 24 jailed protesters.

The last of 294 jailed protesters were released last week under an amnesty that also called for opposition activists to end their occupation of government buildings in Kiev and elsewhere.

Demonstrators seized Kiev City Hall on Dec. 1, about a week after mass street protests broke out against President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to abandon a long-anticipated political and economic treaty with the European Union.

The president, whose support base is in the Russian-speaking east and south of the country, turned to Russia instead for loans to keep Ukraine's economy afloat.

From The Associated Press

Kerry blasts climate change skeptics

By MATTHEW LEE
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Climate change may be the world's "most fearsome" weapon of mass destruction, and urgent global action is needed to combat it, Secretary of State John Kerry said on Sunday, comparing those who deny its existence or question its causes to people who insist the Earth is flat.

In a speech to Indonesian students, civic leaders and government officials in Jakarta, Kerry laid into climate change skeptics, accusing them of using shoddy science and scientists to delay measures needed to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases at the risk of imperiling the planet.

He also went after those who dispute who is responsible for such emissions, arguing that everyone and every country must take responsibility and act immediately.

"We simply don't have time to let a few loud interest groups hijack the climate conversation," he said, referring to what he called "big companies" that "don't want to change and spend a lot of money" to act to reduce the risks. He later singled out big oil and coal concerns as the primary offenders.

"We should not allow a tiny minority of shoddy scientists and extreme ideologists to compete with scientific facts," Kerry told the audience gathered at a U.S. Embassy-run American Center in a Jakarta shopping mall. "Nor should we allow any room

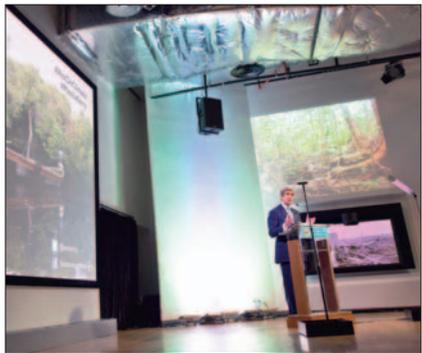
for those who think that the costs associated with doing the right thing outweigh the benefits.

"The science is unequivocal, and those who refuse to believe it are simply burying their heads in the sand," Kerry said. "We don't have time for a meeting anywhere of the Flat Earth Society."

Ninety-seven percent of scientists who have weighed in on the issue agree that the phenomenon is real, Kerry said, and the cost of inaction to environments and economies will far outweigh the significant expense of reducing greenhouse gas emissions that trap solar heat in the atmosphere and contribute to the Earth's rising temperature.

He outlined a litany of recent weather disasters, particularly flooding and typhoons in Asia, and their impact on commerce, agriculture, fishing and daily living conditions for billions of people.

"This city, this country, this re-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Secretary of State John Kerry gestures during a speech on climate change Sunday in Jakarta, Indonesia.

gion is really on the front lines of climate change," Kerry said. "It's not an exaggeration to say that your entire way of life here is at risk."

"In a sense, climate change can now be considered the world's largest weapon of mass destruction, perhaps even the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction," he said.

The solution is a new global energy policy that shifts reliance from fossil fuels to cleaner tech-

nologies, Kerry said. He noted that President Barack Obama is championing such a shift and encouraged others to appeal to their leaders to join.

The speech came a day after Kerry won an agreement with China to cooperate more closely with the U.S. on combatting climate change. American officials hope that will help encourage other nations, including developing countries like Indonesia and India, to follow suit.

To foil protests, Vietnam deploys ballroom dancers

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Anti-China protesters hoping to lay wreaths at a famous statue in the Vietnamese capital on Sunday were obstructed by an unusual sight of ballroom dancers and an energetic aerobics class held to a thumping sound system.

The demonstrators suspect the government deployed the dancers as a way to stop them from getting close to the statue and make their speeches inaudible. The few who tried to get close to the statue of Ly Thai To, the founder of Hanoi and a nationalist icon, were shoed away.

The protesters were marking the 35th anniversary of a bloody border war between China and

Vietnam, where anger is already running high over Beijing's increasingly assertive territorial claims on islands in the South China Sea that Hanoi insists belong to it.

Relations with China, Vietnam's ideological ally and major trading partner, are a highly sensitive domestic political issue for Hanoi's rulers.

Nguyen Quang A, a well-known dissident, and others attending the rally in Hanoi on Sunday said the government deployed the dancers at the statue of Ly Thai To and at another statue nearby to prevent them gathering there. The tactic appeared to be part of a low-key approach to policing the event to avoid confrontation.

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WORLD

Tax on bubbly irks Vienna's upper crust

By GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA — Just when it seemed that Austria survived Europe's financial crisis unscathed, austerity has hit — in the form of a tax on sekt, the country's version of champagne.

At less than \$1.35 a bottle, the planned tax pales in severity compared with the hardships imposed on citizens of other EU nations in the past five years. It's also only one of several tax increases that will see Austrians paying more for luxury cars and tobacco.

Yet it seems to be the tax causing the most furor.

With economic statistics that shine compared with the rest of the 28-nation European Union, Austria's new taxes seem more precautionary than necessary. Austrian unemployment last year was at 4.9 percent, the lowest among the 18 countries that use the euro. Inflation stayed under 1.5 percent and the budget deficit amounted to just over 2 percent of the gross domestic product in late 2013. Austrians' median annual income was more than 25,000 euros — nearly \$34,000.

Dozens of pricey galas are staged between January and March by organizations as diverse as the Vienna State Opera, the city's confectioner, the pharmacists' guild or Austria's hunting society. Guests at all of them sip sekt, which in its best incarnation can stand its own against fine

champagne.

While top-end tickets at the Opera Ball cost \$25,000 for a VIP box and a bottle of sekt goes for \$340, the sekt tax remains less than 1 euro.

Vienna's high society is still not amused.

Even at the city's most prestigious ball, "1 euro makes a big difference," said Elisabeth Guertler, who owns Vienna's five-star Sacher hotel and heads the famed Spanish Riding School of dancing white stallions.

Opera Ball organizer Desiree Treichl-Stuerghk said she can't understand "why Austrians should have to pay more to celebrate with domestic sekt."

Government officials note that EU law stipulates such a levy on most sparkling wine, saying the tax in Austria has existed for years but was set at zero.

Part of the problem seems to be politics. The tax was the brainchild of the Socialist Party, the senior government coalition partner, which calls it a "luxury tax." That infuriates both Austria's sekt makers — who say they will lose market share to some exempted Italian products — and Vienna's upper crust, made up of conservatives who are traditionally suspicious of the Socialists.

"Sekt is not suited for use in the class struggle," Guertler said.



Members of the opening committee perform at the Ball de Pharmacy at the Hofburg palace in Vienna, Austria.

HANS FUNZ/AP

A glass is filled with Schlumberger sparkling wine in Vienna, Austria, last month.

RONALD ZAK/AP

FACES

A new 'Tonight Show' dawns with Jimmy Fallon as host

By FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

On the walls of Jimmy Fallon's office are photos. Lots of photos. Of his 2007 marriage to film producer Nancy Juvonen. Of their 6-month-old daughter, Winnie. Of his mom and dad as newlyweds. Fallon points them all out to a visitor proudly.

But the dominant photo is a portrait of Johnny Carson, aglow in front of his "Tonight Show" drapes.

"I look at that every day," says Fallon, "and just go, 'Yeah — it's SO fun!'"

Already Fallon is immersed in this kind of fun. For five years he hosted NBC's "Late Night," a job he relinquished only days ago. And now he's looking ahead to the Big Show, "The Tonight Show," where Monday, at the special time of 12 midnight EST, he retrieves Carson's mantle — back in New York after 42 years in Los Angeles.

"It's giant! It's a big TV moment!" says Fallon. "Even if it wasn't me, I would tune in to watch."

A Manhattan home base perfectly suits its new host, a consummate New Yorker, while bringing it under the same hallowed roof (NBC's Rockefeller Center) as "Late Night" and "Saturday Night Live," other jewels in the crown of Lorne Michaels, its new executive producer.

It also allows "Tonight" to make a clean break from its turbulent post-Carson era under Jay Leno (and, fleetingly, Conan O'Brien), when the Carson-bequeathed formula of jokes, celebs and chitchat was, too often, upstaged by be-

hind-the-scenes soap opera.

Leno was consistently the late-night ratings winner, but never won much respect from the public, critics, or even his own network, which twice sent him packing from "Tonight."

Fallon wants everyone to know it won't really be so different, after all: essentially an hour earlier. "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon," including its house band, the Roots (though this eight-piece ensemble will expand by two horns), its

His 2004 departure from "SNL" to pursue a film career didn't pan out. Now a TV staple, Fallon declares that he's developed "a voice that people expect from us."

What is that voice? "Fun. Nice. Absurd," he says reflect-

'It's giant! It's a big TV moment! Even if it wasn't me, I would tune in to watch.'

Jimmy Fallon

on the premiere of "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon"

announcer-sidekick, Steve Higgins, and comic bits like "Slow Jam the News" and "Thank-you Notes."

"When we started 'Late Night,' we were DOING 'Late Night,'" Fallon explains, "but over five years it's kind of grown, and blossomed into what it became, which is 'The Tonight Show.' We grew into it!"

Fallon first became popular during his six years on "Saturday Night Live," where he displayed a chameleonic range of characters and impersonations, plus a musicality that grants him uncanny skill at mimicking numerous recording stars.

tively. A thoughtful pause, then a laugh. "I'm still working on the list."

His key strength as host boils down to his unflinching engagement, says "Tonight Show" producer Josh Lieb.

"He's got genuine empathy for his guests and for the audience," he said. "He's trying to give them the best of himself."

"He is the most inclusive comic I've ever known," adds Lieb, whose credits include "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" and the sitcom "NewsRadio." "Some comics want to shut the audience out. Jimmy really wants to bring the whole world in on the joke."



Nicki Minaj says sorry for using Malcolm X, racial slur in cover art

The Associated Press

Nicki Minaj has apologized for using a famous photo of Malcolm X with a rifle in his hands and juxtaposing it with a racial slur for her new song.

Minaj posted the photo Wednesday on her website and Instagram page, and received criticism for how she used the Malcolm X image. It's for her new song "Lookin' (Explicative)" (Explicative). The title uses the N-word.

After she was criticized on social media circles and beyond for what many saw as disrespect to a revered icon, she offered an apology Thursday on Instagram to the estate of Malcolm X. She also said that the song's artwork "is in no way to undermine his efforts and legacy."

"That was never the official artwork nor is this an official single. This is a conversation. Not a single," she wrote. "I apologize to the Malcolm X estate if the meaning of the photo was misconstrued. ... I have not-



Minaj

ing but respect (and) adoration for u."

Still, she sounded exasperated that people were even upset over the issue.

"What seems to be the issue now? Do you have a problem with me referring to the people Malcolm X was ready to pull his gun out on as Lookin' (explicative explicative)?" the 31-year-old asked in her post. "I am in the video shooting (the song) and there happened to be an iconic photo of Malcolm X ready to do the same thing for what he believed in!!!"

"Lookin' is a name-bashing song. The photo of Malcolm X holding the rifle was taken when he was trying to protect his family from death threats (his home had been firebombed)."

Grammy-nominated Minaj said in a radio interview Thursday with Hot 97's Angie Martinez that she wrote the song to empower women because there are too many songs that attack women.

A Change.org petition posted online that encouraged the rapper to change the cover artwork had reached more than 1,500 supporters Thursday evening.

Drake apologizes after rants

Drake is apologizing for lashing out at

Rolling Stone for replacing him on the cover with the late Philip Seymour Hoffman.

The 27-year-old writes Friday on his blog: "I completely support and agree with Rolling Stone" putting the actor on the cover. He calls Hoffman "legendary." The rapper adds that he was frustrated and says Thursday was "an emotional day." He titled the post "Tough Day At The Office."

Drake tweeted Thursday that he was "disgusted" that Rolling Stone put Hoffman on its cover and he was finished doing magazine interviews. He also said the magazine misquoted him when Kanye West came up, which he didn't mention in his Friday post.

The magazine's new issue hit newsstands Friday.

'Waltons' patriarch dies

Ralph Waite, who played the kind and steady patriarch of a rural Southern family on the TV series "The Waltons," died Thursday, his manager said. He was 85.

Waite, who lived in California's Palm Springs area, died at midday, manager Alan Mills said. Mills, who did not know the cause of death, said he was taken aback

because Waite had been in good health and still working.

Waite appeared last year in episodes of the series "NCIS," in which he played the dad of star Mark Harmon's character. He also appeared in "Bones" and "Days of Our Lives."

"The Waltons," which aired on CBS from 1972 to 1981, starred Waite as John Walton, and Richard Thomas played his oldest son, John-Boy, an aspiring novelist.

Waite, a native of White Plains, New York, served in the U.S. Marines.

Other news

■ The White House Correspondents' Association says **Joel McHale** will host its annual dinner on May 3 in the nation's capital.

■ **Lil' Kim** is pregnant with her first child. The rapper's publicist C.J. Carter confirmed the news Thursday. She is about five months along and due in May.



Waite

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 John Panasiewicz, General Manager, Pacific
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com;
 +49(0)1631.3615.9310; cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 (+1)(703)693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contacts

OMBUDESMAN

Ernie Gates

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Activist and protest leader Boniface Mwangi raises his fist in the air as he is dragged away to be arrested and taken to a police station in Nairobi, Kenya, on Thursday. He later escaped by jumping from a moving police pickup truck. Riot police fired tear gas to break up a group demonstrating against a Kenyan government it considers to be corrupt and unable to uphold rights contained in the constitution.

BEN CURTIS/AP

US military intervention, if it's done right, could boost stability in Africa

By MICHAEL O'HANLON

For decades, one golden rule has guided America's military involvement in Africa: Stay out.

Generally speaking, the reason was a sense that the strategic stakes did not justify the risk. When we deviated from this rule, we often learned lessons the hard way that seemed to reinforce its validity, as in Somalia in 1993.

While presidents often profess a stronger interest in Africa than their actions would imply, they tend to say such things when not in the White House — witness Bill Clinton calling the nonintervention in Rwanda's 1994 genocide his greatest regret as president, or Sen. Barack Obama calling for more assertiveness in the Democratic Republic of Congo, or DRC, and Sudan six to eight years ago.

