

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Volume 72, No. 226 ©SS 2014

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

平成26年2月19日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所: 星条旗新聞社 〒166-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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As season resumes, next James-Durant matchup draws near

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## US seeks prisoner swap with Taliban

Officials renew offer to trade 5 Guantanamo detainees for Army sergeant missing since '09

By ANNE GEARAN  
AND ERNESTO LONDOÑO  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON—In an effort to free American captive Bowe Bergdahl before the bulk of U.S. forces leave Afghanistan this year, the Obama administration has decided to try to resume talks with the Taliban and sweeten an offer to

trade Taliban prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for the Army sergeant, current and former officials said.

Five members of the Afghan Taliban who have been held at Guantanamo for years would be released to protective custody in Qatar in exchange for the release of Bergdahl, who was captured in Afghanistan in 2009 and is thought to be held in

Pakistan by the Haqqani network, an allied insurgent group.

To refresh the American offer, which has been on the table for more than two years, senior officials from the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department and other agencies decided within the past month to allow the simultaneous release of all five men.

SEE SWAP ON PAGE 2



Bergdahl



## Real-life RoboCop

Robot prototype aims to put disabled back on the force | Page 7

Nagarajan Prabhakar, a Florida International University professor, adjusts a TeleBot during a demonstration in Miami. The TeleBot is designed to allow disabled police and military personnel to get back into the workforce by controlling the robot remotely.

Willfredo Lee/AP

## Military studying a shocking substitute for caffeine

Stars and Stripes

In a new experiment, the U.S. military is shocking the brains of troops to see if electricity is a decent substitute for coffee and energy drinks, the Boston Globe reported.

Researchers at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, have run tests on a number of volunteers to test their mental acuity both before and after a stimulating jolt

of electricity, the Globe report said.

The electric shock creates a mini-seizure in the brain and is based on techniques that are currently being used by medical professionals to treat major depression and other mental disorders, according to the report.

So far, the results have been positive. The researchers say the jolt works wonders to improve general alertness in sleepy troops, with few side effects.

Well, except the brief headaches and minor skin irritation.

"There is some evidence that it does seem to work," Dr. William "Scott" Killgore, an assistant professor of psychology at Harvard Medical School who specializes in the mental health treatments, told the Globe. "There have been a few studies that if you use it in the right place it can help mathematical calculations when people are sleep-deprived."

Besides treating sleep-deprivation and lack of focus, the program aims at making soldiers better thinkers. Researchers believe electrodes will become standard issue for "some" military personnel, according to the Globe report.

The long-term effects of repeatedly shocking the brain are still being studied, the report said.

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# QUOTE OF THE DAY

**"We're not cutting and running. ... Marines don't cut and run. We complete the mission."**

— Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos, on work done in Helmand province, Afghanistan, as Marines prepare to leave at the end of this year

See story on Page 3

# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Death shapes life for teams that prepare bodies of fallen troops for final flight home
2. Air Force will take 'appropriate action' over viral POW/MIA emblem photo
3. USS Donald Cook prepares for first ballistic missile defense patrol
4. A shocking substitute for caffeine
5. Report: US seeks Taliban prisoner swap to free POW Bowe Bergdahl

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### Video games

Sonic the hedgehog gets a makeover



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# MILITARY

## Swap: US tries new tack to get POW from Taliban

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Taliban representatives had objected to the previous plan to release the prisoners by ones or twos as a test of Taliban and Qatari intermediaries' ability to make sure the men did not return to militancy.

Two people familiar with the decision stressed that it was the Taliban that broke off negotiations nearly two years ago and that the U.S. door to talks has been open since. The renewed offer has not been formally made, and no State Department or other officials have immediate plans to travel to Doha, Qatar, where any contact facilitated by the Qatari government would take place.

The Pentagon press secretary, Rear Adm. John Kirby, said Friday that U.S. officials are eager to get the soldier back.

"He's been gone too long," Kirby told reporters during a briefing. "We want him back. We've never stopped trying to bring that about. He's never far from anyone's mind here."

Officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to outline parts of a strategy they described as a last-ditch effort to engage the Taliban.

The mid-January decision by officials at the level of deputy secretary would confine any new talks to the prisoner issue. Negotiations would not attempt wider engagement with the Taliban on a host of issues related to the future of Afghanistan. U.S. officials had once hoped to use the prisoner exchange as a means to build confidence for those larger discussions, which would also have involved the Afghan government. Now, the United States is primar-

ily focused on getting Bergdahl home.

Officials at the Pentagon said last month that they had obtained a new video of Bergdahl, the first evidence U.S. officials have seen in nearly three years that the soldier remains alive. They had long been seeking evidence that Bergdahl was still living, because of reports that he had attempted to escape once and because of concerns about his health, a U.S. official said. The United States intercepted the video before its makers intended to release or broadcast it, the official said.

Bergdahl, an army infantryman assigned to a unit from Alaska, was taken captive after walking off his base in the eastern province of Paktika, a decision that confounded his comrades and commanders in Afghanistan. The U.S. military launched a massive manhunt, fearing it would be nearly impossible to find him if his captors smuggled him into Pakistan. The Taliban soon took credit for capturing him and offered to release him in exchange for \$1 million and 21 Afghan prisoners.

The Taliban broke off talks before they ever really began in 2012, and an effort to resurrect negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government last year ended in an embarrassing shambles. A political office promised to the Taliban was readied in Doha but closed two days after it opened in June amid a row over the raising of a flag the Taliban used when it ruled Afghanistan prior to the 2001 U.S. invasion.

Taliban representatives remain in Doha, and the office is a de facto political headquarters.

Separately, the Pentagon has examined the feasibility of trying to negotiate Bergdahl's release directly with the Haqqani network, which is part of the broader Taliban insurgency but operates separately. The network is widely believed to be holding the soldier in Pakistan, two others familiar with that exploratory effort said.

Preliminary studies have looked at whether the Haqqanis would engage in talks to trade Bergdahl for Haqqani prisoners captured by U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan and held at a prison adjacent to Bagram Air Field, one current and one former U.S. official said.

The United States is holding a "handful" of Haqqani prisoners in Afghanistan, one official said. The exact number has not been disclosed.

At one point in 2012, U.S. officials tried to feel out the Haqqanis through a senior member of the network held at Bagram, but there was no response, one official said. Another person familiar with the effort said similar exploratory planning was done to test whether the Haqqanis might be paid off or otherwise enticed to let Bergdahl escape.

There is no "actionable" intelligence on Bergdahl's exact location, one official said, and a U.S. military rescue mission has long been effectively ruled out.

The United States has even less traction with the Haqqanis, branded a terrorist group in 2012, than with the main Taliban organization. A State Department official met once with Haqqani representatives more than three years ago, but there has been no further contact, two officials

said.

In an apparent attempt to draw Haqqani support for the separate Guantanamo-related bargain, one of the five prisoners who would be released was a relatively low-level member of the Haqqani network, one official said.

The decision to try to resume talks comes amid U.S. frustration with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has refused to sign a security pact that would allow some forces to stay in the country next year. Without it, all U.S. troops will depart this year, and the already declining U.S. leverage with the Taliban would be reduced.

Karzai has been leery and at times bitterly opposed to direct U.S.-Taliban negotiations, which he sees as an effort to undermine him and make a separate peace. The official U.S. position is still that it seeks "Afghan-led" reconciliation between the government and the Taliban insurgency.

After opposing direct engagement with the Taliban for years, the United States shifted course in President Barack Obama's first term. The effort led to several secretive meetings in Germany and the Middle East, but no full-on negotiations and no real accomplishments.

The man who would head renewed negotiations if they happened, James Dobbins, the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, has been publicly skeptical that the Taliban are ready to talk again.

## USS Taylor runs aground in Turkey

Stars and Stripes

The guided-missile frigate USS Taylor, one of two ships on deployment in the Black Sea, is being inspected for damage after running aground last week as it was preparing to moor in Samsun, Turkey, a spokesman for the U.S. 6th Fleet said Tuesday.

The Taylor was able to moor without further incident, and there were no injuries, 6th Fleet spokesman Lt. Shawn Eklund said.

The incident, which occurred on Feb. 12, is under investigation, Eklund said.

The Taylor and the USS Mount Whitney, an amphibious command ship and the 6th Fleet flagship, entered the Black Sea on Feb. 4 on what the Navy said was a routine

and pre-scheduled deployment to the region.

The Pentagon announced their planned deployment in January, after terrorist groups threatened to disrupt the Olympic Games in Sochi, the resort town on Russia's Black Sea coast.

Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, chief of U.S. European Command, said in an interview



with Stars and Stripes earlier this month that the ships would be available to be used as needed, along with other U.S. assets.

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MIDEAST

# Amos: Marines have transformed Helmand province

By JENNIFER HLAJ  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan** — Marines have changed Helmand province dramatically and should be proud of the work they have done, Commandant Gen. James Amos said Tuesday in a town hall meeting here.

When Marines leave at the end of this year, "We'll have done every single thing we've set out to do as a Marine Corps," he said.

**'We came in when this was the Wild West.'**

**Gen. James Amos**, commandant of the Marine Corps

several hundred Marines in two large group events Tuesday.

He noted that just a few years ago, there was only one battalion of Marines in Helmand province, and just a small British base.

The Marine Corps began building its presence in the southwest part of Afghanistan in 2008, eventually reaching a peak with about 21,000 Marines in Helmand in

2010. Now there are some 4,500 Marines in the province.

"We came in when this was the Wild West," Amos said.

Even with the successes in Helmand, he said, a signed bilateral security agreement with Afghanistan is critical to long-term security.

"When we left Iraq, we left under a victory flag," Amos said, with places like Fallujah and Ramadi secured, with a functioning government, police presence, running water and "potholes filled."

Because of the lack of signed security agreement there, the U.S. did not keep troops in Iraq to continue assisting and mentoring the security forces, he said.

"I'd argue that has a lot to do with what's going on there now," he said.

Amos and Barrett also addressed the issue of ethics, adherence to standards and good decision-making skills in the Corps.

As the military as a whole draws down, the Marine Corps will go down to 175,000 Marines, Amos said, making it the only service that will have more troops after the drawdown than it did on Sept. 11, 2001, when 172,000 Marines were on active duty.

"People believe in us," he said.



Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos, left, and Sgt. Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett talk to Marines at Camp Leatherneck in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on Tuesday.

JENNIFER HLAJ/Stars and Stripes

Still, a series of high-profile incidents — including a video of Marines urinating on the corpses of Taliban fighters, and a photo of Marine scout snipers using a Nazi flag as a logo — have "brought shame on the Marine Corps," Amos said.

The 98 percent of Marines who are doing well "form the fabric of the Marine Corps," but "on the edges of that cloth, we're starting to see some wear," he said.

To combat those problems, Amos and Barrett said, they talked to Marine leaders and de-

termined they didn't need a new program; they just needed to get back to basics.

In October, Amos and Barrett wrote a letter to corporals and sergeants about a "reawakening" campaign, focusing on "persistent discipline, faithful obedience to orders and instructions, concerned and engaged leadership (24/7) and strict adherence to standards."

"This doesn't mean you've been asleep," Amos said. The program is meant to "reawaken the soul of the Marine Corps."

Barrett said that 83 percent of the Corps is a sergeant or below, so it makes sense to focus the effort on those ranks.

"There is an enemy inside our wire," Barrett said, listing drugs, alcohol, domestic violence, criminal misconduct, sexual assault and general "jackassery" among the enemies.

However, he said, noncommissioned officers "are the solution to every one of those poor life choices."

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# Karzai seeks changes to bill that would limit family testimony

By CID STANDFIER  
Stars and Stripes

**KABUL** — A controversial change to Afghanistan's criminal procedure code that could have prevented victims and witnesses of family violence from testifying against abusers has been sent back to the Justice Ministry for amendment, but it's unclear how significant the changes will be after the article becomes law.

Article 26 of Afghanistan's draft Criminal Procedure Code sparked an outcry from governments and human rights groups around the world after Parliament passed it early this month. The English translation of the legislation said family members were barred from testifying against relatives. Experts said the original Dari text of the bill was more ambiguous and might have allowed victims to volunteer their testimony, as long as they weren't forced to do so by authorities.

On Monday, deputy presidential spokeswoman Adela Raz announced on Twitter that Karzai thought the law needed amending.

Raz said Karzai's Cabinet had its first chance to discuss the law on Monday, after it passed through various parliamentary and executive offices.

"Family members should not be stopped from testifying against each other," Raz

**'We commend President Karzai's decision to request an amendment to a portion of the Criminal Procedure Code that would have negatively impacted the prosecution of many crimes in Afghanistan, especially cases of violence against women.'**

statement from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul

stood Stars and Stripes. "Anyone would be concerned" about such a law, she said.

The English translation of the law originally read, "The following people cannot be questioned as a witness: ... 4) Relatives of the accused person."

However, he said that to the Justice Ministry for a rewrite. When Karzai gets a version he likes, he can enforce it through presidential decree until Parliament returns from vacation this spring, Raz said.

A Justice Ministry official who was not authorized to speak on the record said the ministry will try to propose changes that are "acceptable for the international community and respect all international and domestic laws."

However, he said he could not predict precisely how the language will change.

The presidential announcement was ap-

plauded by the U.S. Embassy in Kabul and by Human Rights Watch, both of which had criticized the draft Article 26.

"We commend President Karzai's decision to request an amendment to a portion of the Criminal Procedure Code that would have negatively impacted the prosecution of many crimes in Afghanistan, especially cases of violence against women," the embassy said in a news release. "This is a welcome response to the concerns expressed by many Afghans and their international partners. We look forward to the final passage of a Criminal Procedure Code that protects the access to justice of all Afghans."

Christine Roehrs, an analyst with the Afghanistan Analyst Network, said that even if changes are made to Article 26 to allow family members to testify voluntarily, the

new article will still be weaker than the existing version. The relevant provision of the current code lets officials call relatives to the stand if the victim of the crime is a relative or if a relative first reported the crime.

While there is precedent in international law to prevent family members from being forced to testify against one another, in many countries that prohibition applies only to spouses. Both the current criminal procedure code and the draft article of the new code apply to any member of a vast family network.

In Afghan culture, family violence is still often considered a private matter, so family members may be even less likely to speak out against abusers on their own than in other parts of the world.

Still, Roehrs said, it is important that the law explicitly give family members the option if they choose to do so.

As for the international outcry surrounding the proposed legislation, she said: "There's a lot of international pressure on many things, which doesn't have an impact at all. ... I think there was significant Afghan protest — there was quite some fuss with national media interviewing women's rights activists — so I would say Afghan pressure might have also had a good deal of influence."

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## MILITARY



TREVOR ANDERSEN/Stars and Stripes

A hangar with U.S. and Japanese military surveillance planes inside collapsed Saturday near Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan.

## US planes likely damaged in hangar collapse near Atsugi

By JAMES KIMBER  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The condition of several U.S. Navy and Japan Self-Defense Force surveillance planes is still unknown after heavy snow caused the roof of a hangar to collapse Saturday near Naval Air Facility Atsugi, according to U.S. and Japanese officials.

No injuries were reported in the collapse. “Although the immediate damage to the hangar appears extensive, the possible damage to aircraft is not currently known,” Atsugi base spokesman Greg Kuntz said.

The condition of the hangar has slowed assessment of condition of the 10 aircraft inside, which include four U.S. P-3 Orions, officials said. However, the tail sections of several aircraft poking through the collapsed roof can be seen in aerial photographs.

The 550-foot long hangar — built in 1955 and owned by NIPPI Corp., a Kawasaki Heavy Industries Group subsidiary — is used to repair Japan Self-Defense Force and U.S. Navy aircraft.

The central part of the hangar

**‘Although the immediate damage to the hangar appears extensive, the possible damage to aircraft is not currently known.’**

Greg Kuntz  
Naval Air Facility Atsugi spokesman

collapsed because of the weight of the snow, said Kawasaki Heavy Industries spokesman Tepei Kobayashi.

NIPPI Corp. is working on cleaning up the debris.

The collapse “has not affected operations at this point, but it is important to assess the situation quickly when thinking about the future,” Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said at a Tuesday press conference. Onodera said the damage to the aircraft appears to be severe.

The P-3 Orion has patrolled the Pacific theater on anti-submarine and surveillance missions since its introduction in the 1960s. Each four-engine turboprop aircraft costs \$36 million, according to the U.S. Navy, which is slowly phasing out the P-3 in favor of the new P-8 Poseidon aircraft.

The P-8 planes, which have up-

graded airframes and avionics, began arriving at U.S. bases in Japan in December.

The record snowfall also affected operations on other U.S. bases in and around Tokyo, with many facilities closing during the weekend.

Staff Sgt. Eryn Buckner, of the 374th Operations Squadron, said 21 inches of snow fell on Yokota Air Base last week.

