

STARS AND STRIPES®

Volume 72, No. 203A © SS 2014

MIDEAST EDITION

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2014

stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

Inside

VIDEO GAMES

New year, new games: 5 titles to look forward to on PlayStation 4

Page 16



MOVIES

'Lone Survivor' draws praise as brutal ode to Navy SEAL legacy

Page 19



NFL PLAYOFFS

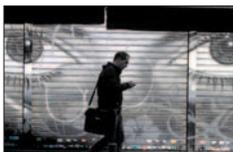
49ers' Boldin-Crabtree wideout tandem tough on defenses

Back page

NATION

President calls for limits on phone data collection by NSA

Page 8



Suicide blast strikes Kabul

Popular restaurant targeted in lethal Taliban attack

By PATRICK QUINN
AND AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL — A Taliban suicide bomber and two gunmen on Friday attacked a Lebanese restaurant that is popular with foreigners and affluent Afghans in Kabul, a brazen attack that left 16 dead, including foreigners dining inside and two other gunmen, officials said.

The Taliban claimed respon-

sibility within an hour of the attack against La Taverna du Liban, part of a stepped up campaign of violence against foreign and government interests as the U.S.-led coalition winds down its combat mission at the end of the year.

The attack began with a suicide bomber detonating his explosives in or near the restaurant, which is located in an area housing several embassies, nongovernmental organizations and Afghan officials, ac-

cording to security officials. Guards then killed the two other attackers in a gunbattle that lasted nearly half an hour.

Kabul police chief Gen. Mohammad Zahir Zahir said the 14 people killed were all inside the restaurant, located in the diplomatic quarter in central Wazir Akbar Khan area. He said foreigners and Afghans were among the dead, but he did not provide a breakdown.

SEE KABUL ON PAGE 4

Afghan police assist an injured man at the site of an explosion in Kabul on Friday. Police said a suicide bomber attacked a Kabul restaurant popular with Afghan officials and foreigners.

MASSOUD HOSSAIN/AP

Politics may trump evidence in Afghan inmates' release

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Afghan President Hamid Karzai has often pushed his relationship with Washington to the breaking point — and more often than not, Washington has capitulated.

Now by moving ahead with his plan to release dozens of prisoners accused of killing coalition and Afghan troops, Karzai is doubling down on a combative assertion of Afghan sovereignty. Analysts see the move as a way

‘The Kabul government is using this case as a means to show that the United States is not leaving behind a puppet regime.’

Kamran Bokhari
analyst for geopolitical intelligence firm STRATFOR

to stay relevant in the waning days of his presidency and as leverage in negotiations over keeping an international presence in the country.

Karzai insisted earlier this

month that the prisoner releases would proceed, despite strenuous objections by the United States, further straining relations between Washington and Kabul.

At this point, it is unclear when — or even if — the release will take place. Afghan officials say they have not set a date.

Karzai has constantly challenged the U.S. and usually found that Washington will bend first. This happened most recently when he defied a deadline to sign an agreement to keep international troops in Afghanistan past Dec. 31. The Obama administration blinked and extended the deadline.

SEE RELEASE ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We allow too many freedoms which are taking over in a way that is harming us."

— Shimon Ohayon, sponsor of an Israeli draft law that would criminalize the use of the word "Nazi" in most cases

See story on Page 11

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

- 55th Wing Command Chief is relieved of duty
- Stuttgart officer convicted in sex assault case
- South Korea jails hundreds for refusing military stints
- USS Cole's top enlisted sailor relieved of duty
- New COLA 'fix' creates have, haven't disabled retirees

COMING SOON

Shifting Gears



The Detroit Auto Show through the years

TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 12
- Business 13
- Comics 22
- Crossword 22
- Gadgets 15
- Health & Fitness 18
- Lifestyle 17
- Movies 19
- Opinion 20-21
- Sports 24-32
- Video Games 16
- Weather 13

MIDEAST

Release: Karzai official calls freeing prisoners a legal issue

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The Kabul government is using this case as a means to show that the United States is not leaving behind a puppet regime," said Kamran Bokhari, an analyst at the geopolitical intelligence firm STRATFOR.

The Afghan government needs public support when it deals with political issues, he said.

The latest dispute repeats a familiar pattern in U.S. relations with Karzai: alternating threats, cajolery and broken promises. Kabul and Washington continue to wrangle over the security agreement crucial to a U.S. plan to keep a small number of troops in the country beyond 2014 to conduct training, assistance and counterterrorism missions.

Those negotiations have stalled over Karzai's insistence that the agreement be signed after he leaves office following elections in April, a schedule the U.S. says will not provide adequate time to plan for troop deployments. Without the agreement, international military forces almost certainly will leave the country by Dec. 31.

The prison where the suspected insurgents are being held, known as the Afghan National Detention Facility, is at Bagram Air Field, a major logistical hub for coalition forces. Administered by the U.S. military until March as Parwan Prison, it was turned over to Afghan control after Karzai complained that continued American control of the prison violated Afghan sovereignty.

In return, Karzai agreed not to release certain detainees before they were prosecuted in Afghan courts. U.S. officials say the current release plan violates this agreement.

The suspected insurgents, who were detained by U.S. and coalition forces, are accused of attacks against civilians as well as coalition and Afghan troops.

While the fate of the prisoners was supposed to have been in the hands of the Afghan Review Board — a three-person panel of two prosecutors and a retired judge — Karzai has been involved in the process, presiding over meetings concerning the prisoners, according to government officials.

Pushing back against the planned release, last week the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force provided Stars



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVIS/AP

President Barack Obama shakes hands with Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Washington in 2013. Karzai's order to release Afghan detainees is the latest dispute between Kabul and Washington.

and Stripes with details on four of the prisoners set to be released, including one accused of carrying out the bombing of a school that killed a student. ISAF officials said they have provided the Afghan government with proof of the detainees' involvement in attacks, including forensic and fingerprint evidence against some.

Nevertheless, the Afghan Review Board decided that evidence was not sufficient to continue holding most of the prisoners.

The standoff may be attributed partly to the bumpy transition from a wartime detention regime, which included indefinite imprisonment for suspected insurgents, to civilian rules, which demand that evidence be presented in a timely manner for trial, said Kate Clark, an analyst with the Afghanistan Analysts Network in Kabul.

Some of the guilty inevitably will go free in any civilian system where prosecutors bear the burden of proof, Clark said, but Karzai's involvement in a process ostensibly independent of the executive branch could muddy the waters.

"I think it opens him up for accusations that he's politicizing the issue," she said.

In response to questions from Stripes, Karzai spokesman Fayeq Wahedi said in an email that the decision to release the prisoners was purely a legal one and that there is no danger that the accused could return to the battlefield, a key concern of U.S. officials.

"If the judicial authorities and security bodies have found out that these people are innocent and there is no evidence against them ... (and they) never came from

insurgency, why should there be any concern that they return to insurgency?" he said.

Wahedi blamed the U.S. for not providing enough evidence against the prisoners.

"Had the U.S. provided enough evidence to prove these people in detention are criminal, we would not have needed to conduct a three-week investigation of our own to determine the fate of the prisoners," he said.

U.S. military officials, who have gone on record in the past in opposing the release, declined to comment for this story.

Another factor in the Afghan authorities' approach to the case may be genuinely different perceptions of what constitutes sufficient evidence of culpability or guilt.

The scientific evidence that has become the backbone of so many cases in Western countries is relatively new and little understood in Afghanistan, where confessions are prized — and often coerced, according to human rights organizations.

So when the U.S. comes forward with what they see as damning DNA and fingerprint analysis, it doesn't always play well in the Afghan judicial system, Clark said.

"Afghan judges don't really like the forensic evidence — the traces of explosives and fingerprints. They're much happier with confessions," she said.

Some analysts in Afghanistan see a calculation by Karzai that standing up once again to Washington will bolster his image.

"President Hamid Karzai wants to raise this issue now for political goals and, especially

when the (bilateral security agreement with the U.S.) is under discussion, the president wants to show his opponents that he is able to make independent decisions," said Noorulhaq Olumi, a military analyst and former Afghan army general.

Public opposition to the release by U.S. officials and politicians might have been counterproductive, Clark said. In a visit to Kabul earlier this month, Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., decried the plan.

Clark said the American reaction, while understandable given the serious accusations against the prisoners, served to bolster Karzai's claim that it is an issue of Afghan sovereignty.

"In some ways, the American involvement in this has been unhelpful, particularly the senators coming in," Clark said. "This should be an Afghan issue because the Americans are leaving."

The releases could be a gamble to try to restart peace talks with the Taliban, said Michael Keating, a former U.N. deputy envoy to Afghanistan and a senior consulting fellow at Chatham House in London. Though they have gone nowhere, those talks are seen as key to ending the war.

"On a broader basis, it may be that his calculation that releasing them will be seen as a good gesture," Keating said. "I think (Karzai) may be wrong in that regard, in that I'm not sure the Taliban leadership's willingness to restart or even initiate peace discussions anytime soon is around the corner. I suspect they will be waiting until he goes, and they see how the withdrawal of U.S. and other Western troops plays out."

Some members of the Afghan security forces have joined U.S. officials in opposing the release, angered over the killing of their own troops, who have borne the brunt of the war during the past two years. Their casualty rates are far above those ever experienced by coalition forces.

"Releasing prisoners in such a way hurts the morale of the ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) and improves the morale of insurgents," said Olumi, the former Afghan army general.

Alex Pena and Cid Standifer contributed to this report from Germany. Zubair Babakhalil contributed to this report from Kabul.

alex.pena@stripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

DODDS SPORTS

Keep up with the champions of overseas military high school sports with Stars and Stripes. Visit Stripes.com/sports for DODEA sports news, scores, photos and more.



MILITARY

Year-old AF mission over Mali to continue

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The yearlong U.S. Air Force operation over Mali in support of the French mission there is set to continue for the immediate future, officials said.

January marks the one-year anniversary of the U.S. mission over the West African nation. While the Pentagon does not ex-

pect it to go on indefinitely, no end date has been set, Defense Department spokesman Maj. Robert Firman said.

Although Mali has regained some stability, holding elections for a new government since French forces intervened to halt the advance of al-Qaeda-linked militants, the French continue to deploy a military contingent there.

French President Francois Hollande wants to cut the French presence considerably in the near future and hand over security responsibility to African Union and U.N. forces. Paris plans to reduce the number of its troops in Mali to 1,600 next month, down from the 2,500 now serving there.

Maj. Nicholas Schindler, commander of the 351st Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron,

which runs the refueling missions out of Moron, Spain, said that the squadron continues flying almost every day to fuel French aircraft, but that the pace of operations has decreased.

“So, we’re hoping to continue to see, obviously, the French success there and hopefully our mission will continue to slow down,” Schindler said.

The mission so far has distrib-

ed 15.6 million gallons of fuel, logging more than 3,400 flying hours as of Tuesday, officials said.

Firman said the U.S. may still provide support to the remaining French troops after the drawdown.

“We will just have to see what the requirements look like when the withdrawal” happens, Firman said.

mathis.adam@stripes.com

US military has strong presence at Bahrain air show

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

SAKHIR AIRBASE, Bahrain — A variety of U.S. military aircraft were on display at the three-day Bahrain International Airshow, in the latest gesture of U.S. commitment to the region.

For Bahrainis, as well as visitors from nearby nations, it was a rare firsthand look at the military hardware that Washington has deployed in the area.

Attractions included the C-130J Hercules, the F-18E/F Hornet, and the MV-22 Osprey.

Crewmembers for each aircraft were on hand to answer questions.

“It’s kind of nice to show off the aircraft to the host nation,” Lt. Cmdr. Scott Tompkins, an MH-53E helicopter pilot based in Bahrain, said Thursday, the opening day of the show.

Marine Capt. Eileen Donovan, the aircraft commander for the MV-22 Osprey on display, concurred. “The air show has been wonderful, it’s a great opportunity to showcase our capabilities to our foreign partners here in the region.”

Musallam Al Musallam, a local resident, recalled how “cool” it was when he visited the U.S. Navy base on a school trip in 1994. At the air show, he spent time touring some of the military aircraft and talking to servicemenbers. “It was fun,” he said.

U.S. military officials said all the aircraft at the air show are either based or deployed in this theater — a point that carries a deeper significance.

Last month, U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel addressed a security conference in Bahrain and emphasized that the U.S. military remains committed to the



HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

Musallam Al Musallam, a local resident, walks around the flight line viewing a C-130J Hercules and an F-18E/F Hornet along with other U.S. military aircraft on display at the Bahrain International Airshow.

To see a related photo gallery and videos, go to stripes.com/go/bahrainairshow

Middle East despite the United States’ long-term strategy shift focused on the Pacific Rim.

U.S. military officials depicted

participation at the air show as an example of U.S. commitment to regional security.

“It shows we’re willing and able partners in the region, and that our partnerships mean something,” said Rear Adm. James Loeblein, deputy commander of U.S. Naval Forces Central Com-

mand. “We operate about 25 exercises with the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) nations every year and this is an integral part of what we do.”

The U.S. has more than 35,000 military personnel in and around the Gulf, according to officials.

The Bahrain air show, at the

Sakhir air base south of the capital Manama through Saturday, also features a number of European and Russian military and civilian aircraft as well as various display teams.

simoes.hendrick@stripes.com
Twitter: hendricksimoes

Command chief of Offutt’s 55th Wing relieved of duty

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The 55th Wing command chief at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., was relieved of duty Monday, but Air Force officials said privacy requirements prevented them from divulging why.

Chief Master Sgt. William W.

Thomaston Jr. was transferred to a non-supervisory position outside the wing after 55th Wing commander Col. Gregory Guillot determined he was no longer able to perform his duties effectively, said Ryan Hansen, an Air Force spokesman at Offutt.

“There were no criminal charges and no charges were pre-

ferred, and no court-martials are pending,” Hansen said.

Because there were no criminal charges, Hansen said he was not at liberty to provide further information about the reason for his reassignment, or any actions taken against Thomaston.

According to Offutt’s website, Thomaston enlisted in the Air Force in 1986 and began

his career as a medical service specialist.

Among his assignments, Thomaston has served as a senior flight medic, group superintendent, chief of the Air Force Enlisted Force Development and liaison to the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force at the Pentagon. In his duties at Offutt, he was principal adviser to the 55th Wing com-

mander and was responsible for overseeing more than 5,000 enlisted airmen.

The 55th Wing operates a variety of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft, as well as the E-4B Advanced Airborne Command Post.

carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll_

MILITARY

Report: Biden still focused on small force in Afghanistan

Stars and Stripes

Vice President Joe Biden has resumed a push to withdraw virtually all U.S. troops from Afghanistan at year's end, arguing for a far smaller presence than many military officers would like to see, officials briefed on the discussions told The Wall Street Journal.

The White House convened a meeting of top national security officials Thursday to discuss the war and the future of the U.S. troop presence, the Journal reported.

Biden's arguments for a smaller force, likely of 2,000 to 3,000 troops, have gained traction within an administration, the paper reported, that has become increasingly frustrated by Afghan President Hamid Karzai. Karzai has refused to sign the bilateral security agreement allowing American forces to remain after the end of the year.

Some U.S. defense officials, preferring a post-2014 U.S. force of 9,000-12,000, contend that such a small force would be so limited that a full pullout would make more sense, the officials told the Journal.

"We are coming to grips with the potential for zero," said a military official.

The discussions, said people familiar with them, are an echo of the debate over Afghanistan strategy in 2009.

The Wall Street Journal reported officials as saying that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is supportive of the recommendations of his military leaders, including the belief that a force smaller than 9,000 would be ineffective.

While Hagel has been skeptical of long-term overseas deployments, many of his military advisers support the higher troop level. U.S. military officials have outlined to administration officials the risk of the kind of small deployment backed by Biden, especially if the force were divided among three bases.

The recent discussions about Afghanistan are taking place amid deteriorating security in western Iraq, which some policymakers and military officials blame on a vacuum resulting from the total U.S. withdrawal from that country in 2011.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said in an interview Thursday with a Washington Post reporter that he provided a wish list of weapons his government needs in a Tuesday phone call with Biden. U.S. officials told the Post that it might be easy to deliver those weapons, which include assault rifles and artillery, to Baghdad soon.

Despite the stunning revival of the Sunni insurgency, with militants carrying out an intense wave of attacks over the past year and seizing control of key cities in Anbar province, al-Maliki said he had no regrets that his administration did not reach a deal with Washington that would have kept some U.S. troops in Iraq after the 2011 pullout.

"Since the American withdrawal, we've had a friendly relationship," al-Maliki told the Post, "but this strong bilateral relationship doesn't mean we need American forces here."

The request for stepped-up U.S. assistance is adding urgency to a debate over the types of weapons that Washington ought to provide to al-Maliki's government and the leverage that aid could give the United States.

The weapons al-Maliki wants are a small piece of the massive list of defense items Iraq is trying to buy from the United States. Baghdad also wants Apache helicopters, some in Congress want assurances that Iraqi security forces won't use the aircraft to crush political opponents or crack down on dissent in Sunni communities.



JAN SHULTS/Courtesy of the Navy

The littoral combat ships USS Independence (LCS 2), front, and USS Freedom (LCS 1) maneuver during an exercise off the coast of Southern California. A report by the Pentagon questions the reliability of the Navy's first three Littoral Combat Ships.

Pentagon testing office report on LCS operations is scathing

By TONY CAPACCO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The reliability of the Navy's first three littoral combat ships "has been degraded by frequent critical system failures" in early operations, the Pentagon's chief weapons tester said.

Testing in fiscal 2013 and analysis of data from fiscal 2012 "continued to identify deficiencies in the LCS" and "essential mission systems," such as mine-hunting equipment, Michael Gilmore, the Defense Department's director of operational testing, said in a section of his annual Pentagon directive to identify deficiencies in the Navy's first three littoral combat ships that was obtained by Bloomberg News.

The report documents challenges the Navy is facing in producing the vessels, designed to operate in shallow coastal waters, and in defending its plans for the troubled ship after a Jan. 6 Pentagon directive to reduce the number of ships it purchases by 20 to 32.

The initial plan to build 52 ships by 2026, in two versions made by Lockheed Martin Corp. and Aus-

tal Ltd., has faced a growing list of questions about the vessels' manning, mission, firepower, defenses and survivability as costs have soared amid Pentagon budget cuts. The total cost to develop and build the ships is currently projected at \$32 billion.

The directive to scrap 20 of the planned ships came in one sentence of a memo to the Navy from Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Christine Fox, according to defense officials who asked not to be identified before a public announcement. Fox also raised the possibility of building a replacement vessel, one of the officials said.

The preliminary order by Fox could be overturned or modified before the Pentagon completes its next five-year plan in conjunction with its budget proposal for fiscal 2015, the officials said.

Gilmore's report, which is due to be made public this month, cites failures of the USS Freedom during testing and a nine-month deployment to Singapore. The ship,

built by Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, had troubles with its diesel-powered generators, air compressors and propulsion system.

Similarly, the "operational reliability" of the USS Independence, made by Australia-based Austal, "has been degraded by equipment failures, including problems with operator consoles, power generation equipment, components of the Total Ship Computing" system, "internal networks, propulsion drive-train components, communications systems and mission package support systems," Gilmore wrote.

Lt. Caroline Hutcheson, a Navy spokeswoman, said the service "is confident" that Gilmore's report, "when released, will outline areas the LCS program needs to continue to develop, as well as account for the progress being made as the program and mission modules continue on course from research and development."



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Vice President Joe Biden has long advocated a force of no more than 3,000 U.S. troops stay in Afghanistan after 2014.

Kabul: Restaurant was heavily secured

FROM FRONT PAGE

The restaurant, like most facilities that are frequented by foreign diplomats, aid workers, journalists and businessmen in the war-weary country, has no signs indicating its location and is heavily secured. It sits on a small side street just off a bumpy semi-paved road in a house with low ceilings and an enclosed patio but has no windows.

Bags of dirt are piled up around it to act as blast walls and guests must go through a series of steel airlocks, where they are searched, before entering. The surrounding area is full of police and se-

curity guards to protect against insurgent attacks, which have increased in recent months around the country.

Officials said at least four other people were wounded. Police at the scene did not allow reporters near the restaurant as they rushed to help the wounded and ensure there were no more gunmen.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediq said security guards killed the two other attackers.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the attack, which he said targeted foreign officials dining at what he described as a "hotel."

"There was a suicide attack on a foreign hotel where special foreign invaders are coming for dinner. In this attack an explosive was used which was very strong and heavy casualties and massive destruction happened," he said.

Zabihullah said the targets of the attack included "high-ranking German officials." In Berlin, the German Foreign Ministry said it was looking into the report. The Taliban frequently provide exaggerated casualty figures.

Insurgents have frequently targeted foreign interests around the country and in Kabul.

MILITARY

USS Cole's top enlisted sailor relieved of duty

By **AUDREA HUFF**
Stars and Stripes

The top enlisted crew member of the USS Cole was relieved of his duties Thursday following a command investigation into an inappropriate relationship with a junior sailor on the ship, the Navy said.

Command Master Chief Larry

H. Dean was found guilty at captain's mast proceedings Thursday by Cmdr. Dennis Farrell, the Cole's commanding officer, the Navy said in a statement. The investigation determined Dean had an "unduly familiar relationship" with the sailor.

Dean enlisted in the Navy on July 1, 1986. Since then, he has served as senior enlisted adviser

to retired Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal in Ramadi, Iraq, and one of his shore tours included Tactical Cryptologic Support for SEAL Teams Two, Four and Ten, according to his Navy biography.

During his career, Dean has received the Bronze Star, a Defense Meritorious Service Medal, a Joint Commendation Medal with "V," the Navy Commendation Medal,

the Navy Achievement Medal, the Combat Action Ribbon and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Dean has been temporarily reassigned to Commander, Naval Surface Forces Atlantic. A new command master chief for the Cole has not been determined, the Navy said.

Just a day earlier, the Navy announced that the service's No. 2

civilian, Robert Martinage, had stepped down after Navy Secretary Ray Mabus asked for his resignation. The Navy's release did not specify why, but a Navy official told Stars and Stripes that Martinage was having an "inappropriate personal relationship" with a female subordinate.

huff.audrea@stripes.com
Twitter: @audreahuff



STEVE EARLEY, THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/AP

The pilot of an F/A-18E Super Hornet is taken from a Navy helicopter to a hospital in Norfolk, Va., on Wednesday.