In fact, now is the time to reassess this long-standing American anathema to military involvement in Africa's terrible wars.

At a time of national war fatigue and fiscal austerity, it may be counterintuitive to propose an increase in U.S. involvement — particularly military commitment — abroad. Given the problems that continue in Somalia, Kenya, Mali, Libya, Sudan, the DRC and Nigeria, Africa does not appear to be an area of opportunity. But, for a modest investment, the U.S. and other countries may be able to make major strides toward improving the prospects for peace and stability on the continent.

France is doing important work in Mali and the Central African Republic, and the European Union is planning to help in the latter conflict as well. Most impressive of all, the African Union, led by states such as South Africa, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, is making a major difference in Somalia, the DRC and beyond.

Rather than view that as an excuse not to be involved, the United States should seize the opportunity to contribute to a greater international effort to help turn Africa gradually from a zone of conflict to a zone of hope. Doing so will be good for America's own security and economic interests, as well as humanitarian ones.

Specifically, the United States could deploy a brigade combat team or one to two security force assistance brigades, or SFABs, making for a total of roughly 5,000 U.S. troops, to the DRC. That would beef up the existing U.N. peacekeeping force of just under 20,000 and give it the capacity to help the DRC get on its feet. The SFAB

concept, developed in Iraq and Afghanistan, minimizes the combat role for U.S. forces while maximizing their mentoring and training roles (they can also help with logistics support).

The DRC mission has had recent successes but remains seriously under-resourced and under-equipped. Fewer than 20,000 international troops are attempting to aid a country with twice the population and several times the land area of either Iraq or Afghanistan.

In addition, the U.S. could deploy up to several hundred Americans as part of a coalition team to train and mentor Libyan security forces so that Libya, which seemed a successful part of the Arab Spring when Moammar Gadhafi was overthrown in 2011 but has since descended into chaos, can return to a more successful path. The real regret about Libya should center less on Benghazi — a tragedy to be sure but a limited one in strategic terms — and more on the fact that we are losing a chance to build stability in this small but hardly insignificant state.

Some view Africa as a continent forever mired in poverty and conflict. But over the last few years, several hopeful signs have emerged there. Health care has progressed, with tangible headway against HIV/AIDS. Continentwide, the annual economic growth rate has averaged 4 percent in real terms for a decade. A number of countries — roughly a third of the continent's total — are showing significant progress in democratic and economic reforms. Civil wars in West Africa and southern Africa have subsided; estimates of overall death rates from conflict on the continent are at their lowest since the 1970s. The French intervened successfully to support a democratically elected leader in the Coast in 2011. Even Sudan and Somalia have shown progress of late, albeit limited and fragile.

The U.S. can build on this fragile progress and make a significant contribution to its counterterrorism and humanitarian agendas in Africa with relatively modest effort. We have already deployed a small contingent to help Uganda pursue the Lord's Resistance Army, while maintaining special operations forces in Djibouti to pursue al-Qaida. The focus of this expanded effort should work through the U.S. Africa Command to build capacity in African states through programs such as the Global Peace Operations Initiative and the Trans-

Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership.

Consider again the DRC. Despite the creation of a rapid reaction brigade in recent months to strengthen the U.N. presence and take on militias such as the M23 group, Congolese forces remain weak. The general absence of the state in all domains of life will continue to compromise the very survivability of such groups, especially such as the young, the elderly, the diseased and childbearing women. More than 3 million people are believed to have died in the eastern part of the country since the mid-1990s.

The best path toward a more hopeful future is a systematic effort by the United States and other outside powers to strengthen and reform Congolese security forces. That requires a deployed force on the ground such as a brigade combat team or an SFAB.

In Libya, the real strategic loss has been a missed opportunity to help strengthen and stabilize the new government. This mission need not be particularly large or costly. But the minimalist approach that the international community has followed has left the country worse off than it was under Gadhafi. Militias roam the streets; oil production and national GDP are way down; institutions, including those providing education and health care, are barely functional.

As part of a larger international effort, several hundred American troops in a training role could make a major difference. In so doing, they could also help reduce the spillover risks posed by renegade and extremist groups to neighboring countries such as Mali, Tunisia and Algeria.

To be sure, any stepped-up military involvement — by U.S. forces and/or other countries — needs to be carefully designed and implemented. But in countries such as the DRC, the forces needed would be modest enough in scale that such an initiative would not be incompatible with the Asia-Pacific rebalance, ongoing defense budget cuts or even a modestly stepped-up American role in Syria.

And for a U.S. president struggling to find workable big ideas to inspire his presidency and the nation, Africa may counterintuitively be a promising place to look.

Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the author of "Healing the Wounded Giant: Maintaining Military Preeminence While Cutting the Defense Budget." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

News Item: Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin found guilty of 20 counts in corruption trial including deals involving a granite company owned by his sons.



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SCIENCE AND MEDICINE



Fine-tuning touch

ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

In quest for more lifelike prostheses, researchers create robotic hand that can feel

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

To feel what you touch — that's the holy grail for artificial limbs. In a step toward that goal, European researchers created a robotic hand that let an amputee feel differences between a bottle, a baseball and a mandarin orange.

The patient got to experiment with the bulky prototype for only a week, and it's far from the bionics of science fiction movies. But the research released last month is part of a major effort to create more lifelike, and usable, prostheses.

"It was just amazing," said Dennis Aabo Sorensen, of Aalborg, Denmark, who lost his left hand in a fireworks accident a decade ago and volunteered to pilot-test the new prosthesis. "It was the closest I have had to feeling like a normal hand."

This isn't the first time scientists have tried to give some sense of touch to artificial hands; a few other pilot projects have been reported in the U.S. and Europe. But this newest experiment, published in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*, shows Sorensen not only could tell differences in the shape and hardness of objects but he also could quickly react and adjust

'Suddenly, I could tell if it was a hard object. The response, the feedback from the arm to my nerves and to my brain, they came very strong.'

Dennis Aabo Sorensen
patient involved in robot hand experiment

his grasp.

"It was interesting to see how fast he was able to master this," said neuroengineer Silvestro Micera, of Switzerland's Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, who led the Swiss and Italian research team. "He was able to use this information immediately in a quite sophisticated way."

Scientists have made great strides in recent years in improving the dexterity of prostheses. The sense of touch has been a much more difficult challenge and is one reason that many patients don't use their prosthetic hands as much as they'd like.

Consider: Grab something and your own hand naturally grasps with just enough force to hang on. Users of prosthetic hands have to carefully watch every motion, judging by eye instead of touch how tightly to squeeze. The results can be clumsy, with dropped dishes or crushed objects.

"You always have to look and see what's

going on, so that's what is so much different from this new hand that I tried," Sorensen, 36, said in a telephone interview.

First, doctors at Rome's Gemelli Hospital implanted tiny electrodes inside two nerves — the ulnar and median nerves — in the stump of Sorensen's arm.

Those nerves normally would allow for certain sensations in a hand. When researchers zapped them with a weak electrical signal, Sorensen said it felt like his missing fingers were moving, showing the nerves still could relay information.

Meanwhile, Micera's team put sensors on two fingers of a robotic hand to detect information about what the artificial fingers touched.

For one week, cords snaked from a bandage on Sorensen's arm to the artificial hand, and the electrodes zapped the nerves in proportion to what the sensors detected.

They essentially created a loop that let

the robotic hand rapidly communicate with Sorensen's brain.

"It is really putting the brain back in control of the system," said biomedical engineer Dustin Tyler, of Case Western Reserve University, who wasn't involved with the European work but leads a team in Ohio that recently created and tested a similar touch-enabled hand. "That's an important step."

Added neurobiologist Andrew Schwartz, of the University of Pittsburgh: "It shows with a few sensors and some pretty elementary technology that they can recover a fair amount of functionality."

To be sure he used touch and didn't cheat by looking or hearing telltale sounds, Sorensen wore a blindfold and headphones as Micera's team handed him different objects.

"Suddenly, I could tell if it was a hard object," Sorensen recalled, describing sensations that changed along with his grip. "The response, the feedback from the arm to my nerves and to my brain, they came very strong."

Micera cautioned that it will take several years of additional research to create a first-generation artificial hand that can feel and looks more like a traditional prosthesis. First, they have to prove these nerve implants can last; for safety reasons, Sorensen's were surgically removed after the experiment.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

COLA cap to remain for new entrants

Bowing to colossal pressure from military associations, younger retirees and angry careerists who served through long and nasty wars, Congress has repealed the redus COLA cap it enacted only six weeks ago.

Cost-of-living adjustments for military retirees younger than 62 will not be set a full percentage point below annual inflation starting in January 2016 as a bipartisan debt-reduction deal.

The COLA cap will stay in effect for new entrants, those who first entered the military on or after Jan. 1 this year and eventually serve long enough to gain lifetime annuities.

To be able to lift the COLA cap for most members and still save more than \$6 billion in federal spending during the next decade, Congress also voted to extend some across-the-board budget cuts, called sequestration, by a year through 2024. That largely will affect Medicare funding,

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

congressional staff said.

"I can't call it a clear-cut victory because we were looking for full repeal" of the COLA cap, said retired Air Force Col. Michael F. Hayden, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America. Though the "most egregious" features of the cap are rescinded, he said, it "still affects members of the future force."

The late-hour decision to retain the COLA cap for new entrants recalled for Hayden how Congress had started to impose the "Redux" retirement plan on new entrants starting in 1986. Years later, when Redux was blamed for a drop in career force retention,

Congress restored a more robust retirement plan retroactively, enticing only a portion of careerists to stay under Redux in return for a \$30,000 bonus.

Congress now has started a "mini-Reduc" generation, Hayden said. The effect over time could create new retention challenges, he said. In the short term, it violates promises made by lawmakers to avoid piecemeal changes to military retirement, and instead to await recommendations due next year from a special commission on military compensation reform.

Following a now-familiar script for a divided and largely dysfunctional Congress, a few powerful lawmakers again shackled a lame-duck solution to a sticky problem behind closed doors when colleagues couldn't compromise.

In this case, the urgent goal was repeal of the COLA cap that many lawmakers said they vehemently opposed, even though they voted for it in December as part of the

bipartisan budget agreement negotiated by their budget committee chairmen, privately and on deadline as Christmas neared.

Adding to the urgency to act this time was a massive snowstorm that threatened to ruin lawmakers' plans for a two-week respite away from Washington if they spent too long debating how to pay for COLA cap repeal.

The COLA cap repeal provision created a new mystery about who added language that keeps the COLA cap in place for members who enter the military for the first time on or after Jan. 1.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, was the first to reveal the feature at Capitol Hill news conference Tuesday.

Boehner called it a "fairer way" to save retirement dollars than by targeting those "already retired" and "already signed up for service."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va., or email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 17)	\$1.4051
Dollar buys (Feb. 17)	€0.7117
British pound (Feb. 17)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (Feb. 17)	99.00
South Korean won (Feb. 17)	1,034.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6710/\$1.5982
Canada (dollar)	1.0980
China (Yuan)	6.0670
Denmark (Krone)	5.4523
Egypt (Pound)	6.8649
Euro	\$1.3673/0.7313
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7553
Hungary (Forint)	226.49
Israel (Shekel)	3.5131
Japan (Yen)	101.85
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1019
Philippines (Peso)	44.60
Poland (Zloty)	3.103
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2612
South Korea (Won)	1,059.47
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9828
Thailand (Baht)	32.33
Turkey (Lira)	1.8849

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.06
Federal funds market rate	0.06
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	3.70

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Monday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	57	32	Cldy	Fort Wayne	31	14	Snow	Louisville	47	29	Rain	Pocatello	49	30	Cir	Slous City	50	29	Pcldy	
Ablene, Tex	69	51	Pcldy	Cheyenne	50	27	Cir	Goodland	67	43	Cir	Lubbock	67	43	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	25	7	Cir	Slous Falls	43	27	Pcldy	
Akron, Ohio	29	4	Snow	Cleveland	30	16	Snow	Grand Rapids	27	8	Snow	Macon	68	34	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	48	42	Rain	South Bend	30	15	Snow	
Albany, N.Y.	24	3	Cir	Cincinnati	40	20	Rain	Grand Junction	48	26	Cir	Madison	29	15	Snow	Pueblo	63	26	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	35	22	Snow	
Albuquerque	64	40	Cir	Cir	Chicago	30	6	Snow	Grand Rapids	27	8	Snow	Medford	51	37	Rain	Pueblo	63	26	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	53	38	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	26	10	Cir	Colorado Springs	61	34	Cir	Great Falls	46	25	Cir	Memphis	63	47	Cldy	Rapid City	50	26	Cir	Tampa	75	50	Cir	
Anaheim	61	38	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	59	32	Pcldy	Green Bay	48	32	Cir	Miami Beach	80	62	Cir	Reno	61	29	Pcldy	Tucson	85	53	Pcldy	
Anchorage	23	12	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	59	32	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	42	26	Cir	Midland-Odesa	69	46	Cir	Reno	61	29	Pcldy	Tulpe	64	43	Cir	
Asheville	50	27	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	59	32	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	42	26	Cir	Milwaukee	28	15	Snow	Richmond	49	26	Pcldy	Tulpe	64	43	Cir	
Atlanta	62	38	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	59	32	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	42	26	Cir	Missoula	42	26	Snow	Rochester	24	2	Pcldy	Tulpe	64	43	Cir	
Atlantic City	30	14	Cir	Corpus Christi	81	62	Cir	Helena	45	24	Cir	Missoula	42	26	Snow	Rochester	24	2	Pcldy	Tulpe	64	43	Cir	
Austin	59	32	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	57	Pcldy	Honolulu	79	61	Cir	Mobile	60	46	Cir	Rockford	30	17	Snow	Wichita	67	49	Cir	
Baltimore	32	18	Pcldy	Dayton	35	15	Rain	Houston	80	61	Cir	Montgomery	69	40	Pcldy	Sacramento	64	39	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Baton Rouge	76	55	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	57	Pcldy	Houston	80	61	Cir	Nashville	57	33	Rain	St. Louis	42	26	Cir	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Bilings	51	28	Cir	Dayton	35	15	Rain	Houston	80	61	Cir	Nashville	57	33	Rain	St. Louis	42	26	Cir	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Birmingham	64	40	Pcldy	Denver	60	31	Pcldy	Indianapolis	35	19	Snow	New Orleans	74	55	Cir	St. Petersburg	73	55	Cir	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Bismark	41	26	Pcldy	Des Moines	43	24	Snow	Jackson, Miss.	70	52	Cir	New York City	30	13	Cir	St. Thomas	84	74	Cir	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Boise	59	32	Cir	Detroit	26	9	Snow	Jackson, Miss.	70	52	Cir	Newark	38	30	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	54	33	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Boston	26	13	Cir	El Paso	75	53	Pcldy	Kansas City	49	32	Pcldy	North Platte	55	24	Cir	San Angelo	73	50	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Bridgeport	29	14	Cir	El Paso	75	53	Pcldy	Kansas City	49	32	Pcldy	North Platte	55	24	Cir	San Antonio	84	57	Cir	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Brownsville	83	64	Cir	El Paso	75	53	Pcldy	Kansas City	49	32	Pcldy	North Platte	55	24	Cir	San Antonio	84	57	Cir	Wichita Falls	67	49	Cir	
Buffalo	15	1	Pcldy	Eugene	49	43	Rain	Lake Charles	72	59	Cir	Orlando	75	47	Cir	San Francisco	59	46	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	28	12	Snow	
Burlington, Vt.	19	2	Cir	Fairbanks	45	21	Cir	Lansing	25	3	Snow	Paducah	52	32	Rain	San Jose	62	42	Cir	Yonkers	45	32	Snow	
Caribou, Maine	16	5	Cir	Fairbanks	45	21	Cir	Las Vegas	72	49	Cir	Pendleton	45	38	Rain	Santa Fe	61	40	Cir	Youngstown	29	1	Snow	
Casper, Wyo.	44	26	Cir	Fargo	34	14	Pcldy	Lexington	44	26	Rain	Peoria	31	14	Snow	St. Marie	17	5	Snow					
Charleston, S.C.	66	38	Pcldy	Flagstaff	57	25	Cir	Lincoln	54	31	Pcldy	Philadelphia	28	16	Cir	Savannah	67	38	Cir					
Charleston, W.Va.	45	21	Cir	Flint	24	4	Snow	Little Rock	68	47	Cir	Phoenix	85	55	Cir	Seattle	44	40	Rain					
Charlotte, N.C.	52	30	Cldy	Fort Smith	61	49	Rain	Los Angeles	71	53	Cir	Pittsburgh	33	9	Cir	Shreveport	75	58	Cir					