So far, 35 inches of snow has fallen on the base this month, almost double the most recorded in February since the squadron began keeping records in 1973.

More snow is expected this week.

Stars and Stripes reporters Hans Kusumoto and Erik Slavin contributed to this report. kimber.james@stripes.com Twitter:@james\_kimber

## GI hired by company she awarded \$200M recruiting contract

By TOM VANDEN BROOK  
USA Today

WASHINGTON — When then-Lt. Col. Kay Hensen awarded a National Guard recruiting contract worth at least \$200 million to an Alabama marketing company in 2005, investigative records show, the Guard failed to get a legal review for the program, did not conduct any market research and neglected to negotiate the contractor’s fee.

Now Hensen works for the company, Docupak, and the Guard contract is at the heart of a national recruiting scandal.

Hensen negotiated her new job while still working for the Guard, documents and interviews show. She sought and received a ruling from the Montana National Guard ethics officer who cleared her for the job with Docupak, an advertising firm that administered the Recruiting Assistance Program.

The program paid bonuses to soldiers and others for signing up recruits during the worst days of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Investigators say that as much as \$100 million in bonuses may have been fraudulently obtained and that thousands of soldiers may have been involved. Subsequent contracts with Docupak paid out \$459 million in bonuses for signing up 150,000 recruits. The Army killed the program in 2012 after a scathing audit found fraud and patterns of abuse.

Hensen’s hiring was appropriate and “well vetted,” Docupak president Philip Crane told USA Today. But Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., called Hensen’s hiring “troubling” and vowed that her panel on contracting would continue to investigate the issue. Last week, a panel of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee that McCaskill chairs held a hearing on the program.

Dozens of Army investigators will need more than two years to sort through more 100,000 payments to determine if they were legitimate, Army officials told the committee. As of last month, the Army had \$59 million in criminal investigations involving 1,219 people associated with the Recruiting Assistance Program. So far, 104 people have been convicted of crimes or disciplined by the Army. Moreover, the Army audit determined that the entire program was il-

legal because it lacked Congressional authority to distribute such bonuses.

The Army audit blamed the fraud on poor internal controls, unscrupulous recruiters and “contracts that were not effectively written or overseen.” The contract met “almost none” of the federal acquisition requirements, according to a memo released by the homeland security subcommittee on financial and contracting oversight sent to senators.

The memo also faulted the Guard Bureau, where Hensen had awarded the contract, for failing to get a legal review that would have shown the payment of recruit-referal bonuses “is inherently a govern-

**As of last month, the Army had 559 criminal investigations involving 1,219 people associated with the Recruiting Assistance Program.**

mental function, and could not be outsourced to a contractor.” Another key deficiency in the contract: “The National Guard Bureau failed to negotiate the contractor’s fee. Instead, the National Guard Bureau simply accepted DUCUPAK’s billings of \$33 for each referral, which amounted to a 16.5% fee for the contractor. ... As a result, the National Guard Bureau inappropriately paid \$9,276,630 to the contractor.”

Hensen told the committee that she disagreed with Army auditors, saying the program was designed with adequate safeguards.

Crane, the company’s president, said he offered Hensen a job at his marketing firm because he was “very impressed with Kay’s knowledge of contracting and understanding the rules and regulations that govern it.” Her hiring was not a payoff for awarding the original contract, he said.

He waited more than two years after the contract was issued before contacting Hensen about working at Docupak to ensure there was no conflict-of-interest issue, Crane said.

## School gym on UK base temporarily closed after wind damages roof

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Alconbury Middle/High School’s gym has been closed at least until Thursday after wind blew off a portion of the roof over the holiday weekend.

Principal Sandra Daniels said the base’s civil engineer section contacted school officials after tiles were ripped off the roof and an internal fabric bladder was damaged

sometime between Friday evening and early Saturday.

“When they replaced the roof some years ago ... they did not remove the original layer on the roof,” Daniels said in a telephone interview. “That’s good news because that’s what’s protecting the gym, and right now you couldn’t even tell from the inside that there’s any problems at all.”

Daniels said the gym might be ready for use again by Thursday, pending a safety inspection by engineers. If the gym is closed

for a long period of time, Daniels said, students can use base facilities and a gym the school shares with the elementary school.

The rest of RAF Alconbury suffered only minor damage. A base spokesman said in a phone interview that some trees were blown over and lights were damaged, but described the damage as “nothing that really impacts anything.”

Parts of the United Kingdom have been lashed by extreme weather recently. The BBC reported on Sunday that wind knocked

out power to more than 7,000 properties in England and Wales.

The timing of the damage to the gym could have been worse. Winter sports have finished and the spring sports season generally involves outdoor sports, Daniels said.

Also, plans and money were already in place to replace the gym’s roof after the school year ended, and those plans are being accelerated to address the damage, Daniels said.

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MILITARY

Say what? A sample of reader comments from stripes.com

**A picture of disrespect**

A 3-year-old photo surfaced of an airman pretending to stick her tongue in the mouth of the silhouetted man on the POW/MIA flag. Now a staff sergeant, Cherish Byers — and Fairchild Air Force Base in Washington — find themselves in the middle of a full-blown Internet rage.

**Readers respond:**

Disgusting. With the new force-shaping ... this woman is a great example of who needs to be forced out.

— Joe S

Whoever agreed to take her photo means he or she tolerated her action which could have been avoided before it got down to this. Smh

— Jasin Velasco Mendoza

It was poor judgement and poor taste obviously. Chalk it up to being young and dumb, give her an LOC and move on no need to make a mountain of drama out of it.

— maschrack

If she had only apologized when this came out instead of being arrogant and pointing out all of her great achievements and then trying to cover it up by deleting her facebook page (where the picture was found) after her arrogant rant about us exposing her.

— akboss

It's not that serious considering this picture is probably 3 years old. People are getting carried away and are quick to comment when someone else does something stupid. No ones perfect. Everyone makes dumb mistakes.

— Guest

There are probably a lot of people holding rank today in our armed services and holding office in Washington DC who thank God every day Facebook wasn't around when they were in their 20s.

— rackstack

Throw her out. Can't imagine any self-respecting airman doing this.

— James Simpson

I can't imagine general officers drunk on an official visit to Russia, or having a gambling vice as the CO of nuclear forces, or unknown numbers gaming the system to qualify for nuclear duty, but they did and do. Let's hear the full story behind it and keep it in perspective ...

— RW01d

Definitely a poor, not well-thought of decision that will haunt her for a very long time. ... I really do feel bad for her because her life has just changed in a matter of seconds when that photo was taken and posted for all to see.

— sam

This new generation of service members have been incriminating themselves on Twitter and Facebook for a while. ... DOD will implement additional training on "Social Media Use" since there are too many morons that clearly can't control themselves.

— Massif1

I will accept nothing less than an immediate court martial and dishonorable discharge.

— Greg Foulkes

[W]hat you're failing to understand is that no one is saying what she did was ok, but the level of punishment should fit the crime committed. But what crime was committed?

— Khemraj Singh

I know a lot of people on here are spitting fire mad, but airman make mistakes and as NCOs we guide and mentor them. What she did was wrong. However, being forgiving and hateful doesn't make this better or us better.

— Publio Casillas

I will not tolerate disrespect like this in my country. ... 3 years old or 30 years old, it's just as vulgar now as it ever was or will be. I can't believe she was promoted after this picture was taken!

— Erin

What is disrespectful is the vast number of people in this country who do not know what the POW/MIA flag is when they see it assuming they give it more than a passing glance, and worse still those who could not care whatsoever that something like 78,000 MIA are still unaccounted for and DoD efforts in this area are so dismal.

— Spiritofthebayonnet

Where's Dempsey?

Top officer seen as slow to respond to ethics issues in military

By GORDON LUBOLD  
Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's response to the recent spate of ethical lapses rocking the entire U.S. military has been devoid of the kind of dramatic moves that Washington craves. There have been no high-profile firings, no generals publicly rebuked and no announcements of far-reaching punishments that would indicate that the top officials are taking it all seriously.

Those types of measures would typically be carried out by the secretary of defense and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel took a small step this month when he announced he would assign a senior officer to work on front-end investigations exactly what has gone wrong recently and to help suggest ways of fixing those issues.

Hagel's top military adviser, Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, meanwhile, has been largely invisible. That's raised questions about why the chairman hasn't been more heavily involved in addressing the cheating scandals rocking the department, including the Air Force and Navy's nuclear forces, and the embarrassing recent release of emails in which top Army commanders crudely discussed the sexual attractiveness of a female congresswoman.

Dempsey's defenders say he has been finding ways to reinstate ethical behavior across the armed forces for more than a year and that there are no easy fixes. Still, there are growing concerns inside and outside the Pentagon that as the nation's senior military officer, Dempsey has yet to own the issue or taken the kinds of steps to show that he is seriously addressing it.

"It's obvious to me that Hagel wants better results, and he's sending a message to the system: 'I'm going to change this,'" said a former senior defense official who has been critical of Hagel in the past but was struck by the secretary's decision. "Does it send a message to Marty Dempsey? Absolutely."

Hagel, who typically appears alongside Dempsey in the Pentagon's briefing room,

emerged alone recently to announce that he wanted to assign his own senior officer to deal with the issue.

"Competence and character are not mutually exclusive," Hagel said. "An uncompromising culture of accountability must exist at every level of command. That must be practiced and emphasized by leadership at every level."

Senior officials said assigning the as-yet-unnamed officer to Hagel's office was not aimed to be a knock on Dempsey, who was out of the building that day, but that Hagel nonetheless wanted to send a message that the issue needed to be treated with more urgency by all of his generals — including the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Part of the concern about Dempsey's low profile on the ethics issues has to do with his public demeanor. Dempsey, who is known as the "singing general" for his penchant for breaking into song, has not embraced the public aspects of the job in the way others have. His immediate predecessor, Navy Admiral Mike Mullen, appeared on "The Daily Show" and seemed very much at ease with the press. Dempsey seems to tolerate reporters, though just barely, but prefers to perform his duties unmolested by the whims of the media. That has not helped him to be seen in and outside of the Pentagon as being strong on the ethical issues confronting the department.

Dempsey hasn't ignored the current crisis. Critics of the way the Pentagon has responded to the ethics

scandals fault both men for failing to relieve any high-ranking commanders, a move former Secretary of Defense Bob Gates took whenever he wanted to send a clear message that the military was serious about policing itself. Brig. Gen. Martin Schweitzer is the only officer who has been disciplined for the current misdeeds, and it was done quietly by Dempsey.

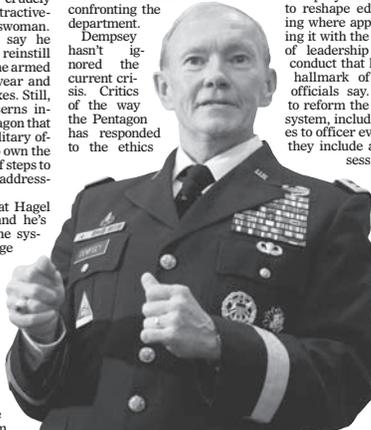
Schweitzer was punished for writing a series of emails to a fellow officer that described Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., with whom he had just met, as "smoking hot." While comparably low on the wrongdoing scale — Schweitzer isn't accused of more serious offenses like financial misdeeds — it reflected the kind of sloppy conduct by senior officers that has been at the heart of the military's current problems.

Schweitzer, who is now assigned to the Pentagon's Joint Staff, has not been dismissed. But officials told Foreign Policy that Dempsey recommended that Schweitzer, who was assigned to brief Hagel regularly, lose that high-profile role because of the allegations against him.

Dempsey's defenders also note that the chairman has pushed for a number of changes to the ways the military promotes its officers and offers them advanced training as they ascend its hierarchy. Dempsey has been attempting to reshape education and training where appropriate, re-instilling it with the kinds of principles of leadership and professional conduct that have long been the hallmark of military service, officials say. He's also moved to reform the archaic promotion system, including making changes to offer evaluation reports so they include a "360-degree" assessment from their

subordinates that could help identify problems before they manifest themselves. Dempsey has also assigned Marine Lt. Gen. Tom Waldhauser, a well-respected officer, to be his point man on ethics issues on the Joint Staff.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey



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NATION

# East Coast shivers

Some regions experience 'thundersnow'; forecasters call for warm front this week

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A quick-moving storm brought several inches of snow as well as rare "thundersnow" to parts of the winter-weary East Coast, prompting speed restrictions on Pennsylvania highways Tuesday, days after the Southeast and Northeast were paralyzed with heavy snow, ice and massive power outages.

By the morning rush hour, the National Weather Service had reported 4.5 inches of snow in Mercer County in western Pennsylvania and 3.5 inches in Berks County in eastern Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia, between 2 and 3 inches was reported.

The storm brought "thundersnow," an area of heavy snow with embedded thunder, from near downtown Pittsburgh to DuBois. Forecasters said moderate to heavy snow would follow with snowfall rates over 1 inch per hour.

The storm led Pennsylvania Turnpike officials to reduce speed limits to 45 mph along the entire 360-mile highway system. State transportation officials fol-

lowed suit on some interstates and other roads.

Forecasters predicted many East Coast states would see 3 to 6 inches of snow Tuesday after a storm moved in overnight from the Great Lakes and through the Mid-Atlantic.

"We're looking at a relatively short duration event," said the weather service's John Cristante.

Temperatures above freezing on Tuesday should move up to the 40s to mid-50s for the remainder of the week, he said, giving people a reprieve from shoveling and shivering.

Maine was expected to get another 4 to 8 inches of snow Tuesday. Boston was forecast get 1 to 3 inches but Worcester, located west of the capital, could get as much as 6 to 8 inches.

On Monday, several inches of snow fell across the Great Lakes, causing Chicago's two airports to cancel more than 1,000 flights. In Michigan, crashes closed portions of Interstate 96 in Grand Rapids and the Muskegon area saw whitout conditions.



BILL HUGHES, BLOOMSBURG (Pa.) PRESS ENTERPRISE/AP

Josh Davis and his sons, Kaden, 5, front, and Cole, 8, ride a toboggan downhill at Josh's cousin Barry J. Davis's home near Bloomsburg, Pa., on Monday. Josh and Barry constructed the toboggan run for their boys to enjoy.

## NSA data debate draws new political lines

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The debate about whether to continue the dragnet surveillance of Americans' phone records is highlighting divisions within the Democratic and Republican parties that could transform the politics of national security.

While some leading Democrats have been reluctant to condemn the National Security Agency's tactics, a growing number of Republicans have begun to embrace a libertarian shift opposing the spy agency's broad surveillance powers — a striking departure from the aggressive national security policies that have defined the Republican Party for generations.

The lines are drawn but not in the traditional way. The Republican National Committee, leaders of the party's libertarian wing like Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul and liberals like Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren are on opposite sides of the debate. Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, Democratic former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and the House and Senate leadership are on the other side, defending the Obama administration's surveillance programs as necessary to prevent terrorism.

The split in each party could have practical and political consequences ahead of the 2014 congressional elections and the 2016 presidential contest.

Congress may address government surveillance this spring in one of its last major moves before members head home to focus on the November elections. If Congress puts off the surveillance debate to this time next year, it would

resurface as the presidential primary campaigns are beginning.

At issue is the bulk collection of millions of Americans' phone records, authorized under Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act. Details of the program were secret until June when a former NSA systems analyst, Edward Snowden, leaked classified documents that spelled out the monumental scope of the government's activities. The bulk collection provision in the law is set to expire on June 1, 2015, unless Congress acts to renew or change the program sooner.

More than a decade after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Americans have become less willing to support invasive surveillance tactics in the name of national security. Recent polls show a sharp decline in public support for the NSA programs.

Obama administration justifies the surveillance program, in part, by pointing to Congress's continued approval and support. The president also has called for some changes in an effort to win back public trust that would provide robust privacy protections and transparency but not end the program completely.

Clinton, the overwhelming Democratic favorite should she seek the presidency, has been virtually silent on the debate for months. Last fall she called for a "full, open, robust discussion" about the practices but also defended the surveillance: "From my own experience, the information-gathering and analyzing has proven very important and useful in a number of instances."

Paul, a pro-surveillance Republican presidential hopeful and favorite

of the small government tea party movement, contrasted Clinton's position with his own aggressive opposition to Bush-era intelligence programs, as polls suggest that a growing majority of Republicans — tea party supporters in particular — are deeply skeptical of the federal government.

"I think in 2016 if you had a more libertarian-leaning Republican, and you had someone like Hillary Clinton, I think you could actually completely transform where people think they are and what party people think they have allegiance for," Paul said at a recent Washington conference.

The Republican National Committee in January approved a resolution to "immediately take action to halt current unconstitutional surveillance programs and provide a full public accounting of the NSA's data collection programs."