Navy: Pilot rescued after fighter jet crashes off Va.

By **BROCK VERGAKIS**
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A Navy fighter jet crashed Wednesday in Atlantic waters off Virginia and the lone pilot was in critical condition after he ejected and was rescued, the Navy said.

The crash comes a week after a Navy helicopter plunged into the ocean in the region, leaving three dead. Both aircraft were on routine training missions.

Cmdr. Mike Kafka, a spokesman for Naval Air Forces Atlantic, said the single-seat F/A-18E Super Hornet crashed at 2:35 p.m. about 45 miles off Virginia Beach.

The pilot ejected and a life raft deployed, according to a Navy statement. The pilot was initially recovered by a fishing vessel and then picked up by a Navy MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter and flown to Sentara Norfolk General Hospital. The hospital is the area's only Level I Trauma Center.

Kafka said the pilot was con-

scious while being flown to the hospital, but he gave no other details about the crash or why he was in critical condition. The pilot's name hasn't been released.

The jet was among two on the training mission, and the pilot of the other plane helped pinpoint the downed pilot's location. It wasn't immediately clear how the fishing vessel found the pilot, but Kafka said it arrived within ten minutes of the crash.

The jet was based at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach and belonged to Strike Fighter Squadron 143. The squadron is part of Carrier Air Wing Seven, which returned to Virginia last summer following a deployment aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower.

On Jan. 8, a Navy MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopter crashed about 18 miles off Virginia Beach in the Atlantic with five crewmembers aboard. Three died as a result of that crash, while two others were treated at a hospital and released.

Senators urge swift fixes to POW/MIA

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

Two U.S. senators are urging Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to take aggressive action to fix the POW/MIA accounting operations.

In a Jan. 9 letter, Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., and Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., outlined the requirements of recently ratified legislation and strongly urged quick reforms.

"Recovering our POW and MIA personnel is a sacred obligation, and the families of our missing heroes deserve nothing less than full honesty and transparency from their government — but that's not what they've been getting," McCaskill said in a statement Tuesday. "The legislation we passed last month will allow us to hold the Pentagon accountable for taking concrete steps to fix this management mess, and we're not going to let up on the pressure until this is done."

The letter follows approval of the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which included an amendment that gave the Pentagon six months to fix the "systemic mismanagement" plaguing recovery efforts of the nation's war dead and missing.

The amendment calls for an analysis of whether parts of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Person Personnel Office should be combined and a determination on which components should have direct responsibility for accounting and analysis. It also calls for an analysis of how other countries account for their missing to determine best practices.

McCaskill and Ayotte have taken the lead in seeking to root out alleged mismanagement at JPAC and DPMO since the release of two scathing reports over the summer. In July, The Associ-

ated Press exposed an internal review that chronicled turf wars and questionable recovery results that the JPAC brass had covered up. A Government Accountability Office report mirrored those findings.

JPAC has admitted to holding phony repatriation ceremonies and allowing a Hollywood film production to shoot in the laboratory where the remains of fallen servicemembers are analyzed. Former JPAC and DPMO employees have told Stars and Stripes that JPAC officials actively argued against making identifications of World War II remains already in U.S. custody.

"We remain concerned that the Department is not adequately or expeditiously addressing the serious problems in the accounting community," the letter to Hagel says. "The Department can and must do better."

burke.matt@stripes.com

BMW Military Sales

Authorized Agency



Joy is First Choice MSP – Authorized BMW Military Sales Agent for The Middle East

Announcing the launch of the All New BMW 2 Series Coupe, & introducing the BMW M235i Coupe!
Interested, then contact us now

Are you based or deployed at one of the following Camps?

Afghanistan: Bagram, Kandahar, Kabul
Kuwait: Arifjan, Buering, Ali Al Saleem
Qatar: Al Udeid, As Sayliyah

Email info@firstchoicemsp.com
To Register online go to
www.firstchoicemsp.com



BMW Military Sales
A salute to those who serve

**BEEN
THERE.
DONE
THAT.**

We've been making loans of up to \$10,000 to active duty military for over 63 years.



Click today...cash today™ www.yesomni.com "We love to say yes"®

MILITARY

Case highlights complexity of rape investigations

BY CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A rape case the Air Force is investigating for the second time wraps up many of the complexities faced by a military struggling to deal with sexual assault in a single package, military legal experts say.

Command bias against victims, the influence of politics on military justice and the contested — often alcohol-soaked — facts of sex crime cases are among the knotty issues surrounding an Article 32 investigation that began this week involving Airman First Class Brandon T. Wright. He's accused of raping a female sergeant in July 2012 when both were stationed at Aviano Air Base, Italy.

Wright faced an Article 32 last year to determine if there was enough evidence to proceed to court-martial. But Third Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. Craig Franklin elected in August to drop the charges and refused the alleged victim's request to meet with him.

The unusual do-over that began Tuesday at Joint Base Andrews, Md., was ordered by top Air Force officials concerned with decision-making by Franklin. The general, who announced he would retire last week, became a lightning rod for criticism of the military's handling of sex crimes after he overturned the sexual assault conviction of a fighter pilot last February.

His decision was a key rallying point for legislators, victim's advocates and others who want to change the Uniform Code of Military Justice to strip military commanders of control over prosecutions.

The Pentagon and the service branches, however, have argued such a move would hurt military order and discipline.

Outside the hearing this week, the accused's special victims counsel — an Air

Force attorney who works specifically for the victim's interests rather than for the prosecution or defense — said the previous Article 32 was biased against the woman and featured badgering by the investigating officer.

"It was very clear to us where he was going," said Capt. Maribel Jarzabek, who wrote a 12-page complaint about the hearing that helped spur the new Article 32. The new investigation, expected to conclude in several weeks with a recommendation from the investigating officer, has a very different tenor, she said. "The process is working. Her voice was heard."

But legal expert Eugene Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale, said the Air Force's ad hoc response to Franklin's decision to throw out charges against Wright — regardless of the facts of the case — calls into question whether the system truly works.

"They seem to think they have an excellent system except when it doesn't produce the result they want," said Fidell, who advocates giving authority over prosecutions to independent military legal authorities fully versed in the UCMJ.

Fidell said Air Force brass had legal authority to send Wright to another Article 32 but called the decision "systemically indefensible."

The current system, he said, "functions in a way that doesn't foster public confidence. A reasonable, impartial observer doesn't expect the government to keep coming back until it finds a convening authority that will do its bidding."

But another military legal expert said the Air Force's decision was the right one, given the doubts about fairness toward victims that resulted from Franklin's February 2013 decision reversing the sexual assault conviction of Lt. Col. James Wilkerson.

"I think of what has happened is posi-

tive," said retired Maj. Gen. John Altenburg Jr., a former deputy judge advocate general of the Army who now practices law in Washington.

"Apparently, the Air Force decided to look it to another convening authority for a send in order to ensure that Gen. Franklin's decision didn't color the impression — and especially the victim — would have of the process."

It's not always so easy to say where the line is on criminality and where the line is on consensual sex. There might be two ... perceptions of what happened that night.'

Greg Rinckey
Tully Rinckey law firm

because they frequently lack enough evidence or witnesses for a clear-cut prosecution, he said.

Indeed, the hearing that began this week featured the kind of contradictory testimony that a private practice military defense attorney said makes such cases difficult to resolve.

"Many of these take place in the barracks with people they know, or at a party — they're making out and there's alcohol involved," said Greg Rinckey, of the law firm Tully Rinckey. "It's not always so easy to say where the line is on criminality and where the line is on what is consensual sex. There might be two perspectives — two percep-

tions of what happened that night."

According to the female sergeant, whom Stars and Stripes is not identifying because she is the alleged victim of a sexual assault, she gave Wright no encouragement before he pulled her on top of himself, forcing kisses on her and eventually raping her.

But a friend of Wright's, Senior Airman Shaun Sosa, who was present during the night of drinking and watching movies when the rape was alleged to have happened, contradicted much of the woman's testimony. He said the pair had been flirting for hours before cuddling under a blanket.

Sosa said he heard from another room of the woman's apartment what to him sounded like a consensual sexual encounter — giggles followed by moans of pleasure.

Contradictory testimony from an eyewitness — or one in error — could be devastating to a prosecution, Fidell said.

"If that evidence is credible, then it should stop moving to prosecution," he said. But if the investigating officer in the case decides there's reason to question Sosa's credibility, he might decide a court-martial panel should decide who's lying, Fidell said. "Then it's a horse race. Credibility questions come up all the time — that's the nature here."

An advocate for military sexual assault victims said the stop-and-start way the case has played out is damaging to both the female sergeant and to Wright — and is a result of a flawed system that gives commanders with limited legal understanding and potential conflicts of interest control over prosecutions.

"Not every case is going to be under such scrutiny as Aviano," said Nancy Parrish, president of the organization Protect our Defenders. "The world is not always watching to force military leaders to do right by the victim and the accused."

Carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll

Naval Academy announces nuclear engineering major

BY BRIAN WITTE
The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen can now major in nuclear engineering, and the school is offering aerospace engineering majors a chance to specialize in rotorcraft engineering for Navy and Marine Corps leadership positions related to vertical lift aircraft.

The academy announced Thursday that the nuclear engineering major will be available to the class of 2017.

The rotorcraft engineering specialty will be the only formal undergraduate program of its kind in the nation, the academy said. The first midshipmen in the rotorcraft track will graduate in May 2015.

Martin Nelson, a mechanical engineering professor at the academy, said nine members of the class of 2016 will take courses to complete the new nuclear engineering major.



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Submarine Force Library and Museum and the U.S. Navy's first nuclear-powered submarine, Nautilus, are on the Thames River in Groton, Conn.

Midshipmen who pursue a degree in nuclear engineering will study nuclear propulsion, applications of radiological technology and systems of nuclear powered ships and weapons.

Graduates will have the opportunity to work in the Navy's nuclear power program.

"The major will not only offer theory but also real-world experience and provide a very strong analytical background and understanding of engineering principles," Nelson said.

The new rotorcraft engineering program is the largest expansion of the academy's curriculum since the astronautics track was added in 1985.

The program will include a rotorcraft performance course, rotorcraft stability and control course and a yearlong course that will involve designing, building and testing rotor wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicles.

"We're very excited about this program," said Capt. Ken Ham, chair of the academy's aerospace engineering department. "Thanks to it, we will better prepare future officers to fill leadership positions related to vertical lift aircraft and will be able to expand our capabilities in performing relevant rotorcraft research."

STARS AND STRIPES

ADVERTISING

Wayne Victor
victor.wayne@stripes.com
+49(0)981-466-17074

CIRCULATION

Robert Reismann
reismann.robert@stripes.com
+49(0)631-3615-9150 DSN: 314-583-9150

LETTERS

Reader letters to the Editor:
letters@stripes.com

MILITARY



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates signs copies of his new book, "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary of War," during a book signing at the Pentagon, on Thursday.

Gates signs memoir copies at Pentagon

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More than a thousand expectant people arranged themselves in a line that snaked back and forth through the Pentagon food court and overflowed into the massive building's courtyard.

"He's a rock star," said a young soldier looking at the scene as he headed to get his lunch.

The man they were waiting for, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who served as defense secretary under two presidents from 2006 to 2011, didn't exactly look like a rock star. He walked gingerly off an elevator wearing a neck brace — the result of a fall at home — and over to the table where he would spend the next few hours testing the endurance of his writing hand as he signed hundreds of copies of his new memoir, "Duty."

Juicy bits from the book exploded into headlines prior to its release in recent weeks, including harsh critiques of Obama administration officials — some of whom he

depicted as dilettantes meddling with military and intelligence affairs they didn't understand.

Defense employees who showed up for autographs said they liked Gates' views, liked his style running the department, liked the man himself.

"I think it was his honesty I liked — he told it like it was," said Joe Nelson, a Defense Department civilian who works in Air Force acquisitions.

Iris Rowand, a retired Air Force chief master sergeant who is now a civilian working for the Joint Staff, said she hasn't read the book yet but has heard the reports about it.

"The few tidbits I heard I kind of agreed with," she said. "I thought, 'Somebody finally is putting it in writing.'"

"All of us have great regard for him and his leadership here. And we're glad to welcome him here in the Pentagon to sign copies of it for the folks that work here," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters when asked about Gates' visit.

But he said the DOD's decision to allow Gates to autograph his book on the premises was in no way a signal of DOD support for what Gates wrote in his memoir.

"The fact that he's signing the book in the Pentagon isn't — doesn't connote endorsement of the content of the book," Kirby said. "The secretary (Chuck Hagel) is not taking a position on the content of Secretary Gates' book." Kirby said Hagel and Gates had "a nice chat" before Gates went down to the food court. Kirby said he did not know what they discussed.

During Hagel's recent trip to visit U.S. nuclear facilities, Stars and Stripes asked him if he thought it was appropriate for a former defense secretary to write a book that criticizes the sitting president who he served.

"I've never second-guessed motivations on why people do things," Hagel said. "I think it's up to each individual to make that judgment on his or her own."

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.

Lawmaker offers wide-ranging bill to aid veterans

By LEO SHANE III
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Congress could go from passing no major veterans legislation this session to passing every idea at once.

Senate Veterans Affairs Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., this week introduced a wide-ranging package of veterans legislation covering changes to the GI Bill, survivors' benefits, advanced appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs and fertility treatments for wounded veterans.

In remarks Thursday, Sanders called the measure "the product of a year of bipartisan work" and maintains it "addresses virtually every single issue the veterans community has been concerned about."

Even the bill's title is lengthy: The Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefit and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has moved to advance the legislation after next week's congressional recess.

But its prospects for passage remain murky, largely due to the inclusion of a repeal of military retirement cost-of-living cuts passed in the recent budget deal.

The cut — a 1 percent reduction in the annual COLA adjustment for military retirees under 62 — has ranked veterans advocates and drawn promises of repeal from both sides of the aisle.

But lawmakers have not come to any consensus on how to offset about \$6 billion in savings from the cut. Sanders' bill doesn't spell out where the money would come from, either. That's expected to

be clarified when the measure comes to the Senate floor for consideration.

Republicans in both chambers have resisted efforts to absorb more spending without equal savings. But they have also supported a number of provisions in Sanders' massive veterans bill, meaning it still could move through both chambers in some form.

Veterans groups have offered support for most of the provisions in the bill but were still going through the details Friday before offering a public endorsement.

Among those items:

- New rules for VA reports on claims processing efforts to increase transparency about the ongoing backlog problem.

- In-state tuition at any public university for all veterans using GI Bill benefits, regardless where they live.

- Improved treatment services for veterans who experienced military sexual trauma.

- An expansion of VA alternative medicine offerings and research in response to concerns about overmedication of wounded veterans.

- A pilot project to expand dental care within the VA system.

- A two-year extension to the Veterans Training Assistance Program.

- An expansion of fertility services for service-injured veterans.

The House and Senate return to work Jan. 27.

shane.leo@stripes.com
Twitter: @LeoShane

Congress balks at moving drone oversight to Pentagon

By GREG MILLER
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congress has moved to block President Barack Obama's plan to shift control of the U.S. drone campaign from the CIA to the Defense Department, inserting a secret provision in the massive government spending bill introduced this week that would preserve the spy agency's role in lethal counterterrorism operations, U.S. officials said.

The measure, included in a classified annex to the \$1.1 trillion federal budget plan, would restrict the use of any funding to transfer unmanned aircraft or

the authority to carry out drone strikes from the CIA to the Pentagon, officials said.

The provision represents an unusually direct intervention by lawmakers into the way covert operations are run, impeding an administration plan aimed at returning the CIA's focus to traditional intelligence gathering and possibly bringing more transparency to drone strikes.

The move also reflects some lawmakers' lingering doubts about the U.S. military's ability to conduct strikes against al-Qaida and its regional affiliates without hitting the wrong targets and killing civilians.

Those apprehensions were amplified after a U.S. military strike

in Yemen last month killed a dozen people, including as many as six civilians, in an 11-vehicle convoy that tribal leaders said was part of a wedding procession.

U.S. officials said the strike was aimed at a senior al-Qaida operative but that reviews of the operation have raised concern that it failed to comply with White House guidelines requiring "near certainty" that no civilians would be harmed.

On Wednesday, there were reports that another U.S. strike had killed a farmer in Yemen.

The extent of the restrictions contained in the drone provision remained unclear. The measure was included by members of the

House and Senate appropriations committees, said officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly on the legislation. Other senior lawmakers and congressional officials declined to comment on the contents of the classified annex, which details funding for U.S. spy agencies.

Still, senior lawmakers have been vocal in expressing concern at the prospect of the CIA ceding responsibility for drone strikes to the military. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., chairwoman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a member of the Appropriations Committee, said last

year that she has seen the CIA "exercise patience and discretion specifically to prevent collateral damage" and that she "would really have to be convinced that the military would carry it out that well."

Feinstein declined to comment on the budget measure this week, but a senior aide said Feinstein "stands by her earlier statements" and that the Intelligence Committee has "recently reviewed this issue, and Senator Feinstein believes her views are widely shared on the committee."

Asked about the scope of that review, the aide said the panel "took stock of" the program and "came to a conclusion" but would not elaborate.

NATION



JAQUELYN MARTIN/AP

After last fall's tumultuous, bitterly partisan debt ceiling and government shutdown battles, a sense of fiscal fatigue seems to be setting in among many Washington policymakers as President Barack Obama prepares for his fifth State of the Union address later this month.

A rare truce in Congress' fiscal wars

By TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After last fall's tumultuous, bitterly partisan debt ceiling and government shutdown battles, a sense of fiscal fatigue seems to be setting in among many U.S. policymakers as President Barack Obama prepares for his fifth State of the Union address later this month.

A declining U.S. budget deficit, still-accommodative Federal Reserve and a small-bore budget deal negotiated last month — given final approval Thursday in Congress — are helping to temper partisan rhetoric in the short term as attention in Washington shifts to the approaching midterm elections.

The recovery from the deep recession of 2007-2009 has been one of the slowest in history and still has a ways to go, especially in terms of regaining lost jobs. That was driven home by a Labor Department report last Friday that U.S. employers added just 74,000 jobs last month, far fewer than had been forecast and the smallest monthly gain in three years.

Still, economists are generally

predicting a pickup in economic growth in 2014 amid a continued favorable climate of low inflation, falling oil prices, a housing recovery and the Fed sticking to its plan to slowly ratchet back the hundreds of billions of dollars in financial stimulus it has pumped into the economy over the past four years.

Meanwhile, recent polls show rising public distaste for brinkmanship and dysfunction on both sides of the political divide in Washington. In a recent poll, conducted by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 70 percent said they lacked confidence in the government's ability "to make progress on the important problems and issues facing the country in 2014."

Last October, Republican conservatives forced a 16-day government shutdown with their failed attempt to defund Obama's health insurance overhaul. But any public relations advantage Democrats may have reaped from that episode may have been eroded or lost in the problem-plagued rollout of the health care program.

Leaders of both parties are expressing frustration over the recent bouts of gridlock that come

from divided control of government, with Democrats now controlling both the executive branch and the Senate and Republicans ruling the House. Neither party wants to bear the blame for the perceived dysfunction — while both sides are quick to blame the other for it.

Both sides are trying to better position themselves as they calculate strategy with a close eye on potential midterm wins and losses.

The \$1.1 trillion spending compromise grew out of an agreement negotiated last month by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. — leaders of the House and Senate budget committees, respectively. It funds the government through Sept. 30, eases across-the-board government mandatory spending cuts and eliminates, for now, the likelihood of an election-year government shutdown.

It was a modest agreement, not the grand bargain some had hoped for. But for once, at least the two sides were roughly on the same page and debate was mostly muted.

Obama limits US access to phone records

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Seeking to calm a furor over U.S. surveillance, President Barack Obama on Friday called for ending the government's control of phone data from hundreds of millions of Americans and immediately ordered intelligence agencies to get a secretive court's permission before accessing such records. Still, he defended the nation's spying apparatus as a whole, saying the intelligence community was not "cavalier about the civil liberties of our fellow citizens."

The president also directed America's intelligence agencies to stop spying on friendly international leaders and called for extending some privacy protections to foreign citizens whose communications are scooped up by the U.S.

Obama said the U.S. had a "special obligation" to re-examine its intelligence capabilities because of the potential for trampling on civil liberties.

"This debate will make us stronger," Obama said during a highly anticipated speech at the Justice Department. "In this time of change, the United States of America will have to lead."

Obama's announcements capped the review that followed former National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden's leaks about secret surveillance programs. If fully implemented, the president's proposals would lead to significant changes to the NSA's bulk collection of phone records, which is authorized under Section

215 of the USA Patriot Act.

Even with Obama's decisions, key questions about the future of the surveillance apparatus remain. While Obama wants to strip the NSA of its ability to store the phone records, he offered no recommendation for where the data should be moved. Instead, he gave the intelligence community and the attorney general 60 days to study options, including proposals from a presidential review board that recommended the telephone companies or an unspecified third party.

Privacy advocates say moving the data outside the government's control could minimize the risk of unauthorized or overly broad searches by the NSA. However, the phone companies have balked at changes that would put them back in control of the records, citing liability concerns if hackers or others were able to gain unauthorized access.

"There appeared to be some initial confusion about Congress' role in authorizing any changes. An administration official said Obama could codify the data transfer through an executive order, while some congressional aides said legislation would be required.

Congress would have to approve another proposal from the president that would establish a panel of outside attorneys who would consult with the secretive Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court on new legal issues that arise. The White House said the panel would advocate for privacy and civil liberties as the court weighed requests for accessing the phone records.

Sen. Coburn to resign after current session

By SEAN MURPHY
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Sen. Tom Coburn has announced he will resign at the end of the current session of Congress, nearly two years before his term is scheduled to end.

The decision comes just months after the two-term Republican senator, 65, was diagnosed with a recurrence of prostate cancer, but he said in a statement late Thursday that his health wasn't the reason.

"Carolyn and I have been touched by the encouragement we've received from people across the state regarding my latest battle against cancer," Coburn said, referring to his wife. "But this decision isn't about my

'As a citizen, I am now convinced that I can best serve my own children and grandchildren by shifting my focus elsewhere.'

Sen. Tom Coburn
R-Okla.

health, my prognosis or even my hopes and desires.

"As a citizen, I am now convinced that I can best serve my own children and grandchildren by shifting my focus elsewhere. In the meantime, I look forward to finishing this year strong."