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sat., 81, at Santa Diego
Lo: Sat., -25, Embarras, Minn.

MILITARY

From left: U.S. Marines take their position near an amphibious assault vehicle after landing during Exercise Cobra Gold 2014 off Hat Yao Beach in Chonburi province, Thailand, on Friday. Explosives used during the drills produce a ball of fire. U.S. Marines and South Korean soldiers participate in field training exercises that include drills in combined arms live fire, amphibious landings, strategic air drops and events in diverse terrain. Below: Amphibious assault vehicles fire a smoke screen. About 8,000 military personnel from the U.S., Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Malaysia are taking part in the 33rd annual drill. The exercise is expected to conclude at the end of the month. This year, the People's Republic of China, as an observer-plus nation, will participate for the first time with a humanitarian civic assistance team, according to the U.S. Army.

PHOTOS BY SAKHAI LALIT/AP



Cobra Gold exercise

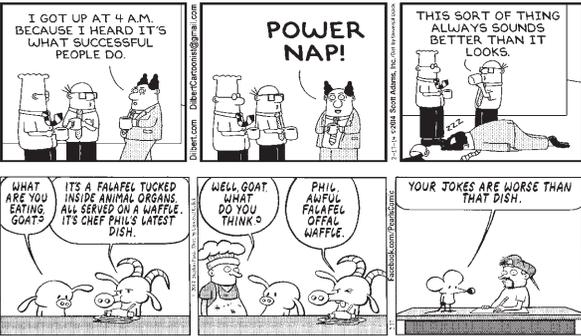


kicks off in Thailand

Frazz



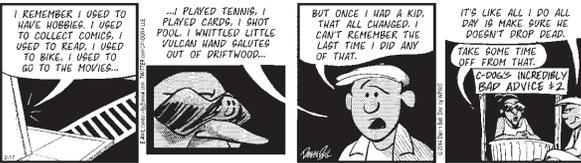
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13					14	
15			16						17	
		18				19		20		
21	22	23				24				
25			26		27		28		29	30
31		32		33		34		35		
36			37		38		39		40	
		41		42		43		44		
45	46					47				
48				49				51	52	53
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Moonshine container
 - 4 Out from the ABA
 - 9 Crow's cry
 - 12 Alias abbr.
 - 13 Banish
 - 14 Bear (Sp.)
 - 15 Learned by rote
 - 17 "— Abner"
 - 19 Isolated
 - 21 Happen to
 - 24 Wood souvenir
 - 25 Cheerleader's call
 - 26 Conclude
 - 28 Omit in pronunciation
 - 31 On the briny
 - 33 Male turkey
 - 35 Business baron
 - 36 Walk heavily
 - 38 Lummock
 - 40 Navy newbie (Abbr.)
 - 41 Coral structure
 - 43 Mire
 - 45 Black eye
 - 47 Innate
 - 48 Oz VIP, for short
 - 49 Turned to gas
 - 54 Exist
 - 55 Overact
 - 56 Rd.
 - 57 Foundation
- DOWN**
- 1 Toast topping
 - 2 Luau musicmaker, briefly
 - 3 Group of whales
 - 4 Ridicule
 - 5 Requiring immediate action
 - 6 "That's show —"
 - 7 Baldwin and Guinness
 - 8 Lessen
 - 9 Converted from black-and-white
 - 10 "Yeah, right!"
 - 11 Red Riding Hood's pursuer
 - 16 Japanese sash
 - 22 Sunrise site
 - 23 Speculated
 - 27 Scooby- —
 - 29 "Phooey!!"
 - 30 Gaelic
 - 32 "So be it"
 - 34 Team animals?
 - 37 Annoyed
 - 39 Broccoli piece
 - 42 Physique
 - 44 Numerical prefix
 - 45 Mop
 - 46 Employ
 - 50 Taro recipe
 - 51 Use the microwave
 - 52 Night before
 - 53 Morning moisture

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	H	O	B	O	M	B	A	S	A	P		
H	E	M	U	V	E	A	C	A	R	E		
I	R	E	Y	E	A	H	U	R	G	E		
C	O	N	C	E	N	T	R	A	T	I	O	N
			H	R	S	A	R	E				
E	U	R	O	S	J	I	M	B	Y	E		
B	R	O	W	J	A	N	B	O	O	S		
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2-17 CRYPTOQUIP

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Saturday's Cryptquip: I CAN'T PROVE THAT I'VE OVERSTUFFED MYSELF AT THIS LUNCHEON SPREAD. IT'S ONLY A GLUT FEELING.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals F

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NBA

Wall leads East to dunk triumph

Jazzed-up All-Star Saturday tweaked traditional format

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — John Wall soared over his own mascot as the East stomped on the West in the slam dunk contest at the NBA's All-Star Saturday.

Wall's sensational slam finished off a clean sweep for the Washington Wizards star and his Eastern Conference teammates, Indiana's Paul George and Toronto's Terrence Ross, in the contest's new battle format.

Answering Sacramento rookie Ben McLemore's dunk in which he leaped over Shaquille O'Neal seated in a king's throne, Wall took the ball from over the head of the Wizards mascot, brought it between his legs and slammed down a reverse dunk.

"It was only my second time doing it. My first time was on Thursday," Wall said. "So I just felt comfortable with myself and I knew it was a dunk that hasn't been done before."

Judges Dominique Wilkins, Magic Johnson and Julius Erving all gave the victory to Wall in his matchup, after previously voting for George over Golden State's Harrison Barnes, and defending champion Ross over Portland's Damian Lillard.

Earlier, San Antonio's Marco Belinelli won the three-point contest, and Lillard and Utah rookie Trey Burke won the skills challenge to give the Western Conference two victories on the night.

Miami's Chris Bosh, Wilkins and WNBA star Swin Cash won the night's first event for the East, the shooting stars contest.

The NBA tried to jazz up all-Star Saturday by returning to All-Star Shooting Stars with a number of



AP Photos

Above, the winners of the slam dunk contest Paul George of the Indiana Pacers, John Wall of the Washington Wizards and Terrence Ross of the Toronto Raptors. At left, Marco Belinelli of the San Antonio Spurs captured the three point crown, while the Miami Heat's Chris Bosh, right, helped the East win the shooting stars challenge. Below, Ben McLemore of the Sacramento Kings flies over former NBA player Shaquille O'Neal during the dunk competition.

tweaks to the format. The biggest was in the dunk contest, which was broken into two parts. The first was the freestyle portion, where the teams had 90 seconds to execute as many dunks as they could, before the three 1-on-1 matchups in the battle format.

"The slam dunk has returned," said Erving, one of the NBA's most famed dunkers.

Belinelli needed to win a tie-breaker in the three-point contest to beat the Wizards' Bradley Beal.

Beal had made his final six shots, including two "money balls" worth two points each, to tie Belinelli's final-round score of 19. The Italian then racked up an event-high score of 24 for the win.

"I was a little bit nervous at the beginning and I think that I shot

like two airballs," Belinelli said. "But in the end I was focused. I really cared about this trophy!"

Bosh, meanwhile, hit a half-court shot to give his team victory in the shooting stars contest that opened All-Star Saturday. Each team had to hit shots from 10 feet from a right-side angle, the top of the key, three-point range and half court, with the best time winning.



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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Top 25 roundup

Syracuse fights off NC State

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Syracuse's streak lives on — barely.

With their key players struggling, the top-ranked Orange used their defense to remain unbeaten, edging North Carolina State 56-55 on C.J. Fair's layup with 6.7 seconds left Saturday night.

Rakeem Christmas started the winning sequence with a steal in the lane off a trap in the left corner and Fair finished it with a layup in transition.

"We got out of it by making a good play at the end," Orange coach Jim Boheim said. "We were able to make some good plays finally at the end and one big play."

The start of the game was pushed back four hours because of a snowstorm that wreaked havoc along the eastern seaboard. N.C. State did not land in Syracuse until Saturday afternoon. The team's Twitter account announced the Wolfpack's arrival at 3:07 p.m., seven minutes later than the original scheduled tip-off.

It turned out to be worth the wait, tight all the way through a frantic finish full of missed opportunities.

"They're terrific," N.C. State coach Mark Gottfried said. "Obviously when you have a year like they're having, when you're underkilled you're going to have to have some close ones, some not-so-close ones. We just tried to prepare for them as best we could and I thought our guys did a great job."

Ralston Turner missed a three for N.C. State with 2:45 left with Syracuse clinging to a one-point lead, and then Fair was off on a hook driving across the lane. After N.C. State's Anthony Barber hit the side of the backboard with a baseline jumper, Jerami Grant missed a spinning drive in the lane for Syracuse.

Freshman point guard Tyler Ennis, so cool and collected all year, then showed he's human, fouling Turner while shooting a



Syracuse's Jerami Grant, right, shoots over North Carolina State's Jordan Vandenburg Saturday. Syracuse won 56-55.

three, and he made all three free throws to give the Wolfpack a 55-53 lead with 62 seconds left.

Fair sank 1 of 2 foul shots with 41.4 seconds remaining and N.C. State's Desmond Lee then lost the ball out of bounds when he was double-teamed at midcourt.

Ennis negated that turnover with a charge with 14.7 seconds left, but the Wolfpack couldn't close it out.

Christmas had 14 points and set career highs with 12 rebounds and seven blocks as Syracuse earned its 10th single-digit win despite shooting 35.2 percent. Grant had 12 points and 14 rebounds, and Fair scored 11 points on 5-of-16 shooting.

No. 7 Kansas 95, TCU 65:

Perry Ellis scored a career-high 32 points, Andrew Wiggins added 17 and host Kansas (19-6, 10-2 Big 12) overcame a sluggish start.

No. 8 Duke 69, Maryland 67:

Jabari Parker scored 23 points and host Duke 20-5, 9-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) held on. Rodney Hood and Rasheed Sulaimon

added 11 points each for Duke. **No. 10 Cincinnati 73, Houston 62:** Sean Kilpatrick scored 28 points and Justin Jackson overcame foul problems to add 13 points and host Cincinnati (23-3, 12-1 American Athletic Conference) shook off Houston.

No. 11 Iowa State 70, Texas Tech 64: DeAndre Kane had 17 points with nine assists and host Iowa State (19-5, 7-5 Big 12) won after blowing an 18-point lead in the second half.

No. 12 Saint Louis 64, Virginia Commonwealth 62: Dwayne Evans had 21 points and 10 rebounds and host Saint Louis (23-2, 10-0 Atlantic 10) broke a late tie with seven straight points for its 17th straight victory.

No. 16 Iowa 82, Penn State 70: Melsahn Basabe scored 16 points and visiting Iowa (19-6, 8-4) pulled away in the second half.

No. 17 Virginia 63, Clemson 58: Joe Harris scored 16 points, including a three-pointer with three minutes left, as Virginia (21-5, 12-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) won its ninth straight conference game.

No. 19 Texas 88, West Virginia 71: Javan Felix scored 18 points and host Texas (20-5, 9-3) used another impressive offensive performance to stay within a game of the Big 12 lead.

No. 22 Ohio State 48, Illinois 39: Aaron Craft scored 14 points and Ohio State (20-4, 7-6 Big Ten) held host Illinois (14-12, 3-10) to 28.3 percent shooting.

No. 24 UConn 86, No. 20 Memphis 81 (OT): Shabazz Napier scored a career-high 34 points and host Connecticut (20-5, 8-4 American Athletic Conference) swept the season series from Memphis (19-6, 8-4).

North Carolina 75, No. 25 Pittsburgh 71: James Michael McAdoo had 24 points and 12 rebounds to help host North Carolina (17-7, 7-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat Pittsburgh (20-6, 8-5) for its sixth straight victory.



Florida's Casey Prather dunks during the second half on Saturday against No. 14 Kentucky. The No. 3 Gators won 69-59.

Gators win battle of SEC's top two

By GARY B. GRAVES
The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Florida had the same plan when it was trailing and when it pulled ahead. The Gators just wanted to maintain their composure.

That steady approach turned into a big win at one of college basketball's most hostile venues.