There was an immediate backlash from Bush-era Republican intelligence officials who described the resolution in a letter to the RNC chairman as a dangerous "recipe for partisan oblivion."

Rubio said this week that "we need to be careful about weakening" the nation's surveillance capabilities.

Lawmakers are expected to get another chance to weigh in this spring when Republican House leaders plan to allow a vote on an amendment to a Defense Department bill that would curtail some of the NSA's surveillance authority.

The Democratic Party, too, faces intraparty divisions, as progressive members are more likely to be aligned with tea party Republicans than Clinton and Obama on this issue.

## Pharmacy refuses to give execution drug

The Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — An Oklahoma pharmacy will not provide a drug for a scheduled execution next week in Missouri as part of a settlement with the death row inmate's attorneys. It's unclear whether the agreement will prevent or delay the lethal injection.

A court hearing was scheduled Tuesday in the federal lawsuit filed by inmate Michael Taylor against The Apothecary Shoppe, a compounding pharmacy in Tulsa that his attorneys said was providing a drug that could cause "inhuman pain" during his scheduled Feb. 26 execution.

In court documents filed late Monday, his lawyers asked a judge to dismiss the case because the company had agreed not to prepare or provide any drug for use in Taylor's lethal injection. The pharmacy also acknowledged it had not already provided any drug to the Missouri Department of Corrections for the execution, said

Taylor's attorney, Matt Hellman.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon indicated last week that the state could move forward with the execution even after the judge issued a temporary restraining order that blocked the company from providing the drug.

Messages seeking comment about the settlement and Taylor's execution status weren't returned late Monday by either Missouri's attorney general or its Corrections Department. Messages also were left by The Associated Press after business hours with the pharmacy and its attorney.

The state has refused to say where it obtains its execution drug, arguing that the source is part of the execution team and therefore shielded from public disclosure.

Taylor is on death row for raping and killing Ann Harrison, 15, after abducting her from a Kansas City school bus stop in 1989. An other man also is on death row for the crime.

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NATION



A TeleBot, which combines telepresence and robotics, is shown during a demonstration at Florida International University on Feb. 12.

PHOTOS BY WILFREDO LEE/AP

# POLICE OF THE FUTURE?

## RoboCop prototype helps disabled cops, military

By SUZETTE LABOY  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — A group of students and researchers at Florida International University in Miami took part in a demonstration on Feb. 12 to show a prototype of their version of a RoboCop that will allow disabled police and military personnel to get back into the workforce, school officials said.

It took about 18 months for the group with the school's Discovery Lab to develop the TeleBot, which combines telepresence and robotics.

Nagarajan Prabakar, a computer science associate professor, said the prototype allows a disabled person to control the robot remotely, see everything the robot "sees" and interact with members of the public.

The TeleBot has two high-definition Web cameras in its eyes to generate a live, three-dimensional view, he said. It also has a computer inside its metal frame surrounded by a bunch of wires. The robot imitates all of the movements of the demonstrator — the student in this case, police or military officers in the future — who

### 'Bot beginnings

The TeleBot project began in 2012 when Jeremy Robins, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves, donated \$20,000 to the Discovery Lab to develop the idea.

"What impresses me most about the TeleBot prototype is that most of the work was performed by undergraduate students operating under very tight budget and time constraints," Robins said in a statement.

— Suzette Laboy

is wearing about 30 sensors on his shoulders, elbows, head and fingers. A joystick moves the robot forward, back and in circles.

Student Jaime Danow, 28, is in charge of developing the user interface for people missing their upper extremities.

"This is perfect for me," he said before joining the team. "I never could have imagined I would have this opportunity."

"Things happen sometimes maybe for a reason and you don't

realize that," said Danow, who lost his right arm in a motorcycle accident in 2006 and can no longer bend his left elbow.

"I have a much better understanding than someone who is not missing their limb," he added.

The TeleBot is designed for those who are disabled from the waist down, but researchers said they hope their future work will allow for demonstrators to control the robot with just their legs if they are missing their upper extremities.

They may also come up with a sleeker design so the robot can run on different terrain, researchers said.

The TeleBot costs about \$50,000 and was recently shown to theaters before the premiere of the "RoboCop" movie remake. Researchers said they were also fans of the original movie series in the late 1980s.

It stands 6 feet tall, weighs about 75 pounds and is controlled from a remote location. This one is named Hutch after the 2004 movie and 1970s TV series "Star Trek and Hutch."



Nagarajan Prabakar, left, a computer science associate professor at Florida International University, helps student Irvin Cardenas put on a pair of 3-D Oculus goggles to provide stereoscopic view of what a TeleBot is seeing during a demonstration Feb. 12 in Miami.

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NATION

# Colo. legal pot draws families with ill kids

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI  
The Associated Press

**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo.** — The doctors were out of ideas to help 5-year-old Charlotte Figi. Suffering from a rare genetic disorder, she had as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week, used a wheelchair, went into frequent cardiac arrest and could barely speak. As a last resort, her mother began calling medical marijuana shops.

Two years later, Charlotte is largely seizure-free and able to walk, talk and feed herself after taking oil infused with a special pot strain. Her recovery has inspired both a name for the strain of marijuana she takes that is bred not to make users high — Charlotte's Web — and an influx of families with seizure-stricken children to Colorado from states that ban the drug.

"She can walk, talk; she ate chili in the car," her mother, Paige Figi, said as her dark-haired daughter strolled through a cavernous greenhouse full of marijuana plants that will later be broken down into their anti-seizure components, and mixed with olive oil so patients can consume them. "So I'll fight for whoever wants this."

Doctors warn there is no proof that Charlotte's Web is effective, or even safe.

In the frenzy to find the drug, there have been reports of non-authorized suppliers offering



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

**Matt Figi hugs his daughter, Charlotte, on Feb. 7 in a greenhouse west of Colorado Springs, Colo., that offers a special strain of medical marijuana known as Charlotte's Web — which was named after the girl early in her treatment for Dravet's syndrome.**

bogus strains of Charlotte's Web. In one case, a doctor said, parents were told they could replicate the strain by cooking marijuana in butter. Their child went into heavy seizures.

"We don't have any peer-reviewed, published literature to support it," Dr. Larry Wolk, the state health department's chief medical officer, said of Charlotte's Web.

Still, more than 100 families

have relocated since Charlotte's story first began spreading last summer, according to Figi and her husband and the five brothers who grow the drug and sell it at cost through a nonprofit. The relocated families have formed a close-knit group in Colorado Springs, the law-and-order town where the dispensary selling the drug is located. They meet for lunch, support sessions and hikes.

"It's the most hope lots of us have ever had," said Hollie Brown, whose daughter, Sydni, 9, began speaking in sentences and laughing since moving to Colorado from Kansas City and taking the marijuana strain.

Amy Brooks-Kayal, vice president of the American Epilepsy Society, warned that a few miraculous stories may not mean anything — epileptic seizures come and go for no apparent reason —

and scientists do not know what sort of damage Charlotte's Web could be doing to young brains.

"Until we have that information, as physicians, we can't follow our first creed, which is do no harm," she said, suggesting that parents relocate so their children can get treated at one of the nation's 28 top-tier pediatric epilepsy centers rather than move to Colorado.

However, the society urges more study of pot's possibilities. The families using Charlotte's Web, as well as the brothers who grow it, say they want the drug rigorously tested, and their efforts to ensure its purity have won them praise from skeptics like Wolk.

For many, Charlotte's story was something they couldn't ignore.

Charlotte is a twin, but her sister, Chase, doesn't have Dravet's syndrome, which kills kids before they reach adulthood.

In early 2012, it seemed Charlotte would be added to that grim roster. Her vital signs flat-lined three times, leading her parents to begin preparing for her death. They even signed an order for doctors not to take heroic measures to save her life again should she go into cardiac arrest.

The recovery of Charlotte and other kids has inspired the Figis and others to travel the country, pushing for medical marijuana laws or statutes that would allow high-CBD, low-THC pot strains.

## Artist charged with smashing \$1M vase

The Associated Press

**MIAMI** — A South Florida artist is facing a criminal charge after police say he smashed a \$1 million vase by a Chinese artist at Miami's new art museum to protest what he called its favoritism for international rather than local art.

Maximo Caminero, 51, was charged with criminal mischief after Sunday's incident at the Perez Art Museum Miami. According to a Miami Police Department arrest affidavit, a security guard told officers that Caminero picked up a colored vase by Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. When told to put it down, Caminero smashed it on the floor, the security guard said.

Caminero told officers he broke the vase to protest the museum's

lack of local artist displays and because "the museum only displayed international artists' art," according to the affidavit.

Caminero, a painter who lives in Miami, declined comment when reached by telephone Monday. He said he would have an afternoon news conference Tuesday.

"I'm going to answer all the questions," he said. The police affidavit lists the value of the vase as \$1 million, quoting the museum's security officials. Criminal mischief can be a third-degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison when the property damaged is worth more than \$1,000.

"As an art museum dedicated to celebrating modern and contemporary artists from within our community and around the world, we have the highest re-

spect for freedom of expression," the museum said in a statement released late Monday. "But this destructive act is vandalism and disrespectful to another artist and his work, to Pérez Art Museum Miami, and to our community." Caminero had a recent showing at the JF Gallery in West Palm Beach that offered patrons a chance to meet him and "view a sampling of the work from his 30-year career as an artist."

According to the Perez Art Museum Miami's website, the vase is one of more than a dozen that are part of a floor installation. Each vase is partially painted in bright colors.

Behind the installation are a series of three black-and-white photos showing Ai holding a vase and then letting it drop to the ground, smashing into pieces.

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WORLD

# Report: Obama revisiting military options on Syria

Stars and Stripes

The Obama administration, frustrated by the stalled Syria talks, plans to revisit military options ranging from expanding efforts to train and equip moderate rebels to setting up no-fly zones, The Wall Street Journal reported Tuesday.

Exasperated by stalled talks seeking ways to pressure the regime and its Russian allies, the administration again will consider military, diplomatic and intelligence options that were presented to the White House but set aside in favor of pursuing international talks, according to officials briefed on the deliberations.

"There is a general sense that it's time to take another look," a senior U.S. official said of the military options, adding that high-level discussions at the White House could begin as early as this week, the Journal reported.

According to the report, the administration is now having to search for a new leader to aid in an insurgency that's dominated by Islamist factions, including groups with connections to al-Qaida. Gen. Salim Idriss, the rebel leader the State Department once described as "a key component of the future of the Syrian opposition," was ousted Sunday at a meeting of the 30-member Supreme Military Council, the rebels' highest authority.

Military options range from long-range missiles to prevent the

Syrian government from flying its aircraft and creating humanitarian zones to training the opposition to hold territory outside the regime's control and keep out al-Qaida-linked groups, U.S. officials and European diplomats told the Journal.

Secretary of State John Kerry recently discussed military and intelligence options privately with retired Army Gen. David Petraeus, who resigned as director of the CIA in 2012, the Journal reported an official close to Petraeus saying. While CIA director, Petraeus, a former top U.S. commander in Afghanistan and Iraq, was a leading behind-the-scenes advocate of aiding the rebels in Syria.

Officials told the paper that it is unclear how serious the White House is about reconsidering the options for the U.S. to influence the 3-year-old Syrian war, which has claimed more than 140,000 lives. But officials said the re-evaluation has increasing support within the military and the U.S. intelligence community. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented the White House with military options in meetings in 2012 and 2013, officials say, and has consistently been a leading voice of caution about using them.

Among options is supplementing the CIA's limited, covert arming and training program for moderate rebels by creating a parallel training mission led

by U.S. special operations forces. A military train-and-equip mission, officials said, could focus on training rebels in ways to counter al-Qaida and hold ground outside the control of the forces of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

One U.S. concern is that the Assad regime could retaliate against Jordan, where an expanded training mission would take place, officials told the Journal.

As part of the train-and-equip option, military planners have proposed creating a limited no-fly zone inside Syria that would be enforced from Jordanian territory to protect Syrian refugees and rebels who would train there, according to U.S. officials.

Military planners say that creating an area to train and equip rebel forces would require keeping Syrian aircraft well away from the Jordanian border.

Last year, the U.S. moved Patriot air defense batteries and F-16 fighter planes to Jordan. Both would be integral to a no-fly zone. U.S. planes have air-to-air missiles that could destroy Syrian planes from long range. But officials said aircraft might be required to enter Syrian air space if threatened by Syrian planes.

Military officials say the Pentagon remains prepared.

"We have forces in the region," a senior military official told the Journal. "We have ships in the Mediterranean Sea. Everything we need to carry out a military option is there."



Hadi MIZBAN/AP

An Iraqi man helps his son, who is headed to school, at the site of a car bomb attack in Baghdad on Tuesday.

# Wave of car bombs kills dozens in Iraq

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A new wave of car bombs ripped through commercial areas in the Iraqi capital and areas to the south Tuesday, killing at least 33 people and wounding dozens in the latest coordinated militant assault, officials said.

The blasts came as a firebrand Shiite cleric delivered a blistering criticism of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in a rare televised address. Muqtada al-Sadr also reiterated his earlier declaration that he was retiring from politics.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosives-laden parked cars that detonated Tuesday. But their targets, shopping streets and bus stations, are frequently hit by the al-Qaida breakaway group that is the country's

main insurgent force, as it tries to undermine government efforts to maintain security. The group, the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, has taken responsibility for similar attacks before.

In Baghdad, four such bombings killed at least 17 people and wounded 49 others. Police say another four bombs went off simultaneously in the southern city of Hillah, killing at least 11 people and wounding 35 others. In the town of Musayyib, a parked car bomb explosion killed five civilians and wounded 13. Medical officials confirmed the figures. All spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

The attacks came a day after a series of explosions in the capital left at least 23 dead.

## Riot police move in against protest camp in Ukraine capital

KIEV, Ukraine — Using water cannons and stun grenades, Ukrainian riot police moved in against the sprawling protest camp in the center of Kiev late Tuesday after nine people were killed in violent street clashes.

Thousands of protesters had filled Independence Square hours before, sensing Ukraine's political standoff was reaching a critical turning point after the deadliest violence in nearly three months of protests that have paralyzed the capital and the nation.

Tents were seen going up in flames as defiant protesters shouted "Glory to Ukraine!"

Earlier in the day, protesters attacked police lines and set fires outside parliament as they accused President Viktor Yanukovich's government of ignoring their demands once again. As darkness fell, law enforcement agencies vowed to bring order to the streets and shut down subway stations in the capital. Thousands of protesters streamed to the square to defend the camp, where Orthodox priests prayed for peace.

The clashes dimmed hopes for an imminent solution to the political crisis and fueled tensions that began soaring following new steps by Russia and the European Union to gain influence over this former Soviet republic.

We believe Ukraine's crisis can still be solved via dialogue, but unless a not-sided who fuel violence will open themselves to sanctions," U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey R. Payatt said on Twitter.

From The Associated Press



ALEJANDRO CCGARRA/AP

## Venezuelan opposition leader held

A demonstrator covers her mouth with a rag to protest government censorship, during a march in Caracas, Venezuela, on Monday. Opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez re-emerged from days of hiding to address an anti-government demonstration and then surrendered to authorities Tuesday in a move that he said will open the world's eyes to the increasingly authoritarian bent of Venezuela's socialist government.

## Former congressman arrested in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Former U.S. Rep. Melvin Jay Reynolds has been arrested in Zimbabwe on suspicion of possessing pornography and an immigration offense.

Reynolds is being held in custody and is expected to appear in court soon, immigration official Ario Mabika said.

Reynolds, 62, was arrested Monday by police detectives and immigration officials at a Harare hotel, according to the state-controlled newspaper, The Herald. He brought several Zimbabwean models and other women to his room where he took photographs and videos, the newspaper reported.

This is the latest of several legal problems for Reynolds, an Illinois Democrat who once was a Rhodes scholar. Reynolds resigned from his congressional seat in 1995 after he was convicted of 12 counts of statutory rape, obstruction of justice and solicitation of child pornography. While in prison, he was also convicted of bank and campaign fraud. His sentence was commuted by President Bill Clinton in 2001.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

# UN report urges action on abuses in North Korea

Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — Torture, deliberate starvation and other abuses carried out by North Korean authorities — possibly on the orders of leader Kim Jong Un — are crimes against humanity and should be referred to an international court or tribunal for prosecution, United Nations investigators said Monday.

A 400-page report cataloged practices long cited by defectors and human rights activists, but their inclusion in a comprehensive document compiled by a U.N.-appointed panel appeared to be unprecedented. It was accompanied by a three-page letter to Kim warning that under international law he could be held responsible for atrocities committed by underlings.

Release of the report could further inflame tensions prior to annual war games conducted by the United States and South Korea, scheduled to begin Feb. 24.

North Koreans and human rights advocates had hoped that a trend toward economic liberalization would accelerate after the December 2011 death of former leader Kim Jong Il and the succession of Kim Jong Un.