Coburn, nicknamed "Dr. No" for his voting record in the Senate, was supposed to serve through 2016. Instead, he'll step down in January 2015. He had

already vowed not to seek a third term.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell released a statement Thursday describing Coburn as "one of the most intelligent, principled and decent men in modern Senate history."

"When it comes to the transcendent debate over the size and cost of government, Tom Coburn is simply without peer," said McConnell, R-Ky.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., a longtime deficit hawk, says he plans to finish the current year in office and resign his seat nearly two years before his term is scheduled to end.

NATION

For sale: 'Creepy vibe' house

Pa. home listed as 'slightly haunted' with 'the occasional ghostly visage'

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM

The Associated Press

DUNMORE, Pa. — Between the mysteriously banging doors, the odd noises coming from the basement, and the persistent feeling that someone is standing behind them, homeowners Gregory and Sandi Leeson are thoroughly creeped out by their 113-year-old Victorian.

So when they put the house in northeastern Pennsylvania up for sale last month, they advertised it as "slightly haunted."

Then things got REALLY weird. There were calls from ghost hunters. An open house attracted lots of curiosity seekers but no legitimate buyers, and a former resident came out of the woodwork to

tell the couple that when he was a kid, he found a human skull in the basement — the same basement whose door Sandi Leeson once barricaded because she swore she could hear the clicking of a cigarette lighter emanating from the subterranean depths.

It's enough to make her husband wonder whether he did the right thing when he playfully wrote about the home's spooky charms: "Slightly haunted. Nothing serious, though," says the listing on Zillow's real estate site. It goes on to describe 3:13 a.m. screams and "the occasional ghostly visage" in the bathroom mirror.

The listing attracted local and national media attention. Now the Leesons just need an actual buyer for the four-bedroom home, which is on the market for \$144,000. "I tried to word it with a little bit of a sense of humor," said Greg Leeson, 35, who works in information technology, but "I don't think it has helped with marketing. We're not really getting very many interested buyers. We're getting a lot of nonsense people."

If the house doesn't sell, Leeson said they might consider renting it out — by the night — to folks looking for spooky thrills. While Leeson concedes the home has a "creepy vibe," he doesn't believe in ghosts.

And his wife? "I definitely think there's a spirit or a ghost in the house just from my personal experiences," she said.



JAKE DANNA STEVENS, THE (SCRANTON, PA.) TIMES-TRIBUNE/AP

Creeped out by their 1901 Victorian home in Dunmore, Pa., the owners listed it on Zillow's real estate site but have yet to find a buyer.

Sin City sees boom in porn production after Calif. passes condom law

By HANNAH DREIER

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Lee Roy Myers has everything you'd expect to find in the nation's porn capital in Southern California: sets of a classroom, hospital room, locker room and a bedroom, as well as a list of porn stars waiting to perform.

But his plywood universe is in the basement in the San Fernando Valley. It's a few paces away from the glittery casinos of the Las Vegas Strip.

"Las Vegas is a fresh town, and it's where people need the business," said Myers, whose new studio is part of a boom in X-rated production in Sin City sparked by a Los Angeles law requiring male actors to wear condoms.

The rule and potential opportunities in Nevada were the talk of the Adult Entertainment Expo this week. The annual sex industry trade show culminates Saturday with an awards ceremony for adult films.

It's not really an option to change the way we make our movies, and moving production isn't that hard," said porn purveyor Jules Jordan, who hid out behind nearly naked models at his booth.

Jordan warned reporters not to ask him about condoms.

The voter-approved Los Angeles regulation survived a constitutional challenge, but other lawsuits are ongoing, and the industry is still waiting for the first big prophylactic bust.

The number of permits requested to make porn films in Los Angeles County has declined by an estimated 95 percent since the law took effect, according to Film LA, a private nonprofit that issues the licenses. The number of applications fell from about 480 in 2012 to just 24 through the first nine months of 2013.

For Myers, who co-owns Mission Control studios and directs films for a porn website, the condom police is just the start of his troubles with Los Angeles. The region had also gotten too expensive for him.



PHOTOS BY JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Above: Porn star Riley Reid poses for industry photographers and fans during the Adult Entertainment Expo on Wednesday in Las Vegas. Below: Porn star Phoenix Marie does an interview with the Adult Video Network during the expo.



Jules Jordan
porn purveyor

With DVD sales continuing to plummet, the bounce provided by the mommy-porn series "Fifty Shades of Grey" wearing off and no solid business model in sight, producers in this notoriously low-budget industry are looking for new ways to cut costs.

While Los Angeles charges hundreds of dollars for location permits and requires health checks as well, Clark County, where Las Vegas is located, gives out location permits for a nominal fee and does not require health permits.

The warehouses are cheaper,

said, sitting among rows of child-sized desks in his studio's classroom set. "Figuring out how to make these things more cheaply won't include shooting in Los Angeles."

Las Vegas is home to some major porn players, including Brazzers, Bait & Tackle, Corbin Fisher, VXC Ltd. and newcomer Bluebird Film.

Several producers with top porn purveyor Evil Angel are talking about moving to Las Vegas, according to owner John Stagliano, and enough porn stars have settled down in the area to supply all the extras a film could need, if not all the stars.

Derek Hay, owner of adult talent agency LA Direct Models, opened an office here last fall. He estimates that 20 percent of the industry will have moved to Las Vegas by the end of the year.

Some contrarians believe the boom will eventually lead Clark County to adopt the same regulations that are scaring the industry in Los Angeles.

For now, concerns about an eventual condom shutdown in the desert are not stopping producers from making investments. Myers had several producers coming through his studio this week.

After that, he will turn his attention to repurposing the cave set featured in the high fantasy spoof "Game of Bones" for another pornographic parody, based on "The Hobbit."

The star of both films, James Deen, a millennial porn icon who acted alongside Lindsay Lohan in "The Canyons," said moving the industry to Las Vegas is just a band aid.

"The issue with running to Vegas is it doesn't actually fix anything," he said, taking refuge near a stairwell at the convention hall to avoid interruption by a constant stream of fans. "We should explain to the people who put that law in place why it's unnecessary and appeal it the same way any community would appeal any asinine law."

'It's not really an option to change the way we make our movies, and moving production isn't that hard.'

NATION



WILL LESTER, THE (ONTARIO, CALIF.) INLAND VALLEY DAILY BULLETIN/AP

Firefighters douse the flames on a house in Glendora, Calif., on Thursday. The fire started early Thursday when three people tossed paper into a campfire in the dangerously dry and windy foothills of Southern California's San Gabriel Mountains, authorities said.

Crews chase flare-ups in Calif. blaze

The Associated Press

GLENDORA, Calif. — Firefighters were chasing early-morning flare-ups Friday in a damaging wildfire that was largely tamed but which kept thousands of people from their homes in the foothill suburbs northeast of Los Angeles, as dangerously dry conditions persisted.

Television news footage showed spots of open flames chewing through brush along hillsides, raining embers and ash onto communities abutting the San Gabriel Mountains as crews doused properties in the path of the fire. Smoke from the blaze descended across the Los Angeles basin all the way to the coast.

By nightfall Thursday, the wildfire that swept through about 2½ square miles of tinder-dry chaparral and destroyed five

homes early in the day had its progress halted and was 30 percent contained, Los Angeles County fire Deputy Chief John Tripp said.

Crews hoped to make progress against the flames before daybreak, when winds were expected to pick up.

The National Weather Service said a red-flag warning of extreme fire danger that was in effect much of the week would remain in place until Friday evening because of low humidity and the chance of the region's notorious Santa Ana winds gusting to 30 mph in the foothills and canyons.

Those conditions come with a bigger backdrop of a serious statewide water shortage. Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency Friday, which allows the state to seek financial assistance and other help from the federal government.

Some 3,700 people from Glendora and Azusa were evacuated at the height of the fire, county emergency officials said. Glendora residents were allowed to return home Thursday evening, but homes in Azusa remained under evacuation orders. More than 2,000 people remained evacuated, according to KABC-TV.

Seventeen structures were damaged, including homes, garages, barns and other buildings, Tripp said.

Three men in their 20s, including a homeless man, were arrested on suspicion of recklessly starting the blaze by tossing paper into a campfire in the Angeles National Forest, just north of Glendora. They could face state or federal charges.

Glendora police Chief Tim Staab said the men were trying to keep warm and the wildfire appears to have been an accident.

Wash. AG: Localities can block pot sales

By GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Cities and counties can block licensed marijuana businesses from operating within their borders, Washington state's top lawyer said Thursday in a much-anticipated legal opinion that complicates the state's efforts to undercut the black market for pot.

Attorney General Bob Ferguson determined that the state's voter-approved measure legalizing recreational marijuana allows local governments to adopt rules that are more strict than those set out in the law — up to and including outright bans.

"Although (the law) establishes a licensing and regulatory system for marijuana producers, processors and retailers in Washington state, it includes no clear indication that it was intended to pre-empt local authority to regulate such businesses," the opinion stated.

The opinion is not legally binding, but considered influential as local governments figure out how to handle pot businesses.

The issue could land in court. Some applicants for marijuana licenses have indicated that they plan to sue if they're granted licenses from the state but then barred by local authorities from doing business.

One possible outcome of such a lawsuit could be the state's pot-regulation scheme being invalidated on the grounds that it conflicts with federal law banning marijuana — even though President Barack Obama's administration has given states permission to experiment with marijuana regulation.

Washington's Liquor Control Board, which oversees the new pot industry, requested the legal opinion and was hoping the answer would come out the other way. Board members have been worried that local bans will restrict access to legal marijuana and make it difficult to funnel pot users into the regulated, taxed market.

By contrast, in Colorado, the only other state to approve marijuana for recreational use by adults older than 21, the law expressly allows local governments to adopt bans. Large swaths of the state have opted out of the legal-pot regime, including Colorado Springs, the state's second-largest city.

Ohio executions face scrutiny after unusual death

By ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
The Associated Press

LUCASVILLE, Ohio — Ohio's execution system faces new challenges after the first prisoner to be killed with a new drug method appeared to gas several times and took nearly 25 minutes to die.

Family members of Dennis McGuire Friday announced a lawsuit over his death, which they are calling unconstitutional. And it's almost certain lawyers will use Thursday's execution to challenge the

state's plans to put a condemned killer to death next month.

"All citizens have a right to expect that they will not be treated or punished in a cruel and unusual way," defense attorney Jon Paul Rion, representing McGuire's adult children, said Thursday. "Today's actions violated that constitutional expectation."

McGuire's attorney Allen Bohnert called the death "a failed, agonizing experiment" and added: "The people of the state of Ohio should be appalled at what was done here

today in their names."

Nearly 25 minutes passed between the time the lethal drugs began flowing and McGuire, 53, was pronounced dead. McGuire first lay motionless, followed by a sudden snort and then more than 10 minutes of irregular breathing and gasping.

In pressing for the execution to go ahead, state Assistant Attorney General Thomas Madden had argued that while the U.S. Constitution bans cruel and unusual punishment, "you're not entitled to a pain-free execution."

Forecasters adding multilevel rating system for severe weather warnings

By KELLY P. KISSEL
The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The Storm Prediction Center intends to broaden its advance warning system for severe weather after finding that days it labeled with a "slight risk" turned out to be pretty nasty.

State emergency managers say they're already attuned to bad weather, but believe a new warning system with two additional categories, "enhanced" and "marginal," could keep them from crying "wolf!" — and the public from tuning them out.

"We try to educate everybody that a tornado can pop out of a thun-

derstorm at any time," said Greg Flynn, a Mississippi Emergency Management Agency spokesman. "I don't think it will change the way we prepare, but if it changes the mind of one person in the public, if it gets one more person to pay attention, then it's worth it."

When significant severe weather is forecast, the current rating

system labels days as having a slight, moderate or high risk, based on the chance of tornadoes, high winds or significant hail.

Russ Schneider, the director of the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said the agency has found over the years that some conditions warranted more than a "slight risk" label, but not

quite a "moderate risk" one.

So, sometime this spring — after National Weather Service administrators in the Washington area weigh in, likely in April — areas at the upper end of the current "slight risk" will be said to have an "enhanced risk." There also would be a "marginal" category for risks less than slight.

WORLD



MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/AP

Pakistani health worker Nooman Mehboob gives Ameerq Andriaz, 4, a polio vaccine while women wait to have their children vaccinated in Islamabad in November.

WHO: Pakistani city becomes world's top reservoir of polio

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The World Health Organization says the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar has become the world's largest poliovirus reservoir. The organization said in a news release on Friday that 90 percent of the current polio cases in the

country are genetically linked to Peshawar, which is the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Dr. Elias Durry, who heads the organization's polio eradication efforts, said Peshawar doesn't necessarily have the most cases but most of the cases found around Pakistan can be traced

back to the city. The organization is calling for repeated vaccination campaigns to help eradicate the disease. Pakistan is one of only three countries in the world where polio is still endemic. The number of polio cases in Pakistan jumped from 58 in 2012 to 91 in 2013.



BERNAT ARMANQUE/AP

Orthodox Jewish children wearing Star of David patches and uniforms similar to those the Nazis forced Jews to wear attend a rally in Jerusalem in December 2011.

Clashes in Iraq's embattled Anbar province kill 5

By SAMEER N. YACOB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber attacked a gathering of an anti-al-Qaida militia and fighting between security forces and extremists killed at least five people Friday in Iraq's contested Anbar province. Iraqi forces and allied Sunni tribesmen have been fighting for weeks to recapture key territories overrun by al-Qaida militants in the country's Sunni-dominated Anbar province, including its two main cities, Fallujah and parts of the provincial capital, Ramadi. The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, al-Qaida's Iraqi branch, seized the areas after security forces pulled out to appease angry Sunnis after the arrest of a Sunni lawmaker and the dismantling of Sunni sit-in protesting the Shiite-led government. On Friday, the suicide bomber detonated his explosives at the militia gathering in Ramadi, killing three and wounding four, police said. A battle between security forces and al-Qaida fight-

ers in Fallujah killed two civilians caught in the crossfire, hospital officials said. Meanwhile, army officers said sporadic clashes erupted between Iraqi soldiers and the militants in the village of al-Bubali, between Fallujah and Ramadi. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists. Anbar's deputy governor, Dhari al-Arsan, told The Associated Press that dozens of families have fled the Fallujah following the clashes early Friday. "Fallujah residents are living in great fear due to the ongoing clashes and shelling, al-Arsan said. More than 11,000 families already have fled their houses in Fallujah and Ramadi to either nearby areas or outside Anbar province, according to the United Nations. Some of these families have ended up in abandoned buildings, schools and half-built houses while others ended up with relatives.

Prince Harry ends role as helicopter pilot

LONDON — Prince Harry is ending his role as a helicopter pilot and is taking up a new job with the army in London, royal officials said Friday. Kensington Palace said Harry — known in the army as Capt. Wales — will be organizing significant commemorative events involving the army in his new role. Harry, 29, spent more than

three years training to be and serving as an Apache helicopter pilot, completing a tour in Afghanistan last year as a co-pilot gunner. In July, he qualified to command an Apache — the culmination of his training. Harry now will be a staff officer at HQ London District, which plans ceremonial events such as Trooping the Color and state visits. From The Associated Press

Israel bill to outlaw word sparks ire

By TIA GOLDENBERG
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — An Israeli draft law that would criminalize the use of the word "Nazi" in most cases has sparked a debate on freedom of speech in a state that was founded out of the ashes of the Holocaust. Seven decades later, memories of the extermination of millions of Jews during World War II permeate virtually every aspect of life in Israel. Public figures and interest groups frequently invoke the World War II genocide to score political points, and the word and Nazi symbols have slipped into Israeli discourse over the years. The bill would impose a fine of

100,000 shekels (nearly \$29,000) and six months in jail for anybody using the word or symbols from Adolf Hitler's Third Reich in a "wrong or inappropriate way." Educational settings would be exempt, as would certain artistic performances, said Shimon Ohayon, the bill's sponsor. The Knesset gave preliminary approval to the measure on Wednesday, but it still must pass three more readings and committee discussions before becoming law. A similar effort in 2012 fell in committee amid opposition. Ohayon, from the hard-line Yisrael Beiteinu party, said the law would put Israel on par with other nations "battling anti-Semitism." He acknowledged enforcement

largely would rely on violations being reported to police. "We want to prevent disrespect of the Holocaust," said Ohayon, the bill's sponsor. "We allow too many freedoms which are taking over in a way that is harming us." Opponents say the measure endangers freedom of speech in a country that takes pride in being a democracy in a volatile region dominated by monarchies and authoritarian leaders. "Week after week, you want to shut mouths and harm freedom of expression," said Zehava Galon, leader of the opposition Meretz party. Six million Jews were murdered in the systematic Nazi effort to kill all the Jews of Europe.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Outdoorsman taken to grave in motor boat

PA MOUNT WOLF — A man who loved the outdoors was carried to his grave in a boat pulled by a truck on Wednesday.

The casket of Ronald Bloss Sr., 78, was loaded onto a small motor boat and trailer and pulled to a cemetery by a pickup driven by one of his five sons, Diehl Funeral Home director Michael Gladfelter said.

Bloss, who lived in Mount Wolf, about 30 miles south of Harrisburg, the state capital, loved hunting, fishing and spending time on rivers. He had several boats, and family members came up with the idea of using one for his final journey, Gladfelter said.

Gladfelter said he doesn't recall the funeral home ever using a boat in place of a hearse before and he wishes there had been time to create a sign reading "Gone Fishing" to hang on the side of it.

"It would have been so ideal," Gladfelter said.

Bloss, a U.S. Navy veteran, died at his home Jan. 11.

Rare sword dug up by construction crew

AR LITTLE ROCK — Crews doing excavation work in downtown Little Rock made an unusual find this week: a military sword possibly dating to the early 1800s.

Workers are excavating ground on Markham Street downtown for the construction of a new parking deck. The site once housed the Ashley mansion, built about 1820 by the prominent lawyer and U.S. Sen. Chester Ashley.

Clark Construction representatives turned over the sword to the Historic Arkansas Museum on Tuesday. Museum chief curator Swannee Bennett said the curved sword is likely of American or European origin.

Bennett said that the soil-encrusted sword will undergo delicate testing to better determine its age.

Bennett said Union forces occupied the mansion during the Civil War after taking control of Little Rock in September 1863.

Federal grant aims to prevent stoned driving

CO DENVER — Colorado plans to advertise the dangers of stoned driving and train more police officers in spotting drivers impaired by marijuana with a new \$400,000 federal grant.

"It's ironic we're using federal funding for something that is illegal federally," Colorado Department of Transportation spokeswoman Emily Wilfong said. "But they (federal officials) do realize this is a traffic-safety issue and needs to be addressed."

Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in 2012, and stoned-driving arrests have gone up. State highway officials say marijuana use was a factor in more than 1,000 driving-under-the-influence cases filed in 2012. There were 24,742 total DUI and driving-while-impaired cases

THE CENSUS

4 The size of a litter of kittens has found a cozy home in the least cozy of places — a maximum-security prison in **update New York**. The kittens found their way into the basement of the Great Meadow Correctional Facility in Fort Ann a few months ago. The family of feral felines has been cared for by inmates and prison staff and lives in a large cage built by an inmate. Prison officials say they're hoping to find the kittens homes among the staff.



JEFF TAYLOR, THE WINCHESTER (VA.) STAR/AP

Logging some exercise

Shenandoah University criminal justice major Chuck Tippet of Warrenton, Va., a former Marine, carries a log on his back as he runs Wednesday in Winchester, Va., as part of his physical training program.

filed in Colorado that year. Retail sales of recreational pot started Jan. 1.

Ex-police chief charged with liquor theft

WA TACOMA — Former Montesano Police Chief Ray Sowers is accused of stealing 51 bottles of liquor from a Tacoma grocery store.

Sowers, 50, pleaded not guilty to a theft charge, posted bail and was released this week from the Pierce County Jail.

Sowers was arrested Jan. 9 and

was accused of walking out of the store with alcohol worth more than \$1,500.

He spent 26 years in law enforcement until 2010, when he pleaded guilty to theft and identify theft charges. He was sentenced to six months in jail for using department credit cards to make \$17,000 in purchases.

The Grays Harbor County prosecutor's office said Sowers may face a judge in Montesano again if he violated terms of release that prohibit him from possessing alcohol.

Manual transmission stymies car thieves

MA SPRINGFIELD — A trio of would-be car thieves in Massachusetts had to hit the brakes on their plan because none of them knew how to drive a stick.

Police in Springfield said the men pulled a knife on a food delivery driver Tuesday night and demanded the grub and his keys. But then they noticed the car had a manual transmission.

Sgt. John Delaney said the thieves argued among them-

selves, then ran down the street with their ill-gotten dinner.

The driver was not seriously hurt. There have been no arrests.

Man convicted of biting friend's ear off

VA SPOTSYLVANIA — A North Carolina man faces up to 20 years in prison in Virginia after being convicted of biting off his friend's ear.

Floyd Raynaldo Warren of Scotland Neck, N.C., is scheduled to be sentenced March 5.

Warren, 31, was convicted of malicious wounding on Wednesday in Spotsylvania County Circuit Court.

Warren told Judge David Beck that he bit Horace Askew's ear off in self-defense.

Warren said he and Askew, 47, were traveling from North Carolina from New York when they got into an argument. July 4, 2013, on Interstate 95, Askew's ear was reattached at a local hospital.

Man gets 5-year term for dragging donkey

TX CONROE — A Houston-area man has been sentenced to five years in prison for dragging a donkey behind his vehicle.

A Montgomery County jury on Wednesday sentenced Marc Saunders, 30, of Splendora, who earlier was convicted of animal cruelty in the 2012 incident.

Investigators said a donkey named Susie Q wandered away from her owner's home and Saunders offered to help return the animal. Investigators believe Saunders drove slowly and the animal walked behind the vehicle, but then he sped up and the donkey was dragged.

The owners later found the severely injured donkey in a ditch. The animal survived.

An attorney for Saunders said he never intended to hurt the donkey.

732 pounds of cocaine found in juice cans

VA NORFOLK — Federal authorities have announced the seizure of more than 700 pounds of cocaine at the Port of Norfolk.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Thursday that the cocaine was hidden in cans of fruit juice inside a 20-foot shipping container.

The agency said that 732 pounds of the drug was seized Dec. 20. The cocaine had a street value of up to \$100 million and a wholesale value of about \$12 million.