Scottie Wilbekin scored 23 points, including five critical free throws down the stretch, and No. 3 Florida rallied for a tense 69-59 victory over No. 14 Kentucky on Saturday night in a matchup of the Southeastern Conference's top teams.

"It was just one of those games where you have to kind of stay the course," Gators coach Billy Donovan said.

Casey Prather had 24 points on 8-of-9 shooting as Florida tied a school record with its 17th straight win.

Trailing 45-38 with 11:12 remaining, the veteran Gators (23-2, 12-0) turned to their best players down the stretch of their first victory at Rupp Arena since 2007. Wilbekin went 11 of 12 at the line, including two free throws after Gators coach John Calipari was whistled for a technical with 8:14 left.

"I feel like I'm always confident," said Wilbekin, who was 5-for-10 from the field. "When the ball's in my hands, I feel like I have to make a play. I try to get to the basket or get the best shot for our team."

Patric Young added 10 points, including two three-point plays during a 13-3 spurt that put the

Gators ahead for good.

Florida shot 60 percent in the second half and 44 percent (22-for-50) overall while controlling every major statistic except rebounding.

Calipari said he didn't know what he said to draw a technical foul, but suggested Wilbekin's free throws "could have" swung the game.

"I don't know what he heard me say with my back to him, so you have to ask him," Calipari said.

Andrew Harrison scored 20 points for Kentucky (19-7, 9-3), which had won 22 consecutive home games.

Prather's three-point play with 38 seconds remaining helped complete Florida's rare road sweep of Kentucky and Tennessee in the same week.

Kentucky outrebounced Florida 31-28 but couldn't grab an errant shot at the biggest moments, especially on the offensive end.

James Young added 19 points for the Wildcats, who shot 48 percent but didn't score in the final 1:55. Julius Randle had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

The victory puts the Gators in firm control of the conference race. It also strengthened their resume for a possible No. 1 seed in next month's NCAA tournament.

"We were just trying to stay in the moment," Patric Young said. "We knew that they were going to throw punches and we were going to do the same thing. There was a lot of time left in the game. Our main focus was to stay with our principles and stay together."

Academies roundup

No. 5 San Diego St. tops Air Force

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tre' Coggins was held to nine points, nearly seven below his average, as No. 5 San Diego State beat Air Force 64-56 Saturday.

Coggins had scored 29 points in a loss to San Diego State Jan. 13. "They were really on him," Air Force coach Dave Philipovich said. "They were there on the catch and they are so long with their extra length and size that he couldn't create a little space to create an advantage there."

San Diego State's Winston Spanias scored 44 of his 16 points in the final 7 minutes of 14 seconds.

After the Falcons closed to 54-

50 with 2:28 to go, Shepard converted a three-point play and hit two more free throws to give the Aztecs some breathing room.

Thames and Dwayne Polee II each scored 13 points for San Diego State (22-2, 11-1 Mountain West), which had its 20-game winning streak snapped Tuesday night at Wyoming. Max Yan scored 20 and Kamryn Williams 12 for Air Force (10-14, 4-9).

Bucknell 73, Army 61: Cameron Ayers scored 22 points and host Bucknell (12-13, 7-7 Patriot League) avenged a loss to Army (12-13, 8-6) earlier in the season.

Bucknell closed the game on an 15-9 run, which included nine straight points from Ayers, to pull

away from Army. Tanner Omlid scored 12 points to lead the Black Knights.

Navy 71, Colgate 61: Brandon Venturini scored 19 points and had a career-high eight assists to lead Navy (9-16, 4-10 Patriot League) over Colgate (9-16, 3-11).

Navy led throughout but Colgate charged back on a trail only 35-32 after Chad Johnson made a layup to start the second half. Navy quickly responded with seven unanswered points. Clayton Graham hit a jump shot to cut the lead to 43-39 with 12:49 remaining. Navy answered quickly again and led 57-45 following a layup by Worth Smith, who finished with 16 points.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

European wrestling championships

Panthers regain Division I crown

Patch takes six individual titles; Wiesbaden, Ramstein finish 2-3

By Gregory Broome
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Patch Panthers drowned the DODDS-Europe wrestling championships in a sea of black and yellow Saturday at Wiesbaden Fitness Center, earning six individual championships, three runner-up finishes and the Division I team title by a 100-point margin.

Patch, which won four straight Division I titles before losing to Ramstein last year, took back the title over the Royals team that was almost as ubiquitous in the set of 14 championship matches that capped the tournament. Ramstein placed six in the final, with four claiming victory, but settled for third behind runner-up Wiesbaden.

Vicenza repeated as Division II team champion, while Incrik took the Division III team crown.

Here's a rundown of the 14 European championship matches:

106: The championship round got under way, fittingly enough, with two Patch wrestlers on the mat and yellow shirts in both corners.

Patch freshman Matthew Bolduc took a 15-4 major decision over senior teammate Jonathan Becker in a hard-fought, methodical match.

113: The tournament heated up abruptly with a dramatic finish between two intense rivals.

When Patch's Christopher McCollum met at the sectional qualifier in Vicenza on Feb. 8, Matzke was penalized after landing a forearm to the back of McCollum's head. Sectional champ McCollum and runner-up Matzke both advanced to Wiesbaden as the region's top two qualifiers.

On Saturday, the two staged a clean rematch, an unceasing battle marked by near-falls and reversals from both grapplers. The ending — Matzke earned two points in the match's final seconds to claim a 10-9 decision — sent sections of the crowd into hysterics as Matzke helped McCollum to his feet and embraced him.

120: A local Rheinland-Pfalz rivalry was settled on a European stage Saturday as Ramstein sophomore Joey Fortunato earned a late 7-6 decision over Kaiserslautern's Matthew Fischer.

Both competitors came into the bout with an impressive body of work. Fischer won at 106 pounds in 2012 and finished second at 113 pounds a year ago, while Fortunato claimed a European title

at 106 last year. The two traded victories in the regular season.

Appropriately, Saturday's finale was decided by the thinnest of margins. Fortunato won the title with a reversal in the final five seconds, and went on to be named the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

126: Ramstein celebrated its second win in a row as senior Kenny Berry capped a remarkable season with a rugged 13-6 decision over Wiesbaden's Brendan Sturman.

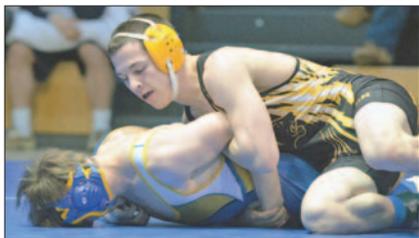
The match was just the latest triumph for Berry, who navigated one of DODDS-Europe's most arduous classes without taking a loss.

132: Evenly-matched opponents Matthew Hall of Wiesbaden and Robert Call of Patch spent most of their bout in a scoreless stalemate before Call notched the match's first point at the second period expired. He added two more early in the third and held off Hall's attempts at a rally to earn the title, extend the Panther lead and keep the hometown Warrior fans temporarily subdued.

139: Zachary Bolduc joined his brother in the winner's circle and padded Patch's points total with a pinfall victory over Wiesbaden's Joseph Spitzer.

Bolduc's pin of Spitzer was his seventh in as many matches in the tournament, recorded at a combined total of 12 minutes and nine seconds. Bolduc couldn't explain his knack for scoring not just wins, but pins, other than a desire to end matches "as quickly as possible."

That wasn't his primary motivation in Saturday's title match, however. After his freshman brother won, the younger Bolduc



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Patch's Zachary Bolduc, top, beat Wiesbaden's Joseph Spitzer to take the 139-pound title Saturday. Bolduc's brother, Matthew, won the 106-pound title.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Joey Fortunato, right, defeated Kaiserslautern's Matt Fischer for the 120-pound title at the DODDS-Europe wrestling championships in Wiesbaden, Germany, Saturday. Fortunato was also named the tournament's outstanding wrestler.

approached his brother to offer some motivation.

"He came over to me and said 'I'd better win,'" the senior said.

145: The Fields family dynasty continued as Jaden Fields won his second consecutive European championship. Fields, who won European gold at 138 pounds a year ago to follow older brother Caleb as a champion, beat Ramstein's Justin Zapata for the second time of the day to claim the title and give Patch another boost in the Division I points race. Fields earned a 21-7 major decision, his first non-pinfall victory of the tournament.

152: Ramstein's Eric Carter took a 6-2 decision from Wiesbaden's Brayden Lamb to break the Patch string of victories and put the Royals back in the win column. Royals senior Carter finally collected the European title he nearly won in 2013; he lost a 4-0 decision to Patch's DeSean Horton in last year's finale.

"I really wanted it," Carter said. "I came into Europeans thinking no one's going to stop me."

In addition to last year's frustration, that mindset was the result of a grueling regular season that saw Carter go "back to the drawing board" after many weekends. For all he'd seen this season, however, Lamb presented a fresh challenge for Carter.

"I was pretty nervous. I hadn't really had anyone get in on my legs before," Carter said. "I usually get the first takedown."

160: Matt Sharpy delivered another Ramstein victory with a thrilling 1-0 upset win over Vilscek's Will Peters.

Neither wrestler cracked the scoreboard until Sharpy recorded a point in the final seconds of the third period. With Peters on top and the clock ticking below 20 seconds, Sharpy decided to make his move.

He adroitly escaped from Peters' grasp, earning the needed point for an escape in the process. An instant later the match ended, sending the Ramstein cheering section to its feet and Peters looking at the scoreboard in disbelief.

"I knew the score. I knew the time was running down," Sharpy said. "I just went for it. Everything worked out."

170: Anxious for something to cheer for in the midst of the constant Patch and Ramstein triumphs, the Kaiserslautern cheering section seized their moment.

The Raider faithful counted down the final seconds as Arvin Hrushka finished off a steady 11-1 decision over Patch's Daniel Alvarado.

A senior, Hrushka was ecstatic to finally celebrate a title in his last high school match.

"It's awesome. I worked so hard," Hrushka said. "I videotaped my matches. I practiced every single mistake that I made. And it paid off."

182: Bradley Lemon gave Raider fans another reason to celebrate moments later, shocking Eli Spencer of Incrik with a pin at the three-minute, 40-second mark.

Lemon said he entered the match on an even keel, neither overconfident or intimidated. "I felt pretty neutral about the match, honestly," said Lemon, who had lost his previous meeting to Spencer. "I was confident going in that I could do my best."

195: After sitting out a couple of matches, Patch returned with a vengeance as Andrew Brabazon pinned Vilscek's Kraig Sumpter.

Faced with a raucous crowd, the pressure of a points race and a tough, experienced opponent, Brabazon sought to simply clear his head and perform.

"I just kept my mind calm and just wrestled," the junior said.

The runner-up finish was the second in as many years for Sumpter.

220: Wiesbaden's Hunter Lunasin met his match only once over the course of the winter. So he wasn't surprised to find that same opponent waiting for him Saturday.

This time, however, was different.

An aggressive Lunasin recorded a pinfall victory over nemesis Will Miller of Patch, finally overcoming the previously-undefeated obstacle that had stood in his way all season.

The win, the only title the home team claimed Saturday, sent the Warrior fans into a frenzy, screaming and cheering as the banged-up Lunasin hopped on one foot, his arm raised in victory. That ovation would be repeated in the awards ceremony an hour later as Lunasin, who celebrated a football championship with the Warriors in November, shuffled to the top of the medal stand.

285: Vilscek's Armando Saldana became the only wrestler this year to repeat as champion in the same weight class with a pinfall victory over Ramstein's Christian Biacan.

Despite his status as reigning champion, Saldana said he took nothing for granted this week.

"I was confident but I didn't underestimate my opponent, and I didn't get too cocky," the senior said. "I worked hard every day in practice to make sure I can compete with the best of them."

Saldana had added motivation to win after watching two of his teammates fall short in their own title matches, saying he hoped to "lift their spirits" with a Falcon title.

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HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS PACIFIC

Far East wrestling tournament

Edgren, Kinnick crowded dual-meet champs

St. Mary's captures third Division I individual banner and 11th in school history

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Thanks to the biggest snowfall ever recorded at Yokota, Saturday's final day of the Far East High School Wrestling Tournament almost did not happen.

More than two feet of snow fell overnight Friday into Saturday. It forced organizers to speed up the dual-meet tournament, wrestling everything but the championship and third-place matches on Friday and hoping they could finish the rest quickly on Saturday.

But roads were impassable early Saturday and the tournament finale was delayed more than six hours. Base workers plowed out the DODDS Yokota bus barn, then cut paths in and to the school parking lot.

All eateries except the Samurai Café were shut down — and it's on the west side of the base, while the wrestlers were billeted on the east side. Members of the east side community, some pulling sleds, visited billeting frequently with gifts of food. So much, coaches said, that the first floor of billeting looked like a convenience store.

Tournament director Brian Kitts credited the work of DODDS Japan transportation director Milt Colon, the base community and 374th Airlift Wing commander Col. Mark Aguiar for keeping the tournament going. "I am humbled, honored and grateful," Kitts said.

On the mat, new team champions were crowned. Edgren swept the Division II individual and dual-meet team banners, while St. Mary's won its third Division I individual banner and 11th overall, and Kinnick the dual-meet banner, its eighth overall.

Ian O'Brien scored a pin at 215 pounds on Masaki Takeda, clinching the Red Devils' 34-28 D-I dual-meet final win over St. Mary's. J.P. Krussick's pin at 158 pounds after trailing 6-0 turned the tide of the D-II final, pacing Edgren to a 34-27 win over Osan.

"Senior year, for me to get the W and for us to get the banner, it's such a rush. I'm so happy right now," O'Brien said.

"He really stood up there and came out for us," Edgren coach Justin Edmonds said of Krussick,



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kinnick's Vincent Soles tilts Guam's Victoria Davis during Friday's 101-pound third-place bout in the 37th Far East wrestling tournament at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Soles won by technical fall 13-4. Davis is the first female wrestler to place as high as fourth in the event's history.

a freshman. "We came out hyped up, but that one match definitely did" turn around the dual meet for Edgren.

In the individual tournament the day before, St. Mary's got championship-level performances from Chang Young Lee (101 pounds), Kentaro Hayashi (115) and Jeffrey Koo (180), who won for the third straight year and shared Outstanding Wrestler honors with Edgren's Kaleb Atchison.

For first-year Titans coach Shu Yabui, beating Kinnick 90-81 in the individual team standings is the individual team yearlings was doubly special. Ten years ago in the same gym, he won the last of his three titles and on Friday, he became the first former Far East champion to win as a coach. "I coached my boys really, really hard this season to win as a team and we did. It feels awesome," Yabui said.