The trend appears to have reversed, especially in recent months. The execution in December of Jang Song Taek, the leader's uncle and the most re-

form-minded of the top leadership, triggered a purge that has seen dozens of people, possibly hundreds, executed or summarily deported to prison camps.

Some reports say that among the victims have been children who committed no offenses but were related to those accused of political crimes.

The report unveiled in Geneva by the U.N. Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in North Korea said that the gravity, scale and nature of the violations in North Korea over several decades do not have "any parallel in the contemporary world."

"These crimes against humanity entail extermination, murder, enslavement, torture, imprisonment, rape, forced abortions and other sexual violence, persecution on political, religious, racial and gender grounds, the forcible transfer of populations, the enforced disappearance of persons and the inhumane act of knowingly causing prolonged starvation," it said.

The document called for urgent action by the international community, including referral to the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Alternatively, it noted that the U.N. Security Council has the power to set up a special tribunal for North Korea.



LEE JAE-HYUCK, YONHAP/AP

The roof of a resort auditorium collapsed during a welcoming ceremony for South Korean university freshmen in Gyeongju, South Korea, on Tuesday, killing 10 people and injuring 100, officials said.

## 10 die as S. Korean roof falls

By KIM YONG-HO AND HYUNG-JIN KIM  
The Associated Press

GYEONGJU, South Korea — Emergency staff worked through the night in snow and sleet to pull survivors from the debris of an auditorium whose roof collapsed under the weight of snow, killing 10 people and injuring 100, most of them recently enrolled freshmen of a South Korean university, officials said Tuesday.

The students had gathered at the auditorium of a holiday resort for a welcoming ceremony Monday night when the roof came crashing down, leaving twisted metal and debris of concrete and wood.

Bad weather hampered rescuers who had to reach the site outside the historic tourist city of Gyeongju on icy roads. Working all night, they extricated survi-

vors, many of them injured, and rushed them on stretchers to waiting ambulances.

Family and friends of the dead gathered in a morgue in Ulsan.

Kim Pan-su fought back tears as he talked about his daughter, Kim Jin-sol, who was one of the dead. He said he had called his daughter's friends when he couldn't reach her.

"Her friends said that she ... was safe but that she couldn't escape. This is the only thing I was repeatedly told," Kim said. "I felt that something was weird, so I went to the university. ... I had just parked my car in the parking lot when they called the names of people that died, including my daughter's."

President Park Geun-hye ordered an investigation as well as safety checks of buildings near the country's east coast, which

has seen heavy snow this winter. The resort's owner, Kolon Group, believes that snow likely caused the collapse but is examining more specific causes.

About 560 students from Busan University of Foreign Studies had gathered for a two-day freshman orientation at the Manua Ocean Resort when a crack appeared in the auditorium ceiling before the collapse. Nine students and another person were killed, two people were seriously injured and 103 lightly injured, said Jung Yoon-han, director of the disaster management department at the Ministry of Security and Public Administration.

Byun Ki-chan, head of the international exchange department at the university, said some students managed to escape after noticing the crack but others couldn't leave in time, he said.

## China finds its soldiers are growing

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's military says its soldiers have grown taller and wider over the past two decades, leading to cramped tanks and other equipment problems.

A survey of 20,000 troops begun in 2009 found they were an average of about three-quarters of an inch taller and about 2 inches wider around the waist, the official People's Liberation Army Daily newspaper reported Tuesday.

The added heft is causing discomfort for soldiers as they try to squeeze into tanks designed 30 years ago. It said rifle barrels were also becoming relatively shorter for the taller soldiers, leading to accuracy problems.

Adjustments would be made when designing new firearms and other equipment, the report said.

China's 2.3 million-member standing army is the world's largest.



APICHART WEERAWONG/AP

A Thai police officer aims his rubber bullet rifle as a medical team carries an injured person on a stretcher during a clash between police and anti-government protesters Tuesday in Bangkok.

## 4 killed as Thai police try to clear protesters

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Gunbattles broke out Tuesday as hundreds of riot police made their strongest attempt to clear anti-government protest sites around Thailand's capital, leaving at least four people dead and 64 others injured.

Multiple gunshots were heard near the prime minister's offices, where riot police wearing helmets and bulletproof vests had started to remove protesters and dismantle a makeshift stage.

Witnesses said a grenade was thrown at the police and shots were then fired by both sides. The police withdrew after a series of clashes.

In another blow for Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, the state anti-corruption agency accused her on Tuesday of improperly handling an expensive rice subsidy scheme, putting her in jeopardy of being impeached.

The National Anti-Corruption

Commission said Yingluck's government proceeded with the scheme despite advice from experts that it was potentially wasteful and prone to corruption. The government has been months late in making payments to farmers for the rice they pledged to sell at above-market prices.

The commission said Yingluck has been called to formally hear the charges on Feb. 27. If it decides to submit the case to the Senate for possible impeachment, Yingluck will immediately be suspended from performing her official duties pending a Senate trial.

Yingluck's elected government has been attempting to avoid violence to keep the powerful military from stepping in. Thailand has been wracked by political unrest since 2006, when Yingluck's brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was ousted by a military coup after being accused of corruption and abuse of power.

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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. Payment may be distributed through official channels and use pre-authorized funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

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OPINION

Happy to let Facebook take me away

By AMY GOLDMAN KOSS

The 10th birthday of Facebook last week caught me to recall my miserable pre-Facebook existence, when methods of procrastination were sorely limited.

As a stay-at-home writer, phone calls were unruly and hard to control. What if the other person wanted to tell a long story? What if she wanted me to really pay attention?

I could have a bit of contact with the outside world by scanning the newspaper or listening to the radio. But for me the switch in media was too jarring and tended to trigger frantic snacking, which often led to napping.

I needed a way to remain in my chair, at my screen, but to be able to check in on friends without having to make small talk or even hold up my side of the conversation. Although I didn't realize it, I also needed a chance to spy on semi-strangers and relatives and people from my past without breaking any laws. I needed access to video snippets and news bits that someone else thought were funny or touching or bizarre. I needed a simple way to keep up with neighborhood gossip and industry rumor. All while investing precisely as much time and attention as I wanted to, with no reciprocal responsibilities or guilt.

I needed Facebook. Satisfying the semi-social, procrastination needs of middle-age writers may not have been what Mark Zuckerberg had in mind when he launched Facebook, but he can count that among his accomplishments nonetheless. Thanks to him, with one click I can leave work get out of my own story for exactly as long as I wish, then return to work. Better than ruby slippers!

I assume all Facebook users find their own community. I write children's books, so the people who "friend" me tend to be teachers, librarians, other writers or read-

Even if the whole Facebook world is just a new kind of fiction, the laughs are real, and so are the sorrows.

ers. And they're there for me.

Just the other day, I couldn't remember the title or author of a book that I wanted to recommend to a friend, so I asked the communal Facebook brain. All I had to go on was the general subject and my memory of the cover art. Within minutes I had the book's title from a middle school librarian in Massachusetts whom I've never met. She probably came across my question while doing her own procrastinating.

Another time recently, I posted a picture of the grub I found in my flower beds. By nightfall they'd been identified, remedies had been suggested, similar insect stories shared, sympathy extended.

What I didn't expect when I started using Facebook was that just through the accumulation of "status updates," which are rarely more than a sentence or two, distinct personalities would emerge. Not all, but many of my 1,429 Facebook friends who began as total strangers have become virtual friends.

There's also something wonderful about the ease of ending Facebook friendships. I can simply block anyone I find annoying, and they never know.

And when blocking isn't enough, there is the delicious joy of unfriending.

The overzealous debut author who believed that relentless self-promotion via social media really was the path to success rarely block anyone I find annoying, and they never know. The NRA kid whose response to school shootings was that the teachers should be armed: Unfriend! The antiabortion and marriage-protection fanatics: Click, bye-bye!

But Facebook friendships can also pull you into real-life dramas.

I have one Facebook friend who is suffering from severe depression. She recently checked back into the "whack snack" (her words) for electric shock treatments, which she described in detail. She writes about her plight with humor and charm, but it tears my heart out. I find myself as anxious about her illness and treatments as I would be about an actual blood-and-bone friend.

Recently, a sweet guy I'd never met, and only knew from his Facebook posts, died. I learned this when his brother announced his sudden death — on Facebook. I was stunned, and totally blindsided by the depth of my emotion. But I wondered if I was entitled to be sad over a total stranger. Was it voyeuristic? Ghoulish? Inappropriate? The sorrow felt entirely real, but it was embarrassing.

I secretly went to his Facebook page and found that I was not alone.

Alongside his real-life friends and family, many people who had only known him on Facebook posted condolences and memories and prayers. His online community mourned the loss of his brother and found us eventually became Facebook friends.

Maybe those of us who connect on Facebook care for each other and cry over each other in the same way we do over beloved characters in novels and movies. As a fiction writer, I take those relationships seriously. So even if the world of one another world is just a new kind of fiction, the laughs are real, and so are the sorrows.

And the procrastination is exquisite.

Amy Goldman Koss' latest novel for teens is "The Not-So-Great Depression." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Cult of personality could doom the Democrats

By JENNIFER RUBIN

The Washington Post

I've recently pointed out that the far right has fallen on hard times. But before liberals celebrate they should take a look at their own shop, which is itself in trouble.

For starters, the hard-right's problems are the GOP's gains. In passing a budget, raising the debt ceiling and, most importantly, putting out constructive policy ideas, the mainstream Republican Party can re-establish itself as the responsible party of reform. Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, became an important player in the policy debate and began his personal redemption after the shutdown (which he helped lead) ended and he started putting out thoughtful policy ideas.

The left has bigger problems, however, than a resurgent conservative reform movement. It has to a very large extent confirmed the worst stereotypes about big government. As the Obamacare mess has played out, voters have not only been turned off from a federalized health care system but turned negative on big government in general. Moreover, the defense of Obamacare — that it came free you from the "work lock" to be subsidized by other taxpayers — is downright offensive to many voters, and it goes to the heart of most welfare-type programs well beyond Obamacare.

Then there is the realization that the Obama economic "recovery" has been tepid at best. President Bill Clinton could make the case that his brand of Democrat-

A philosophy of defense and the status quo riding on the backs of two personalities spells trouble.

ic governance was good for the economy, good for the middle and working class and therefore a model that also allowed for an expansive, liberal welfare state (albeit one that required work for welfare, a successful innovation thrust upon him by conservatives). President Barack Obama can't make such a claim, and indeed his focus on inequality includes an implicit criticism of his own administration. (He has been president for five years.)

On the foreign policy front, few but those employed in the administration or doggedly spinning for it would dispute that the liberal isolationism characterized by the withdrawal, disregard for human rights and currying favor with despots has been a disaster. His great achievement — killing Osama bin Laden — has been dwarfed by the spread of al-Qaida and a series of foreign policy disasters, most visibly in Syria. What is the Obama/liberal foreign policy doctrine? It's not clear there is one.

And then onto 2016, the Democrats have invested all hopes in an aging Clinton, one not nearly as popular or as politically adept as her husband, two years before the first primary. The field is so weak that should she prove unwilling to run or unconvincing as a candidate (in part because she is unsatisfactory to the first-timed left wing), there is virtually no other credible contender who might step forward. The Dem-

ocrats, therefore, are essentially stuck with a candidate of the past who was very much involved in the failures of the Obama administration that were what she left back on its heels to begin with.

In short, liberalism can become defined by a circle-the-wagons mentality around two personalities, neither of which has a record of success or a forward-looking agenda. A philosophy of defense and the status quo riding on the backs of two personalities spells trouble. If a figure falls, as Obama has, the movement has few policy ideas or secondary personalities to propel it forward.

This doesn't mean the Democratic Party can't win in 2014 or 2016. Its technical operations and ability to vilify its opposition are second to none. But as a political force it is spent. It is surviving precariously on the potential for wacky opponents and fading star power. It's quite a fall from the heady days of 2008.

The left's ideal president is increasingly unpopular and therefore a threat to the party's Senate majority. Big losses in the Senate would bring his agenda to a screeching halt (if it hasn't been stopped already) and serve as a reminder to Democrats of the perils of liberal statism.

Jennifer Rubin is a Washington Post columnist and anchors the paper's Right Turn blog.

OPINION

# It's no surprise union's VW plan went south

By DAN K. THOMASSON  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON

The United Auto Workers' failed invasion of the South has all the earmarks of the old "if it ain't broke don't fix it" philosophy mixed with more than a touch of anti-unionism inherent in the region's distrust of collective bargaining led by outsiders.

The hourly workers at Volkswagen's Chattanooga, Tenn., plant surprised UAW leaders in an election they thought was in the bag and the first step to organizing foreign auto plants throughout the South. They had based their optimism on the fact VW said it would not oppose the plan and that workers would be seduced by the establishment of a joint management/worker council that would have serious input into operations.

What the UAW apparently missed somehow was the longstanding animosity toward unions in that part of the country where, in addition to an cherished concept and suspicion of outside influence from the North is virulent. Many workers apparently were convinced that the UAW had a big hand in what had occurred in Detroit. It would be hard to argue otherwise, although management deserves at least an equal share in the decline of the U.S. auto industry over three decades.

Unions thrive when working conditions are inadequate and often oppressive. The industrial revolution that saw the creation of America's might in heavy industry was replete with examples of the maltreatment and exploitation of the American work force.

As the automobile became the driving

force in the American economy, the United Auto Workers under the Reuther brothers (Walter, Victor and Roy) fought valiantly to increase the share of the benefits for those doing the work. They were almost too successful, ultimately raising wages and benefits and retirement programs to a level that left the companies far less able to meet the world competition that was to come.

Management on the other hand fought labor peace year after year by granting concessions it knew had a disastrous potential. Why? Because the companies could both sell all their cars and at the same time pass along to the consumer a healthy increase each year to cover the burgeoning costs. The Golden Auto would just continue laying its wonderful eggs forever.

Except when it couldn't any longer because suddenly the Japanese and others were making a better, higher-quality goose. In addition they were doing so with nonunion workers. The word went out that if you bought one of these cars it was safe once again to get one built on Monday or Friday because the full workforce showed up every day.

All this, of course, is a bit of oversimplification. There were numerous other factors that can be stirred into the mix of the rise and fall of the U.S. auto industry. But essentially, it seems, the reasons behind this UAW setback are clear. The working conditions are good and there are prospects of even better times from a company that apparently treats it workers well.

Clearly, it didn't hurt the anti-union cause for local and federal politicians like Republican U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, who openly voiced their disapproval of the UAW's efforts, warning without substan-



tiation among other things that new job opportunities on an assembly line in the planning might not take place with the jobs going to Mexico. Whether that made the difference, however, is not certain — although the union's leaders contend it did.

Overshadowing all of this is an economy that is still struggling to regain its post-2008 vitality. That uncertainty carries with it the specter, real or not, of sudden job loss. VW's workers, like those everywhere, have serious concern about rocking an employment boat that currently seems on an even keel. It is a real fear, and one can hardly blame them despite the fact the manufacturer is one of the most stable leaders in the Western world.

Would signing up with the UAW have given these workers something they now don't have? Who knows? The movement to allow those who don't want to pay dues or assessments while at the same time turning over their collective bargaining rights to the UAW seems to me to be loaded with danger. How long would it take before resentment among the paying and nonpaying members boiled over into a serious labor unrest?

The fact is the UAW, whether it knew it or not, had an upstream paddle to settle into a region it has long sought and it still does.

Dan K. Thomasson is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune and a former vice president of Scripps Howard Newspapers.

# Gates describes how DOD budget got to this point

By WALTER PINCUS  
The Washington Post

In his final meeting with members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in December 2008, President George W. Bush encouraged them "to make his last defense budget very forward-leaning in terms of modernization, re-equipping our forces after the two wars and funding 'unplanned contingencies,'" former Defense Secretary Robert Gates wrote in his book "Duty."

Bush's encouragement led to a \$581 billion core Defense Department proposed budget for fiscal 2010 — \$57 billion above the projected figure, Gates wrote.

As a result, "more than a few Obama folks — with some justification — thought the Bush administration had sandbagged them, seeking to make [President Barack] Obama look weak on defense, as he inevitably would have to pare back the budget," Gates added.

Since the heady Bush years, the Pentagon has been on a budgetary downslope, a change from the years immediately following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, when the military services got almost everything they wanted, with few questions asked.

For example, from fiscal 2003 to fiscal 2007, the core defense budget grew by more than \$100 billion. It went up \$46 billion in fiscal 2008, and Bush's fiscal 2009 request raised that an additional \$35.9 billion. The final Bush request for fiscal 2010, which was supposed to grow by only about \$13 billion, would have added \$70 billion over 2009.

Those figures do not include the supple-

mental money for fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan — \$100 billion.