The container originated from Trinidad Tobago.

The agency says the container was targeted for inspection based on intelligence and current narcotic trends.

No arrests have been made.

WORLD

Will work for beer

Amsterdam feeds alcoholics' habit in neighborhood employment plan

By TOBY STERLING
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM — The men streaming in and out of a small clubhouse in east Amsterdam could almost be construction workers at the end of a hard day, taking off their orange reflective vests and cracking jokes as they suck down a few Heinekens, waiting for their paychecks.

However, it's only noon, the men are alcoholics and the beers are the paycheck.

In a pilot project that has drawn attention in the Netherlands and around the world, the city has teamed up with a charity organization in hopes of improving the neighborhood and possibly improving life for the alcoholics. Not by trying to get them to stop drinking, but by instead trying to fund their habit outright.

Participants are given beer in exchange for light work collecting litter, eating a decent meal, and sticking to their schedule.

"For a lot of politicians it was really difficult to accept, 'So you are giving alcohol?' Amsterdam East district mayor Fatima Elatik said. "No, I am giving people a sense of perspective, even a sense of belonging. A sense of feeling that they are OK and that we need them and that we validate them and we don't ostracize our people, because these are people that live in our district."

In practice, the men — two groups of 10 — must show up at 9 a.m., three days a week. They start off with two beers, work a morning shift, eat lunch, get two more beers, and then do an afternoon shift before closing out with their last beer. Sometimes there's a bonus beer. Total daily pay package: 19 euros (\$25), in a mix of beer, tobacco, a meal, and ten euros cash.

Participants say a lot of that cash also goes to beer.

To understand how this all came to be, it helps to know the background. For years, a group of around 50 rowdy, aging alcoholics had plagued a park in east Amsterdam, annoying other park-goers with noise, litter and occasional harassment.

The city had tried a number of hard-handed solutions, including adding police patrols, and temporarily banning alcohol in the park outright — including for family barbecues and picnics. Elatik says the city was spending 1 million euros (\$1.3 million) a year on various prevention, treatment and policing programs to deal with the problem, and nobody was satisfied.

City is known for pragmatic solutions

Amsterdam has a storied history of pragmatic solutions to social problems — ideas that often seemed immoral at the time. Prostitution, now fully legal, has been tolerated here since the 1600s, when the city was a major port. Authorities designated a Red Light District where sailors could look for sex. Marijuana use has been tolerated since the 1970s, when people realized street dealers were the main source of problems and authorities allowed weed instead to be sold in designated "coffee shops" while police looked the other way. In the 1980s and 1990s, health care charities distributed free clean needles for heroin addicts to prevent the spread of HIV.

— The Associated Press

Meanwhile, the small nonprofit Rainbow Group Foundation and its predecessors had been experimenting with ways to get help for alcoholics and drug addicts in the area.

Floor van Bakkum of the Jellinek clinic, one of the city's best-known addiction treatment clinics, said her organization has a very different approach to treating alcoholism. She has a few reservations about the Rainbow program, but approves of it in general.

She said a "harm reduction ap-



PHOTOS BY PETER DEJONG/AP

proach" makes sense only when there is no real hope of recovery for an alcoholic.

"The Rainbow group tries to make it as easy as possible (for alcoholics) to live their lives and that they make as little as possible nuisances to the environment they are living in," she said. "I think it is good that they are doing this."

The idea was simply that troublemakers might consume less and cause less trouble if they could be lured away from their park benches with the promise of free booze. Rainbow leader Gerie Holterman said beer was the obvious choice, because it's easier to regulate consumption. Rainbow still harbors the ambition to get alcoholics to stop drinking and move them back to main-

stream society and sees the work-for-beer program as a first step.

"I think now that we are only successful when we get them to drink less during the day and give them something to think about what they want to do with their lives," Holterman said. "This is a start to go toward other projects and maybe another kind of job."

She conceded there has only been one individual so far who has moved from the program to regular life. Numerous participants have found the rules too demanding and dropped out. But she said nuisance in the park has been reduced, neighbors are happy and there's a waiting list of candidates who want to participate.

Elatik, of the Labor party, said she couldn't quantify the cost of the current program — its budget comes partly from donations to Rainbow, partly from city funds — but it's definitely less than 100,000 euros (\$130,000).

One critic of the project is politician Marianne Poot, of the rival conservative VVD party. In a statement on her website, she praised the idea of forcing the men — who are on welfare — to work. "But then it's not proper to give them an extra payment in addition," she said. "This really gives a completely wrong signal."

The men who participate are a lively bunch. Many are obviously buzzed at midday, and perhaps not as highly effective at picking up trash, but jovial. Some say they aren't alcoholics, just heavy drinkers.

The foreman of one group, Fred Schiphorst, takes his job seriously. He wears a suit and tie under his reflective vest, which he says gives him a feeling of dignity. He

'I am giving people a sense of perspective, even a sense of belonging. A sense of feeling that they are OK and that we need them and that we validate them and we don't ostracize our people, because these are people that live in our district.'

Fatima Elatik

Amsterdam East district mayor

says he is treated with more respect in the neighborhood. But he admits his off-the-job drinking is still up and down.

One introspective program participant is Karel Slinger, 50. He says frankly that his life hasn't been transformed by the program. His alcoholism is not under control. But he says on the whole, things have changed for the better.

"Yes, of course in the park it is nice weather and you just drink a lot of beer," he said of his old life. "Now you come here and you are occupied and you have something to do. I can't just sit still. I want something to do."



Fred Schiphorst, an alcoholic and former construction worker, collects litter in Amsterdam. Schiphorst wears a suit and tie under his reflective vest, which he says gives him a feeling of dignity.

GADGETS

New & improved

Hot trade show gadgets include wearable tech, expanded uses for 3-D

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
AND PETER SVENSSON
The Associated Press

The biggest gadget trade show in the Americas wrapped up on Jan. 10 in Las Vegas after swamping the city with 150,000 attendees. This year, "wearable" computing was big, along with various 3-D technologies, especially 3-D printing.

Wearable devices in the shape of smartwatches and head-mounted displays have been a staple of the show for a long time, but manufacturers were excited this year because the field is finally gaining traction with consumers. Fitness bands were a breakout hit last year. The 3-D printing section bustled with activity, and it was clear that even though most people won't be buying a printer any time soon, they might be enjoying 3-D-printed products, such as jewelry, wedding cakes and dental braces, in the near future. Meanwhile, TV makers were heartened by the support they received for their new ultra-high-definition TV sets.

Here are some of the most notable products and services revealed at the show:

Driverless cars

The state of the art in car electronics is in systems that eliminate or ease the task of driving. French company Incept demonstrated its Navia driverless shuttle, which puts along at 12.5 miles (20 kilometers) per hour on a pre-programmed route. It's instead steps for the university campuses, airports and other locales with enclosed roads.

What about road safety? When a staffer walked slowly in front of the Navia, the vehicle slowed down, rather than coming to a full stop, because it recognized that the pedestrian ahead was moving, too.

Then there was Audi's automated parking demonstration. With a press of a button on a smartphone app, the German automaker's computer-equipped car squeezed into a tight space between two other cars, a situation that would give many drivers pause. The car has multiple cameras and ultrasonic sensors, giving it a 360-degree view. It puts rubber-necking and looking through the side-view mirror to shame. The car executed a three-point turn flawlessly

— and the driver didn't have to worry about dinging other cars' doors, because he had already exited the car.

UV-sensing wristband

The wearable computing trend has unleashed a lot of creativity. One example is a wristband with a "gemstone" that measures exposure to ultraviolet light, the kind that causes tanning and skin cancers. Using Bluetooth wireless technology, the Netatmo June sends readings to the owners' smartphones, warning, for instance, when they're approaching their daily limit of UV exposure. The battery lasts for six weeks. Netatmo, a French company, hopes to sell the device in the U.S. for \$99, starting in the second quarter of this year.

Ultra-high-def Netflix

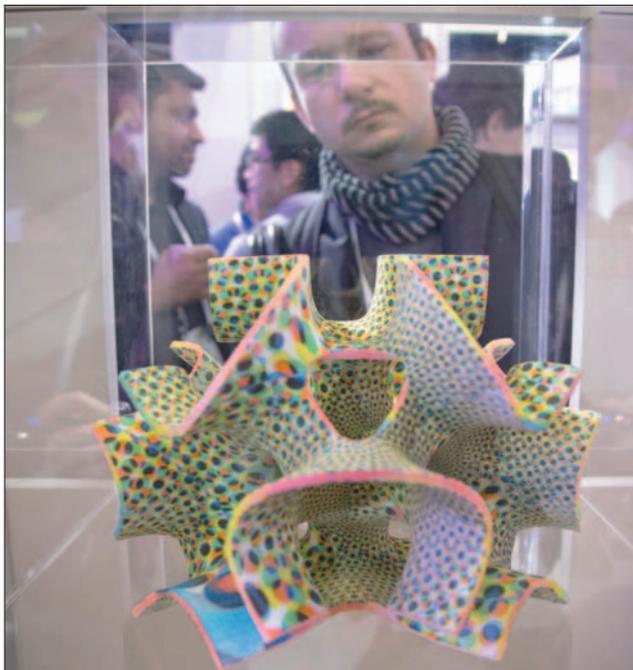
Netflix demonstrated ultra-high-definition, or 4K, video streaming. The company will offer relatively easy access to shows that take full advantage of the 4K TVs set to go on sale later this year. (The 4K TVs on the market today don't have the chips necessary to decode the picture.) Netflix's 4K content will stream at 15.6 megabits per second, so viewers will need a relatively fast Internet connection.

Enveloping photo booth

At the Nikon exhibit, Los Angeles-based photographer Alex Henry set up a small tent with 68 inward-facing, off-the-shelf Nikon cameras. When a subject steps inside the xxArray photo booth, an operator triggers the cameras simultaneously, yielding an image of the subject from all angles. Computers then process the images and create a 3-D rendition of the subject, which can then be posed in the computer as if it were an action figure. The 3-D model can also be imported into a game. So instead of playing with a generic game avatar, you may someday see yourself running around, blasting bad guys.

Sugar printer

A company called 3D Systems showed off the ChefJet, the first restaurant-approved food printer. The device uses water to melt sugar into shapes as complicated as the mind can imagine. The company's booth featured a wedding cake held up by an edible lattice-work tower that would have



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

A trade show attendee examines a centerpiece confection made with a ChefJet Pro 3D food printer at the International Consumer Electronics Show on Jan. 9 in Las Vegas.

been nearly impossible to create by other means. The ChefJet can print complex works in chocolate, too. Unfortunately, the samples the company handed out didn't taste very good, but party planners and restaurateurs will likely be excited about the possibilities culinary 3-D printing opens up.

Head-mounted display

This product looks like an enormous pair of glasses. When you strap on Sony's head-mounted display, you take on the perspective of a motorcycle driver racing through the English countryside. Looking down shows the pavement speeding by; looking up shows the clouds. When you swivel



JAE C. HONG/AP

Juergen Boynoy, of Germany, watches a video clip with a personal viewing device Jan. 9 at the ICES' Sony booth.

your head to the right or left, you might be tempted to wave to the crowds along the road. All this is enabled by a sensor attached to a strap that tracks your head movements and adjusts the wide-angle picture accordingly.

Although there were a few kinks that marred the illusion, the demonstration gave a taste of what's possible when "wearable" displays and computers combine with movement sensors.

Anki Drive racing game

In this very high-tech update to Scalextric slot racers, your iPhone doubles as a controller for cars that zip around on a track painted with an infrared pattern the cars see with small cameras on their undersides.

Somehow, the cars fly around without rails, unless you do something really crazy. You can shoot imaginary weapons with rapid-fire tapping on your screen, disabling cars in front of you so you can race ahead. For kids, the game is a mind-blower that could inspire them to create their own gadgets, the way Erector Sets once did.

Heat-sensing iPhone

FLIR Systems Inc., the leading maker of professional imagers that "see" heat, is bringing out its first consumer-level product: a jacket for the iPhone that contains a heat camera. Temperature differences show up in



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

A FLIR ONE thermal imager for the iPhone is demonstrated at the International Consumer Electronics Show. The imager attaches to the back of an iPhone 5 or 5S and translates heat data onto color images.

different colors on the screen of the phone. For instance, you can set it to show hotter things in yellow, medium-hot in red and cold in purple. It can discern temperature differences as small as one tenth of a degree. The FLIR One will cost \$349. Practical applications for the camera include identifying leaky insulation and moisture. Fun applications include spotting wildlife or high-tech hide-and-seek.

VIDEO GAMES

"The Order: 1886" introduces players to a unique vision of Victorian-era London, where man uses advanced technology to battle a powerful and ancient foe.

Photos courtesy of Sony



Enjoy your superhuman powers in a locked-down Seattle, where the choices you make will impact everyone around you, in "inFamous: Second Son."

New for PS4

Gamers will be glued to these thrilling titles

BY MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

The PlayStation 4 has been in the hands of gamers for a little more than two months now and while the launch titles were fairly underwhelming, the releases of 2014 are looking to make up for it. There are quite a few potentially great games coming to Sony's entertainment juggernaut, so to help you separate the good from the bad, we're taking a quick look at five of the best-looking PS4 exclusives coming your way.

inFamous: Second Son

This third entry in the very popular, open-world superhero game series is looking to change up the formula a bit with a new protagonist, a new power set and a whole new city to explore. While the previous two "inFamous" games have focused on dour, reluctant hero Cole McGrath coming to terms with his newfound electricity powers, "Second Son" is giving us Delsin Rowe — a younger hero who seems to revel in his smoke-based abilities. If nothing else, having a protagonist who isn't so grumpy will at least ensure a refreshing narrative shift. A new set of abilities for gamers might be a bigger deal. The trailers released so far show that Rowe's superpowers allow for differing methods of traversing the world — a slightly dystopian Seattle — and offers a veritable toolbox of combat abilities to keep the action pumping. We're very excited to see the final version of this game, developed by Sucker Punch.

See an introductory trailer at tinyurl.com/njn6bzw

The Order: 1886

From what we've seen of the trailer, "The Order" is the first game that looks like it's really testing the PlayStation 4's visual abilities. Despite it being the first unique intellectual property that developer Ready at Dawn has tackled, the previews are already exciting. The game is based in an alternate universe where werewolves and steam engines exist side by side. Add in King Arthur and his Round Table, and you've got a pretty unique premise. Ready at Dawn is clearly striving to make this



"Driveclub" is a next-generation, socially connected racing game that captures the heart and soul of car culture and the passion it creates.

graphical blockbuster of the year. The announcement trailer shows incredibly detailed textures and creepy, atmospheric places. What's most impressive of what we've seen so far is that the game's visuals are made on the fly — not the product of pre-rendered CGI. The premise and visuals make this a game to keep your eye on for PS4 owners. Now, we just need details on how the game plays.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/lg3cab

Daylight

This game is the answer for anyone upset about how console horror games have become action titles in recent years. The best horror games used to center on the sense that you're always in danger, but modern games moved away from that by giving players access to arsenals the size of a small country's. In "Daylight," however, the developers at Zombie Studios have an unnamed heroine with no machine guns and no swords — no weapons of any kind, actually. All she has is her wits and a dying cellphone that doubles as her only source of light. Stuck in the abandoned hospi-

tal, she finds herself lost, stripped of all memory and with hidden horrors lurking in every shadow. The game is procedurally generated, which means that you'll never encounter the same level twice. That approach can open up replay opportunities for enthusiastic players. It can also mean somewhat bland level designs, but Zombie Studios' creative head Jared Gerritzen seems very confident that the world they're building for "Daylight" will be varied enough to keep players interested.

Official website: playdaylight.com.

The Witness

This is the follow-up game from Jonathan Blow, the creator of the puzzling, touching and entirely amazing "Braid" — and if that were the only thing it had going for it, we'd be looking forward to it. But it's not simple pedigree that is the selling point of "The Witness." Taking a page from games like "Myst" and "Portal," this game sets players on an island that serves as the backdrop for a world full of puzzles and mysteries. Players progress by solving the mind-benders, opening up other

areas of the island and more of the game's story. If that sounds a bit basic, it's important to note that "Braid," for all of its accolades, was technically just a platformer with some time mechanics. But Blow's initial game was far more than the sum of its parts. Telling a rich story was — and continues to be — his real goal, and using the gameplay to enhance the storytelling. Early hands-on previews with "The Witness" say Blow's dedication to merging gameplay and storytelling are well on display here, all accompanied by a fantastic soundtrack. For fans of either "Braid," or puzzle games in general, "The Witness" is an early reason to be excited over the PlayStation 4, as this title is set to come out within the next few months.

Visit tinyurl.com/mm9lsew

Driveclub

Last, but not least, we come to "Driveclub," a racing game that emphasizes team building and social interaction as much as burning rubber and tuning suspensions.

The club moniker is very intentional, as the game is based entirely on the concept of forming a driving team and competing against other such clubs across the world and in a variety of challenges, races and courses designed specifically to test teamwork and not only individual driving abilities. Developer Evolution Studios created the much underrated "MotorStorm" series, so the races themselves should certainly be up to par with games like "Gran Turismo" and "Grid," but the studio's promise to offer roles to players who might not be the cream of the crop on the track is an intriguing one. If they can pull off that aspect, they might be able to give more casual fans something to look forward to, even if the meat of the game seems to be centered on a highly competitive club versus club mechanics. It is, after all, a racing game, and competition is what the genre is all about. To that end, Evolution promises challenges that will feature thousands of individual drivers and enough variation in the tracks and cars to keep dedicated fans interested and competing for years to come.

Visit tinyurl.com/kvpxpqk

darnell.michael@stripes.com



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

LIFESTYLE

Marvel Comics' character a mysterious, mesmerizing figure

BLACK

WIDOW



By ANDREW A. SMITH

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Despite her star turn in “The Avengers,” Black Widow isn’t getting a solo movie (yet). But she is getting a new comic book this month, which she richly deserves.

“I was not always so. Black Widow has a long history in comics, one that until relatively recently would make her a rather surprising candidate for her own title, much less a big role in an “Avengers” movie.

The first Black Widow was a character named Claire Voyant, who debuted in “Mystic Comics” No. 4 in the summer of 1940. That precedes Wonder Woman, and possibly all other costumed superheroines. (Most “mystery women” in those days operated in evening gowns and domino masks.)

Claire didn’t last long, possibly because she wasn’t a very nice person. Believe it or not, this Black Widow worked for Satan, killing evildoers on Earth and delivering their souls to Hell. That isn’t a terribly admirable profession, although the end result is bad guys getting just deserts.

“Mystic” was a title from Timely Comics, the predecessor to today’s Marvel Comics, where the next, and current, Black Widow took her first bow in an Iron Man story in 1964. She was still pretty unrecognizable — but still not a very nice person.

She was a Soviet spy! Moreover, she was what is referred to as a “honey trap.”

Far from her current status as a black-ops agent, Black Widow was originally a femme fatale. Her Soviet masters sent her over here to seduce Tony Stark and steal weapons-systems plans.

I have to digress here for a moment to put things in context. Comics in those days were all written and drawn by older men who all lived in or around New York City. So perhaps that explains why Black Widow seems to have walked out of a 1950s movie, and why her name was so dumb.

It was Natasha Romanoff. Natasha was possibly the best-known Russian girl’s name in America, thanks to Natasha Fatale in “The Rocky & Bullwinkle Show,” which premiered in 1959. And Romanoff was perhaps the best known Russian surname, given that it was the family name of the last czar of Russia, Nicholas II.

So as a lad, I didn’t realize at first that this woman with a cartoon character’s name was supposed to be taken seriously. Or that this woman who dressed in his grandmother’s “Sunday-go-to-meetin’” clothes was supposed to be attractive. He did finally twig to the latter, given how the male characters in the Iron Man story reacted to her, but it was hard to swallow.

Anyway, Natasha finally saw the error of her ways, and defected. (Her Soviet masters trying to kill her for failure probably

influenced the decision.)

After hanging around Hawkeye and the Avengers for a while, she went to work for S.H.I.E.L.D. and then later ran off to San Francisco to become Daredevil’s partner. It was at that point that she was finally made an Avenger (1973), the third female to be so honored.

Along the way, Natasha had ditched the evening gown for a genuine superhero suit, with grappling line and suction cups to walk on walls. Not exactly Spider-Man, you’ll agree, but she was becoming more like the super-agent we saw in “Avengers.”

That continued in, of all places, a 1970 issue of “Amazing Spider-Man,” where she adopted the skin-tight black leathers we know today. And over the years her armament has been upgraded, and even her name made more genuinely Russian. (It’s now Natalia Alianovna Romanova.)

And her past has not only been expanded, but has changed multiple times. In her first appearance, she was the widow of a cosmonaut. Later, it was changed to where she had been a prima ballerina recruited by the KGB. Some stories even showed her fighting in World War II!

And so what? She’s a spy! Some of those pasts could be true, or none of them, or even a combination thereof. Which is one reason I find her so fascinating. She could be lying every time she opens her mouth, and you’d never know, because she’s very good at it.

HEALTH & FITNESS



Fight flab you can't see

Scan measures internal body fat

BY EDWARD M. EVELD
The Kansas City Star

Michelle Sullivan scored a prominent entry last August in the annals of putting oneself out there.

A big, vivid image of Sullivan's body fat as recorded by a medical scanner appeared on the cover of the Kansas City Star's FYI magazine for all to see, with her internal belly fat lit up in bright yellow.

It's not the kind of graphic information everyone would want to share. But Sullivan was ready to do something about her weight problem, and she figured going public would help her stay focused and could help others, too.

The 50-year-old nurse had decided to take advantage of a new body scan at St. Luke's Cardio Health and Wellness Center touted as highly accurate and specific. It differentiates between subcutaneous fat, the kind you can pinch, and visceral fat, which is internal and is the most dangerous kind because it crowds out organs and produces harmful chemicals.

Sullivan knew she needed to lose weight, but the map of the fat concentrated in her abdomen, visceral adipose tissue, and the number assigned was a shock.

A VAT estimate higher than 100 is considered an increased health risk. Higher than 160 is "high risk." Sullivan's VAT was 271.

Since her encounter with the scan, Sullivan has lost 23 pounds. She followed the advice of Becky Captain, nurse practitioner at the center, to focus each meal on a lean protein and "two colors," that is, vegetables and fruit. Sugars and starches are no-nos.