Atchison's title at 141 pounds

Scoreboard

Wrestling
37th Far East High School Tournament

Individual
Division I
St. Mary's 90, Kinnick 81, Kubasaki 80, Kadena 61, Christian Academy Japan 57, Seoul American 43, American School in Japan 13, Guam 11, Yokota, 1

Division II
Edgren 25, Daegu 9, zama 5, E.J. King 3, Osan and Humphreys 1, M.C. Perry 0

Individual champions
101: Chang Young Lee, St. Mary's; 108: Zach Tyler, Kubasaki; 115: Kentaro Hayashi, St. Mary's; 122: Nate Abrenilla, Kinnick; 129: Eric Overton, CAJ; 135: Sam Johnson, CAJ; 141: Kaleb Atchison, Edgren; 148: Austin Cyr, Kubasaki; 158: Tanner Stampler-Smith, Kubasaki; 168: James Alexander, Kadena; 180: Jeffrey Koo, St. Mary's

paced Edgren to the D-II individual team banner, the Eagles outpied Daegu 25-9 to win the school's sixth Far East wrestling banner overall. He rallied to beat St. Mary's Kazuho Kawashima. Austin Cyr of Kubasaki re-

215: Jack Barnes, Seoul American; Heavyweight: Christian Fernandez, Kubasaki.

Dual meet tournament
Division I
Championship
Kinnick 34, St. Mary's 29
Third place
Kubasaki 45, Christian Academy Japan 15

Semifinals
Kinnick 32, Kubasaki 29
St. Mary's 38, CAJ 23

Division II
Championship
Edgren 34, Osan 27
Third place
Perry 24, Humphreys 14
Humphreys 24, King 16

Semifinals
Edgren 59, Humphreys 19
Osan 50, Perry 14

tained his 148-pound title, beating Kadema's Eijah Takushi by technical fall. Eric Overton of Christian Academy Japan also became a two-time champion, recapturing the title at 129. In a major upset at 135, Sam

Johnson of CAJ, who had been thoroughly dominated by returning champion Ryan Vasconcellos of St. Mary's in every prior meeting, won a quick technical fall to hand Vasconcellos the first defeat of his career.

Other champions included James Alexander of Kadema at 168 and Jack Barnes of Seoul American (215), who sat out last season with an injury.

Kubasaki's Christian Fernandez scored a technical fall on Kadema's Nolyrn Riley at heavyweight and teammate Zach Tyler did the same vs. Seoul American's Aydan Huezio for the 108 title, while Tanner Stampler-Smith pinned Kinnick's Charles Gann at 158. Nate Abrenilla of Kinnick beat St. Mary's Ryo Osawa by technical fall at 122.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

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SPORTS BRIEFS/SWIMMING

Briefly

Phils sign Burnett for 2 years, \$22.5M

The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — A.J. Burnett and the Philadelphia Phillies have completed a contract that guarantees the pitcher \$15 million over two seasons.

Under the deal finalized Sunday, Burnett would make \$33.5 million over two seasons if he makes 30 starts or more in both years.

Burnett revived his career with Pittsburgh the last two seasons, pitching to a 3.31 ERA and winning 26 games.

He gets a \$7.5 million signing bonus, of which \$1 million is payable Dec. 15, \$2.75 million next Jan. 15 and \$3.75 million on June 30, 2015.

The 37-year-old right-hander has a \$7.5 million salary this season, and the contract includes a \$15 million option for 2015 with a \$1 million buyout. Burnett would receive the buyout only if either party declines and he fails to make 30 starts this year.

If the mutual option isn't exercised, Burnett would have a \$7.5 million player option for 2015. The option price would increase to \$8.5 million with 24 starts this year, \$10 million with 27, \$11.75 million with 30 and \$12.75 million with 32.

He can earn an additional \$1.75 million annually in performance bonuses: \$500,000 each for 24 and 27 starts, and \$750,000 for 30.

In other baseball news:

■ Boston Red Sox pitcher Ryan Dempster is taking this season off but is leaving open the possibility of playing in 2015. The 36-year-old right-hander said Sunday he is stepping away for physical reasons and to spend more time with his family.

■ The Atlanta Braves added to their extensive wave of long-term deals with their young stars on Sunday by agreeing to a \$4 million, four-year contract with All-Star closer Craig Kimbrel.

Kimbrel, 25, avoided salary arbitration, which was scheduled for Monday. The Braves offered \$6.55 million and Kimbrel asked for \$9 million.

■ Los Angeles Angels pitcher Mark Mulder tore his left Achilles tendon Saturday, cutting short his comeback and possibly bringing his career to an end. Mulder will wait for the swelling to go down before surgery is scheduled. He then faces a six- to eight-month recovery.

■ Justin Smoak and the Seattle Mariners have avoided arbitration by agreeing on a contract that guarantees the first baseman \$2,787,500 and could be worth up to \$8,287,500 over two years.

Golfer Sutton has mild heart attack on course

NAPLES, Florida — Champions Tour player Hal Sutton had a mild heart attack after withdraw-

ing during the first round of the ACE Group Classic.

"I had blockage in my heart, so yeah it was a heart attack," Sutton told the Naples Daily News. "They put a stent in and I'm fine now."

The 55-year-old Sutton withdrew Friday after playing the first eight holes in 5 over.

The 1983 PGA Championship winner won 14 times on the PGA Tour. He also captained the 2004 U.S. Ryder Cup team.

In other golf news:
 ■ Thomas Aiklen beat Oliver Fisher in a playoff to claim the Africa Open title on Sunday and maintain South African players' run of success on home soil at the European Tour tournaments.

■ Karrie Webb won the Women's Australian Open for the fifth time Sunday, shooting a 4-under 68 in the final round to beat Chella Choi by one stroke.

Chevrolet assessing pace car fire at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Chevrolet says it is assessing a fire in the trunk of the pace car at Daytona International Speedway. The car manufacturer says the Chevrolet SS pace car has an auxiliary electrical kit in the trunk. The kit operates the car's numerals, caution lights and wipers.

Chevy has not linked the electrical kit to the fire. Black smoke began billowing from the pace car right before the third segment of the Sprint Unlimited race. Flames could be seen shooting from the rear of the car as it sat on the apron. The pace car driver and passenger safely exited the vehicle.

Berdych collects first ATP Tour title since '12

— ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — Tomas Berdych won his first ATP tournament title since October 2012, beating Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-4, 6-2 Sunday in the ABN Amro final.

"After such a long time of waiting and not having one, this is a great moment for me," the third-seeded Czech said.

The match appeared to turn in the second game of the first set, on the Berdych serve, when Cilic had three breakpoints. With the game at deuce, Berdych appeared to have won a long rally, but Cilic complained that the ball had been damaged during play. The umpire agreed and instructed the point to be played over. A relaxed Berdych was able to make light of the situation and went on to win the game.

In other tennis tournaments:
 ■ Seventh-seeded Simona Halep of Romania won her first title of the year with a 6-2, 6-3 victory over sixth-seeded Angelique Kerber of Germany in the Qatar Open final on Sunday.



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

SHAPE's Benjamin Balla, 12, was the single most dominant performer of the two days of the European Forces Swim League championships in Eindhoven, Netherlands, winning all of his eight races.

European Forces Swim League championships

SUAPE's Balla goes 8-for-8 in dominant performance

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands — There was still a lot of swimming left, but early into the second day of the European Forces Swim League championships Sunday, a number of top honors were already sealed.

Still, there were some surprises as swimmers who earlier looked unbeatable were stopped short of perfect runs.

Coming off a perfect Saturday, Stuttgart's Lexi Nugent won the first two races in the 11-year-old girls bracket Sunday before coming in third in the 50-meter backstroke.

Wiesbaden's Lexy Meints clinched top swimmer in the girls 17- to 19 age bracket before dropping the 50-meter freestyle and 100-meter backstroke.

At the end, just one swimmer of the 501 in the meet was left unscathed by defeat: SHAPE's Benjamin Balla went eight-for-eight in the 12-year-old boys' division. "When you're here at champs ... you have a good chance of finding someone who is just as fast as you, so you can make each other go faster and get better times," Balla said.

Another 18 records fell Sunday, bringing the total for the meet to 30.

Those who ruled the pool:
Girls 8 and under: Naples' Alex Ruppe and Vicenza's Madison Davenport split one of the league's most heavily packed age brackets with four wins each, but Davenport edged her rival on points to take top honors.

Boys 8 and under: A loss in the 50-meter breaststroke Saturday was the only thing that kept

Sigonella's CJ Davis from a perfect record.

Girls 9: With one win, Lauren Snodgrass of Naples took top girl honors in a bracket that was one of the most competitive of the meet.

Boys 9: Had it not been for a disqualification in his first race, Wiesbaden's Tyler Peng would have swept the bracket.

Girls 10: Emmie Muschek's win in the 100-meter freestyle Sunday for Stuttgart was enough to clinch top girl for her class after her three wins on Saturday.

Boys 10: Sean Quirk of Naples had a perfect day Sunday after dropping the 50-meter breaststroke Saturday to James Eubanks of Geilenkirchen.

Girls 11: Coming in to the EFSL championships, "My goals were just to drop time, really," Stuttgart's Katie Nugent said. She'd locked her grip on the title of top girl in the division before taking second in the 50-meter backstroke, then bounced back to win the 100-meter freestyle.

Boys 11: After ruling the pool with four wins and three records on the first day of the champs, NATO Marlins' Sebastian Lunak didn't compete Sunday. Naples' Kendall Ewing took advantage, snapping up wins in the rest of the races and top boy honors for the class.

Girls 12: After going 2-for-4 Saturday, Lili Seubert of the Berlin Bear-A-Cudas cemented top girl Sunday with wins in the 200-meter individual medley and the 100-meter freestyle.

Boys 12: Balla was easily the most dominant performer of the entire EFSL championships, the only one to have a perfect score of 160 out of a field of 501 swimmers.

Girls 13-14: Naples' Kyla Halam cinched up top girl honors Sunday with wins in the 200-meter individual medley and 50-meter freestyle after winning three of her four races Saturday.

Boys 13-14: Lakenheath's Dominic Scifo won six of his eight races on his way to winning the crown for his division.

Girls 15-16: Throughout the two-day championships, Lakenheath's Alaina Scifo was so much faster than her competition that it seemed at times as if she was swimming in a different kind of water — that is, until she lost the 50-meter freestyle to Lizzie Hodges on Sunday. Scifo roared back in her last two races and achieved one of her goals by winning top girl.

Boys 15-16: Sigonella's Brian Burke stumbled in his third race of the tournament, taking second to Andrew Sterns in the 100-meter breaststroke. Burke dominated his bracket otherwise, putting up 157' out of a possible 160 points to take top honors for his class.

Girls 17-19: "I'm a senior, and I just really wanted to enjoy it this year," Wiesbaden senior Lexy Meints said. If that meant coming in something other than first, she was happy with that. That only happened twice, though, as Meints went six for eight and was comfortably perched atop her division.

Boys 17-19: Kaiserslautern's Everett Block and Enrico Varano of Brussels each won four races in the division. The difference that led to Varano's clinching the class may have been the fact that he competed in all eight individual events in his class, while Block raced in just four.

OLYMPICS

US women conclude emotional journeys

Pikus-Pace finds closure with silver run in skeleton; Uhländer heartbroken after falling .04 short of podium

By BARRY SVRLUGA
The Washington Post

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — At the base of an icy mountainside track here Friday night, Noelle Pikus-Pace covered her face in disbelief, then bounded onto a stand and leapt up and down as she received flowers following her silver-medal finish in the women's skeleton competition.

"This whole moment, I'm trying to take it in, and I can't," Pikus-Pace said. "I can't comprehend this moment."

Down a metal walkway, maybe 100 feet and a million miles away, Katie Uhländer tried to consider her own fate. And each time she did, she sobbed.

"Four hundredths!" Uhländer said. "I'm just having trouble processing."

The nature of the Olympics is that delirium and dejection can be separated by single-ply tissue.

Pikus-Pace's tale will be celebrated state-side, because the silver medal she won Friday — trailing only Great Britain's Lizzy Yarnold, who was 0.97 of a second faster over four runs at the Sanki Sliding Center — is born of a journey to which Americans can relate. Four years ago, she missed the medal stand in Vancouver by a tenth of a second — a lousy tenth of a second — and she had raced her last race. She was a mother, and she and her husband wanted more kids. She was 27. She was done.

"I looked back and I said, 'You know what? I gave my absolute best, and I'm pleased with it,'" Pikus-Pace said. "I wasn't satisfied, but I was pleased, and it was easy for me to say, 'I'm done with my sport.'"

Uhländer might have said the same thing at some point, too. A year before the Vancouver Games, her father, former major league outfielder Ted Uhländer, died following a heart attack that came after a year-long battle with cancer. She



DTA ALANGKARA/AP

American Katie Uhländer lost out on a medal in women's skeleton by .04 seconds, finishing fourth.

struggled to compete in Vancouver. She wore her dad's National League championship ring, won with the 1972 Cincinnati Reds, around her neck. Eventually, she grew depressed.

And this year, even as she had sorted through much of the personal travails, she knocked her head against so many slides in so many places, she suffered a concussion — or maybe several. Her head didn't clear until two weeks before these Olympics.

"I thought that the theme of the season was over — of me not really being able to race at my best," Uhländer said.

So those stories ran down the ice here, one after the other. Entering the final two runs Friday, Pikus-Pace trailed only Yarnold, and Uhländer was fourth, squarely in contention for a medal as well. When Yarnold's third run yielded a track re-



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

American Noelle Pikus-Pace, center, celebrates with her brother Jared Pikus, left, husband, Janson Pace, far right, and children, Traycen, left, and Lacey, right, after she won the silver medal in women's skeleton Friday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

cord, she put distance between herself and Pikus-Pace, 0.78 seconds — a snap of the fingers, but an eternity in skeleton.

Uhländer, meantime, slipped to fifth — but barely, 0.22 away from a medal. And when she finished her fourth and final run, she moved into first. She then had to watch as the four sliders ahead of her — Russia's Olga Potylitsina and Elena Nikitina, followed by Pikus-Pace and then Yarnold — tried to beat her: All had an advantage because they were, cumulatively, faster over the first three runs.