The Defense Department was floating in money during the Bush years, and when Obama arrived it was planning as if that would never change.

Gates takes some of the responsibility, saying, "I should have stopped the additions encouraged by Bush."

He was determined to rebuild the 2010 proposed defense budget for Obama through a process that would weed out "bloated, overdue, or unjustifiable programs."

Gates describes the subsequent 2009 battles in the Pentagon and with Congress to slice that bloated Bush fiscal 2010 core defense budget — eventually down to the \$533.8 billion that Obama sent to Congress in May 2009.

"Every element of the Pentagon had built its budget down to the last dime on the basis of a \$581 billion request, and when we had to develop a real-world budget tens of billions of dollars lower, there was all manner of screaming and yowling out of the Pentagon at a huge 'cut,'" Gates said.

Gates' tale has a message for today as Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Obama prepare to introduce their fiscal 2015 defense budget on March 4.

It is projected at \$521.4 billion. In 2008, the Congressional Budget Office projected that at the rate the Bush defense budget was going, the Pentagon's core fiscal 2015 budget would be \$677 billion.

Gates would have budget problems with the Obama administration as the years went on, and he tried to protect the increases that the Pentagon needed, but its Bush-

years spending habits were a problem.

Budget cutting is one of several stories the former defense secretary relates about the Bush-Obama transition period that has relevancy today.

Criticism of the Obama administration's step-up of criminal investigations of classified information leaks to reporters has its roots in the transition period, Gates notes.

■ On Jan. 7, 2009, Gates learned from his press secretary that The New York Times was going to publish an article saying that there was "a covert program intended to delay the Iranian [nuclear enrichment] program" and that the United States had turned down a 2008 request for bunker-busting bombs and permission to overfly Iraq to hit Iran's nuclear site at Natanz.

Gates had suggested that the White House call the newspaper's top editor, but apparently that was not done, and it was published Jan. 11.

Obama was briefed on the background of the leak, which occurred before he took office, and "a month later [after he was sworn in as president] Obama was still so angry about the leaks ... that he told me he wanted a criminal investigation."

The probe of that program, Stuxnet, is still ongoing.

■ Gates also discloses the secret negotiations before the 2008 elections that led to his agreement to be the first defense secretary to remain in office with a president from the other party.

approached.

One key was Gates sending eight questions to Obama in mid-October that he needed answered before he would accept the job.

They were to meet Nov. 10 at 3:30 p.m. in a conference room at the fire station near the general aviation terminal at Reagan National Airport. Gates was early, Obama 25 minutes late.

"Why do you want me to stay?" Obama's reply: "It was Gates' performance, and as president he would need stability at Defense while he focused on the economy."

How long? Obama: "Let's leave it completely open publicly, with the private understanding about a year."

Gates: "We do not know each other. Are you prepared to trust me from day one and include me in your innermost councils on national security matters?"

Obama: "I wouldn't ask you to stay if I didn't trust you. You'll be in on all the major issues and decisions — and the minor ones too if you want."

There were also questions about national security staffing and the defense budget.

Obama said if he had to make cuts in domestic agencies he could not "leave Defense untouched," but there would be "no deep cuts."

The meeting went on for 50 minutes and ended with an agreement "for about a year," along with a handshake.

Gates stayed more than two years.

Walter Pincus reports on intelligence, defense and foreign policy for The Washington Post and writes the Fine Print column.

## WORLD

## DEADLY SCOURGE



PHOTOS BY RAJESH KUMAR SINGH/AP

Nurses help tuberculosis patient Manjeet Mishra, 18, walk toward Lal Bahadur Shastri Government Hospital at Ram Nagar in Varanasi, India, on Feb. 3.

## 2.4 MILLION

The number of tuberculosis cases in India, according to the World Health Organization's Global Tuberculosis Report 2013 — the highest incidence of TB in the world. India saw the greatest increase in multidrug-resistant TB between 2011 and 2012.

## Weavers' villages in India devastated by TB

By BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The Associated Press

LOHATA, India

This cluster of poor villages, long known for its colorful silk saris, now is known for something else: tuberculosis. Nearly half of Lohata's population has it — some 100,000 people — and the com-

munity's weaving tradition is part of the reason it is on the front line of a major Indian health crisis.

The area of Uttar Pradesh state is under unofficial quarantine because of the epidemic. Strangers rarely venture into these villages outside the ancient city of Varanasi. Even rickshaw drivers refuse to enter, turning away the few passengers looking for a lift.

The high rate of TB cases in Lohata is unusual, even for India, where the disease kills about 300,000 people every year. Poverty and malnutrition are factors, but the fact that so many people in Lohata are weavers also is significant, said Dr. J.N. Banavalikar, vice chairman of the TB Association of India, a government agency.

Thousands of sari weavers work all day in cramped rooms, breathing in minute threads that weaken their lungs and make them more susceptible. "They work in poorly ventilated rooms for hours, and that spreads germs very fast," Banavalikar said.

India has made important strides in health in recent years, most recently by launching a successful polio vaccination campaign. But tuberculosis has remained a stubborn problem in India, which has more than a quarter of the world's new TB cases.

Children are especially at risk.

Mumtaz Ali says he has no way to help his grandson Anwar, 4, who coughs throughout the day, spitting blood with each spasm.

"Doctors say he is malnourished," Ali said. "They say we should give Anwar nutritious food. But the fact is, I cannot even afford two meals a day — forget about giving him milk and eggs.

Only Allah can save us."

About 12,900 people in the villages died of the disease in 2011, and about 13,700 died in 2012, according to Dr. S.P. Dubey, a health official in Uttar Pradesh who oversees the TB program. Statistics for 2013 are not yet available.

The government has launched programs to combat the disease and offer free TB drugs, but there are serious nationwide roadblocks. Quacks with no training often treat TB patients, and pharmacists routinely give out antibiotics without prescriptions.

"These quacks give high-potency antibiotics which initially give them relief but in the long term, these people develop drug resistance," said Dr. Surya Kant Tripathi, head of the Department

of Pulmonary Medicines at King George's Medical University in Lucknow, the state capital.

Another factor contributing to TB's growing drug resistance: Many patients, weary of TB drugs' harsh side effects, stop their treatment once they feel better instead of taking the full course.



A doctor attends to Anwar, 4, who is infected with tuberculosis, near Varanasi, India.



## WIRED WORLD

# Robot doc on duty in emergency room

## Device helps physicians treat patients from afar

By MARLENE HARRIS-TAYLOR  
The (Toledo, Ohio) Blade

TOLEDO, Ohio — There is a new physician's assistant in the emergency room at Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center, but this one is not human. A robot named Vincent by the hospital staff, or Vinnie for short, is breaking ground in medical treatment in northwest Ohio.

The remote-presence robot, RP7, can be controlled by a doctor from his office, home or car through any computer device, even a smartphone, and commanded to roll on its own into any room in the emergency department.

The doctor's face appears on a large, flat-screen monitor attached to the robot and he or she can talk directly to a patient or another medical professional in the room with the patient. The robot comes equipped with medical instruments such as stethoscopes that can be placed onto the patient's body and the doctor can remotely hear the patient's heart-beat and assess other vital signs from miles away.

Telemedicine, as it is called, has arrived in Toledo and it is changing the way medicine is practiced nationally and globally, said Dr. John Whapham, medical director of endovascular, neurosurgery and stroke programs for Mercy.

Whapham is a telemedicine pioneer, having been instrumental in building a program at St. Joseph Mercy hospital in the Detroit area called the Michigan Stroke Network. He helped create a similar program in Chicago that focused primarily on getting faster medical care to patients who were showing signs of having strokes.

He said Vinnie had been "live" in the emergency room at St. Vincent for about two weeks and most patients had been accepting of the technology. They are also glad to know that a specialist like Whapham is available to be a part of their care because the robot makes him accessible any time of the day or night.

Whapham has been in Toledo for about a year and a half, and is developing a regional telemedicine program for Mercy that experts say will break ground. Mercy officials said the program won't focus only on connecting doctors remotely to stroke victims. They plan to train doctors who specialize in cardiac, critical and trauma care to use Vinnie in the hospital's emergency room and in other critical care units, said Julie Georgoff, Mercy administrator of orthopedics and



JETTA FRASER, THE (TOLEDO, OHIO) BLADE/AP  
Dr. John Whapham demonstrates a remote telepresence robot and an iPad in January at Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio.

neuroscience.

Most telemedicine robots that you can't drive cost about \$50,000, Georgoff said. Units like Vinnie can cost more than \$100,000 because they can be driven remotely by a doctor. There is an even more advanced model, RPVITA, that can drive itself, memorize a hospital's layout and navigate its way onto elevators, Whapham said.

Mercy's plans for Vinnie extend beyond St. Vincent, Georgoff said. The health system is setting up a regional network in which robots like Vinnie will be placed in other emergency rooms. Mercy Tiffin Hospital will be next, followed by other regional referral centers, including the Fulton County Health Center. That will make time-sensitive illness more of a priority, Georgoff said.

Whapham said the technology enables doctors to be in their offices and to think of medicine not in terms of patients in the building, but patients in the entire network. Mercy plans to encompass all of Ohio's northern half and portions of Michigan and Indiana.

"It's neat for me because I'm a relatively younger physician and my specialty literally didn't exist when I was a resident," he said.

Whapham said many of the major medical centers in the country such as the Mayo Clinic, the Cleveland Clinic and Johns



Mike Conrad, left, Life Flight Mobile Life Director of Operations, sits in a Life Flight helicopter in Toledo and holds a transporter express unit while Whapham holds an iPad showing the image that Conrad's unit is sending.

Hopkins have used the technology for years. In Toledo, his plans will take the use of the robots a step further than what's in use in other health systems.

He is pioneering the use of a smaller robot unit that can be placed in a Life Flight medical helicopter so doctors can start diagnosing and treating patients at the scene of accidents or during the flight to the hospital.

Whapham said he made history in his office in St. Vincent Medi-

cal Center on Jan. 20.

The small, portable robot unit lifted from the teleport at St. Vincent in a Life Flight helicopter. The unit was being carried on the lap of the co-pilot for the flight from Toledo, through Chicago to Wisconsin, where it was to be fitted with a special bracket so it can be put into service in the helicopter.

During the test flight, Whapham connected with the pilot and co-pilot through the robot for the entire trip and received data, pictures and information from the portable unit, giving him a glimpse of how the unit will perform when patients are in the helicopter.

At one point during the test, Whapham marveled at the quality of the pictures being sent back to his laptop. "Oh, wow, you have to see this, guys," he said. "Look at this from the air — how I can zoom. I can see individual cars and farms and stuff."

"This was an overwhelming success and this is now the longest recorded telemedical flight in U.S. history," he said. "This is a very positive technological first step. The video is actually phenomenal. It's better than we thought we would get actually."

He said the next step is to dissect the results and to make some tweaks, but Mercy plans to put the unit into service right away. The unit will be operating as soon as the doctors finish the training.

"They can unhook it and take it directly to the scene of the accident or where the victim is," Whapham said. They also will have the capability of streaming live ultrasound and EKG imagery back to the hospital during the flight.

"Medicine is evolving," and the investment in this medical infrastructure is really changing the game, Whapham said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## School district sued over tug-of-war injuries

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Two former high school students who lost fingers in a tug-of-war accident have sued a Southern California school district. Seniors Pablo Ocegueda and Edith Rodriguez were taking part in a Spirit Week contest in February of last year at South El Monte High School when the rope tore off some of their fingers.

Reports at the time said they lost at least four fingers each. City News Service said their lawsuit, filed Thursday in Los Angeles, contends that school officials failed to properly supervise the contest and allowed the students to grab a slipknot on the tug-of-war rope. The suit said the knot slipped, causing the injuries.

## Washington document on view at Spy Museum

**DC** WASHINGTON — An original letter written by George Washington that initiated a spy network during the Revolutionary War is going on display for a limited time at the International Spy Museum in Washington.

The museum says Washington's letter, written on Feb. 4, 1777, launched the nation's first spy network. While then-Gen. Washington was commander in chief of the Continental Army, he wrote to confidant Nathaniel Sackett, commissioning him to spy for his country as Washington's "intelligence director."

Sackett was to be paid \$50 per month to create a spy network in New York. He was given a \$500 bonus up front.

The museum acquired the fragile document in 2002 from Sackett's family. It's usually kept in storage for preservation. The document will be on view through March.

## Mayor to go blond to support HS team

**TX** SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio's dark-haired mayor is going blond after promising to dye his hair if the Lanier High School basketball team made it to the playoffs.

They did. Mayor Julian Castro has announced on his Facebook page he will make good on the promise.

Castro joins members of the basketball team who have a more than 10-year-old tradition of dyeing their hair when they make it to the playoffs.

Hair stylist Tina Ruiz said she and her staff at the House of Styles Salon will be lightening the hair of 14 Voks varsity basketball players.

## Parish jails preparing for Carnival influx

**LA** HOUMA — Law enforcement agencies in Lafourche and Terrebonne parishes are making final plans to ensure there will be enough space in their jails for an expect-

## THE CENSUS

**3** The number of banks a Florida woman has admitted robbing. Renita Mount Rayner, 53, of St. Petersburg, faces a potential life sentence after pleading guilty last week to bank robbery and firearms charges. Investigators said a friend of Rayner's recognized her from photos of an August robbery in St. Petersburg. The FBI said Rayner also robbed banks in Dunedin and Ocala last fall, usually handing tellers a note claiming she had a gun and would use it.



EVE EDLHEIT, THE TAMPA BAY (FLA.) TIMES/AP

## Mud men

Race participants climb up and down ropes over a mud pit Saturday during the Special Ops Spartan Sprint at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. The course had several obstacles inside and around the stadium and required crawling under barbed wire on the field where the Tampa Bay Buccaneers play football.

ed increase in inmate populations during Carnival season.

The Lafourche Parish jail is over its capacity of 280, with many of its inmates housed in jails outside the parish due to overcrowding. Terrebonne's jail is slightly under its capacity of 612 inmates.

"Prior to Mardi Gras every year we make sure we have enough room in the jail," Terrebonne jail Warden Thomas Cope said. "It's different every year. Sometimes you might have 50 arrests come in; some years you have 10. On average, during the two weekends of Mardi Gras, we probably take in around 25 prisoners."

Towns throughout Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes draw large crowds for the string of parades that begin Sunday with the Krewe Des Les Petit Lions in Golden Meadow.

Serious crimes are rare during Carnival season, but alcohol-related offenses and other misdemeanors are common, officials said.

## Officials blow up explosive-laden home

**CA** REDDING — Sheriff's deputies in far Northern California were burning down a mobile home where more

than 60 pounds of highly volatile explosive material was found, after dozens of residents evacuated the area.

Shasta County Sheriff's officials consulted with water and air quality officials before proceeding with the incineration midday Sunday. Emergency personnel and hazmat teams were standing by.

Sheriff's Lt. Dave Kent said the mandatory evacuations around the Redding home began last week and were expanded on Friday, bringing the total to about 55 homes under evacuation orders.

Kent said the materials in the house were too unstable for deputies to even walk on the property without risking a blast. They were discovered Feb. 6, after authorities responded to an explosion at the home that took off a man's left hand.

## Dave's Killer Bread co-founder back in jail

**OR** PORTLAND — The co-founder of Dave's Killer Bread is back in Washington County Jail after pleading not guilty Friday to criminal charges from a police chase last November.

Dave Dahl, 51, is being held on \$520,000 bail. He had been

charged with offenses including assault, unlawful use of a weapon and resisting arrest.

Dahl was arrested Nov. 14 on suspicion of leading Washington County deputies on a half-mile chase and ramming two patrol cars. Three deputies had injuries that were not life-threatening.

Court documents show the deputies initially were responding to a 911 call from a woman in Dahl's home who reported he was having a mental breakdown.

The face of the organic bread company has a criminal history that includes 15 years in and out of prison on drug, assault and robbery charges.

## 3 rescue teams remove man's body from home

**MD** SILVER SPRING — Officials said it took three technical rescue teams to remove the body of a nearly 500-pound man from the basement of a Silver Spring group home where he died.

A roommate called officials after he returned to the home on Autumn Drive and found the man dead. Police said officials had to cut a hole into the main floor of the home to get the man out of the basement and had to cut another

hole into the roof of the house to lower a pulley.

Officials said the man was in his 50s and police are investigating his death as a natural incident.

Police, fire officials and a hazmat team all were involved.

## Pet peacock killed after attacking women

**TX** HOUSTON — The suburban Houston caretaker of a pet peacock dubbed "Meanie" has shot and killed his feathered friend after the bird fanned his feathers and used his talons to attack several women.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office said in a statement the peacock attacked a woman Friday while she was being questioned by a deputy investigating a complaint about the bird. The deputy fired a stun gun at the peacock, but he continued his attack. The statement said the frightened woman fled indoors and the peacock's caretaker used his shotgun to kill the bird.