"I feel a lot better," Sullivan says. The body aches she feared might be the onset of arthritis have gone away.

For breakfast, she often has scrambled eggs and a piece of turkey bacon. Lunch might be a piece of chicken plus tomatoes and cucumbers.

Sullivan also prepares for those "other" times.

"If I'm going out shopping, I pack some nuts in my purse so I don't stop and get a big pretzel," she says.

In the afternoon at work, she chews bubble gum to avoid snacking. And no more soda, which she used to enjoy daily.

Captain says the center has provided about 275 scans since offering them to the public in July.

"People are surprised to hear about the different kinds of fat they're carrying," she says. "Just knowing about their visceral fat and that it's working against them, it's hurting their health, is a motivator to lose weight."

The scan can serve as a wake-up call, she says.

Eating nuts during pregnancy may cut baby's allergy risk

BY MARY MACVEAN
Los Angeles Times

Pregnant peanut lovers can celebrate, perhaps with a PB&J snack: A study shows an association between pregnant women who ate the most peanuts and tree nuts and children with a decreased risk of allergy.

Women had been advised to avoid peanuts and tree nuts, as well as other highly allergenic foods, during pregnancy and until the child turned 3, as a way to try to reduce the chances of an allergy. But those recommendations were rescinded after researchers found that the effort didn't work.

The current study, from Boston Children's Hospital and published Dec. 30 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics*, found that women who ate nuts more than five times a month had the lowest incidence of allergic children.

"By linking maternal peanut consumption to reduced allergy risk, we are providing new data to support the hypothesis that early allergen exposure increases tolerance and reduces risk of childhood food allergy," Dr. Michael Young, lead author of the study, said in a statement.

"Current guidelines recommend that mothers should not restrict their diets during pregnancy, but this recommendation remains a widely debated topic among food allergy experts," Dr. Ruchi Gupta wrote in an opinion piece accompanying the study. Further research is needed, Gupta wrote, to determine why 1 in 13 U.S. children has a food allergy of some kind.

Despite recommendations to avoid allergens, more children were found to be allergic to nuts and other foods, with the rate tripling from 1997 to 2007. Peanut allergies affect 1 percent to 3 percent of people in most Western countries. In the U.S., it's at 4 percent, the study said. The reasons are not known.

"No one can say for sure if the avoidance recommendation for peanuts was related to the rising number of peanut allergies seen in the late 1990s and early 2000s, but one thing is certain: It did not stop the increase," Young said.

The researchers looked at data from 8,205 children, whose parents were part of the Nurses Study, a long-term health study. They found 140 cases of peanut or tree-nut allergy among the children born from Jan. 1, 1990, to Dec. 31, 1994.

Animal studies have shown a protective effect of maternal exposure to allergens in foods. The human data, Young said, are not strong enough to conclude a cause-and-effect relationship. He said more research is needed.

Tree nuts are walnuts, almonds, pistachios, cashews, pecans, hazelnuts, macadamia nuts and Brazil nuts. Peanuts, Gupta noted, are a good source of protein, and they provide folic acid, which has the potential to prevent neural tube defects.

The researchers said women who are themselves allergic should not eat peanuts or tree nuts.



KIRK MCKAY, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Pregnant women are no longer being advised to avoid nuts after study found that women who ate nuts more than five times a month had the lowest incidence of allergic children.

A full-body scan helped Michelle Sullivan, shown above right and in X-ray, commit to changing her eating habits and lifestyle.
Kansas City Star/MCT

MOVIES

‘It’s all relative. What I do for a living and what he does for a living is exactly the same. We both wake up in the morning, put out as hard as we can and then go to bed at night, hoping to see the next day.’

‘Lone Survivor’ a brutal tribute to Navy SEALs

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

Marcus Luttrell, the former Navy SEAL whose deadly mission in Afghanistan has been turned into the film “Lone Survivor,” strides into a hotel room for an interview, trailed by his service dog, Mr. Rigby.

The tall, hulking, goateed Navy Cross recipient greets a journalist with a rock-hard grip, and nods to director Peter Berg and star Mark Wahlberg, who plays him in the film. This is clearly not what he wants to be doing.

Based on Luttrell’s bestselling 2007 memoir, “Lone Survivor” is about a 2005 four-man operation in northeastern Afghanistan’s Kunar province that fell apart when a trio of goat herders stumbled upon the staked-out SEALs.

After releasing the civilians and aborting the mission, the SEALs were quickly ambushed by the Taliban in a firefight that tumbled down a rocky gulch, killed Luttrell’s three fellow SEALs, left Luttrell badly injured and, in an attempted rescue, killed 16 more men.

Luttrell would rather not talk about any of it. He went along with “Lone Survivor” and wrote the book at the urging of his superiors. Compared to the actual events, the movie is no traumatic experience for Luttrell.

“I went through it in real life, so a movie about it isn’t going to affect me in any way,” said the 38-year-old Texan.

Hollywood and the American military are worlds apart. But “Lone Survivor” is a uniquely close collaboration, one in which Berg and Wahlberg (both producers) worked under significant pressure from the families of those who died and active-duty SEALs to faithfully render the soldiers’ lives, in battle and in brotherhood.

“I was at the screening when there were a hundred moms and dads of dead soldiers,” Berg said. “And I was at a screening where there were 500 active members of special operations, including Adm. (William) McRaven. And those are different. Because when those lights come up, those people are going to look you in the eye.”

Over the years, SEALs have been played by the likes of Bruce Willis, Steven Seagal and Demi Moore, and been a mainstay in video games (“Call of Duty,” “Metal Gear Solid”). But the movies, often in close consultation with the military, have come a long way since 1990’s “Navy SEALs,” with Charlie Sheen.

2012’s “Act of Valor” was acted out by active-duty SEALs and used live-ammo sequences to portray a fictional covert mission. Kathryn Bigelow’s “Zero Dark Thirty” dramatized the most famous SEAL mission, the raid in Abbottabad that killed Osama bin Laden. The recent docudrama “Captain Phillips” re-created the rescue of the kidnapped mariner by SEAL snipers, with Tom Hanks’ most-moving scene improvised with a real-life Naval officer.

Such productions, though, have given rise to questions of accuracy and charges of propaganda.

U.S. senators, including Dianne Feinstein and John McCain, claimed that too much information was shared with the filmmakers of “Zero Dark Thirty,” and many criticized the film for suggesting torture aided the hunt for bin Laden. “Captain Phillips” showed only a handful of the 19 shots that were fired on the three Somali pirates, and didn’t mention the \$30,000 that went missing in the aftermath. Retired Army lieutenant general James B. Vaught argued that “Act of Valor” revealed too much about tactics: “Get the hell out of the media!” he implored.

But the military sees in the movies a chance to shape its image and insure some degree of authenticity in depictions of its servicemembers.

“Lone Survivor” has largely drawn praise as a brutal ode to Navy SEALs and a faithful depiction of the moral confusion of combat.

“For films like ‘Black Hawk Down’ and ‘Lone Survivor,’ the commonality is the notion that this is an important opportunity to set the record straight or at least to portray

things as they believe they happened,” said Philip Strub, head of the Defense Department’s Film and Television Liaison Office.

It can make for a thorny mix of fictionalization, artist license and classification issues. Berg consulted frequently with military liaisons and the Navy Office of Information while writing the script.

“I read the after-action reports,” Berg said. “I looked at the autopsies. I went to Iraq. I met all these guys. We just followed the blueprint that Luttrell laid out in his book. We never set out to do something non-Hollywood or Hollywood. We just literally told the story.”

“Everybody fell in line with what the goals were, what the agenda was and how high the standard was set by not only the SEAL team guys but their families,” Wahlberg said. “It was a lot of pressure, but everybody took a lot of pride in the fact that we were taking part in this thing.”

When the film premiered at the AFI Festival in November, Wahlberg made emotional comments about actors who brag about military training for a movie.

“I was really talking about myself, because I’ve been guilty of it many times, talking about how hard I had to work,” Wahlberg said. “It’s nothing compared to what they do.”

But Luttrell emerged from “Lone Survivor” with admiration for Berg and Wahlberg. “It’s all relative,” he said. “What I do for a living and what he does for a living is exactly the same. We both wake up in the morning, put out as hard as we can and then go to bed at night, hoping to see the next day.”

“They worked with it and brought it to life from the pages in the book, from the blood on the mountain.”

— Former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, on “Lone Survivor” director Peter Berg and actor Mark Wahlberg, who portrays him in the film



“Lone Survivor” is the latest in a series of films that pay tribute to the Navy’s special forces. Pictured, from left, Peter Berg, the film’s director, star Mark Wahlberg, and Former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, the central character of the film.

VICTORIA WILL, INVISION/AP

STARS AND STRIPES

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
 wey.teddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.1100
 +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)583.1673
 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

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday through Sunday. The contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

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

© Stars and Stripes 2013
 stripes.com

OPINION

US should look to nukes for savings

By WALTER PINCUS
 The Washington Post

The Obama administration missed a chance to take a bold step to save money last week when Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visited F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. It is home to the 90th Missile Wing, where an estimated 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles are at 24-hour alert.

If ever there was a costly relic of Cold War spending that needs a dramatic overhaul it's the U.S. strategic nuclear deterrent, a program with a price tag of \$355 billion or more over the next 10 years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Of that amount, some \$89 billion will be used to modernize or replace the current intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles and bombers, and add a new air-launched cruise missile.

Operating costs for nuclear forces this fiscal year are \$18 billion, but with modernization efforts just beginning, taxpayers should add another \$10 billion a year in costs, according to the CBO report.

Under the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty that goes into effect in 2018, the United States and Russia will have 1,550 deployed strategic nuclear warheads, more than half on 24-hour alert, deployed on 700 long-range delivery systems — the ICBMs, SLBMs, and bombers.

Why so many — and ready to be fired — other than that has been the case for years?

For example, why does the United States have two Air Force officers in giant capsule-like underground bunkers buried some 30 feet below ground, sometimes working 12-hour stretches in Minuteman III launch control centers, like those near F.E. Warren Air Force Base? Down there, they control 10 intercontinental ballistic missiles, each with a warhead roughly 20 times more powerful than the one that destroyed Hiroshima, ready for firing within minutes of a confirmed order through the chain of command from President Barack Obama.

There are 44 other underground launch control centers across the northern Mid-

For 50 years, not one of the U.S. ICBMs has been launched at an enemy target.

west. For 50 years, not one of the U.S. ICBMs has been launched at an enemy target.

They played their role in the Cold War, as Hagel pointed out during his talk at Warren AFB. "There are many things that have kept the world from a World War III, but I do think America's strong nuclear deterrent, second-to-none, has done as much to keep peace in the world since World War II as any one thing."

Having prevented what he called "the big war," Hagel said it was time "we look at the new challenges and threats that face the world today." He mentioned cyber as "a huge threat," and although he didn't say it, terrorism also must be on his mind.

What he also didn't mention was fear of a massive first strike capable of knocking out the U.S. nuclear deterrent, the danger that was posed by the now nonexistent Soviet Union. The Soviets, in fact, allegedly justified the need in the first place for the U.S. nuclear triad of deployed land-based and sub-based ICBMs and bombers.

Hagel did refer indirectly to the troubles that have dogged the nuclear force structure in the past two years as its central role in Pentagon planning has receded since the Soviet Union's collapse.

In Wyoming, he told the troops: "Sometimes I suspect you feel maybe that you need our care or no one's paying attention to you, but we are, and also to re-emphasize how important your mission is, how important your work is, how we depend on your professionalism and how you do your work."

That same day two Air Force missile officers — whose job it is to sit in those underground launch centers — were implicated in a narcotics investigation and lost their access to classified information.

An unpublished Rand Corp. study done between December 2012 and February 2013 found that those in the nuclear mis-

sile force "have low job satisfaction and often feel job-related 'burnout.'"

The study, first disclosed in November by the Associated Press, also found that courts-martial in the ICBM force were 129 percent higher than the Air Force as a whole in 2011, on a per-capita basis, and 145 percent higher in 2012.

In May, the Air Force temporarily disqualified 17 officers from their duties controlling ICBMs at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota after they received a D rating during an inspection. Then in October was the embarrassment caused by the firing of Maj. Gen. Michael Carey, commander of the 20th Air Force and responsible for the three wings of U.S. ICBMs. An Air Force inspector general's report described him during a Moscow trip as being publicly drunk, socializing with women and being rude to his hosts.

Despite problems among the U.S. strategic nuclear force personnel, questions about the role of nuclear deterrence in the age of growing cyber and terrorist threats, and current budgetary pressures in defense spending, Hagel did not propose that the Obama administration would seek to reduce further the new START level of deployed warheads, cut the number of stockpiled warheads or eliminate one leg of the triad.

Instead, he said, "We're going to invest in the modernization that we need to invest in to keep that deterrent stronger than it's ever been." He pointed specifically to "completion of a new study to determine the follow-on ICBM to the current Minuteman III. So we are continuing to invest our focus and our time and our effort in this — in this nuclear deterrent strategy."

The administration had an opportunity to lessen the attraction of nuclear weapons by unilaterally lowering numbers, de-alerting some deployed systems and asking other nuclear powers to do the same. That's a far cry from Global Zero, a distant goal both Obama and Hagel have supported. Most Americans — and most nations — would approve such moves. The United States would save money and still remain by far the most powerful military force in the world.

Kazakhs may cash in on cannabis production

By KATELYN FOSSETT
 Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — Despite a heavy-handed campaign against drug trafficking and related crime in the country, one Kazakh lawmaker thinks it's time to cash in on some 140,000 stubborn hectares of wild cannabis that can be found around Kazakhstan.

Daigah Nazarbaeva, the eldest daughter of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev, proposed this week that the country lease some of its treasured cannabis fields to international pharmaceutical companies.

"I suggest we review our attitude to cannabis," Dariga Nazarbaeva reportedly told the Kazakh parliament.

The Chu valley, which is shared between southern Kazakhstan and northern Kyrgyzstan, is home to some of the most infamous — and potent — pot in the world. Supposedly rivaling even Afghanistan's potent weed, the robust cultivation scene has generated some unique rituals around the plant.

Just one harvesting ritual in the region involves a person riding naked on a horse through cannabis plants, until the bodies of both are covered in a thin layer of sweat

and pot resin. The substance is scraped off, molded into ultra-concentrated marijuana bars called "plastilin," and then packed into regular cigarettes.

The country's pot is also a favorite subject of at least one Kazakh rap group, who has penned such poetic lyrics as "The champions of smoking kick-a- chronic/Live right here in Kazakhstan, that's not ironic."

After aggressive Soviet efforts to eradicate the high-potency plants, the plants have only come back stronger and remain the target of campaigns by the authorities to combat drug trafficking and related crime.

Most anti-drug efforts in Kazakhstan are focused on Afghan heroin. About 10 percent of the opium that is meant to pass through the country on its way from Afghanistan to Russia ends up in Kazakhstan.

Marijuana remains a unique problem because of its accessibility in the region and its unusual stubbornness. A 2012 Kazakh government report on the drug situation in the country noted that although registers users of opioids and stimulants had decreased since 2007, the number of cannabis users had increased.

That stubbornness might be behind so-

lutions like the one proposed by Dariga Nazarbaeva and others like it.

Last week, a leading narcologist and former presidential candidate in Kyrgyzstan, with which Kazakhstan shares its THC-rich "Cannabis Klondike," proposed a pilot program for the legal production of cannabis in the country. In Kyrgyzstan, too, the drug has become woven into the social fabric. It is estimated that as many as two-thirds of all families in the country's Issyk-Kul and Chu regions harvest marijuana.

Kazakh Interior Minister Kalmykhanbet Kasymov seemed open to Nazarbaeva's idea, citing the vastness of Chu Valley as evidence of a need for a more creative solution. "You can't just seal off these 140,000 hectares of land," he said.

The idea that pot might become a boom industry for Kazakhstan some time in the future certainly isn't outrageous. With legalization movements afoot in the United States, investors have been busy trying to figure out how to cash in on what has been called a 21st-century Green Rush.

Surely there are few better marketing opportunities available for the crop than the sale of marijuana harvested off of the naked body of a Kazakh man.

OPINION

Technology is reshaping the future of war

By THOMAS E. RICKS
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON

Changes in the nature of warfare profoundly shape both the manner in which the state is organized and the law that governs it. The obvious example of this is how the adoption of gunpowder warfare and the emergence of small standing armies helped to produce the absolute monarchies of the 16th and 17th centuries. In turn, the levee en masse — the mass mobilization of conscripts — by Napoleon's revolutionary armies helped spell the beginning of the end for those monarchies. The need to raise and maintain ever-larger armies also required the creation of the apparatus of the modern state such as a census, universal taxation and basic education.

Today, we are at another major inflection point, one in which technology is reshaping the way wars are fought. The future of warfare will be shaped by the role of ever-smaller drones; robots on the battlefield; offensive cyberwar capabilities; extraordinary surveillance capabilities, both on the battlefield and of particular individuals; greater reliance on special operations forces operating in nonconventional conflicts; the militarization of space; and a Moore's Law in biotechnology that has important implications for biowarfare.

Consider a few examples:

■ **The Manufacture of Life:** Scientists can now manufacture living organisms, including new viruses. These breakthroughs are useful to scientists but also, potentially, to terrorists or unscrupulous states.

■ **Drones:** Drones allow us to assassinate individuals a world away by remote control and they are proliferating in unexpected ways. Already, the brief monopoly that the United States, Britain and Israel have had on armed drones has evaporated. China took the United States by surprise in 2010 when it unveiled 25 drone models at an air show, some of which were outfitted with capability to fire missiles. This year, the Chinese disclosed that they had planned to assassinate a notorious drug

lord hiding in a remote part of Myanmar with an armed drone, but opted to capture him instead.

Just as the U.S. government justifies its CIA drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen with the argument that it is at war with terrorists such as al-Qaida and its affiliates, one could imagine that China might strike Chinese Uighur separatists in exile in Afghanistan with drones under the same rubric. Similarly, Iran, which claims to have armed drones, might attack Iranian Baluchi nationalists along its border with Pakistan.

Yet the Pentagon, with characteristic short-term thinking that focuses too much on "readiness" and not enough on "preparedness," seems lately to be shying away from fully embracing drones, cutting spending on them while continuing to devote billions of dollars to manned warplanes.

■ **Cyberseige:** One potential technique in the new world of warfare is what Sascha Meinrath of the New America Foundation terms "cyberseige" war. Presumably, we conceptualize most hacking attacks as opportunistic, meaning they concentrate on the softest identifiable targets. However, Meinrath predicts that an enemy undermining the core functionality of our computer systems could harm our increasingly technocratic society and that would then lead to a more massive, far-reaching and invasive cyberattack. The NSA's multi-year strategy to undermine commercial encryption is just such a "cyberseige" on fundamental technological functionality. Meinrath believes we must assume that other nation states and nongovernmental forces are working along the same lines. Is China, for instance, putting "backdoors" in hardware chipsets?

A cyberseige isn't won or lost based upon singular battles. Instead, we have to think about how we're bolstering defenses writ large — something that the United States is not doing. Instead, the U.S. focus is disrupting small networks of cybercriminals. If the United States really wanted to protect the country and the privacy of individuals from what's next, we'd be thinking

in terms of standardizing and "hardening" computer systems for everyday products (i.e., cars, appliances, home security systems, etc.); compartmentalizing data (to prevent grabbing huge amounts of customer data at once); disclosing when breaches occur (to acknowledge weaknesses and to shore up defenses), and protecting, consumer data (whether health, banking, or social networking).

The scientific manufacture of life, the proliferation of drones and increasing opportunity of cyberseige are just the tip of the iceberg. The evolution of surveillance technologies, space weapons and autonomous unmanned systems of all sorts are also transforming warfare.

New technologies also have democratized mass violence, enabling non-state actors to use and threaten lethal force on a scale previously associated only with states. The 9/11 terrorist attacks shattered the comfortable assumption that the United States faced only conventional state adversaries. Since 9/11, the United States has fought conflicts of various types against a variety of networks of nontraditional combatants, such as al-Qaida and its allied groups in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen.

Taken together, recent changes both in the technological drivers of warfare and the enemies we face have erased the boundaries between what we have traditionally regarded as "war" and "peace," military and civilian, foreign and domestic, and national and international.

■ They have blurred the lines between military law and criminal law as the United States grapples with how to prosecute members of al-Qaida who are part of a criminal enterprise that is also at war against the United States and her allies.

■ They have blurred the lines between military and civilian roles, such as the delivery of aid and development. Consider the case of members of Provincial Reconstruction Teams in war zones such as Afghanistan where they are essentially armed social workers.

■ They have blurred the lines between public and private. Private contractors now

handle a considerable number of military functions that previously would have been the purview of government employees. This raises a thicket of thorny legal and accountability questions: For instance, could a contractor involved in the CIA drone program be charged with murder if a civilian is killed in a drone attack?

■ They have blurred the lines between the military and the intelligence community. It is no longer even a cause for much comment that the CIA has become something of a paramilitary organization, which, even taking the most conservative estimates, has killed about 3,000 people in drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen under President Obama alone.

■ They have blurred the lines between domestic and foreign. The most well-funded Pentagon spying agency, the NSA, was set up to counter the threat posed by the nuclear-armed Soviet Union. In part due to the near-impossibility of cleanly distinguishing between "domestic" and "foreign" communications, the NSA has now collected the telephone metadata of hundreds of millions of ordinary American citizens.

■ They have eroded traditional conceptions of sovereignty. With more and more states developing technologies that enable them to "reach inside" other states with relatively little immediate risk (whether using drone technologies, space-based surveillance systems or cybertools), the nature and meaning of sovereignty are being transformed.

And so on. As historian Charles Tilly observed, "War made the state, and the state made war." If war is changing, then the state will change, and so will the non-state organizations that increasingly challenge those states and the international organizations that seek to channel state behavior. What these changes will look like is hard to predict, but they are likely to be as profound as the shift from the pre-Westphalian world to the modern world of nation-states.

The future of War project is led by Peter Berger, director of national security studies at the New America Foundation, and the author of several books.

Despite hoopla, I don't need to read Gates' book

By BOB RAY SANDERS
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

First, a confession: I have not read the book "Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War" by former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates. Nor do I plan to read it ever.

Frankly, most memoirs of bureaucrats and politicians are boring, as they usually are hastily put-together accounts, with two or three titillating revelations, meant to make a buck and provide a few more minutes in the public spotlight for the author. Not that I'm accusing Gates of that.