Then Potylitsina stumbled, however slightly — .06 seconds slower than Uhländer. Then Nikitina, those .22 seconds ahead of Uhländer, slid. From Uhländer's perspective, Nikitina appeared to be all over the track.

"When I saw her skid everywhere, I was like, 'No chance is she going to get anywhere,'" Uhländer said.

But when Nikitina crossed the finish line, the number next to her name appeared in green, not red — meaning she had grabbed the lead. Uhländer squinted at it. Four hundredths of a second. Four hundredths.

"I don't even know how to calculate that," she said.

Pikus-Pace was next, and the only calculations she cared about were the most basic of numbers.

"I just hoped for a '1' or a '2,'" she said, because if she were first or second with only Yarnold to go, she would be assured a medal.

Her sacrifices to get there, at the top of that run, were myriad. Eight years ago, she was struck by a bobbed, so she now has a titanium rod in her right leg. Her daughter Lacey is 6; her son Traycen, 2; but she lost a daughter after 18 weeks of pregnancy. The only way she would return to her sport, at the urging of her husband Janson, was if the entire family could travel together on the international skeleton circuit.

Throw in a concussion that limited her training at the Olympics, one she revealed only Friday night, and that was enough. When she got to the bottom of the run, with a total time of 3 minutes 53.86 seconds, she was in first. The medal secured, she leapt from her sled and dove immediately into the stands, where Janson and Lacey and Traycen awaited.

"The first thing she said to me was, 'That's our medal,'" Janson said.

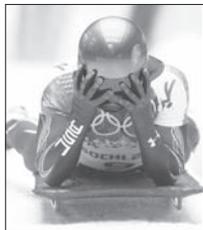
Yarnold's final run settled the results: gold for Great Britain, silver for Pikus-Pace, bronze for Nikitina. At the flower ceremony, they could hardly contain themselves. Pikus-Pace blew kisses, bounced up and down, smiled a smile that looked permanent.

"I never thought that this moment would come," Pikus-Pace said. "I never thought that this could be real."

And around a corner in the shadows, the other side of the Olympics played out.

"I put my heart out there," Uhländer said, "which is why I'm crying, because it broke a little bit."

Tretiakov golden; US ends men's skeleton drought



NATASHA PISARENKO/AP

American John Daly of the United States puts his head in his hands after a bad start on his final run dropped him out of medal contention during the men's skeleton competition Saturday. He finished 15th.

By TOM WITHERS
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — One year after a giant meteor streaked across Russia's sky, Alexander Tretiakov flashed by.

Accelerating down his home track lined from top to bottom with flag-waving, chanting countrymen, Tretiakov won the Olympic gold medal in men's skeleton on Saturday night, pulling away from the world's top sliders who were no match for his breakneck speed and precise driving.

Tretiakov completed four trips down the Sanki Sliding Center track in 3 minutes, 44.29 seconds, easily beating Latvia's Martins Dukurs (3:45.10), who settled for silver again after having gold slip from his hands four years ago in Vancouver.

Matt Antoine won the bronze, the first skeleton medal for an American man since Jimmy Shea's gold in 2002. John Daly of Smithtown, N.Y., entered the final run in fourth place, but slipped on the starting ramp and had his sled pop from the grooves. He dropped to 15th.

With the performance, Tretiakov — the bronze medalist in Vancouver — is set to receive a reward from the heavens.

On Feb. 15 last year, a meteorite zoomed over Russia's Ural Mountains, causing a sonic boom and exploding over the city of Chelyabinsk. A piece of the space rock was recovered by scientists, and fragments of that have been embedded in commemorative medals that a regional government is offering the winners of seven Olympic events staged on

the anniversary.

Fitting for the "Russian Rocket."

"This is a very important medal, it's a real medal and I'm happy to win it for my country," Tretiakov said of his Olympic gold.

Daly and Antoine, good buddies and Olympic roommates, were separated by just 0.04 seconds after the third heat.

But Daly, perhaps feeling the pressure, was out of the medal picture just steps into his final run. His sled jumped from the grooves and skittered sideways. Daly was able to get his sled straightened out, but by the time he did, the bronze was long gone.

After stopping in the finish area, he buried his head in his hands.

"I knew I had to go for it, so I went for it and it bit me," he said.

"The blame is totally on me."

Antoine, of Prairie du Chien, Wis., then put together a clean run, finishing in 56.73 seconds to beat Latvia's Tomass Dukurs, Martins' brother, for bronze.

"It's the greatest moment of my life, without a doubt," he said.

Daly and Antoine broke into the sport together, drawn to skeleton for its speed and danger after being inspired by Shea's storied win in at the Salt Lake City Games.

As thrilled as he was by his medal, Antoine hurt for Daly.

"I didn't see it," he said. "But when I was walking up to the line, I heard all the groans. I knew something bad had happened. ... My heart really goes out to John for the way that ended for him."

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

Medals count

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Russia	13	11	9	33
USA	9	7	5	21
Canada	8	5	7	20
Netherlands	6	5	7	18
China	4	5	7	16
United States	3	4	5	12
Norway	3	3	2	8
Canada	2	2	2	6
Germany	2	2	2	6
Sweden	2	1	1	4
Switzerland	1	1	1	3
Austria	1	1	1	3
France	1	1	0	2
China	1	0	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Italy	1	0	0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1
Belarus	1	0	0	1
Czech Republic	0	0	1	1

Men's super-G

Sunday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
(Start position in parentheses)

- (1) Kjetil Jansrud, Norway, 1:18.14
- (29) Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, N.Y., 1:18.64
- (22) Jan Hudc, Canada, 1:18.67
- (13) Bode Miller, Easton, N.H., 1:18.67
- (15) Otmar Striedinger, Austria, 1:18.69
- (14) Max Franz, Austria, 1:18.74
- (10) Alexei Lund Svinold, Norway, 1:18.76
- (18) Peter Fill, Italy, 1:18.85

Other U.S. Finishers

- (8) Fred Lylety, Park City, Utah, 1:19.48
- (23) Travis Ganong, Squaw Valley, Calif., 1:20.02

Speedskating

Sunday
At Sochi, Russia
Women's 1500

- Jorien Ter Mors, Netherlands, 1:53.51 (OR)
- Ireen Wu, Netherlands, 1:54.09
- Antje Boek, Netherlands, 1:54.54
- Marrit Leenstra, Netherlands, 1:55.69
- Vulija Skokova, Russia, 1:56.45
- Katarzyna Bachleda-Czuc, Poland, 1:57.18
- Heather Richardson, High Point, N.C., 1:57.40
- Yekaterina Lohyshyna, Russia, 1:57.70

Other U.S. Finishers

- Brittany Bowe, OCALA, Fla., 1:58.31
- Jillene van Tol, Woodhaven, Mich., 1:59.15

Snowboard

Sunday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Women's Cross
Semifinals

- (1) Eva Samková, Czech Republic (A)
- (3) Chloe Trespeuch, France (A)
- (9) Faye Gulini, Salt Lake City, U.S.
- (8) Nelly Moenne Loco, France (B)
- (NR) (2) Susanne Mol, Austria, DSQ (B)
- (NR) (20) Simona Meiler, Switzerland, DSQ (B)

Heat 2

- (3) Dominique Mattais, Canada (A)
- (11) Alexandra Kojava, Bulgaria (A)
- (13) Alexandra Moell, Italy, (Tied)
- (14) Zoe Gillings, Britain (B)
- (7) Belle Brochhoff, Auburn, (B)
- (6) Lindsey Jacobellis, Roxbury, Conn. (B)

Small Final

- (2) Lindsey Jacobellis, Roxbury, Conn.
- (7) Belle Brochhoff, Australia.
- (13) Zoe Gillings, Britain.
- (20) Simona Meiler, Switzerland.
- (8) Nelly Moenne Loco, France.
- (21) Susanne Moell, Austria, DNS.

Medal Final

- (1) Eva Samková, Czech Republic.
- (3) Dominique Mattais, Canada.
- (13) Chloe Trespeuch, France.
- (9) Faye Gulini, Salt Lake City, U.S.
- (11) Alexandra Kojava, Bulgaria.
- (18) Michela Moell, Italy, DNS.

Cross-Country Skiing

Sunday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Men's 4x10K Relay

- Sweden (Lars Nelson, Alexander Richardson, Johan Olsson, Marcus Hellner), 1:19:42.1
- Russia (Dmitry Japarov, Alexander Besmeritky, Alexander Legkov, Maxim Shumakov), 1:20:32.2
- France (Jean-Charles Galliard, Maurice Mouton, Robin Duvalier, Jean-Francois Boiteux), 1:20:13.9
- Norway (Edvin Rønning, Chris André Iversen, Martin Johnsrud Sundby, Petter R. Northug), 1:20:51.1
- Italy (Ottavio Nockler, Giorgio Di Centa, Roland Clara, David Hofer), 1:20:59.2
- Finland (Samu Jauhainen, Iivo Niskanen, Lehtonen, Matti Heikkinen), 1:20:38.4
- Switzerland (Curdin Perri, Jonas Baerz, Remo Fischer, Toni Livers), 1:20:33.8
- Czech Republic (Eks Razyk, Lukas Bauer, Martin Jaks, Dusan Kozeisek), 1:20:36.8

U.S. Finish

- United States (Andy Newell, Stephen W. Edwards, Christopher Wash, Noah Hoffman, Aspen, Colo., Simi Hamilton, Aspen, Colo.), 1:35:51.1

Figure Skating

Sunday
At Sochi, Russia
Ice Dancing
Short Dance

- Meryl Davis and Charlie White, United States, 28.00 (O)
- Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, Canada, 27.33 (O)
- Silena Linykh and Nikita Katsalopoulos, Russia, 27.04 (O)
- Nathalie Pechalat and Fabian Bourzat, France, 27.78 (O)
- Ekaterina Borodova and Dmitri Soloviev, Russia, 69.97 (O)
- Anna Cappellini and Luca Lanotte, Italy, 67.58 (O)
- Kaitlyn Weaver and Andrew Poje, Canada, 65.58 (O)
- Madison Cook and Evan Bates, United States, 65.46 (O)
- Maia and Alex Shibutani, United States, 64.47 (O)
- Unai Zubizarreta and Alexander Gazzi, Germany, 60.91 (O)

Bobsled

Sunday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Men's Two-man
Two Run

- Russia 1 (Alexander Zubkov, Alexey Voevodin), 1:52.82
- Switzerland 1 (Beat Hefti, Alex Baumann), 1:53.14
- United States 1 (Steven Holcomb, Steve Langton), 1:53.18
- Canada 3 (Justin Krings, Bryan Barnette), 1:53.29
- Russia 2 (Alexander Kasjanov, Maxim Belugin), 1:53.29
- Latvia (Oskars Melbaris, Darrms Dreiskane), 1:53.30
- Germany 3 (Francesco Friedrich, Jannis Boecker), 1:53.38
- Canada 2 (Thomas Florschütz, Kevin Kuske), 1:53.52
- Germany 2 (Cory Butner, Chris Fogarty), 1:53.55
- Switzerland 2 (Rico Peter, Juerg Eggen), 1:54.64

Saturday's medalists

Super G
GOLD—Anna Fernholm, Austria
SILVER—Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany
BRONZE—Nicola Hong, Austria

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Women
4x10K Relay
GOLD—Sweden (Ida Ingemarsdotter, Emma Wikman, Anna Holmlöv, Charlotte Kalla)
SILVER—Finland (Aino-Kaisa Saarinen, Kerttu Niskanen, Krista Lähteenmäki)
BRONZE—Germany (Nicole Fessel, Stefanie Boehler, Claudia Nystad, Denise Herzog)

SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING
Men
1000
GOLD—Victor An, Russia
SILVER—Vladimir Grenev, Russia
BRONZE—Sjinkie Knegt, Netherlands

Women
1000
GOLD—Zhou Yang, China
SILVER—Shim Suk-hee, South Korea
BRONZE—Arianna Fontana, Italy

SKI JUMPING
Men
1120
GOLD—Kamil Stoch, Poland
SILVER—Sirkka Liisa Keski, Finland
BRONZE—Peter Prevc, Slovenia

SPEDSKATING
Men
1500
GOLD—Zbigniew Braniec, Poland
SILVER—Koen Verweij, Netherlands
BRONZE—Denny Morrison, Canada

Friday's medalists
ALPINE SKIING
Super Combined
GOLD—Sandro Viletta, Switzerland
SILVER—Nica Kostelic, Croatia
BRONZE—Christof Innerhofer, Italy

BIATHLON
Men
15K Individual
GOLD—Darya Domracheva, Belarus
SILVER—Selina Kasparov, Switzerland
BRONZE—Nadezhda Skardino, Belarus

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Men
15K Classic
GOLD—Dario Colonna, Switzerland
SILVER—John Flanagan, Switzerland
BRONZE—Daniel Rigoldsson, Sweden

FIGURE SKATING
Men
15K Short Program
GOLD—Yuzuru Hanyu, Japan
SILVER—Patrick Chan, Canada
BRONZE—Tomoki Honda, Japan

TRICK SKIING
Women
Aerials
GOLD—Alla Tupser, Belarus
SILVER—Natalia Prikupitskaya, Russia
BRONZE—Lydia Lassila, Australia

SKI JUMPING
Women
Aerials
GOLD—Elizabeth Yarnold, Britain
SILVER—Noelle Pikus-Pace, United States
BRONZE—Elena Nikitina, Russia

U.S. Olympians Fared

Saturday
ALPINE SKIING
Women's Super-G
(Start position in parentheses)

- (14) Julia Mancuso, Squaw Valley, Calif., 1:27.04
- (2) Leanne Smith, North Conway, N.H., 1:28.38
- NR (7) Laurence Ross, Bend, Ore., DNF
- NR (29) Stacey Cook, Mammoth, Calif., DNF

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Women's 4x10K Relay

- United States (Kikkan Randall, Anchorage, Alaska, Sadie Bjornsen, Winthrop, Wash., Liz Stephen, East Montpelier, Vt., Jessie Higgins, Afton, Minn.), 55:33.4

SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING
Men's 1000
Quarterfinals
Heat 1

- Chris Creveling, Kinterville, Pa., 1:24.691
- J.R. Celski, Federal Way, Wash., No Time.