The peacock's caretaker, Rifey Richards, said he and his wife called the bird Meanie. He said the bird, who was owned by his daughter, previously had attacked other female relatives.

From wire reports

FACES



Kevin Costner is a CIA contract killer in the action comedy "3 Days to Kill."

STEPHAN VAUGHAN, RELATIVITY MEDIA/MCT

# Risky business

Costner still determined to go his own way

BY ROGER MOORE  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

These past few years, it's been pretty hard to get Kevin Costner off his back porch. It's in Aspen, Colo., so we kind of understand. He's been raising three children under the age of 10, with his second wife, Christine. "Half my life is driving kids to practice," he jokes.

There were the business ventures — one of them Ocean Therapy Solutions, an oil spill cleaning system — became famous thanks to the BP oil spill. Another, ArmStar, is a non-lethal weapon he's selling to the Pentagon that could allow the military and police to pacify violent situations without killing anybody.

"A lotta fascinating (stuff) happens on my back porch," Costner says with a laugh. "And I've never been a guy who makes movies back to back. I love movies, love acting, love directing. Hell, I even love rehearsing. But I have a more full life than that."

He still, at 59, fits the description film scholar David Thomson gave him in 2002's "Biographical Dictionary of Film": "He is not like others — he has resolved not to be."

But 2012's hit cable TV miniseries "Hatfields & McCoys" reminded us he's out there. He gave heart to the special effects-burdened "Man of Steel," and grizzled gravitas to Chris Pine and "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit."

April has the sports movie veteran in another sports movie — "Draft Day." There's "McFarland" and a film with his "Upside of Anger" director, Mike Binder — "Black and White."

"I financed it and it deals with racism," he says. "You don't do it just for the money, because God knows you don't put your own money up for movies about racism."

First, there's this gonzo action comedy from the writer-producer of "The Transporters" movies, "3 Days to Kill." Costner plays CIA contract killer Ethan Renner, a "cleaner," who learns he's dying of cancer. His new control agent (Amber Heard) bribes him with a serum that might prolong his life, providing he carries out one last series of hits, in Paris, where his estranged wife (Connie Nielsen) and the teen daughter he barely knows (Hailee Steinfeld) live.

"I like Ethan's directness — in his job, and how discomobulated he be-

comes trying to deal with the women in his life," Costner says. "We played those scenes fun, because he's struggling."

Costner shows every wrinkle, every gray hair in "3 Days." He may be "a national treasure," as his director, McG ("Charlie's Angels"), declares. But he's not shy about showing his age, in character and out of it.

Costner wanted to play a man "wed to his job," who has paid the price for that. He wanted to play a dying man who does what guys sometimes do in that situation — He wants to earn a lot of money, doing these last few jobs, so he can leave his family something. If he can't leave them memories, he'll leave them money."

Not that this explains Costner's suddenly full movie dance card. He'll admit he's in "the second half of my career," but don't go measuring him for a coffin just yet. Don't write off "3 Days" as a morose thriller. It's got laughs. Renner is so out of his depth with his daughter that he

**He'll admit he's in "the second half of my career," but don't go measuring him for a coffin just yet.**

interrupts "enhanced interrogations" to question family men from the terrorist underworld for child-rearing advice.

Costner's love for the unconventional continues with his next film, a

dramedy about a general manager trying to get through NFL "Draft Day."

"If somebody said, 'Make a movie about a single day in the NFL Draft, you'd laugh,'" he says. "But it's the same thing as saying 'These guys are walking out of a cornfield and onto a diamond wanting to play baseball. And they're dead. Make a movie about THAT.'"

In a career that has had as many near classics as misses, the man who will be remembered for "Field of Dreams" and "Bull Durham," "No Way Out" and "The Untouchables" is not about to stop gambling. Nobody saw "Swing Vote"? Maybe you should have. Missed his early working-man turn in "The Company Men"? Netflix it.

"Movies are supposed to make you glad you made them," Costner says, "because they're not what anybody expects."

## David Crosby postpones shows after undergoing heart surgery

The Associated Press

Rock performer David Crosby has undergone heart surgery and is postponing his two sold-out California shows.

Publicist Michael Jensen told City News Service that the 72-year-old had a cardiac catheterization last week to fix a blocked coronary artery.

Crosby is expected to make a full recovery, but concerts planned for February in San Francisco and West Hollywood will be



Crosby

In a statement, the performer said he is

moved to April. Crosby said he'll be ready to perform with the group Crosby, Stills and Nash on a tour that kicks off in Richmond, Va., on March 4.

Crosby underwent a liver transplant in 1994.

"once again a very lucky man."

### 4 voted into Jazz Hall of Fame

Singer Betty Carter, guitarist Wes Montgomery, drummer Elvin Jones and bandleader Fletcher Henderson have been voted into Jazz at Lincoln Center's Ertegun Jazz Hall of Fame. JALC announced the 2014 inductees Monday after tallying votes by jazz fans worldwide from a list of 10 nominees se-

lected by a committee of musicians and scholars.

Montgomery influenced countless modern jazz guitarists, including George Benson and Pat Metheny. Jones was the driving force propelling saxophonist John Coltrane's classic quartet.

Henderson's big band helped create swing music, and his arrangements were used by Benny Goodman's orchestra. Carter was a masterful scat singer known for her adventurous improvisations.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## White House touts stimulus success

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
The Associated Press

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — The \$787 billion spending bill that President Barack Obama signed into law soon after taking office boosted the economy and helped avoid another Great Depression, the White House said in a status report on Monday's fifth anniversary of the law's enactment.

Republican leaders in Congress took note of the anniversary, too, but argued that the bill spent too much for too little in return.

White House economic adviser Jason Furman said the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made other targeted investments that will pay dividends for years to come.

By itself, the stimulus bill saved or created an average of 1.6 million jobs a year for four years through the end of 2012, Furman said in a White House blog post.

Half of the total fiscal support for the economy, or about \$689 billion, from the recovery act and

**By itself, the stimulus bill saved or created an average of 1.6 million jobs a year for four years through the end of 2012, White House economic adviser Jason Furman said in a blog post.**

subsequent measures was in the form of tax cuts directed mostly at families. The remainder was spent on such things as rebuilding roads and bridges, preventing teacher layoffs and providing temporary help for people who lost their jobs or needed other assistance because of the poor economy.

The report said recovery act spending will have a positive effect on long-run growth, boost the economy's potential output and ultimately offset much of the law's initial cost.

More than 40,000 miles of roads and more than 2,700 bridges have been upgraded, nearly 700 drinking water systems serving more than 48 million people have been brought into compliance with federal clean water standards and

high-speed Internet was introduced to about 20,000 community institutions.

"While these figures are substantial, they still nevertheless underestimate the full magnitude of the administration's response to the crisis," Furman wrote.

He noted that the report focused solely on the effects of fiscal legislation. It did not evaluate other administration policies that aided the recovery, such as stabilizing the financial system, rescuing the auto industry and supporting the housing sector.

Republicans were in less of a mood to celebrate.

"The stimulus has turned out to be a classic case of big promises and big spending with little results," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said in a writ-

ten statement. "Five years and hundreds of billions of dollars later, millions of families are still asking 'Where are the jobs?'"

Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell argued that Obama could not get the nation's finances on a more solid footing and create jobs by taking steps to roll back regulations and finally approve the Keystone XL pipeline project from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico.

"Five years later, the stimulus is no success to celebrate," said McConnell. "It is a tragedy to lament."

Furman said the economy is "undoubtedly in a stronger position" because it has grown for 11 straight months, although not at a pace that would be considered rosy. Businesses have also added 8.5 million jobs since early 2010. Obama initially sold the stimulus as an investment that would produce a dramatic decrease in unemployment that ultimately did not materialize.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 19)	\$1.4100
Dollar buys (Feb. 19)	€0.7092
British pound (Feb. 19)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (Feb. 19)	¥99.00
South Korean won (Feb. 19)	1,037.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6717
Canada (Dollar)	1.0980
China (Yuan)	0.6070
Japanese yen (Feb. 19)	99.00
Egypt (Pound)	0.6949
Euro	\$1.3686/€0.7307
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7553
Hungary (Forint)	236.49
Israel (Sheqel)	3.1311
Japan (Yen)	101.85
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1019
Philippines (Peso)	44.60
Poland (Zloty)	3.103
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2612
South Korea (Won)	1,059.47
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8928
Thailand (Baht)	32.33
Turkey (Lira)	2.1840

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., not U.S. dollars), the U.S. dollar is the base currency with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies in U.S. dollars except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.75
Federal funds market rate	0.05
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.70

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



### THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

### Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	79	59	Cldy	Chatanooga	67	53	Cldy	Fort Wayne	38	27	PCldy	Louisville	53	41	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	39	25	Cldy	Chicago	37	29	Cir	Fresno	67	42	PCldy	Lubbock	81	43	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	37	24	Snow	Cincinnati	49	36	PCldy	Grand Junction	59	27	Cir	Macon	74	52	PCldy
Albuquerque	69	33	Cldy	Cleveland	38	25	Cldy	Grand Rapids	36	27	PCldy	Medford	50	33	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	40	24	Snow	Colorado Springs	57	24	Cldy	Great Falls	38	20	Cir	Memphis	66	60	Cldy
Amarillo	74	37	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	75	51	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	64	42	PCldy	Miami Beach	83	70	Cir
Anchorage	26	14	Snow	Columbus, Ga.	73	54	Cldy	Greenville, S.C.	65	42	PCldy	Miland-Odesa	86	47	PCldy
Annapolis	43	30	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	43	31	PCldy	Harrisburg	44	27	Cldy	Milwaukee	39	29	Cir
Atlanta	71	55	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	36	22	Snow	Hartford Springfield	40	27	Rain	Mpls-St. Paul	37	32	PCldy
Atlantic City	52	29	Cldy	Corpus Christi	83	66	Cir	Helena	36	16	Cldy	Missoula	34	22	Snow
Austin	63	40	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	74	51	Cldy	Honolulu	69	51	Cldy	Mobile	61	40	Cldy
Baltimore	51	33	Cldy	Dayton	42	32	Cir	Houston	78	64	Cldy	Montgomery	72	57	Cldy
Baton Rouge	77	62	Cldy	Daytona Beach	76	60	Cir	Huntsville	68	56	Cldy	Nashville	62	51	PCldy
Bismarck	39	17	Cldy	Denver	58	26	Cir	Indianapolis	41	33	PCldy	New Orleans	75	62	PCldy
Birmingham	68	56	Cldy	Des Moines	49	35	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	72	61	Cldy	New York City	45	28	Cldy
Boise	41	28	Cldy	Detroit	40	23	PCldy	Jacksonville	89	52	PCldy	Newark	45	28	Cldy
Boston	41	30	Snow	El Paso	79	48	Cldy	Kansas City	54	46	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	65	42	Cldy
Bridgeport	71	27	Cir	Elk River	46	29	Cldy	Key West	71	59	Cir	North Platte	57	26	Cir
Brownsville	81	67	Cir	Erie	36	26	Cldy	Knoxville	63	48	Cldy	Omaha	54	32	PCldy
Buffalo	38	26	Cldy	Eugene	45	38	Rain	Lake Charles	77	63	Cldy	Orlando	81	60	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	43	28	Snow	Evansville	51	43	PCldy	Lansing	36	25	PCldy	Pasadena	57	49	PCldy
Caribou, Maine	33	24	Cldy	Fairbanks	-4	-27	Cir	Las Vegas	73	45	PCldy	Pendleton	43	33	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	76	54	PCldy	Fargo	34	21	PCldy	Lexington	53	39	PCldy	Peaslee	39	32	PCldy
Charleston, W.Va.	56	34	PCldy	Flagstaff	56	24	PCldy	Lincoln	55	32	Cldy	Philadelphia	46	30	Rain
Charlotte, N.C.	76	54	Cldy	Ft. Smith	38	22	PCldy	Little Rock	66	57	Cldy	Phoenix	61	46	PCldy
				Fort Smith	69	57	Cldy	Los Angeles	71	52	Cir	Pittsburgh	42	27	Snow

National temperature extremes  
PCldy Hi: Mon., 90, Alice, Texas  
Rain Lo: Mon., 29, Watertown, N.Y.

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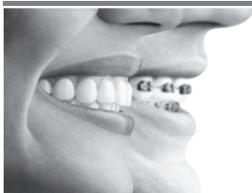
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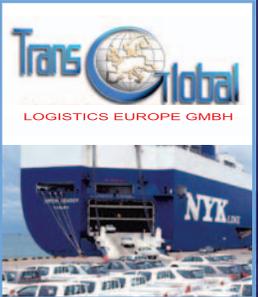
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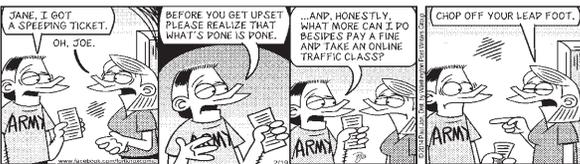
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
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43	44			45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53				
54									56		
57						58				59	

ACROSS

- 1 007
- 5 Household critter
- 8 Largest of the seven
- 12 Follow orders
- 13 Indivisible
- 14 Tie
- 15 Negative aspect
- 17 Icelandic saga
- 18 Bristles
- 19 Shower participant?
- 21 Collections
- 24 Fool
- 25 Equitable
- 28 Robert of "Airplane!"
- 30 Not square
- 33 Fire residue
- 34 Turning point
- 35 Raw rock
- 36 Keanu's "Matrix" role
- 37 A deadly sin
- 38 Trade
- 39 Triumphant
- 41 Bygone times
- 43 Obscure stuff
- 46 Extreme
- 50 Squeezing snakes
- 51 Docket
- 54 Being, to Brutus
- 55 Speedometer stat
- 56 Advantage
- 57 Dregs

DOWN

- 1 Physiques
- 2 Reed instrument
- 3 Small salamander
- 4 Sovereign
- 5 Luau side dish
- 6 Finish
- 7 Abound
- 8 Helps illegally
- 9 Midway offering
- 10 —European
- 11 Hebrew month
- 16 Witless
- 20 Right on the map?
- 22 Reedy
- 23 Practical know-how
- 25 Tenor Paece
- 26 Work with
- 27 "The Price Is Right" jackpot
- 29 String toy
- 31 Lyricist Gershwin
- 32 Energy
- 34 Teiler's partner
- 38 Merchant
- 40 Refuges
- 42 Regret
- 43 First victim
- 44 Got up
- 45 Pinnacle
- 47 — list (agencia)
- 48 Stariat's rendition
- 49 Mideast' gulf
- 52 Spring mo.
- 53 That girl

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

2-19

CRYPTOQUIP

A W P X U H G Y S T N G M P L H K P

A O R P L T M P S R W H M X P R

E H M P L N E S G X S, O' R L S U U H G

Y H K K S X R P P M Y H K K H X R P P M.  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I FOUGHT WITH THE FIANCEE OVER A FOOD-FLIPPING TOOL. YOU COULD SAY IT WAS A LOVER'S SPATULA.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals M







NBA

# LeBron can't see leaving Miami

## Star says he doesn't see himself elsewhere as free agency option nears

The Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James can't currently envision a scenario where he leaves the Miami Heat this summer, though he still plans to assess his needs and his future at the end of the season.

James made the comments in a wide-ranging interview with NBA TV. The Heat star can choose to become a free agent after this season by exercising an option in the contract he signed when he arrived in Miami during the summer of 2010.

Asked if he can picture himself being anywhere else, James did not seem to hesitate before answering.

"At this point, I can't," James said. "We don't know what can happen from now to July, so what I've been able to do this whole season to this point is just worry about what's at hand and that's winning another championship. And hopefully at the end of this year I can put myself in a position where I can hold that Larry O'Brien Trophy up once again and then I will assess what I have to do with my future after that."

James also discussed his sources of motivation, ways he thinks his game can still improve, how he handles expectations, the struggles of his first season in Miami, and his background growing up in Akron, Ohio.

Some of his most telling comments revolved around the fallout that came after the Heat lost to Dallas in the 2011 NBA Finals. James has often told the story about how he spent the next two



GERALD HERBERT/AP

LeBron James looks at the stats Sunday after the All-Star Game in New Orleans.

weeks in near isolation, completely overcome by the disappointment of losing the title series.

In the interview, James also revealed how he started to get past that loss, saying that Heat guard Dwyane Wade — with whom he clashed at times over roles on the team at that first season — urged him to join him in the Bahamas for a getaway.

"We had some great conversations there," James said. "D-Wade

was like, 'Man, in order for us to be great you have to be the guy.'" James said he was slightly taken aback by that.

"We're talking about Wade County here," James said, referring to what Miami-Dade County started calling itself in Wade's honor. "We're talking about the man who won a championship here, who's been a six-time All-Star, you want me to take the keys? And he said, 'Absolutely.'"