He is a man who has had a long and distinguished career in public service under several administrators, one worthy of commendation like that bestowed upon him by President Barack Obama in 2011 when he was awarded the Medal of Freedom.

That being said, I'm not sure there's much more I want to know about him that I don't already know and, now that he's in private life, I'm not eager to hear about his assessment of the military, the wars or his sitting president.

While I really don't care about what he thinks of the president and vice president, I did find some of the statements attributed

to his new book rather curious, and I found the reaction to them even more interesting.

Based on the brief excerpts published prior to the book's release, and subsequent interviews Gates has given to the media, I don't know what all the hoopla is about.

It seems the former defense secretary didn't think President Obama was passionate enough about the strategy in Afghanistan and cared more for the troops than he did the mission.

He also faults the president for privately expressing "reservations" about whether the 2009 troop surge in Afghanistan was working.

I saw the screaming newspaper and television news headlines such as "Bombshell," "Shocking" and "Scatting" in reference to Gates' criticism of the Obama administration, yet I still couldn't comprehend all the fuss over the few passages I had seen.

In his first live television interview, even Gates questioned the news coverage/analysis of the book, saying passages had been taken out of context and that "his sort of been hijacked by people along the political spectrum to serve their own purposes."

Gates, who was first picked to be defense secretary under George W. Bush, accepted Obama's offer to stay in the job out of



LEE FERRIS/AP

Robert Gates greets cadets at West Point, N.Y., in 2011.

"duty to those troops," the same troops he accused the president of caring a little too much about.

In the book, according to press reports, Gates reacted to the president's criticism of Army Gen. David Petraeus by saying:

"As I sat there, I thought, the president doesn't trust his commander, can't stand (Afghan President Hamid) Karzai, doesn't believe in his own strategy and doesn't consider the war to be his. For him it's all about getting in."

Although I find it a bit unsettling that a

former Cabinet member, particularly the one in charge of our troops, would be even remotely critical of the commander in chief while the country is still at war, I'm not shocked by it.

After all, what's new here?

Obama campaigned on ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and wanting to bring the troops home.

It was no secret that he was questioning the generals — something I expect the president to do — or engaging in debate about strategy, mission and expected outcome.

More than once, the president made it quite obvious that he had issues with Karzai, but I'm sure he didn't appreciate the former defense secretary announcing to the world that he could not stand the man.

The fact that Gates, an old warrior, did not hit it off with the much younger members of the White House (and particularly National Security) staff who were willing to engage and challenge him doesn't surprise me. It's a generational thing.

All of this is to say, there's nothing I've seen so far that would make me want to read this book.

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

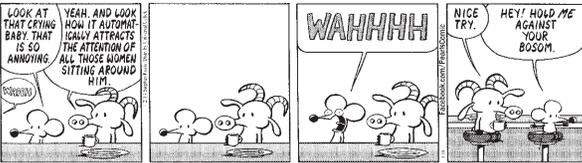
Frazz



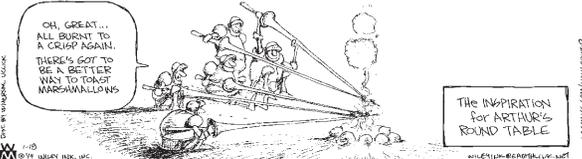
Dilbert



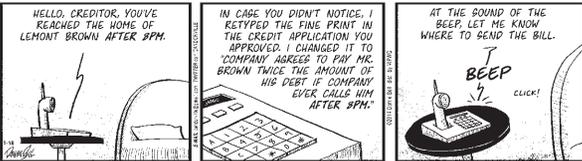
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



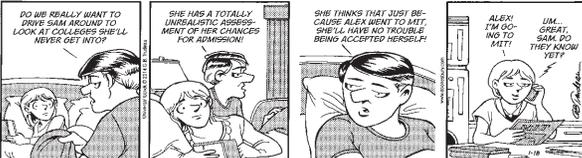
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Credo
- 4 Low singer
- 8 Viper's weapon
- 12 Coloring agent
- 13 Greatly
- 14 Medley
- 15 Navy newbie (Abar.)
- 16 Old Italian bread
- 17 Paella ingredient
- 18 Hester Prynne's symbol
- 21 Longing
- 22 Jay's follower
- 23 WWII sub
- 26 Fave
- 27 Mandible
- 30 Jazz flutist Herbie
- 31 On in years
- 32 Flaky dough (Var.)
- 33 Sailor's assent
- 34 Holly's partner
- 35 Star's bit part
- 36 Dogfight participant
- 37 Arctic diver
- 38 Nacre
- 45 Shrek, e.g.
- 46 Weld scissors
- 47 Prompt
- 48 Urgent request
- 49 Farm fraction
- 50 Coop denizen
- 51 Progeny
- 52 Garden intruder

53 "Guinness Book" suffix

DOWN

- 1 Midmonth date
- 2 Harmonization
- 3 Arizona city
- 4 Bolshoi performance
- 5 Extraterrestrial
- 6 Categorize
- 7 Pursued obsessively
- 8 Two score
- 9 Settled down
- 10 Pleasant
- 11 No stay-at-home
- 19 Reynolds or Gosting
- 20 Chow down
- 23 Ms. Thurman
- 24 Serenade the moon
- 25 Indivisible
- 26 Thickness
- 27 Cramer of CNBC
- 28 Pub order
- 29 Court
- 31 Supervised
- 32 Phony
- 34 Kind of cube
- 35 Like beggars' hands
- 36 Winning
- 37 Blazing
- 38 Broom closet items
- 39 Give the eye
- 40 Genealogy chart
- 41 Never again?
- 42 Analytic target
- 43 Wishes otherwise
- 44 Fast time

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-18

CRYPTOQUIP

Q N Q D E K V D U M Z R R J P A W D V O
 F B Z F W Q C C V K ' R O V Y F B J R
 N Q D E B V P Q R F Z P U Z H H Y D Z F Q .

B Q Y R Q R F D Y F B - M Z R F O .
 "Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE CO-STAR OF 'LOVE STORY' IS HAVING AN EMOTIONAL OUTBURST, HE MIGHT BE CRYIN' O'NEAL."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals H

STARS AND STRIPES Daily Headlines



Sign up to get the top stories of the day, emailed right to your inbox, every day!

Today's top headlines from Stars and Stripes.

STARS AND STRIPES WEEKLY UPDATE



Subscribe to get each week's most important stories, along with other military news of note from bases around the world.

Stars and Stripes offers a summary of the leading stories of the week.

Get your news at: stripes.com/subscribe/updates

MLB/SPORTS BRIEFS



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Umpires discuss a call at first base during baseball's World Series in October 2009. Major League Baseball announced Thursday that it will greatly expand instant replay to review close calls starting this season. Each manager will be allowed to challenge at least one call per game. If he's right, he gets another challenge. After the seventh inning, a crew chief can request a review if the own.

MLB approves expanded use of instant replay

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

PARADISE VALLEY, Ariz. — Ever since the game was invented, before television or even radio existed, baseball counted on the eyes and ears of umpires on the field. Starting this season, many key decisions will be made in a studio far away.

Major League Baseball vaulted into the 21st century of technology on Thursday, approving a huge expansion of instant replay in hopes of eliminating blown calls that riled up players, managers and fans.

"I think it's great," San Francisco Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "It's about getting it right."

Acknowledging the human element had been overtaken in an era when everyone except the ump's could see several views over and over in slow-motion, owners and players and umpires OKed the new system.

Now each manager will be allowed to challenge at least one call per game. If he's right, he gets another challenge. After the

seventh inning, a crew chief can request a review on his own if the manager has used his challenges.

"I tell you the fans will love it," baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said after owners met and voted their unanimous approval. "It's another in a long list of changes that will make this sport better than it already is."

Baseball was the last major pro sport in North America to institute replay when it began late in the 2008 season. Even then, it was only used for close calls on home runs.

The NFL, NBA, NHL, some NCAA sports and major tennis tournaments all use a form of replay, and even FIFA and the English Premier League have adopted goal-line technology for soccer.

Not that managers won't still occasionally bolt from the dugout, their veins bulging.

The so-called "neighborhood play" at second base on double plays cannot be challenged. Many had safety concerns for middle infielders being wiped out by hard-charging runners if the phantom force was subject to review.

Ball-and-strike calls can't be contested. Neither can check-swings and foul tips. Nor can obstruction and interference rulings — those are up to the umpires' judgment, like the one at third base in Game 3 of the World Series last October that sent St. Louis over Boston.

All reviews will be done by current MLB umpires at a replay center in MLB.com's New York office. To create a large enough staff, MLB agreed to hire six new big league umpires and call up two minor league ump's for the entire season. A seventh major league umpire will be added to replace the late Wally Ball.

The umpires on the field will be able to talk to the command center. The replay umpire will make the final decision — that could include where to place runners if a call is reversed from out to safe on a trapped ball in the outfield.

In addition, managers and others in the dugout will be allowed to communicate by phone with someone in the clubhouse who can watch the videos and advise whether to challenge a call.

Briefly

US' Ligety wins first World Cup super-combined

The Associated Press

WENGEN, Switzerland — Ted Ligety won his first World Cup super-combined event Friday, outdoing Alexis Pinturault in the downhill portion of the race.

Bode Miller, the super-combined Olympic champion, was ninth.

Ligety's 20th career World Cup win was his first outside his specialist giant slalom discipline. But the American won the world title in super-combined last year and earned the gold medal in the event at the 2006 Turin Olympics.

Nebraska hires Air Force aide as secondary coach

LINCOLN, Neb. — Air Force defensive coordinator Charlon Warren has been hired to coach Nebraska's secondary.

The 37-year-old Warren is the Cornhuskers' fourth secondary coach in five years. He was on Air Force's staff for nine years, the past two as associate head coach and defensive coordinator.

Warren played defensive back at Air Force, graduating in 1999. Nebraska did not release salary information.

Browns' Bess charged with assault in Florida

MIAMI — Cleveland Browns' wide receiver Davone Bess has been arrested in Florida on charges of assaulting a law enforcement officer at an airport.

Broward Sheriff's Office records show Bess was arrested early Friday morning after acting erratically and confronting an officer at Port Lauderdale/Hollywood

International Airport.

The Browns signed Bess last year to a three-year, \$11.5 million contract after acquiring him from the Miami Dolphins. This season Bess had career lows with 42 catches for 362 yards.

Johnson, Jaso agree to 1-year deals with A's

OAKLAND, Calif. — Closer Jim Johnson agreed to a \$10 million, one-year contract with the Oakland Athletics on Thursday.

Catcher John Jaso also reached agreement on a \$2.3 million, one-year deal.

The A's acquired Johnson, the 2013 AL saves leader, last month in a trade with Baltimore. He converted 50 of 59 save opportunities in 2013, going 3-8 with a 2.94 ERA.

In other MLB news:

■ The Minnesota Twins and third baseman Trevor Plouffe have agreed to a \$2.35 million, one-year contract that avoided salary arbitration.

■ The Blue Jays agreed to a trio of one-year contracts with players in salary arbitration, giving outfielder Colby Rasmus \$7 million, right-hander Esmil Rogers \$1.85 million and left-hander Brett Cecil \$1.3 million.

■ Right-handed starter Jordan Zimmermann, former closer Drew Storen and lefty Ross Detwiler have agreed to contracts with the Washington Nationals, avoiding arbitration.

■ The Brewers have agreed to a minor league contract with infielder Mark Reynolds, who hit .220 last season with 21 homers and 67 RBIs for Cleveland and the New York Yankees.

SA www.STEROIDALTERNATIVES.com

WADA-FIHC COMPLIANT

WORLD ANTI-DOPING ASSOCIATION COMPLIANT

BUILD MASS & MUSCLE

BURN FAT & GET CUT!

THE ULTIMATE IN MASS & MUSCLE

ENHANCEMENT ALTERNATIVES

SPECIAL OFFER FOR MILITARY SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

FREE BOTTLE

OF YOUR CHOICE (for a LIMITED TIME!)

ENTER COUPON CODE **STARSFREE**

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Eliason leads Gophers to upset

Third consecutive loss for Buckeyes

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — New coach Richard Pitino has brought a fast-paced, perimeter-based style to Minnesota.

The Golden Gophers haven't ignored their inside game, though. Ohio State got quite the glimpse. Elliott Eliason had 12 points and 13 rebounds to help Minnesota muscle up and beat the 11th-ranked Buckeyes 63-53 Thursday night, a rare third loss in a row for Ohio State.

"I never get bored of double-doubles," Eliason said. DeAndre Mathieu had 13 points, five assists and three steals for the Gophers (14-4, 3-2 Big Ten), who gave Pitino his first signature win at Minnesota. They did it by backing down the Buckeyes and owning the area around the basket, posting a 38-20 advantage in points in the paint and a 39-24 rebounding edge.

That started with Eliason. "Whenever we needed a bucket, he came through clutch with some big finishes, big rebounds," Mathieu said. "He's turned into a monster. He's really good. I think he's the best big in the Big Ten."



Jim Mone/AP

Ohio State's Aaron Craft, right, tries to slow Minnesota's Deandre Mathieu on Thursday in Minneapolis.

LaQuinton Ross scored 22 points for the Buckeyes (15-3, 2-3), on a three-game losing streak for the first time in almost five years. The other four Ohio State starters

combined for only 19 points, and the conference's second-worst free-throw shooting team went 11-for-18 from the line. The Buckeyes lost last week at

Michigan State and then at home to Iowa, hardly blemishes on their résumé, but they're going to have to snap out of this slide soon to keep up in the top-heavy Big Ten.



Rob Schumacher, The Arizona Republic/AP

Arizona's Aaron Gordon celebrates after scoring and being fouled during Thursday's 91-68 win over Arizona State.

Wildcats rout rival Sun Devils

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Arizona raced out to a big lead and did not back off, hitting the accelerator instead.

No way were the Wildcats going to let their biggest rival get even a sniff of a comeback.

Top-ranked Arizona raced out to a big early lead and extended it with a strong start to the second half, rolling past rival Arizona State in a 91-68 rout.

"We tried to start out the game really well and made some shots and some stops on defense, then did the same thing in the second half," said Arizona guard Nick Johnson, who led the Wildcats with 17 points. "We didn't want to give them any false hope of trying to come back or anything."

There wasn't much chance the way the Wildcats were playing.

Arizona (18-0, 5-0 Pac-12) dominated the Sun Devils almost from the opening tip, turning missed shots and turnovers into points at the other end while building a 21-point lead in the first half.

The Wildcats didn't let up, either, stretching the lead to extend the best start in school history.

Arizona put seven players in double figures, shot 56 percent and had 21 assists on 34 field goals to beat the Sun Devils for the sixth time in seven games.

Aaron Gordon had 16 points, and Kaleb Tarczewski added 12 points and eight rebounds for the Wildcats. T.J. McConnell finished with 10 points, six assists and three rebounds.

Arizona State (13-5, 2-3) played without second-leading scorer Jermaine Marshall and had trouble with Arizona's size all night, shooting 34 percent.

Jahii Carson had 20 points and five assists, but struggled early and had at least four shots blocked.

Roundup

UConn finishes strong against Memphis

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Connecticut used a late push to end its early road woes in the American Athletic Conference — and earned a win over a ranked team, too.

DeAndre Daniels had 23 points and a career-high 11 rebounds, Shabazz Napier added 17 points and Connecticut finished strong to beat No. 17 Memphis 83-73 Thursday night.

"This was the first one we needed to get," UConn coach Kevin Ollie said. "We got our first road kill in the American Conference."

The Huskies (14-3, 2-2 American Athletic Conference), who previously lost conference games at Houston and SMU, outscored Memphis 8-2 in the final minute to secure their third straight win.

"That was definitely a big one," Napier said. "We hit that little slump where we were not really second-guessing who we were, but trying to figure out how good we really are. Everybody came to play (against Memphis). ... That second half we proved to ourselves that we are a good team."

No. 18 Louisville 91, Houston 52: Wayne Blackshear scored a career-high 23 points in his first game this season as a reserve, and the host Cardinals used a strong offensive start to blow out the Cougars.

Recent foul troubles led Cardinals coach Rick Pitino to bring Blackshear off the bench to maximize his effectiveness, and the junior forward responded by shooting 5-for-6 from three-point range and 8-for-10 overall. Louisville hit 15 of 28 from beyond the arc, its most since making 17 against Morgan State on Dec. 27, 2010.



Lance MURPHE/AP

Connecticut forward Phillip Nolan shoots against Memphis forward Austin Nichols, left, and guard Chris Crawford on Thursday in Memphis, Tenn. The Huskies won 83-73.

The Cardinals (15-3, 4-1 American Athletic Conference) put this one away in the first half by hitting 11 of 15 from three-point range (73 percent) and shooting 70 percent (21-for-30) overall. They cooled off later but still finished 34-for-66 (52 percent).

Russ Smith added 18 points to help hand Houston (10-7, 2-2) its second straight loss. Blackshear grabbed seven rebounds.

It was the Cougars' most lopsided defeat since a 110-63 loss at No. 12 Washington on Dec. 24, 2004, according to STATS. TaShawn Thomas had 16 points and 11 rebounds for Houston, which shot 31 percent.

No. 25 UCLA 69, No. 21 Colorado 56: Norman Powell matched his season high with 19 points and the Bruins pulled away in the second half, handing the short-handed Buffaloes their first home loss of the season.

Jordan Adams had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and David Wear added 13 points for UCLA (14-3, 3-1 Pac-12), which has won consecutive games since a narrow loss to top-ranked Arizona a week ago.

Aska Booker scored 21 points and Josh Scott 19 for Colorado (14-4, 3-2). The Buffaloes were playing for the first time since guard Spencer Dinwiddie, who was leading the team in scoring, assists and steals, sustained a season-ending knee injury during Sunday's loss at Washington.

It was the first loss in 12 home games for the Buffaloes, who fell to 0-3 against UCLA since joining the Pac-12 three years ago.

Colorado dropped to 1-7 overall against the Bruins, with its lone victory coming 52 years ago.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Team	W	L	GB
Toronto	19	514	—
Brooklyn	16	421	3/6
New York	14	245	5
Boston	14	350	6/4
Philadelphia	13	242	6/16

Southeast Division

Team	W	L	GB
Miami	21	711	—
Atlanta	20	513	7/16
Washington	19	486	8/16
Charlotte	16	400	12
Orlando	10	256	17/16

Central Division

Team	W	L	GB	
Indiana	31	7	816	—
Cicago	18	486	12/16	
Detroit	16	421	15	
Cleveland	14	253	17/16	
Milwaukee	7	31	184	24

Western Conference

Southwest Division

Team	W	L	GB	
San Antonio	31	8	795	—
Houston	26	15	634	6
Dallas	23	17	575	8/16
Memphis	19	500	11/16	
New Orleans	15	23	395	15/16

Northwest Division

Team	W	L	GB	
Portland	29	9	763	—
Oklahoma City	29	10	744	1/16
Denver	20	18	556	9
Minnesota	18	20	474	11
Utah	12	27	325	17

Pacific Division

Team	W	L	GB	
L.A. Clippers	27	13	675	—
Golden State	25	15	625	2
Phoenix	22	16	579	4
Sacramento	14	23	378	11/16
L.A. Lakers	14	25	359	12/16

Wednesday's games

Chicago 128, Orlando 125/307
 Philadelphia 95, Charlotte 92
 Washington 114, Miami 99
 Boston 88, Toronto 83
 Sacramento 111, Minnesota 108
 Memphis 82, Milwaukee 77
 Houston 103, New Orleans 100
 San Antonio 109, Utah 105
 Phoenix 121, L.A. Lakers 114
 Portland 108, Cleveland 96
 Denver 123, Golden State 116
 L.A. Clippers 129, Dallas 127

Thursday's games

Brooklyn 127, Atlanta 110
 Indiana 117, New York 89
 Oklahoma City 104, Houston 92

Friday's games

Charlotte at Orlando
 Miami at Philadelphia
 Chicago at Washington
 L.A. Clippers at New York
 Minnesota at Toronto
 L.A. Lakers at Boston
 Utah at Detroit
 Sacramento at Memphis
 Portland at San Antonio
 Dallas at Phoenix
 Cleveland at Denver
 Golden State at Oklahoma City

Saturday's games

L.A. Clippers at Indiana
 Detroit at Washington
 Philadelphia at Charlotte
 Philadelphia at Chicago
 Utah at Minnesota
 Milwaukee at Houston
 Golden State at New Orleans
 Portland at Dallas



Atlanta's Dennis Schroder defends Brooklyn's Paul Pierce during Thursday's game at the O2 Arena in London.

Thursday
Thunder 104, Rockets 92

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 8-21 18-20 36, Ibaka 10-13 0-0 21, Perkins 2-4 0-0 4, Jackson 11-19 0-2 23, Sefolosha 2-6 1-1 5, Adams 1-2 3-4 5, Fisher 1-5 0-0 3, Collison 1-2 0-0 2, Lamb 2-0 0-0 5, Jones 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 38-82 22-25 104.

HOUSTON — Parsons 4-13 3-6 14, T.Jones 6-12 4-6 16, Howard 5-13 1-2 11, Lin 2-8 2-2 6, Harden 6-16 2-3 16, Motiejunas 0-0 15, Brooks 3-8 2-2 11, Garcia 1-3 0-0 3, Casspi 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-82 14-21 92.

Oklahoma City 36 23 24 21—104
Houston 32 41 10 36—92

Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 6-25 (Durant 2-7, Ibaka 1-1, Fisher 1-2, Lamb 1-4, Jackson 2-8, Garcia 1-3, T.Jones 0-1, Lin 0-2); Fouled Out—Adams, Rebounds—Oklahoma City 53 (Ibaka 15), Houston 50 (T.Jones 13), Assists—Oklahoma City 19 (Durant 7), Houston 20 (Harden 8), Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 26, Houston 20. Technicals—Perkins, Howard, Houston Coach McHale. A.—18,231 (18,023).

Pacers 117, Knicks 89

NEW YORK — Anthony 8-17 9-28, Bargnani 2-9 0-0 6, Chandler 3-6 2-4 8, Felton 5-10 1-1 12, Shumpert 1-0 0-0 2, Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Stoudemire 3-6 2-4 8, Martin 0-1 0-0 0, Udrih 0-3 0-0 0, Hardaway Jr. 2-10 0-0 4, Tyler 2-3 0-0 4, Aldrich 0-0 0-0 0, Murray 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 34-88 17-28 89.