Heat 4

- Alyson Dudek, Hales Corners, Wis., 2:27.889
- Jessica Smith, Melvindale, Mich., 2:26.703 (O)

Heat 5

- Emily Scott, Springfield, Mo., 2:22.641 (O)

Semifinals

- Jessica Smith, Melvindale, Mich., 2:20.259 (O)
- Emily Scott, Springfield, Mo., 2:23.439 (ADV)

Final A

- Emily Scott, Springfield, Mo., 2:39.436
- DNF

Final Ranking

- Matt Antonie, Prairie du Chien, Wis., 3:47.26
- BRONZE
- Smith, N.H., 3:49.11

SKI JUMPING
Men's 120K
Did Not Qualify for Jump 2

35. Nick Fairall, Andover, N.H. (120.0, 50.1, 50.0) 105.3
48. Nick Alexander, Lebanon, N.H. (111.5, 39.0) 87.0
- NR. Anders Johnson, Park City, Utah, DSQ

SPEDSKATING
Men's 1500
Super G
GOLD—Zbigniew Braniec, Poland
SILVER—Koen Verweij, Netherlands
BRONZE—Denny Morrison, Canada

Friday
ALPINE SKIING
Men's Supercombined

- Bode Miller, Easton, N.H., (12, 1:54.67)
11. Jari Goldberg, Salt Lake City, (15, 1:51.10, 52.29) 247.38
12. Fred Lylety, Park City, Utah, (18, 1:52.17, 52.29) 247.38
- NR. Andrew Weibrecht, Lake Placid, N.Y., DNF

Women's 15K Individual

31. Noah Hoffman, Aspen, Colo., 41:02.7
38. Erik Bjornsen, Winthrop, Wash., 41:44.7
42. Brian Greg, Winthrop, Wash., 42:24.0
45. Kris Freeman, Thornton, N.H., 42:54.8

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Men's 15K Classic

31. Noah Hoffman, Aspen, Colo., 41:02.7
38. Erik Bjornsen, Winthrop, Wash., 41:44.7
42. Brian Greg, Winthrop, Wash., 42:24.0
45. Kris Freeman, Thornton, N.H., 42:54.8

Women's 15K Individual

9. Jason Brown, Highland Park, Ill. (6, 86.00, 11, 152.7) 238.37
10. Alexander Abt, Aspen, Colo. (15, 72.58, 8, 160.12), 232.70

FREESTYLE SKIING
Women's Aerials
Qualification

1. Ashley Caldwell, Ashburn, Va., 101.25 (O)
1. Emily Cook, Belmont, Mass., 80.01 (O)
1. Ashley Caldwell, Ashburn, Va., 101.25 (O)
5. Emily Cook, Belmont, Mass., 80.01 (O)

Finals
Jump 1

6. Emily Cook, Belmont, Mass., 82.21 (O)
10. Ashley Caldwell, Ashburn, Va., 72.80
8. Emily Cook, Belmont, Mass., 64.50

Men
Through Two Runs

3. John Daly, Smithtown, N.Y., 1:53.58
- Matt Antonie, Prairie du Chien, Wis., 1:53.84

Women
Final Ranking

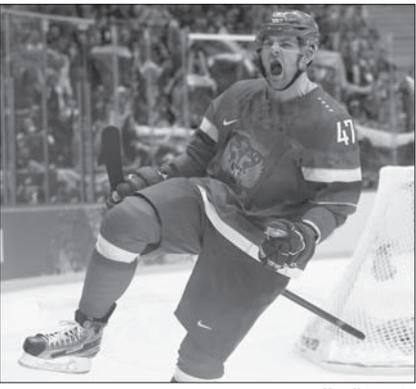
- Noelle Pikus-Pace, Orem, Utah, 3:52.86
4. Katie Uhlenhuth, McDonald, Kan., 3:54.34

SKI JUMPING
Men's 120K Individual

30. Nick Alexander, Lebanon, N.H. (120.0, 50.0) 105.3
31. Nick Fairall, Andover, N.H. (120.0, 51.0), 95.5
35. Anders Johnson, Park City, Utah (112.0, 36.5), 49.5 (9.1)

Did not qualify

43. Peter Frenette, Saranac Lake, N.Y. (111.0, 34.8), 49.5) 80.9



Mark Humphrey/AP
Russia forward Alexander Radulov reacts after scoring a goal in a shootout against Slovakia goaltender Jan Lacso on Sunday in Sochi, Russia. Russia won 4-0 to clinch second place in Group A.

Men's hockey

Preliminary Round

Group A	W	L	OTW	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
United States	2	0	1	0	8	15	4
Russia	1	0	1	0	6	11	6
Slovenia	1	0	0	1	6	8	11
Slovakia	0	2	0	1	2	11	11

Group B

W	L	OTW	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	
Canada	2	0	0	0	8	11	2
Denmark	2	0	0	0	7	15	7
Switzerland	2	0	0	0	6	12	7
Norway	0	3	0	0	0	3	12

Group C

W	L	OTW	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	
Sweden	3	0	0	0	9	10	5
Switzerland	2	0	0	0	8	11	2
Czech Republic	1	2	0	0	3	6	7
Latvia	0	3	0	0	0	5	10

Curling

Country	Men	W-L
Sweden	Sweden	7-1
China	China	8-1
Denmark	Denmark	6-2
Norway	Norway	5-3
Britain	Britain	5-3
Denmark	Denmark	3-5
Russia	Russia	2-6
Switzerland	Switzerland	2-6
Germany	Germany	1-7

Thursday, Feb. 13

Country	Men	W-L
Russia	Russia	7-1
Switzerland	Switzerland	6-2
Denmark	Denmark	5-3
Norway	Norway	4-4
Britain	Britain	5-3
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
Germany	Germany	2-6
China	China	1-7

Friday, Feb. 14

Country	Men	W-L
Sweden	Sweden	6-2
China	China	7-1
Denmark	Denmark	5-3
Norway	Norway	4-4
Britain	Britain	5-3
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
Germany	Germany	2-6
China	China	1-7

Saturday, Feb. 15

Country	Men	W-L
Sweden	Sweden	6-2
China	China	7-1
Denmark	Denmark	5-3
Norway	Norway	4-4
Britain	Britain	5-3
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
Germany	Germany	2-6
China	China	1-7

Sunday, Feb. 16

Country	Men	W-L
Sweden	Sweden	6-2
China	China	7-1
Denmark	Denmark	5-3
Norway	Norway	4-4
Britain	Britain	5-3
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
Germany	Germany	2-6
China	China	1-7

Women's hockey

Preliminary Round

Group A	W	L	OTW	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Canada	3	0	0	0	9	11	2
United States	2	0	0	0	6	9	3
Finland	0	2	1	0	2	5	9
Switzerland	0	2	0	1	1	3	18

Group B

W	L	OTW	OTL	PTS	GF	GA
Russia	2	1	0	0	6	3
Sweden	2	1	0	0	6	3
Germany	1	2	0	0	3	8
Japan	0	3	0	0	0	5

Saturday, Feb. 8

Country	Men	W-L
United States	United States	7-1
Canada	Canada	5-3
Sweden	Sweden	4-4
Finland	Finland	3-5
Switzerland	Switzerland	2-6
Japan	Japan	1-7
Russia	Russia	4-4
Denmark	Denmark	3-5
China	China	2-6
Germany	Germany	2-6
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
China	China	1-7

Sunday, Feb. 9

Country	Men	W-L
Canada	Canada	8-0
Switzerland	Switzerland	7-1
China	China	4-3
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
Japan	Japan	4-4
Switzerland	Switzerland	4-4
Denmark	Denmark	3-5
Russia	Russia	2-6
China	China	1-7
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
China	China	1-7

Thursday, Feb. 13

Country	Men	W-L
Canada	Canada	8-0
Switzerland	Switzerland	7-1
China	China	4-3
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
Japan	Japan	4-4
Switzerland	Switzerland	4-4
Denmark	Denmark	3-5
Russia	Russia	2-6
China	China	1-7
Sweden	Sweden	3-5
China	China	1-7

Friday, Feb. 14

Country	Men	W-L
China	China	11-0
South Korea	South Korea	8-1
Sweden	Sweden	7-1
United States	United States	6-2
Japan	Japan	6-2
China		

OLYMPICS

All systems go for US women bobsledders

Meyers' sled repaired after hard hit with ice

By TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia—After getting some spare parts, Elena Meyers' USA-1 bobsled was good as new Sunday morning.

The proof was in the results.

Meyers posted the fastest time in one of the two final women's bobsled training runs at the Sochi Olympics, one day after she saw pieces of her sled "everywhere" after a head-on collision with the wall past the finish line. Team mechanics, she said, worked until 11:30 p.m. Saturday to fix the damage, including replacing some parts with ones from a sled that had been on display in Sochi at USA House.

"We were skidding around the braking stretch and I think my runner caught on something and we just skid right into the short wall. Black pieces everywhere," Meyers said Sunday. "It was a head-on collision. It was one of the hardest hits I've ever taken in a bobsled. Luckily, we have some amazing mechanics. They were able to get my sled ready to go."

And with that, the U.S. women look ready for the Olympics.

There was some concern about what sort of feel Meyers would have steering the repaired sled, and how quickly it would take her to acclimate to any changes mechanics had to make.

But in reality, things weren't much different, if at all.

"I'm a little rough on sleds," Meyers said. "They've been able to fix everything."

U.S. sleds had the fastest times in both heats Sunday, with Meyers and Lauryn Williams taking the first one, followed by Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans in fourth, and Jazmine Fenlator and Lolo Jones in

10th. In the second heat, Greubel's sled was fastest, Meyers' was fifth and Fenlator's was eighth.

The women's competition begins Tuesday night.

"Really needed to get back out here," Meyers said. "Me and Lauryn have limited sliding time together so we definitely wanted to work on our timing. Our timing's there, and I'm very confident in our push and I was able to fix some things in the drive."

Williams — who's been a bobsledder for about six months — was late hitting the brakes after their first run in training on Saturday, playing a role in the crash with the wall. Meyers also crashed Friday with alternate brakeman Katie Eberling, and it's possible that the sled was damaged then more than first thought.

"I was totally unsure what happened yesterday," Williams said after Sunday's training. "I knew that I was braking, and we were skidding, and yeah, there was a wall. It's one of those things. ... A whole lot of things went wrong at one time. You get that it happens but you don't over why it happens — why me and why two days before the games."

Whatever was wrong is now fixed, and that's the bottom line as far as Meyers is concerned.

"It's been a rough Olympics," Meyers said. "It's been a rough Olympic experience. ... I love this sport and I love being able to slide down the hill. Everything that's been happening — the sled issues, the crash, all this kind of stuff — to be able to come back and slide today, that's the most fun you could ever ask for."



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

Elena Meyers, right, and Lauryn Williams start for a training session for the women's bobsled on Sunday. The pair posted the fastest time in one of the training runs.

Americans' hopes dashed in cross-country relay

By ERIC WILLEMSSEN

The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia—With Norway losing for the first time since 2009, the women's 4x5-kilometer cross-country relay at the Sochi Olympics got an upset result.

It was not the surprise the American team was hoping for.

Chasing its first Olympic medal in the sport, the United States believed Saturday's relay could be the race to do it.

Hopes faded quickly, though, as Kikkan Randall finished the opening classic-style leg of the race in 12th place, 39.7 seconds off the lead.

Sadie Bjornsen, Elizabeth Stephen and Jessica Diggins gained back some ground but the U.S. finally placed ninth, 2½ minutes behind champion Sweden, which landed the Olympic title for the first time in 46 years.

"It's tough to feel that (our hope) was already slipping away on the first leg," Randall said. "It's just a real bummer when it's the first leg and you got three teammates waiting for you really long to put us in a better position."

Randall had boosted expectations for a first U.S. medal by winning two World Cup races last month. Having started as a favorite, she also failed to medal in Tuesday's individual freestyle sprint.

"It's not what I wanted to do today," said Randall, who was the first starter for



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

American Kikkan Randall, far right, trails the other competitors as they take a curve in the women's 4x5K cross-country relay on Saturday. The U.S. finished ninth.

her team, having to use the classical style though she prefers freestyle.

"Overall we are a better team of skaters but you have to put some people on the classic leg," she said. "I can put together some good performances there. Usually it goes a whole lot better."

Randall got off to a good start but lost pace in her second 2.5-kilometer lap.

"I couldn't keep my tempo up," she said, adding she was puzzled about the reasons. "I tried to get it back but I couldn't find that gear again. Kind of similar to the other day.

I am not sure why. Everything seemed to be going well coming in. I have some work to do to figure out what's going on."

It wasn't the warmth or the condition of the snow at the Laura cross-country venue that put the Americans off.

Despite the persistent mild weather, the track was in better condition than for earlier races. Course workers put salt in the course, which stabilized the snow.

"The conditions were really good today," Randall said. "The track stayed really firm, and my skis were incredible, actu-

ally. I had great kick and was I gliding up on people. That was all set."

Maybe it was all coming down to being too nervous, Diggins said.

"There was a lot of pressure, expectations, high hopes coming in today," Diggins said. "And I was really nervous. But I stuck to the plan."

Though ninth was a long way off the spot the Americans were hoping for, the result wasn't as bad as it might appear at first sight, said Bjornsen, who was in seventh when she finished her team's second leg.

"We are at the highest level right now, we are at the Olympic Games, and everyone is at their top shape," Bjornsen said. "Just a small fraction off is where we are today. I think we are completely capable of winning medals."

Despite the result, Stephen said she was proud of her teammates.

"I can't believe how lucky I am to be in such a strong women's team," Stephen said. "It might never be as amazing in the next 10 years as it is right now so I am enjoying every second."

It wasn't the team's best day, though it was all smiles at the end following a mishap in the final lap.

Diggins led Italy's Ilaria Debertolis and seemed to help her team settle for eighth. However, when approaching the finish stretch, Diggins went into the wrong lane, had to go back and was passed by Debertolis.

OLYMPICS



SERGEI GRITS/AP

The United States' Lindsey Jacobellis crashes in the women's snowboard cross semifinal as Canada's Dominique Maltais, tries to avoid her at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Sunday.

Medals roundup

Disappointment again for snowboarder Jacobellis

The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Same sting, different day for Lindsey Jacobellis.

The woman who has dominated her sport for a decade came to the Olympics for the third time Sunday, in search of the gold medal she gave away once and lost in one of those so-called "racin' deals" the other time.