With that, James said he left the villain role he played with that season in the Bahamas, came home and went into the gym to get started on the next season. The Heat have won two NBA titles since.

"I don't play for what people expect for me to do anymore," James said. "I want to be the greatest of all time and that's just my mindset."

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	28	24	.538
New York	24	27	.471
Brooklyn	23	28	.450
Boston	19	35	.352
Philadelphia	15	29	.341

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	27	14	.785
Atlanta	25	26	.490
Washington	25	27	.481
Charlotte	23	30	.434
Orlando	15	38	.296

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Indiana	40	12	.769
Chicago	27	25	.519
Detroit	22	30	.423
Cleveland	20	33	.377
Milwaukee	9	43	.173

### Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	35	15	.702
Houston	36	17	.679
Dallas	32	22	.593
Memphis	29	23	.558
New Orleans	23	29	.442

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Oklahoma City	43	12	.782
Portland	36	17	.679
Minnesota	25	28	.472
Denver	19	27	.412
Utah	19	33	.365

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
L.A. Clippers	37	18	.673
Phoenix	30	21	.588
Golden State	31	26	.545
L.A. Lakers	18	35	.340
Sacramento	15	35	.304

**Sunday's games**  
All-Star Game: East 163, West 155

**Monday's games**  
No games scheduled

**Tuesday's games**  
Atlanta at Indiana  
Cleveland at Philadelphia  
Toronto at Washington  
Charlotte at Detroit  
Orlando at Milwaukee  
New York at Memphis  
Miami at Dallas  
Phoenix at Denver  
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers

**Wednesday's games**  
Orlando at Cleveland  
Detroit at Charlotte  
Chicago at Toronto  
Washington at Atlanta  
Indiana at Minnesota  
New York at New Orleans  
Boston at Phoenix  
Brooklyn at Philadelphia  
San Antonio at Portland  
Golden State at Sacramento  
Houston at L.A. Lakers

**Thursday's games**  
Miami at Oklahoma City  
Houston at Golden State  
**Friday's games**  
New Orleans at Charlotte  
New York at Orlando  
Dallas at Philadelphia  
Cleveland at Toronto  
Atlanta at Detroit  
Denver at Chicago  
L.A. Clippers at Memphis  
Phoenix at Phoenix  
Utah at Portland  
Boston at L.A. Lakers



GERALD HERBERT/AP

The East Team's Paul George of the Indiana Pacers, left, goes to the hoop as the West Team's Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers defends Sunday during the NBA All-Star Game in New Orleans. The East won the game 163-155.

# Second: Durant in running for MVP; Pacers confident they can contend

### FROM BACK PAGE

the West with their strong finish to the first half, winning their final three games to take a four-game lead over injury-plagued San Antonio, the defending conference champion. Houston, the Los Angeles Clippers and Portland are all six games behind.

Durant is the NBA's leading scorer and has a good chance to end James' reign as the league's MVP. The Thunder could get even stronger when Westbrook returns from knee surgery, perhaps even on Thursday in their first game after the break.

Durant scored 38 points in the All-Star Game and has been unstoppable even in games where there is defense, averaging 31.5 points. He had 33 in the 112-95 victory in Miami last month, but scoring is only part of what he's done to help Oklahoma City to a league-best 43-12 record even with only 25 games from Westbrook.

"KD is a great player. He's a great teammate. He does all the things that we have asked," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

"He doesn't want to be just a scorer. He wants to be a playmaker, a defender and that's what he's done all season for us."

The trade deadline also is Thursday. The

Heat and Pacers have perhaps already made their moves with the signings of centers Greg Oden and Andrew Bynum, but other contenders may seek the opportunity to make a deal they feel could position themselves to end the Heat's quest for a third straight championship.

The Pacers believe they can do it. Paul George isn't far from the James-Durant level, and a title would help him inch closer. "I want to be one of the best players to ever play in this league and be the best player in this league," George said, "so it's just taking every day to get better, every year to get better, and you know, I'm going to be at the top at some point."

So many others have a chance. The Clippers (Chris Paul and Blake Griffin), Rockets (Dwight Howard and James Harden) and Trail Blazers (LaMarcus Aldridge and Damian Lillard) all have All-Star duos, and don't forget the Spurs, who were less than a half-minute from finishing off the Heat last June.

"We definitely have the tools, we definitely have the team," Tony Parker said of his Spurs, who have been playing without Manu Ginobili and Kawhi Leonard. "We'll be in the mix as long as we stay healthy."

# NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

## Jefferson giving lift to Bobcats

By STEVE REED  
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Michael Jordan's Bobcats enter the post-NBA All-Star break with their playoff hopes largely riding on the last-school game of big man Al Jefferson.

Jefferson and his back-to-back-basket style of play has helped the Bobcats win more games than they did all of last season and position themselves for their first postseason appearance since 2010. Charlotte (23-30) is currently the No. 8 seed in the Eastern Conference, one-half game ahead of the Detroit Pistons. The two teams will play Tuesday and Wednesday.

Jefferson is in the midst of one of the most productive seasons of his 10-year career, averaging 20.1 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.

And he's doing it his way. Unlike the vast majority of big men in the league today who are focused on their perimeter game and running the floor, the 6-foot-10, 280-pound Jefferson camps out in the low post, using his muscle, agility, size and basketball knowledge to methodically wear down opponents.

"I blame Dirk Nowitzki," Jefferson said with a laugh when asked about the lack of NBA low-post scorers.

Maybe he should be thanking him.

Opponents say Jefferson's unique style makes him difficult to defend because it's not something you see on a nightly basis.

"He has a great jump hook and great pump fakes to get you off your feet," said Spurs forward Boris Diaw. "When you play Al you have to change your reflexes and the way you defend. It's not easy."

Diaw should know. Earlier this month Jefferson scored 10 quick points against Tim Duncan in the first 5 minutes, prompting Spurs coach Gregg Popovich to call timeout and put Diaw on Jefferson because he was less apt to fall for pump fakes.

"His pump fakes are maybe the best in the league. They're ridiculous," Popovich said.

"Big Al" joined the league as the 15th overall pick by the Boston Celtics in 2004 out of tiny Prentiss (Miss.) High School. "When I first arrived I remem-



CHUCK BURTON/AP

**The Bobcats' Al Jefferson, center, is in the midst of one of the most productive seasons of his 10-year career, averaging 20.1 points and 10.5 rebounds per game.**

ber teams having a big four and a big five, kind of like the David Robinson-Tim Duncan era. Slowly the league started changing," Jefferson said.

Jefferson never did. He learned his trade back in the ninth grade playing against childhood friend Charles Hicks, who was a little taller and a year older. They'd battle relentlessly in the low post on the outside park courts of Prentiss like two tigers fighting over territory.

Basketball was Jefferson's primary concern back then.

Known as a class clown, Jefferson's grades were average at best. But he knew in the seventh grade — when he was already 6-foot-3 and regularly asked by teachers to hang posters in the classroom — he wanted to play in the NBA.

Jefferson helped Prentiss to a state title and skipped college, going straight to the NBA where he began perfecting his three-go-to moves — a jump hook, a counter move which is a drop step back to baseline, and the up-and-under — working with Celtics assistant coach Dave Wood.

"The funny thing is I can never teach a kid all of the stuff that I do. I just teach them the three basic moves," said Jefferson before a quick laugh. "Then I just make up the rest."

The 29-year-old Jefferson signed a three-year, \$40.5 million contract with the Bobcats this past offseason.

He started the season slow following a preseason ankle injury, but has since recovered and has

been on a tear since Jan. 11 averaging 26 points and 11.4 rebounds during that 16-game span.

"There is isn't anybody in the league who is playing better right now," Charlotte coach Steve Clifford said.

Despite his recent hot streak and the remarkably consistent career, Jefferson has never played in an All-Star game.

He used to let it bother him, but doesn't anymore.

"I've never been the type of player kids want to go see at the park," Jefferson said. "I've never been that above-the-rim type of player like LeBron (James) and Blake Griffin."

The self-described country boy who still loves his soul food — catfish and fried chicken are his favorites — said he's happy with being reliable rather than flashy.

That has a little something to do with the way he was raised.

Jefferson's father drowned in a work accident when he was 6 months old. He was raised by his mother and two grandmothers and lived a "simple life" in the small, rural town of 1,500.

For Jefferson, it's way too late to change his style of play now.

Not that he would anyway, especially with the niche he's carved out in today's NBA.

"I think the reason I have been around so long playing at a higher level — and the reason I can be around for a while longer — is because I have a unique game," Jefferson said. "I have a game that a lot of people don't have anymore."

## Briefly

# Incognito tweets apology to Martin

The Associated Press

Miami Dolphins lineman Richie Incognito offered apologies to teammate Jonathan Martin, team owner Stephen Ross and investigator Ted Wells following the NFL-ordered report detailing a racially charged bullying scandal.

The report stated there was a "pattern of harassment" committed by Incognito and teammates John Jerry and Mike Pouncey on two Dolphins linemen and an assistant trainer, all targets of vicious taunts and racist insults.

On his Twitter account, Incognito wrote, "I would like to send Jonathan my apologies as well. Until someone tells me different you are still my brother. No hard feelings :)"

He also apologized to Wells and Ross, saying "this [stuff] got crazy, crazy."

"There are no winners in the courts," he wrote. "Just families left to deal with their decisions and pick up the pieces. You can't free something."

Incognito, 30, closed his Twitter account for two days, but returned on Monday with a noticeably different tone, apologizing for "acting like a big baby."

He said he wants to play football again.

Incognito's contract with the Dolphins is about to expire, making him an unrestricted free agent who can sign with any team. Where he'll end up remains to be seen.

It's unclear if Incognito will face punishment from the NFL. League spokesman Greg Aiello told The Associated Press on Monday that the NFL will comment "at the appropriate time" on Wells' report.

Incognito's tweets have taken on a vastly different tone than they did less than a week ago when he went on a rant that quickly went viral, blasting Martin and his representative Ken Zuckerman.

## Ravens give LB Suggs four-year extension

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — As a 20-year-old fresh out of college, Terrell Suggs never intended to spend his entire NFL career with one team.

Now the Pro Bowl linebacker embraces the idea of going the distance as a Baltimore Raven.

Suggs signed a four-year extension Monday that saves the Ravens salary cap room and puts Suggs in position to finish his career in Baltimore.

"That's the plan," Suggs said. "Sizzle will be a Raven for life."

Suggs, 31, signed a six-year deal in 2009 that expired after the 2014 season. Now he's signed through 2018. He was expected to cost \$12.4 million against the salary cap. With his new deal, that figure becomes a far more manageable \$7.8 million.

Suggs earned his sixth Pro Bowl invite in 2013. He is the franchise leader with 94½ sacks, ranks second in tackles behind Lewis and is first in forced fumbles.

## Odom agrees to deal with Spanish club

VITORIA, Spain — Former NBA star Lamar Odom has agreed to a short-term deal with Spanish basketball club Baskonia.

The former Los Angeles Lakers forward has a two-month contract, the club said on Tuesday.

Odom, an NBA free agent who hasn't played since finishing out last season with the Los Angeles Clippers, is filling a roster spot that opened up because of injury. Baskonia said the deal includes an option to extend the contract until the close of the season.

## Source: Jimenez, O's agree to \$50M deal

BALTIMORE — A person familiar with the situation said free-agent pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez and the Baltimore Orioles have agreed to a contract, pending a physical.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Monday night because the deal had not been completed and the club had not made an announcement.

Several media outlets reported earlier that the sides had reached an agreement, which is reportedly for about \$50 million over four years.

Jimenez went 13-9 with a 3.30 ERA in 32 starts with the Cleveland Indians last season.

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## MLB

# Kinsler enjoying scenery change

After 8 years in Texas, second baseman excited about opportunities in Detroit

By JEFF BERLINCKE  
The Associated Press

LAKELAND, Fla. — New Detroit Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler doesn't mind admitting he was comfortable in Texas.

Until his trade to the Tigers in the offseason for slugger Prince Fielder, Kinsler had spent his entire professional career in the Texas Rangers organization. He said he had an inkling after last season that he was on the trade block. He also said he was excited about a change.

With the rumors swirling, Kinsler ended up with the Tigers, who needed fielding and speed. The Tigers finished last in the American League in 2013 with only 35 stolen bases, 114 behind the Rangers.

New Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said he wants to run more this year. Speedy Austin Jackson led the Tigers with eight steals as the Tigers relied on their sluggers, including Fielder, to knock in runs.

With the trade of Fielder, the

Tigers received Kinsler, who stole 15 bases for the Rangers last year, but has stolen more than 20 bases three times. In addition to Kinsler, the Tigers added Rajai Davis from the Toronto Blue Jays. Davis stole 45 bases for the Blue Jays in 2013.

Kinsler was one of several high-profile additions for the Tigers during the off-season. He isn't expected to hit with Fielder's power, but his line-drive hitting might be better suited for Comerica Park, which is a haven for line-drive hitters, not sluggers. Kinsler lost nearly 20 pounds in the off-season once he was informed of the trade.

"I like Comerica Park and wanted to lose weight," Kinsler said after reporting to Tigers camp on Sunday. "I wanted to get faster and get back to hitting line drives. If you have a gap out there, you should get at least three (bases) out of it. I have more chances to run and set up the heart of the order. I never had to lose weight in Texas. As hot as it was, it was easy over there. I had to try to add weight over there. Now I have to lose it. I'm ready to



JULIAN H. GONZALEZ, DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

The Tigers' Ian Kinsler, left, checks out Torii Hunter's glove as they walk back to the clubhouse during a spring training workout in Lakeland, Fla., on Monday.

go right now."

Ausmus said that the additions of Kinsler and Davis change the dynamics of the lineup. Former manager Jim Leyland wasn't big on stealing bases and his recent teams tended to be cautious on the bases. Ausmus said things might be different this season, his first as a major league manager.

"Kinsler and Davis bring us the opportunity to get some more stolen bases," Ausmus said. "With Jackson and Torii Hunter to go with them, we have some speed this year. It is a different team

with a different personality."

Tigers president and general manager Dave Dombrowski said the discussions on the Fielder-for-Kinsler trade went quickly and he saw the new running philosophy into motion.

"We wanted more speed, but if you look at last year's team, we had very few places where we could just add speed to the order," Dombrowski said. He had to find a way and the Prince trade set everything into motion. We'll be faster this year."

Kinsler batted .277 with 13

homers and 72 RBI for the Rangers last season, but said he was prepared for a trade.

"I wanted to go to a contender," said Kinsler, who lost two World Series with the Rangers. "It is a place I feel very strongly has a chance to win a World Series. It will be a new experience and I am excited to get out of my comfort zone. I love the park, it suits me, and I can run. We have star power on this team and I worked hard to lose those pounds because I expect to do a lot of running this year."

# Garza finds a home in Milwaukee

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Fighting in with a new team is old news for Matt Garza.

Over the past eight seasons, he's pitched for Minnesota, Tampa Bay, the Chicago Cubs and Texas, compiling a 67-67 record with a 3.84 ERA.

"It's just baseball," said Garza, beginning his first season with the Milwaukee Brewers. "It's a new group of guys you get to know. You hang out, get to know them, see what they're like."

The right-hander split last season between the Cubs and Rangers before signing a \$50 million, four-year contract with Milwaukee.

Finally, some stability.

"I was looking for somewhere to stick around," Garza said. "Somewhere where you know you're not going to get moved in a week. It's big for my family; it gives them a sense of where we can relocate and start staying together instead of possibly always constantly moving."

Though he said he has "no preference" between the American League and National League, Garza's familiarity with the NL Central is a plus. He pitched for the Cubs from 2011 through the middle of 2013.

"You get comfortable with the cities, with the surroundings. It's always fun to go against the Cardinals, knock them off a little, and the Pirates are starting to come up," he said.

And when the 30-year-old Garza made his decision to sign with the Brewers, he "already knew the water."

"I knew who was coming back. I knew what

the club brought. I was excited," he said. "The pitching staff is awesome. The second half of the year, they outperformed most teams."

As for the position players, Garza noted the Brewers have a healthy Aramis Ramirez going into this season, and slugger Ryan Braun is back from a drug suspension. Up the middle, the pitcher pointed to 2013 All-Stars Carlos Gomez in center field and Jean Segura at shortstop, plus veteran catcher Jonathan Lucroy.

"That's a lot of offense," Garza said. "That's a really good team. ... You have run producers for the guys who get on."

With the addition of Garza, all of a sudden the Brewers boast a pretty solid trio at the top of the rotation, too. He joins proven veterans Yovani Gallardo and Kyle Lohse on a team that finished 74-88 last season.