INDIANA — George 8-17 5-5 25, West 6-11 0-0 12, Hibbert 4-9 3-4 11, G.Hill 1-2 1-3, Stephenson 10-17 5-5 28, Watson 2-5 0-0 6, Granger 4-7 2-2 11, Scoville 0-8 2-2 9, 10, Murrill 1-4 4-4, Copeland 1-1 2-4, Butler 0-3 0-0 0, Sloan 1-1 0-0 2, Johnson 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 43-86 21-33 117.

New York 31 17 21 20—89
Indiana 30 33 34 30—117

Three-Point Goals—New York 4-9 (Anthony 3-3, Felton 1-3, Udrih 0-1, Bargnani 0-1, Shumpert 0-3, Smith 0-3, Hardaway Jr. 0-5), Indiana 10-23 (George 4-8, Stephenson 3-7, Copeland 1-1, Granger 1-2, Watson 1-2, G.Hill 0-1, Butler 0-1, Scoville 0-1); Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New York 53 (Chandler 9), Indiana 48 (George, Scoville). Assists—New York 16 (Felton 5), Indiana 26 (G.Hill 5). Total Fouls—New York 22, Indiana 19. Technicals—Hibbert. A.—16,165 (18,165).

Nets 127, Hawks 110

BROOKLYN — Johnson 11-15 1-1 29, Pierce 8-16 0-0 18, Garnett 6-8 0-0 12, Livingston 3-6 0-0 6, Anderson 5-9 1-1 15, Blatche 10-18 0-1 20, Kirilenko 4-11 2-2 4, Terry 2-7 0-0 5, Teletovic 3-4 0-0 9, Shengola 1-1 0-0 2, Taylor 2-5 0-0 4, Plumlee 1-1 1-2 3. Totals 55-91 8-7 127.

ATLANTA — Korver 1-9 0-0 3, Millsap 5-14 0-13, Antic 4-5 2-2 11, Teague 4-13 0-8 16, L.Williams 3-7 2-2 9, Brand 3-3 1-1 7, Mack 0-9 2-2 17, Scott 0-9 4-17, Schroder 4-7 0-0 8, Ayon 2-2 0-0 4, Nunnally 2-3 0-0 5, Totals 40-81 22-22 110.

Brooklyn 31 34 34 28—127
Atlanta 27 26 21 34—110

Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 6-16 (Johnson 6-8, Anderson 4-6, Teletovic 3-3, Pierce 2-4, Terry 1-5, Blatche 0-1), Atlanta 8-25 (Mack 3-3, Nunnally 1-2, Williams 1-2, Antic 1-2, Scott 1-3, Korver 1-8, Millsap 0-2, Teague 0-3); Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Brooklyn 48 (Blatche 14), Atlanta 33 (Antic 5), Assists—Brooklyn 36 (Terry 7), Atlanta 26 (Mack 4). Total Fouls—Brooklyn 21, Atlanta 12. A.—18,689 (14,467).



The Rockets' Dwight Howard (12) battles for a rebound with Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka (9) and Thabo Sefolosha during the third quarter on Thursday in Houston. The Thunder won 104-92.

Roundup

Thunder rally past Rockets

Houston cools off from downtown after first half

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks showed his team each of the 12 three-pointers Houston made in its 73-point first half Thursday night.

The halftime video session worked. The Rockets didn't make another three, and were held to a franchise-low in points in the second half of the Thunder's 104-92 win.

Kevin Durant scored 36 points and Reggie Jackson added 23 to lift Oklahoma City to the victory.

James Harden and Terrence Jones scored 16 points apiece for Houston, which had just 19 second-half points after its season-best performance in the first half — setting an NBA record for the largest scoring differential between two halves. Houston's 19-point second half is tied for the second-fewest points in a second half in NBA history.

"I've never seen anything like that," Brooks said. "That's inspiring."

Houston coach Kevin McHale was troubled by his team's inability to build on its great first half.

"We had a terrible time shooting the ball, laying it in, making simple plays," McHale said. "We couldn't sustain anything offensively in the second half. Give them credit. They got out and got after us."

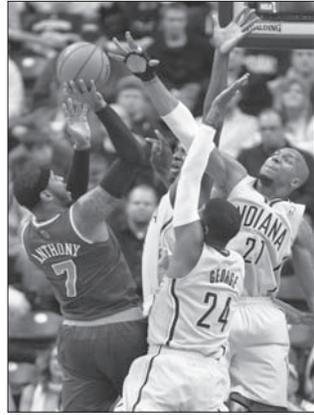
Serge Ibaka added 21 points and 15 rebounds for the Thunder. Howard had 11 points and eight rebounds for the Rockets.

Nets 127, Hawks 110: At London, Joe Johnson scored 26 of his 29 points in the first half and Andray Blatche added 20 points and 14 rebounds to lead Brooklyn past Atlanta in the fourth regular-season game played in the British capital.

Johnson had 15 points in the first quarter, including 11 straight for the Nets (16-22) late in the period.

The Nets were playing a regular-season game at the O2 Arena in London for the third time. They played two against the Toronto Raptors in 2011, winning both.

Pacers 117, Knicks 89: Lance Stephenson scored a career-high 28 points, Paul George added



Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony, left, tries to shoot over Indiana's Paul George (24), David West (21) and Roy Hibbert during the second half of Thursday's game in Indianapolis. The Pacers defeated the Knicks 117-89.

25, and Indiana won its ninth straight at home.

The Pacers have won three in a row overall and still have the NBA's best record and the league's top home record (20-1). Indiana leads idle Miami by four games in the chase for the Eastern Conference's top seed.

Carmelo Anthony had 18 of his 28 points in the first quarter to lead New York. J.R. Smith, who was benched in two of the previous four games, played 28 minutes and scored 12 points. The Knicks have lost two straight after winning five in a row.

NHL

Roundup

Lundqvist, Rangers shut out Red Wings

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The only shot by New York Rangers put past Detroit's Jimmy Howard was actually meant to be a pass.

Hats Zuccarello had no complaints when the puck found its way into the net.

Zuccarello broke up a scoreless duel between two Olympic goalies with 5:58 remaining, lifting the Rangers to a 1-0 victory over the Red Wings on Thursday night.

It was a pass to (Benoit) Poulin," Zuccarello said. "It was a lucky bounce, I guess. I will take that."

Zuccarello floated a puck over Howard when he drove to the net, putting New York's 45th shut of the night into the net.

Howard recognized Zuccarello's intention, he just couldn't stop it.

"Bittersweet," Howard said of his 47-save performance. "Zuccarello wasn't looking to shoot that. He was looking to pass it across. It was unfortunate."

It was just enough offense for Henrik Lundqvist to earn his third shutout of the season and 48th in his NHL career. Lundqvist, who made his sixth straight start, stopped 38 shots.

Gustav Nyquist slipped a shot behind him with 44.5 seconds remaining, but Lundqvist reached back and covered the puck just in time.

"You kind of wait for a reaction when you hear it hits the post, but then you don't get a reaction, so you know it's behind you somewhere," Lundqvist said. "You don't want to make too big of a move, so I just turned around, and it was right there. It's fun when you get some luck back. Maybe I earned it after a few tough bounces."

The Red Wings were beaten 1-0 for the second straight game.

Predators 4, Flyers 3 (SO): Roman Josi scored the shutout winning lift visiting Nashville over Philadelphia.

Josie beat Flyers goalie Steve Mason for the last of a combined five shutout goals to give the Predators the needed road win as they chase a playoff spot.

Canadians 5, Senators 4 (OT): Chris Price made 40 saves and P.K. Subban scored the overtime winner and visiting Montreal defeated Ottawa.

Subban scored 23 seconds into the extra period as he shot trickled through Craig Anderson's legs.

Islanders 2, Lightning 1 (SO): Frans Nielsen scored the only shutout goal and assisted on a second-period score by Thomas Vanek in a victory for visiting New York against Tampa Bay.

Nielsen snapped a wrist shot between the pads of Ben Bishop moments after Valtteri Filppula rapped a shot off the post to the right of Islanders goalie Kevin

Poulin at the other end.

Sharks 3, Panthers 0: Joe Pavelski, Matt Nieto and Joe Thornton scored and Alex Stalock made 24 saves for his first career shutout and visiting San Jose topped Florida.

Tim Thomas made 36 saves for the Panthers.

The Sharks, who defeated Washington 2-0 on Tuesday, won consecutive road games for the first time since taking three straight Nov. 12-15.

Kings 4, Blues 1: Trevor Lewis gave his team some unexpected offense with two goals early in the third period of visiting Los Angeles' victory over St. Louis.

Lewis scored the tiebreaker on a deflection off a Blues player's skate, then got his second goal of the season on a short-handed wraparound, capitalizing on goalie Jaroslav Halak's stick-handling goof.

Wild 4, Oilers 1: Jason Pominville had a goal and an assist, Nate Prosser scored for the first time in 68 games, and host Minnesota beat Edmonton.

Justin Fontaine and Jason Zucker also scored to help the Wild win for the sixth time in eight games and escape back after getting shutout on Tuesday.

Canucks 2, Devils 1 (SO): Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and scored in the shutout, Semyon Varlamov made 33 saves and host Colorado beat New Jersey.

Matt Duchene also scored in a shutout for the Avalanche, who have won three straight.

Coyotes 1, Canucks 1 (SO): Mike Smith stopped 29 shots for his first shutout of the season, Antoine Vermette had a power-play goal in the first period, and host Phoenix beat Vancouver.

In a game full of penalties and killed power plays, the Coyotes got stellar goaltending and just enough offense while the Canucks continued to struggle on the offense.

Bruins 4, Stars 2: Milan Lucic scored his first goal in 10 games and assisted on another goal to lead visiting Boston over Dallas.

All of the scoring came in the first 20 minutes.

Lucic scored on a power play at 15:46 of the third period, when he tipped a shot over Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen for a 3-1 lead.

Jets 5, Flames 2: Olli Jokinen had a goal and an assist against his former team to lead Winnipeg, handing Calgary its record-setting seventh consecutive loss on home ice.

Bryan Little and Mark Schiefelbe also had one goal and one assist and the Jets scored twice in the first period, opened up a 4-0 lead after 40 minutes and cruised to their second consecutive win with new head coach Paul Maurice.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division					
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Boston	47	20	15	2	54
Tampa Bay	48	28	15	5	61
Montreal	48	27	16	5	59
Toronto	49	24	20	5	53
Ottawa	47	21	18	7	50
Detroit	47	20	17	10	50
Florida	47	18	22	7	43
Buffalo	46	17	25	4	32

Metropolitan Division					
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Pittsburgh	48	24	12	12	56
Philadelphia	48	24	19	5	53
N.Y. Rangers	48	24	19	5	52
Washington	47	22	17	8	50
New Jersey	49	22	18	11	51
Columbus	48	22	20	4	48
Carolina	46	19	18	9	47
N.Y. Islanders	49	19	23	7	45

Western Conference

Central Division					
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Chicago	49	30	8	11	71
St. Louis	46	32	9	5	69
Colorado	47	30	12	5	65
Minnesota	46	26	16	4	57
Nashville	49	21	21	7	49
Winnipeg	49	21	23	5	47

Pacific Division					
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Anaheim	48	21	23	4	47
San Jose	48	30	12	6	66
Los Angeles	48	29	14	5	63
Vancouver	49	24	19	6	57
Phoenix	47	22	16	9	53
Calgary	48	18	26	4	46
Edmonton	50	15	30	5	35

Thursday's games
 Nashville, Philadelphia 5-0
 N.Y. Islanders 2, Tampa Bay 1, 50
 Colorado 2, New Jersey 1, 50
 N.Y. Rangers 1, Detroit 0
 Montreal 2, Ottawa 4, OT
 San Jose 3, Florida 0
 Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 1
 Minnesota 4, Edmonton 1
 Boston 4, Dallas 2
 Winnipeg 5, Calgary 2
 Phoenix 1, Vancouver 0

Friday's games
 Washington at Columbus
 Anaheim at Chicago

Saturday's games
 N.Y. Rangers at Ottawa
 Los Angeles at Tampa Bay
 Edmonton at Winnipeg
 Montreal at Ottawa
 Montreal at Toronto
 Los Angeles at Detroit
 Los Angeles at Philadelphia
 Florida at Carolina
 Los Angeles at St. Louis
 Colorado at Nashville
 New Jersey at Phoenix
 Dallas at Minnesota
 Calgary at Vancouver

Sunday's games
 Boston at Chicago
 Los Angeles at Carolina
 Washington at N.Y. Rangers

Thursday

Rangers 1, Red Wings 0
Detroit 0 0 0-0
N.Y. Rangers 1 0 0-1
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Zuccarello (2 (Brassard, Pouliot), 14:02).
Shots on Goal—Detroit 15-10-13-38.
N.Y. Rangers 18-17-13-48.
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 2; Rangers 1 of 2.
Goals—Detroit, Howard 8:11-8 (48 shots-47 saves). Tampa Bay, Lundqvist 16-17-3 (38-38).
A—18,066 (18,006). T—2:29.

Canadians 5, Senators 4 (OT)

Montreal 2 0 1-5
Tampa Bay 3 0 2-2
First Period—1, Montreal, Plekhanov (1 (Gibson), 11:02).
Second Period—2, Senators, Piacoretto (2 (Desharnais, Markov), 14:05 (pp); 3, Montreal, Desharnais (Gallagher, 15:36 (pp); 4, Tampa Bay, Lucic (7 (Karlsson, Johnson), 17:13, 5, Ottawa, Jokinen (13 (Ladd, Little), 17:21 (pp)).
Third Period—0, Ottawa, Ryan 19 (Coulton), 18:00; 1, Tampa Bay, Turris 14 (MacArthur, E.Karsson), 18:40.
OT—3, Montreal, Plekhanov (1 (Gibson), 18:00).
Overtime—5, Montreal, Subban 8, -23.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 17-10-5-1-23.
Ottawa 19-19-6-0-44.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 1; Ottawa 0 of 1.
Goals—Montreal, Price 22-14-24 (44 shots-29 saves). Tampa Bay, Anderson 16-6 (23-18).
A—15,217 (15,153). T—2:32.

Islanders 2, Lightning 1 (SO)

N.Y. Islanders 2 0 0-2
Lightning 1 0 0-1
N.Y. Islanders won shutout 1-0 (Lucic), 19:56.
First Period—2, Dallas, Cole 13 (Seguin, Goffredo), 1:18 (pp); 3, Boston, Marchand 12 (Berenson), 3:18, 4, Boston, Lucic 13 (Krejci, Krug), 15:46 (pp).
Second Period—0, Tampa Bay, Islanders, Vanek 17 (Nielsen, Tavares), 18:22 (pp).
Shutout—N.Y. Islanders 1 (Nielsen 6 (Gibson), 18:22).
Shots on Goal—Islanders 10-13-3-4-30. Tampa Bay 12-8-8-2-30.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 1 of 1; Tampa Bay 0 of 3.
Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Poulin 10-13 (30 shots-29 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 23-5-4 (38-29).
A—18,533 (18,204). T—2:42.



The New York Rangers Benoit Pouliot, left, checks Detroit's Brendan Smith into the glass during Thursday's game in New York.

Sharks 3, Panthers 0

San Jose 3 0 0-0
Colorado 0 0 0-0
Second Period—1, San Jose, Thornton 6 (Burns, Pavelski), 19:09.
Third Period—2, San Jose, Nieto 3 (Kennedy, Marleau), 4:44, 3, San Jose, Pavelski 22 (Burns, Stuart), 11:06.
Shots on Goal—San Jose 21-7-11-39.
Florida 8-15-2-2-25.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 4; Florida 0 of 3.
Goals—San Jose, Stalock 6-2-0 (24 shots-24 saves). Florida, Thomas 12-12-3 (39-30).
A—13,149 (17,040). T—2:18.

Kings 4, Blues 1

Los Angeles 1 0 3-4
St. Louis 0 0 1-1
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Muzzin 3 (Fraser, Nolan), 2:31.
Second Period—2, St. Louis, Oshie 11 (Pavlyuk, 5:55).
Third Period—3, Los Angeles, Lewis 1 (Vovnyk, Quick), 2:04, 4, Los Angeles, Lewis 2 (Doughty, Stoll), 4:21 (pp), 3, Los Angeles, Carter 17 (Kopitar, Vovnyk), 19:24 (nt).
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 10-17-41-31. St. Louis 9-5-16-28.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 5; St. Louis 0 of 4.
Goals—Los Angeles, Quick 14-6-11 (29 shots-28 saves). St. Louis, Halak 19-7-3 (39-27).
A—19,374 (19,150). T—2:29.

Jets 5, Flames 2

Winnipeg 2 2 1-5
Calgary 0 0 2-2
First Period—1, Winnipeg, Loe 12 (Frolik, Ladd, 5:01, 2, Winnipeg, Byfverin 11 (Jokinen, Thornton), 8:11.
Second Period—3, Winnipeg, Scheifele 8 (Wheeler, Thornton), 9:09, 4, Winnipeg, Jokinen 13 (Ladd, Little), 17:21 (pp).
Third Period—5, Calgary, Giordano 6 (Byron, Stempniak), 4:01, 6, Winnipeg, Trouba 5 (Wheeler, Scheifele), 2:57, 7, Calgary, Bouma 3 (Wideman), 11:59.
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 10-6-7-23.
Calgary 9-8-11-27.
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 1 of 3; Calgary 0 of 2.
Goals—Winnipeg, Pavelec 13-19-4 (23 shots-20 saves). Calgary, Berra 5-14-2 (23-18).
A—19,289 (19,289). T—2:24.

Bruins 4, Stars 2

Boston 4 0 1-3-4
Dallas 0 0 2-2-2
Second Period—1, Boston, Krejci 10 (Lucic), 19:56.
Third Period—2, Dallas, Cole 13 (Seguin, Goffredo), 1:18 (pp); 3, Boston, Marchand 12 (Berenson), 3:18, 4, Boston, Lucic 13 (Krejci, Krug), 15:46 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Boston 18-17-41-41. Dallas 11-12-11-34.
Power-play opportunities—Boston 1 of 4; Dallas 0 of 4.
Goals—Boston, C.Johnson 7-3-0 (34 shots-29 saves). Dallas, Lehtonen 17-10-7 (40-37).
A—16,890 (18,532). T—2:44.

Avalanche 2, Devils 1 (SO)

New Jersey 0 0 0 1-0-1
Colorado 1 1 0 0-2-3
Colorado won shutout 2-0.
First Period—1, Colorado, O'Reilly 18 (Bordreau, Malone), 8:50.
Second Period—2, New Jersey, Boucher 2 (Lukonin, Merrill), 8:50.
Shutout—New Jersey 0 (Elias NG, Henriquez, 1 (Gourdeau, Weber), 10:57, MacKinnon NG, O'Reilly 0).
Shots on Goal—New Jersey 9-2-18-5-34. Colorado 19-13-10-5-34.
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 2; Colorado 0 of 3.
Goals—New Jersey, Schneider 7-9-7 (28 shots-27 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 23-5-5 (34-33).
A—14,950 (18,007). T—2:38.

Wild 4, Oilers 1

Edmonton 0 0 1 0-1-1
Minnesota 1 1 0 1-4-4
First Period—1, Minnesota, Pominville 19 (Granlund, Scandler), 10:36.
Second Period—2, Edmonton, Eberle 15, 2:36, 3, Minnesota, Prosser 1 (Pominville), 16:05, 4, Minnesota, Fontaine 12 (Hodtjuk, Cooke), 18:57.
Third Period—5, Minnesota, Zucker 4 (Brazek, Coyte), -08.
Shots on Goal—Edmonton 9-7-5-21.
Minnesota 7-11-13-33.
Power-play opportunities—Edmonton 0 of 2; Minnesota 0 of 3.
Goals—Edmonton, Scrivens 7-6-4 (33 shots-29 saves). Minnesota, Kueper 3-2-0 (21-20).
A—18,037 (17,954). T—2:27.

Coyotes 1, Canucks 0

Vancouver 0 0 0 0-0-0
Phoenix 1 0 0-4-4
First Period—1, Phoenix, Vermette 13 (Yardie, Ekman-Larsson), 12:51 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 11-9-29. Phoenix 11-8-4-23.
Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 7; Phoenix 1 of 6.
Goals—Vancouver, Lach 8-6-13 (33 shots-29 saves). Phoenix, Smith 16-3-3 (29-29).
A—12,307 (17,125). T—2:35.

Predators 4, Flyers 3 (SO)

Nashville 1 1 0 0-4-4
Nashville won shutout 3-0.
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Schenn 15 (Simmons, Meszaros), 1:26, 2, Nashville, Giroux 9 (Schenn, Weber), 10:57, 3, Nashville, Legwand 8 (Fisher, Weber), 16:53 (pp).
Second Period—4, Philadelphia, Meszaros 3 (Simmons, Streit), 19:56.
Third Period—1, Nashville, Weber 12 (Legwand, Josi), 5:10 (pp); 6, Philadelphia, Schenn 18 (Legwand, Josi), 18:36 (pp).
Shutout—Nashville 3 (Smith NG, Cullen NG, Jones NG, Bourque NG, Legwand G, Ellis G, Josi G). Philadelphia 2 (Lecavalier NG, Giroux NG, Raffl NG, Reed NG, Schenn G, Couturier G, Simmons NG).
Shots on Goal—Nashville 11-9-29-30. Philadelphia 12-8-7-3-30.
Power-play opportunities—Nashville 2 of 3; Philadelphia 0 of 2.
Goals—Nashville, Hutton 9-7-2 (30 shots-29 saves). Philadelphia, Mason 13-11-5 (37-34).
A—15,917 (15,541). T—2:44.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic, Serena into 4th round

Seeded players avoid upsets in intense heat

By JOHN PYE

The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — The heat wave didn't claim any major casualties at the Australian Open. Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams extended their winning streaks to move into the fourth round, and all except one of the leading contenders made it through to the weekend.

Five-time champion Williams saw off the worst of the searing, once-in-a-century conditions that scorched Melbourne for four straight days, beating Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 6-3 on Friday.

Melbourne Park didn't quite reach the forecast peak of 111 degrees — it did get to 109 — but had some players complaining about "inhumane" conditions.