Far ahead of the other five riders in her semifinal heat on a sunny, slushy afternoon at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, Jacobellis misjudged the second-to-last turn on the course, flew over a jump too fast, lost her balance and skidded onto her back.

She raised her hands for leverage as she skittered into the middle of the course, hoping the momentum might pull her back to her feet. But the snow was too soft and Jacobellis was stuck. She moved to the side and trudged down the hill, snowboard in hand.

"It's how the wheel turns," she said. "It just so happened not to work out. It's hard to accept that."

Moments after her latest hard-luck loss in the Olympic version of NASCAR on snow, she overcame a slow start and dominated the field in what they call the Small Final — the race that decides seventh place.

Jacobellis now has second-, fifth- and seventh-place finishes in her three Olympic trips. Yes, it keeps getting worse.

Jacobellis was well in the lead when she headed into the second-to-last turn and set herself up for a set of four gentle bumps — called "rollers" in snowboard parlance. The traffic behind her — bunched



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

From left, Sweden's Marcus Hellner, Johan Olsson, Daniel Richardson and Lars Nelson celebrate winning the gold medal in the men's 4x10K cross-country relay on Sunday.

in a four-way scrum for what looked like the last two spots in the final — wasn't bearing down, but Jacobellis wasn't sure, so she pushed things as she headed to the corner.

The last roller shot her blindly into the final turn and she lost her balance.

Within seconds, the entire field passed her.

"There's a lot out there you can't control, but unfortunately, what I could control today was what didn't work," she said. "That's the unfortunate part."

Over a career that began when she was a teen, the 28-year-old Jacobellis has a record of putting things together when it counts. She won her eighth Winter X Games title last month, and also has 26 World Cup victories and

Cross-country relay

three world championships.

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Marcus Hellner was so far ahead of his rivals heading in to the cross-country stadium that he had time to pick up a Swedish flag and wave it to the crowd as he cruised toward the finish line.

The anchor of Sweden's relay team couldn't have asked for a better ending.

"That was a childhood dream, to be able to come there with the flag and have a big enough gap to celebrate," Hellner said after Sweden dominated the 4-by-10 kilometer race on Sunday.

Russia was 27.3 seconds behind to take silver in front of President Vladimir Putin. France finished third, another 4.6 seconds back.

Medals: 'War Horse' speeds to silver finish

FROM BACK PAGE

He wiped away tears in the finish area after someone mentioned Chelone, a charismatic snowboarder who was 29 and hoping to make the U.S. team in Sochi when he died of what was believed to be a seizure.

"Everything felt pretty raw and pretty connected," Miller said, "so it was a lot for me."

Weibrecht couldn't help but be moved by his own journey, calling Sunday "probably the most emotional day of ski racing that I've ever had."

It also was an important day for the U.S. ski team. The Americans had managed to collect only one of the 15 medals awarded through the first five Alpine events of the Sochi Olympics before Weibrecht and Miller tripled their nation's total in one fell swoop.

Through 28 starters Sunday, Miller and Jan Hudec of Canada were tied for second place, about a half-second slower than Jansrud's run of 1 minute, 18.14 seconds. But then came the 29th racer, Weibrecht, who had come out of nowhere to win the super-G bronze behind Miller's silver at the 2010 Olympics but since then has dealt with injury after injury, including to both shoulders and both ankles.

He's had four operations in the last four years, lost funding from the U.S. ski team at one point, and was not a lock to make the Sochi Olympic roster.

"I've had to evaluate whether this is really what I want to do. Even," Weibrecht said, then paused before adding, "as recently as yesterday."

He laughed at his own punch line.

"All kidding aside," Weibrecht said later, rubbing his left temple, "it's been a pretty difficult four years. It's kind of one of those things that you can only be beat down so many times before you start to really look at what you're doing. I didn't know how many more beatdowns I could take."

Charging with abandon — his nickname is "War Horse" — Weibrecht dominated the top of the course, then held on to nudge into second, 0.30 seconds behind Jansrud and 0.23 ahead of both Miller and Hudec, whose bronze is Canada's first Alpine medal in 20 years.

That Weibrecht pulled it off did not shock U.S. coaches or teammate Ted Ligety, the super-G world champion who was 14th. Weibrecht credited a recent day of giant slalom practice in Austria alongside Ligety with helping him carry speed.

Being quick has never been a problem for 26-year-old Weibrecht, who's 28. Mid-race errors usually set him back.

Just last week, Ligety called Weibrecht "the fastest skier in the world for 20 seconds in every single event."

How stunning was this silver? In 95 World Cup races, Weibrecht never finished better than 10th.



CHRISTOPHE ENEA/AP

The United States' Andrew Weibrecht reacts at the end of his run in the super-G on Sunday. Weibrecht, who had never finished better than tenth in 95 World Cup races, came from nowhere for a stunning silver medal finish. Weibrecht won the bronze medal in 2010.

Yet he owns two Olympic medals.

"Hits the bull's-eye once every four years," is how Italy's Peter Fill put it.

Weibrecht's 2010 bronze hangs in the lobby of his parents' hotel in Lake Placid, host of the 1932 and 1980 Winter Games. In the wee hours of Sunday — there's a 9-hour time difference between New York and Sochi — Weibrecht's parents followed along at home.

"He had some really bad experiences," Weibrecht's father, Ed, said in a telephone interview. "It's been a struggle for him to come back, but he never wavered from that goal."

Understanding where Miller's goals lie can be tricky.

He'll talk about the purity of skiing. He'll say tangible rewards aren't significant, that "skating 80 percent would get me more medals, but it just doesn't feel right."

Here, though, he was bothered by finishing eighth in the downhill, sixth in the super-combined. In the super-G, one error coming out of the final jump cost Miller what he estimated to be about a half-second. Still, he appreciated the accomplishment.

"After the year we've had, and the fact we just keep pushing through it," said Miller's wife, Morgan, "it just shows how resilient Bode is."

Even if clearly in a reflective mood, Miller couldn't completely turn off his wry side when asked about trailing only the Alpine-record eight medals won by Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, and the U.S.-record eight Winter Olympic medals won by speedskater Apolo Anton Ohno.

"It means," Miller said with a smile, "that I'm old."

AP Sports Writers Pat Graham and Andrew Damp contributed to this report.

OLYMPICS

Men's hockey roundup

Americans ride Kessel in rout

Team USA racks up win over Slovenia behind forward's 3-goal performance

By LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Phil Kessel is the first American in more than a decade to score a hat trick in an Olympic hockey tournament.

He's more interested in something no American has accomplished on Olympic ice since 1980 — winning a gold medal.

Kessel scored two of his three goals within the opening five minutes to lead the U.S. to a 5-1 win against Slovenia on Sunday. The U.S. is undefeated through three games and if it can win three more, the nation will celebrate its first Olympic championship in hockey since the "Miracle on Ice" at the Lake Placid Games.

"It's about the wins, right?" Kessel asked, rhetorically. "We just want to win games."

No members of Team USA was alive when the U.S. beat the Soviet Union in 1980 in one of the biggest upsets in sports history. But if they end up with gold around their neck on Sunday, this title won't be regarded as a miracle.

Kessel and his teammates earned an automatic spot in the quarterfinals of the 12-team tour-

nament by routing Slovenia and Slovakia, and outlasting Russia in a shootout, to finish atop their group. They've scored 15 and allowed only four goals so far.

Kessel scored 1:04 after the puck dropped, removing any thought the Americans would have a hangover after their much hyped victory against the host Russians on Saturday.

"I was certainly concerned after the emotional game," said coach Dan Bylsma. "We were fortunate that we got right out of the gate with a couple great plays."

Kessel's third goal midway through the second period made him the first U.S. player to score a hat trick at the Olympics since John LeClair did it on Feb. 15, 2002, against Finland.

"I was saying right before the game, I hope somebody does something pretty cool, so that some of the focus gets off of me and onto someone else," said T.J. Oshie, who scored on four of six attempts in an eight-round shootout against Russia. "He didn't need six shots in the shootout to do it. He did it in regular time."

Slovenia's Marcel Rodman scored with 1:76 seconds left in



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Team USA forward Phil Kessel take the puck away from Slovenia forward Ziga Jeglic during their preliminary-round game on Sunday at Shayba Arena in Sochi, Russia. Kessel scored the first hat trick by an American since John LeClair in 2002 as the U.S. won handily 5-1.

the game, denying U.S. goalie Ryan Miller a shutout. Miller made 17 saves in his Sochi debut. "Yeah, I definitely had some nerves," Miller said. "It was an important game to ensure that we're at the top of our pool."

Ryan McDonagh scored about a minute after Kessel's third goal to put the Americans up 4-0. David Backes gave them a five-goal cushion early in the third.

Kessel is the first American to score four goals in the three-game preliminary round of the Olympic tournament since Bill Cleary and Roger Christian in 1960.

Fittingly, the native of Madison, Wis., and his teammates were sporting throwback jerseys in the style Cleary and Christian

wore at the games in Squaw Valley — "USA" from right shoulder to left hip.

"We've got grit and determination throughout the lineup, but that's the type of speed and skill we need," Bylsma said.

Luka Gračanar made 23 saves for Slovenia, who play in the qualification-playoff round Tuesday after beating Slovakia and losing to the U.S. and Russia.

Russia 1, Slovakia 0 (SO): Alexander Radulov and Ilya Kovalchuk scored in a shootout and Semyon Varlamov stopped 27 shots as Russia outlasted Slovakia, a day after losing a shootout to the United States.

After Varlamov stopped both Slovak attempts in the shootout,

Kovalchuk beat Jan Laco to seal the Russians' second win in the preliminary-round.

Russia also got a stellar game from Varlamov, who started the opener and but sat behind Sergei Bobrovsky for the loss to the U.S. Varlamov stopped Milan Bartovic twice on a breakout chance late in the second period.

Austria 3, Norway 1: Michael Grabner scored two goals and Mathias Lange made 34 saves as Austria held off Norway for its first win in the tournament.

Michael Raffl scored in the first period for Austria, which finished third in its group at 1-2. Austria and Norway both lost to Canada and Finland, who met later in the day to decide the group winner.

Ter Mors leads Dutch speedskating sweep in women's 1,500

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Jorien ter Mors led another Dutch sweep in Olympic speedskating, beating favorite Irina Wüst in the women's 1,500 meters Sunday and setting up a shot at becoming the first skater to win medals in both long and short track.

Competing in an early pairing, Ter Mors turned in a stunning time of 1 minute, 53.51 seconds, an Olympic record and the second-fastest ever at sea level. The only skater to go quicker was Wüst at the Dutch Olympic trials in December.

Wüst settled for silver this time in 1:54.09, with the bronze going to Lotte van Beek in 1:54.54.

Ter Mors just missed a short track medal Saturday, finishing fourth in the 1,500 at the Iceberg Skating Palace next door. She has another chance in the 1,000, which begins Tuesday.

"It is bizarre that I can do this," said Ter Mors, who had to wait nearly an hour to know the gold was assured after skating in the ninth of 18 pairings.

The Dutch have now won a staggering 16 speedskating medals at Adler Arena, breaking the previous record haul of 13 set by East Germany at the 1988 Calgary Olympics. And with favorites in those of the last four events, they figure to push the mark to heights that may never be seen



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Gold medalist Jorien ter Mors of the Netherlands set an Olympic record in the women's 1,500-meter race in Sochi, Russia on Sunday, leading another Dutch sweep.

again.

It was the fifth win in eight events and the third sweep of the medal podium for the Dutch, who have won at least one medal in every race. And if a fourth medal had

been available in the 1,500, they would've snatched that one, too.

Marrit Leenstra finished fourth, knocked out of the bronze in the final pairing by Van Beek.

Essentially, the Dutch are just racing themselves in Sochi.

"Unfortunately, there are only three spots on the podium," Leenstra said. "But still I would rather have Dutch girls in front of me than others."

At the other end of the scale are the Americans, who had another dismal day at the big oval. Heather Richardson of High Point, N.C., finished seventh, Britanny Bowe of Ocala, Fla., struggled to a 14th-place finish, and Jilleanne Rookard of Woodhaven, Mich., was 18th.

Despite switching suits in a desperate bid to change their fortunes, the Americans are facing the very real possibility of their first medal shootout in speedskating since the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics.

Then there's Ter Mors, who is switching back and forth between two sports, intent on winning medals in both.

While each is considered a speedskating discipline, they are contested with strikingly different equipment and tactics. Long track is held on a 400-meter oval, with skaters racing against the clock wearing clapskates. Short track is held on the much-tighter confines of a hockey-sized rink, with daring, pack-style racing that has been compared to roller derby.

"I'm just speechless," Ter Mors said. "To become Olympic champion here, after everything I went through in the past year, this is absolutely fantastic."

SPORTS

WINTER OLYMPICS

Once more,
with feelingAmericans Miller, Weibrecht
capture emotional medalsBy HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — This medal mattered to Bode Miller.

Not so much because, at 36, his bronze in Sunday's super-G — behind winner Kjetil Jansrud and surprise runner-up Andrew Weibrecht — makes Miller the oldest Alpine medalist in Olympic history. Or even because he now owns six medals in all, the second-highest total for a male ski racer and tied for second among U.S. Winter Olympians in any sport.

The guy who for years and years insisted results don't mean much to him declared he actually did care about this one. The last year has been a difficult one for Miller: the death of his younger brother, Chelone, in April 2013; the court fight over custody of his infant son; the work it took to

'Some days ... medals don't matter, and today was one of the ones where it does.'**Bode Miller**
US super-G bronze medalist

return from left knee surgery to the Alpine apex. "It's almost therapeutic for me to be in these situations, where I really had to test myself, so I was happy to have it be on the right side of the hundredths," said Miller, who grew up in New Hampshire and is now based in California. "Some days ... medals don't matter, and today was one of the ones where it does."

SEE MEDALS ON PAGE 30

Men's super-G joint bronze medal winner Bode Miller of the United States looks at the gold medal podium during a flower ceremony at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics on Sunday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

GERO BRELOER/AP

More Olympic coverage inside:

- Pikus-Pace's skeleton comeback ends with silver medal, Page 27
- US hopes dashed in cross-country relay, Page 29
- Kessel nets hat trick as American men rout Slovenia, Page 31

Wall's sensational slam seals dunk contest sweep for East | **Page 21**Patch pins down title at DODDS-Europe wrestling championships | **Page 24**