Williams has never been one to be seriously affected by the heat, but even she had to admit she was looking forward to the cooler conditions expected Saturday. She also admitted to a little bit of relief after an injury to her sister, Venus, meant they had to withdraw from the doubles.

Djokovic used to struggle in the heat, but has grown accustomed to it with three consecutive Australian titles. He's aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win four in a row, and thinks he's getting there.

He benefited from the cool change that swept in late Friday before his 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 win over Denis Istomin. He wrapped it up at 12:10 a.m., and thanked the crowd — including new coach Boris Becker — for staying past midnight.

The only time he was broken was serving for the match — he was clearly irritated but quickly recovered and finished it off two games later.

"As the tournament progresses, I play better and better," Djokovic said.

He has won 24 consecutive matches at Melbourne Park. It's not in the league of Roger Federer's reign at Wimbledon, but he is in contention to be the first man in the Open era to win four consecutive Australian titles.

"Well, if I can compare myself to Roger's success in Wimbledon, that's definitely a compliment," he said. "There's still a lot more years to come from me, a lot more to prove."

"This is definitely one of my...best Grand Slams by far. Results are showing that."

Djokovic's overall winning streak stands at 27 matches — he hasn't lost since the U.S. Open final last September, when he was beaten by a resurgent Rafael Nadal. He subsequently lost his No. 1 ranking to Nadal despite winning four straight tourna-



Serena Williams hits a backhand return to Slovakia's Daniela Hantuchova during their third-round match Friday at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia. Williams won in straight sets, 6-3, 6-3.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates after his victory over Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin during the third round Friday.

ments at the end of 2013. The other active major winners are either on the opposite side — Nadal, Andy Murray and Roger Federer play their third-round matches Saturday — or out of the competition. No. 5 Juan

defeated Bosnian qualifier Damir Dzumhur 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Two-time defending women's champion Victoria Azarenka has a Saturday night match, with No. 3-seeded Maria Sharapova opening play on day six against Alize Cornet. Both advanced before the Extreme Heat Policy was imposed on Thursday, with Cornet sobbing as she described the conditions as being like "an oven," and Sharapova surviving 3½ hours on court.

Lucky for them, the weather forecast this week is much cooler, with showers.

Williams will set another record when she plays former No. 1-ranked Ana Ivanovic on Sunday — her 70th main draw match at Melbourne Park will be the most by any woman in the Open era.

Ivanovic had a 6-7 (8), 6-4, 6-2 win over 2011 U.S. Open champion and local favorite Sam Stosur, while two-time finalist Li Na beat No. 26-seeded Lucie Safarova 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

Williams' win over Hantuchova was her 61st at the Australian Open, surpassing Margaret Court's mark of 60.

Her focus, though, is clearly the four more wins it will take to deliver an 18th major title. She barely gave her latest record a thought in her post-match news conference Friday.

Asked if she recalled a particular highlight at Melbourne Park, Williams smiled, momentarily paused, and said, "For sure all the finals I was able to win."

Scoreboard

- Friday**
At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
Purse: \$29.7 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
- Men**
Third Round
 Stanislas Wawrinka (8), Switzerland, def. Vasek Pospisil (28), Canada, walkover.
 Florian Mayer, Germany, def. Jerzy Janowicz (20), Poland, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4.
 David Ferrer (3), Spain, def. Jeremy Chardy (29), France, 6-2, 7-5 (8), 6-2.
 Tomas Berdych (7), Czech Republic, def. Damir Dzumhur (2), Bosnia-Herzegovina, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.
 Kevin Anderson (19), South Africa, def. Eduardo Roger-Vasselin, France, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5), 7-5.
 Fabio Fognini (15), Italy, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.
 Tommy Robredo (17), Spain, def. Richard Gasquet (9), France, 7-6, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (6).
 Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5.
- Women**
Third Round
 Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Daniela Hantuchova (51), Slovakia, 6-3, 6-3.
 Angelique Kerber (9), Germany, def. Allison Riske, United States, 6-3, 6-4.
 Flavia Pennetta (28), Italy, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-1, 7-5.
 Eugenie Bouchard (20), Canada, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 6-2, 6-2.
 Ekaterina Makarova (22), Russia, def. Monica Niculescu, Romania, 6-4, 6-4.
 Li Na (4), China, def. Lucie Safarova (26), Czech Republic, 1-6, 7-6 (2), 6-3.
 Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Zheng Jie, China, 6-2, 6-4.
 Ana Ivanovic (14), Serbia, def. Sam Stosur (17), Australia, 6-7 (8), 6-4, 6-2.
- Doubles**
Men
First Round
 Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, and Dmitry Tursunov, Russia, def. Andrej Gornemann and Martin Emmrich, Germany, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
 Philipp Kohlschreiber, Austria, and Alexander Dolgoplos, Ukraine, def. Jonathan Erlich and Andy Ram, Israel, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3.
 Leander Paes, India, and Radik Stepanek (5), Czech Republic, def. Lukas Dlouhy and Lukasz Rosol, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-1.
 Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Marcelo Melo (4), Brazil, def. Chris Guccione and Thomas Kokkinakis, Australia, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
 David Marrero and Fernando Verdasco (3), Spain, def. James Duckworth and Matthew Eldon, Australia, 7-6, 6-3, 6-2.
 Andreas Seppi and Potito Starace, Italy, def. Tobias Kamke and Florian Mayer, Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
 Pablo Carrero Busta and Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, and Gael Monfils, France, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4.
 Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, def. Paul Hanley, Australia, and Jonathan Marchant, Australia, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.
- Second Round**
 Yuki Bhambhani, India, and Michael Venus, New Zealand, def. Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and Horac Tejuca (10), Romania, 6-4, 6-4.
 Michael Llodra and Nicolas Pietrangeli (13), France, def. Philipp Oswald, Austria, and Simon Stadler, Germany, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (2), 6-4.
 Boris and Michael Youzhny, Russia, def. Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez (6), Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3).
 Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Robert Lindstedt (4), Sweden, def. Benjamin Mitchell and Jordan Thompson, Australia, 6-1, 6-3.
- First Round**
 Times Babozzi, Australia, and Petra Martic, Croatia, def. Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, and Yanina Wickmayer, Belgium, 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.
 Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Flavia Pennetta (12), Italy, def. Aleksandrina Naydenova, Bulgaria, and Teliana Pereira, Brazil, 6-2, 6-4.
 Madison Keys and Alison Riske, United States, def. Han Xinyu, China, and Miho Yamamura, Japan, 6-2, 7-5.
 Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, and Barbara Zahavova Strycova (14), Czech Republic, def. Nakhla Bains and Olivia Tjandramulia, Australia, 6-3, 6-3.
 Mikhail Galdosova, Australia, and Ajla Tomljanovic, Croatia, def. Alla Rodionova, Russia, and Anastasia Rodionova (9), Australia, 1-6, 6-4, 7-5.
 Eugenie Bouchard, Canada, and Vera Duhovnik, Russia, def. Valeria Solovyeva and Elina Svitolina, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-1.
 Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, and Lisa Raymond (15), United States, def. Mandi Mitchell, Luxembourg, and Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-7 (8), 6-2, 6-1.
 Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (3), Russia, def. Katarina Srebotnik and Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, 6-3, 6-2.
- Second Round**
 Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik (4), Slovenia, def. Katarzyna Piter and Alicja Rosolska, Poland, 7-6 (2), 6-4.
 Raquel Kops-Jones and Abigail Spears (8), United States, def. Garbinne Muganyizi and Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
 Arantxa Errani and Roberta Vinci (1), Italy, def. Kaja Kanepi, Estonia, and Renata Vorcova, Czech Republic, 1-6, 6-1, 6-1.
 Liang Chen, China, and Lieke Holter Huber (13), United States, def. Varvara Lepchenko, United States, and Baluca Olaru, Romania, 4, 7-6 (4).
- Third Round**
 Eyal Yitzhak, Israel, and Silvia Soler-Espinoza, Spain, def. Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, and Peter Strydom (2), China, 6-4, 6-3.
 Lucie Hradecka, Czech Republic, and Michala Krackovicova, Slovakia, def. Olga Rodionova, United States, and Galina Voskoboeva (16), Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-1.
- Mixed**
First Round
 Ashley Bart and Anne Peers, Australia, def. Olivia Rogowska and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-3, 6-4.
 Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Marcel Granollers, Spain, def. Katarzyna Piter and Alicja Rosolska, Poland, 7-5, 6-4.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Trouble: Crabtree's return adds to swagger

FROM BACK PAGE

-case scenario," Roman said Thursday. "Until I saw him pushing a sled about a month and a half ago out here, I realized it was reality."

Crabtree quickly returned to form as someone Harbaugh considers the best pass catcher he has seen.

To see Crabtree back at full strength means so much for San Francisco's swagger as the team carries an eight-game winning streak into CenturyLink Field.

"You could just see at every juncture he was hitting right down the middle of the strike zone in terms of his healing. And you just watched the mental toughness, the physical toughness over that six-month period," Harbaugh said. "And then when he got back on the field, then even he, 'Wow, this is really going to be good for us.' And just thankful to him. Thankful that he went through the grueling rehab, went through the toughness, and thankful that he was good."

This is the kind of dangerous receiving unit the 49ers envisioned when Boldin came to San Francisco last March in a trade from Super Bowl champion Baltimore that sent a sixth-round draft pick to the Ravens.

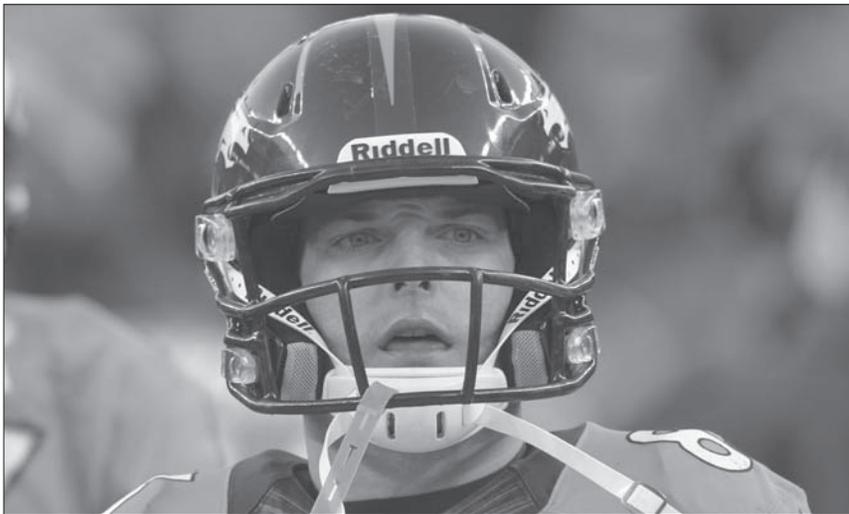
Boldin noticed a difference in how Seattle's defense played the Niners in Week 2 without Crabtree's help than when he played in Week 5 with Crabtree. "He's definitely a weapon that you have to account for."

Boldin realizes, with Crabtree playing a big part, how fortunate the 49ers are to be chasing a second championship in as many years after winning it all with the Ravens against the 49ers last February.

"I'm in a situation where I'm able to possibly compete for a championship again. As a player, that's something that you cherish, that's something that you play for," Boldin said. "So, I've been blessed to be in this position."

Crabtree had eight receptions for 125 yards in a 23-20 wild-card win at Green Bay. Making his season debut on Dec. 1 against St. Louis, he played the final five games of the regular season and had 19 receptions for 284 yards and a touchdown.

"Playing was on my mind, all I wanted to do is get back on the field and do what it takes," Crabtree said. "As soon as I got hurt I asked the doctor how long it was going to take, and he told me about six months. I didn't want to tell anybody the dates, I just kept working hard."



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker has had the opportunity to play with two of the best quarterbacks in NFL history in Denver's Peyton Manning and New England's Tom Brady, but don't expect him to answer when pressed on which of the future Hall of Fame passers is better.

Too close to call

Welker says he can't pick between quarterbacks Manning and Brady

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — He traded Picasso for Michelangelo. Or maybe it was the other way around.

While John Elway famously said he had no Plan B when he signed Peyton Manning in 2012, Wes Welker certainly had one when the New England Patriots low-balled him on a contract offer last winter.

Welker jumped at the chance to team up with Manning in Denver, where he signed a two-year deal for \$12 million, \$1 million more per year than the Patriots had offered.

After spending six seasons as Tom Brady's top target in New England, Welker was Manning's leading receiver before missing the final month of the season with a concussion.

He still finished with 73 receptions for 778 yards and a career-best 10 TDs and added another in Denver's 24-17 win over San Diego in the AFC divisional round.

After an unhappy homecoming at Foxborough in November, when his blunder on a punt in the wind led to a 34-31 loss to New England, Welker gets another chance to stick it to his old team Sunday when the Broncos and Patriots square off with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line.

Welker has been asked ever since his arrival in Denver to compare the two QBs with Hall

of Fame credentials, something he finds harder to do than to go across the middle with a menacing middle linebacker bearing down on him.

"It's like comparing Picasso and Michelangelo," he said. "It's hard to compare the two."

Welker isn't sure if he's a Michelangelo guy or a Picasso guy, either.

"I couldn't even tell you," Welker confessed, revealing he's less an art aficionado than he is a connoisseur of quarterbacks. "Somebody threw those names at me one time and I thought it sounded pretty good."

What sounded good to Manning was having Welker in the slot this season to team with Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker on the outside and emerging tight end Julius Thomas to ensure one of them would always be single-covered — or even wide open.

Along with rejuvenated running back Knowshon Moreno, all four caught 60 or more passes and reached the end zone at least 10 times apiece.

While Brady's done a masterful job of getting the Patriots to a third straight AFC title game despite having a new cast of ball-catchers, Patriots safety Steve Gregory said the Broncos' embarrassment of riches at receiver is evident when, at times, Welker becomes Manning's fourth or even fifth option.

"Yeah, it's impressive. You



'It's like comparing Picasso and Michelangelo. It's hard to compare the two.'

Wes Welker

on playing with Broncos QB Peyton Manning, above left, as well as Patriots QB Tom Brady, above right.

know, Decker, Thomas — the two Thomases — and then Wes. We know what Wes is. Wes is a great receiver. He does a heck of a job in the slot and they have spots they move him around to. So, we're going to have to be on top of our 'A' game."

Welker, of course, was asked again this week about the differences between Brady and Manning, admittedly the only other quarterback he wanted to play for after being spotted by all those spirals from 2007-2012.

"I'll try and answer this and be as indifferent as possible," he said. "There aren't too many differences. They are great quarterbacks. They do a great job of keeping guys accountable, and their leadership skills and everything else. They are two guys you want quarterbacking your team. It's a toss-up between those two."

The Broncos are sure glad they'll have Welker on their side Sunday.

"He's tough, because he's talented," cornerback Champ Bai-

ley said. "He's quick. He's fast. He's aggressive. He blocks well. I mean, there's not a part of his game that he's weak at. I'm very, very aware of that playing him over the years."

The meticulous Manning, known for his grinding work ethic, found a kindred spirit in Welker.

"I always assumed that he was an extremely competitive guy that loved football and a guy that loved to work, he loved to practice, the way he played — I saw him many a time play Colts vs. the Patriots — so to have him become a Bronco, all those things checked out," Manning said.

"He's a gym rat. He loves the game, loves to work after practice, loves to talk in meetings about routes that he thinks might have a chance to get open. He's very knowledgeable of defenses and how teams have played him in the past, whether they've double-covered him or whatever it may be.

"So he's been a fun guy to play with, I'll say that."

NFL PLAYOFFS

Pacific pressure

Bennett, Avril transformed Seattle defensive line into menacing force

By **TIM BOOTH**
The Associated Press

Adding Michael Bennett and Cliff Avril to the Seattle Seahawks' defensive line has paid big dividends.

The odd part is neither lineman is really serving the roles expected when Seattle general manager John Schneider signed the free agents in the offseason. They've been part of a deep defensive line rotation that has kept players fresh throughout the season. Along the way, Seattle has figured out surprising ways to use its two acquisitions.

The results might mean fewer snaps and less gaudy numbers for everyone involved, but it's a group that knows how to work together and is rested heading into Sunday's NFC championship game against San Francisco.

"I feel like if I was playing 80 or 90 percent of the snaps my body would definitely be beat up a little bit more than it is right now," Avril said. "I'm not playing as much on the first downs so again I think that helps out with the body feeling fresh this late in the season."

Seattle's defensive line is an unusual mix that defensive coordinator Dan Quinn has meshed together to find workable combinations. There's the run-stuffing crew consisting of Red Bryant, Brandon Mebane and Tony McDaniel that has helped Seattle create a run defense that allowed 101.6 yards rushing per game during the season.

Then there is the pass rush crew of Avril, Bennett, Clinton McDonald and Chris Clemons that raised Seattle's sack total from 36 during the 2012 regular season to 44 this season.

Avril and Bennett have been the two biggest contributors to those pass rush numbers. Bennett led Seattle in the regular season with 8½ sacks and Avril was right behind him with eight. Bennett's versatility turned out to be a pleasant surprise for the Seahawks and something they had been seeking in recent seasons. Bennett started the season playing defensive end while Clemons was still recovering from offseason knee surgery. But what the Seahawks discovered was his ability to be a menacing presence as a pass

Seahawks' DE Michael Bennett
Ted S. Warren/AP

By the numbers

44

Seahawks' team sack total during the 2013 regular season with DEs Cliff Avril and Michael Bennett, up from 36 last season.

101.6

Rushing yards allowed per game by the Seattle defense, seventh in the NFL. The 49ers, Seattle's opponent Sunday, allowed 95.9 and are ranked fourth.

SOURCE: The Associated Press, NFL.com



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Seahawks defensive ends Michael Bennett (72) and Cliff Avril (56) sack Saints QB Drew Brees last Saturday. The duo combined for 16½ sacks this season for Seattle.

rusher from the defensive tackle spot.

The task for Avril, Bennett and their teammates this week is among the most difficult they've faced this season: trying to get constant pressure on Colin Kaepernick, all the while trying to contain him so he doesn't escape and make a big play with his legs. Seattle sacked Kaepernick five times total in two games this season, but he still rushed for 87 yards in the first game and 31 in the second.

"For us up front it's getting after the quarterback," Avril said. "You know he's mobile, so some of the pass rushes that you would use against 'let's say a

Drew Brees, you can't use because he'll take off and run."

Seahawks' DE Cliff Avril
Elaine Thompson/AP



SPORTS



Second look
Major League Baseball expands
use of instant replay | **Page 25**

NFL PLAYOFFS

Double trouble

Tandem of Boldin, Crabtree alarms opposing defenses

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

ASANTA CLARA, Calif. — Anquan Boldin and Michael Crabtree waited nearly eight months to finally step on the field together for game day.

At last, in Week 13, everyone got to see the dynamic tandem in San Francisco's upgraded receiving corps — and it didn't take them long to discover an impressive rhythm for a passing game in serious need of a jolt.

While the emotional Boldin helped lead the offense alongside Colin Kaepernick, Frank Gore and Vernon Davis early on, Crabtree worked through months of rehab after surgery for a torn right Achilles tendon.

"That was the vision going in, him on one side, me on the

Inside:

■ Bennett, Avril paying big dividends in Seattle, Page 31

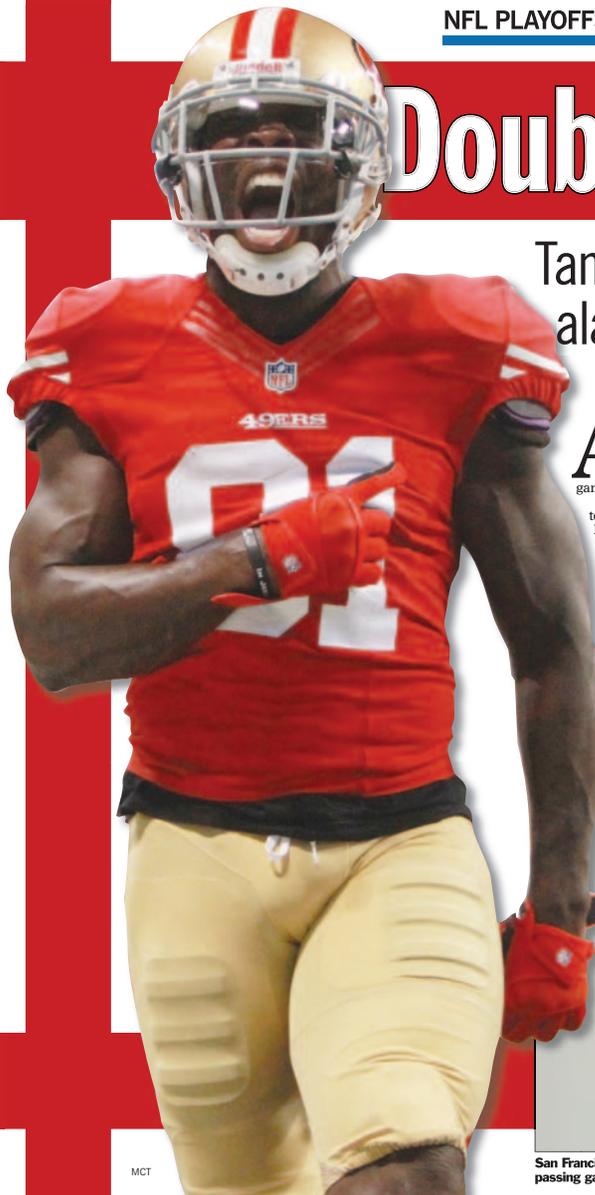
other, Vernon working the middle of the field," Boldin said. "It's tough on defenses when you have two guys outside capable of having big games, and then you have Vernon inside matched up with linebackers. So, it gives defenses fits."

Whether the Seahawks' stellar secondary can be fooled by this talented trio during the NFC championship game Sunday at Seattle will play a key factor in which of the archrivals advances to the Super Bowl.

49ers coach Jim Harbaugh wondered whether Crabtree would be the same dominant player. Even offensive coordinator Greg Roman had his doubts it would happen this season given the severity of Crabtree's injury.

"You've always got to plan for the worst-

SEE TROUBLE ON PAGE 30



MCT



AP

San Francisco wide receiver Anquan Boldin, left, had to carry most of the load in the passing game until Michael Crabtree, above, returned from a torn Achilles tendon.

Serena, Djokovic beat heat, third-round opponents
Australian Open, Page 29

Minnesota deals Ohio State third straight loss
College basketball, Page 26