"We like a lot of our young starters," manager Ron Roenicke said Monday, just before his pitchers held their first spring training workout. "And some of the guys are going to be disappointed if they don't make our team."

"But Garza coming in makes a difference in our starting staff. We got a guy that we know has shut down good offenses," he said. "When Garza is on, you're not going to hit him."

Garza's arrival is "awesome," said Lohse, who went 11-10 with a 3.35 ERA in 198 innings during his first year with the Brewers last season.

"Adding someone of his caliber ... someone who can dominate a game the way he can, is a huge pickup for us," Lohse said. "You don't get anywhere unless your starting pitching is good. You can't depend on outsourcing people."

The Opening Day starter the past four years has been Gallardo, who acknowledged that he "didn't have the best year" in 2013, when he went 12-10 with a 4.18 ERA in a modest 180 innings.

"Obviously, with Lohse coming last year, it helped a lot," Gallardo said. "But it's a new year. Adding a guy like (Garza), that is going to make the starting five a lot better. ... Watching him pitch, you know he's competitive, and he's got good stuff."

After playing in Minnesota, Tampa Bay, Chicago and Texas over eight seasons, Matt Garza got some career stability with a four-year, \$50 million contract with the Milwaukee Brewers.

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP



# OLYMPICS

## Medals roundup

# Dutch speedskaters sweep 10,000 meters

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Jorrit Bergsma would not go along with the storyline.

This was supposed to be about Sven Kramer's redemption, the place where the world's greatest distance skater finally made up for his incredible blunder four years ago.

Instead, Kramer was dealt another crushing disappointment.

With a stunner of a finishing kick, Bergsma upset his favored countryman to win speedskating Olympic gold in the 10,000 meters Tuesday with the fastest time ever at sea level.

"I understand that people really wanted to see Sven win here," Bergsma said. "But I skate for myself. I came here to win gold. I wasn't going to give away the gold for Sven's story."

Kramer gave away a sure gold at the 2010 Vancouver Games with a botched lane change. This time, he simply got beat by — almost inevitably at the Sochi Games — a fellow Dutchman.

Bergsma's time of 12 minutes, 44.45 seconds was less than 3 seconds off Kramer's world record, set at high altitude in 2007, and shattered the Olympic record of 12:58.55 by South Korea's Lee Seung-hoon four years ago.

Kramer settled for silver in 12:49.02. The bronze went to 37-year-old Bob de Jong, the oldest speedskating medalist in 86 years.

"This is really bitter, because I never took this into account," Kramer said. "Turns out, I simply was not good enough."

While the order of finish didn't go as expected, the guys on the podium were no surprise at all.

It was another orange sweep, the fourth 1-2-3 finish for the Netherlands at Adler Arena, its speedskating medal haul climbing to 19 out of a possible 27.

Kramer had already captured his second straight 5,000 gold in Sochi, but he really wanted to make up for the 10,000 victory that got away in Vancouver. During a routine crossover on the backstretch, Kramer's coach, Gerard Kemkers, absentmindedly directed him to the wrong lane. The skater dutifully followed the instructions, leading to a disqualification.

### Short track

SOCHI, Russia — South Korea won the women's Olympic short track 3,000-meter relay Tuesday, passing China on the last lap to take the lead.

The team of Cho Ha-ri, Kim Alang, Park



MATT DUNHAM/AP

**Gold medalist Jorrit Bergsma of the Netherlands competes Tuesday in the men's 10,000-meter race at Sochi, Russia. The Netherlands won all three medals.**

Seung-hi and Shim Suk-hee crossed the finish line first after Shim made the winning pass on the last of 27 laps. Four years ago in Vancouver, the South Koreans finished first, but were disqualified and China got the gold.

This time, the Chinese team of Fan Kexin, Li Jianrou, Liu Qihong and Zhou Yang finished second, but were disqualified by the referees after a penalty on the last lap.

That allowed Canada to take the silver medal. Italy earned the bronze.

### Biathlon

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Emil

Hegle Svendsen of Norway edged Martin Fourcade of France in a sprint finish to win gold in the men's 15-kilometer mass start biathlon race Tuesday.

Svendsen and Fourcade both finished in 42 minutes, 29.1 seconds, with Svendsen's ski crossing the line a fraction earlier.

Ondrej Moravec of Czech Republic was 13.8 behind to take bronze for his second medal of the games after winning silver in the 12.5K pursuit.

It was Svendsen's fourth career Olympic medal but first of the Sochi Games. He also won gold in the 20K individual race and the men's relay, and bronze in the 10K sprint in Vancouver.

### Nordic combined

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Joergen Graabak broke away from a five-man group with about 100 meters left in the cross-country race to give Norway a one-two finish in the Nordic combined large hill event Tuesday.

Graabak finished six-tenths of a second ahead of silver medalist Magnus Moan. Fabian Riessle of Germany was 1.6 second behind and took the bronze.

Normal hill gold medal winner Eric Frenzel of Germany was an uncertain starter due to a virus, but led after the ski jumping. He faded badly in the 10-kilometer cross-country ski race to finish 10th.

Graabak finished sixth in the ski jumping portion and started 42 seconds after Frenzel, but quickly made up the deficit with the German unable to hold his lead for long.

### Aerials

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Anton Kushnir won the gold medal in men's aerials Monday night, giving Belarus its second gold medal of the games in the freestyle skiing event Tuesday.

Alla Tsypur of Belarus took the women's gold Friday.

Kushnir scored a 134.5 on his final, five-tumbling jump to beat Australia's David Morris by more than 24 points.

Two Chinese skiers, Qi Guangpu and Jia Zongyang, had a chance to better those scores but both of them fell on their landings.

Jia took the bronze.

### Ski jumping

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Germany took the lead with one group to go and edged Austria into second to win the team gold medal on the large hill Monday.

It ended Austria's incredible winning streak in the event — it had won gold in the last two Olympics and hadn't lost a team large hill event since the 2005 world championships.

Germany, represented by Andreas Wank, Marinus Kraus, Andres Wellinger and Severin Freund, won its third gold in the event. Freund's final jump of the competition gave Germany the win by 2.7 points.

Austria was represented by Michael Hayboeck, Thomas Morgenstern, Thomas Diethart and Gregor Schlierenzauer.

Japan, with Reruhi Shimizu, Taku Takeuchi, Daiki Ito and large hill silver medalist

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# OLYMPICS



Jaec C. Hong/AP

**David Wise of the United States reacts after completing his run in the men's ski halfpipe final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Tuesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Wise won the gold medal.**

## Freestyle skiing

# Wise wins U.S. gold

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
The Associated Press

**KRASNYA POLYANA, Russia** — David Wise soared through sleet and snow and ended up with gold — a mighty nice present to bring home to his daughter.

Skating with a heart-shaped rock he got from his wife and in front of a crowd waving pictures of his 2-year-old girl, Nayeli, the 23-year-old from Reno, Nev., overcame slippery conditions to win the first Olympic ski halfpipe contest.

A high-flying show this was not. But Wise overcame the conditions to score a 92 on his first run, which held up as the weather worsened. It was almost impossible to see the top of the pipe from the base by the end of the contest.

Mike Riddle won silver for Canada, which has one of its all-time greats, the late Sarah Burke, to thank for shepherding this event into the Olympics.

Kevin Rolland took bronze for France.

The podium ended up much as expected, with the top spot going to the three-time defending Winter X Games champion.

No small thing considering the way bad weather and variable conditions at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park have shuffled the deck in many of the action spots. Shaun White couldn't handle the tough halfpipe a week ago and finished fourth. Kelly Clark also struggled and ended up with bronze, not gold.

The skiers weren't nearly as critical of the pipe as the snowboarders, and when the tricky conditions kicked in, they rolled

with it.

"It diminishes the show a ton," said 17-year-old American Aaron Blunck. "The cool thing is, I've got a 'pow' day tomorrow."

Yes, they'll ski powder, but first, Wise will head down to Sochi on Wednesday to pick up his gold medal.

He'll do that because he threw the best tricks, opening with a 720-degree spin, grabbing one ski and getting so high he could look straight down into the halfpipe. There was a 540-degree spin that left him skiing backward when he landed — one of the coolest and most notable differences from the snowboarding version of halfpipe.

There was also the requisite double-twisting jump that he landed with ease.

Wise fell on his second run and skied straight down afterward, earning a 3.4 to record both the highest and lowest scores of the night.

But he wasn't the only one to fall. The final four skiers all fell — Wise, Rolland, Benoit Valentin and Justin Dorey, who went last and bowed backward on his landing before losing his balance.

When he fell, Wise had the gold wrapped up.

It was the 20th medal of the games for the U.S. and their sixth gold. Five of the golds and 11 medals overall have come from the action spots.

"Dave is, right now, on top of the sport. He's the best. He's proven it multiple times," Blunck said. "He comes out in any condition and has amazing fun. He's the dad out of the group. So, no matter what he does, we're proud of him."

# Scoreboard

Medals count					
At Sochi, Russia					
Through Tuesday, Feb. 18					
(Of 98 events)					
Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	
Netherlands	6	5	8	19	
United States	6	4	10	20	
Russia	6	4	9	19	
Norway	7	4	7	18	
Canada	4	3	4	11	
Austria	4	3	4	11	
France	4	3	5	12	
Australia	2	2	2	6	
Sweden	2	2	2	6	
Switzerland	2	2	1	5	
Belarus	2	2	1	5	
China	2	2	3	7	
Slovenia	1	3	2	6	
Czech Republic	1	3	2	6	
Japan	1	2	4	7	
Italy	0	2	4	6	
Poland	0	2	4	6	
South Korea	0	2	4	6	
Australia	0	2	4	6	
Latvia	0	2	3	5	

Women's giant slalom					
Tuesday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
(Start position in parentheses)					
Final Ranking					
<b>(First and second runs in parentheses)</b>					
1. Tina Maze, Slovenia, (1, 1:17.88; 1:11:39.9)	2:29.57	2. Anna Fenninger, Austria, (4, 1:18.73; 1:18.21)	2:36.94	3. Viktoria Rebensburg, Germany, (6, 1:18.21)	2:37.10
4. Nadia Fanchini, Italy, (3, 1:18.53; 7, 1:18.72)	2:37.25	5. Mikaela Shiffrin, Eagle-Vail, Colo., (5, 1:18.49; 6, 1:18.58)	2:37.37	6. Johanna Plattler-Helmert, Sweden, (7, 1:19.45; 5, 1:18.37)	2:37.82
7. Jessica Lindell-Vikmark, Sweden, (2, 1:19.40; 20, 1:19.62)	2:38.02	8. Anemone Marmottan, France, (9, 1:19.08; 9, 1:18.79)	2:38.48	<b>Other U.S. Finishers</b>	
29. Resti Steingel, Jackson Hole, Wyo., (32, 1:22.69; 29, 1:21.38)	2:44.07	30. Megan McJames, Park City, Utah, (33, 1:22.77; 30, 1:21.60)	2:44.37	<b>Non-Qualifiers</b>	
N.R. Julia Mancuso, Squaw Valley, Calif., DNF					

Snowboard					
Tuesday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Cross					
Final Ranking					
1. (20) Nikolay Olyumin, Russia, (A), (2, 1:13) Sten Svertz, Norway, (A), (3) Alex Delbo, Manchester, Vt., (A), (4) Trevor Jack, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., (5) Kevin Hill, Canada, (6) NR. (8) Lucas Equibar, Spain, DSO (B), (17) Kevin Hill, Canada, DNF (B)					
<b>Heat 2</b>					
1. (5) Pierre Vuille, France, (A), (2) (26) Paul-Henri de Rupe, France, (A), (15) Luca Mattotti, Italy, (A), (31) Cameron Bolton, Australia (B), NR. (27) Hannu Douschan, Austria, DSO (B), (2) Omar Visintin, Italy, DNF (B)					
<b>Final Ranking</b>					
1. (8) Lucas Equibar, Spain, (2) (17) Kevin Hill, Canada, (3) (5) Trevor Jack, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., (4) (27) Hannu Douschan, Austria, DNF, (31) Cameron Bolton, Australia, DNF, NR. (3) Omar Visintin, Italy, DNS.					

Men's Slalom					
Tuesday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Cross					
Final Ranking					
1. (20) Nikolay Olyumin, Russia, (A), (2) (13) Sten Svertz, Norway, (A), (3) Alex Delbo, Manchester, Vt., (A), (4) (5) Trevor Jack, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., (6) NR. (8) Lucas Equibar, Spain, DSO (B), (17) Kevin Hill, Canada, DNF (B)					
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Men's Slalom					
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Men's Slalom					
Tuesday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Cross					
Final Ranking					
1. (20) Nikolay Olyumin, Russia, (A), (2) (13) Sten Svertz, Norway, (A), (3) Alex Delbo, Manchester, Vt., (A), (4) (5) Trevor Jack, Mammoth Lakes, Calif., (6) NR. (8) Lucas Equibar, Spain, DSO (B), (17) Kevin Hill, Canada, DNF (B)					
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<b>Final Ranking</b>					
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Biatlon					
Tuesday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Sprint					
Final Ranking					
1. Martin Fourcade, France, 42:29.1 (0), (2) Ondrej Moravec, Czech Republic, 42:42.2 (0), (3) Evgeny Garanichev, Russia, 43:25.3 (0), (4) Fredrik Lindstrom, Sweden, 43:30.5 (0), (5) Dominik Landertinger, Austria, 43:32.2 (2), (6) Johannes Thingnes Bø, Norway, 43:34.1 (1), (7) Janne Stefansson, Norway, 44:55.9 (4), (8) Lowell Bailey, Lake Placid, N.Y., 45:19.2 (5), (9) Jorrit Bergsma, Netherlands, 12:44.45 (0), (10) Sven Kramer, Netherlands, 12:49.02 (0), (11) Bob de Jong, Netherlands, 13:07.19 (4), (12) Lee Seung Ho, South Korea, 13:11.11 (0), (13) Bart Swings, Belgium, 13:13.99 (0), (14) Patrick Bechter, Germany, 13:14.26 (0), (15) Josselyn Shyns, New Zealand, 13:16.42 (0), (16) Moritz Geisreiter, Germany, 13:20.26 (0), (17) U.S. Finishers					
10. Emerik Istenic, Oak Park, Ill., 13:28.67 (0), 11. Patrick McKee, Northbrook, Ill., 13:28.72 (0)					

Speedskating					
Tuesday					
At Sochi, Russia					
Men's 10,000					
Final Ranking					
1. Jorrit Bergsma, Netherlands, 12:44.45 (0), (2) Sven Kramer, Netherlands, 12:49.02 (0), (3) Bob de Jong, Netherlands, 13:07.19 (4), (4) Lee Seung Ho, South Korea, 13:11.11 (0), (5) Bart Swings, Belgium, 13:13.99 (0), (6) Patrick Bechter, Germany, 13:14.26 (0), (7) Josselyn Shyns, New Zealand, 13:16.42 (0), (8) Moritz Geisreiter, Germany, 13:20.26 (0), (9) U.S. Finishers					
10. Emerik Istenic, Oak Park, Ill., 13:28.67 (0), 11. Patrick McKee, Northbrook, Ill., 13:28.72 (0)					

Short track					
Tuesday					
At Sochi, Russia					
Men's 3000 Relay					
Final B					
1. Russia (Olga Belyakova, Tatiana Borodulina, Sofia Prosvirnova, Valeriya Rezakina), 4:14.86, (2) Japan (Ayuko Itou, Yui Sakai, Biba Sakurai, Sayuri Shimizu), 4:15.23, (3) Hungary (Bernadette Heidum, Andrea Keszler, Csilla Korcsok, Szandra Lajtos), 4:24.96, (4) U.S. Finishers					
1. South Korea (Cho Ha-Ri, Kim Aling, Park Seung-Ho, Park Seung-Ho), 4:09.498, (2) Canada (Marie-Eve Drolet, Jessica Hewitt, Valeriya Mantala, Marianne St-Gelais), 4:10.64, (3) Italy (Arianna Fontana, Lisa Perrotta, Stefania Veltepina, Elena Viviani), 4:14.04, (4) N.R. China (Fan Kevin, Li Jianrui, Liu Qiang, Liu Yang), PNH.					

Freestyle Skiing					
Tuesday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Halfpipe					
Final Ranking					
1. Mike Riddle, Northstar, Calif., (92:00) 3:40.92.00, (2) David Wise, Northstar, Calif., (91:00) 3:40.92.00, (3) Kevin Rolland, France, (88:50) 3:40.92.00, (4) Josh Wollard, New Zealand, (85:20) 3:40.92.00, (5) Bowman, Canada, (80:40) 3:40.92.00, (6) Beau-James Wells, New Zealand, (62:40) 3:40.92.00, (7) Aaron Blunck, Crested Butte, Colo., (60:40) 3:40.92.00, (8) Antti-Jussi Kemppainen, Finland, (74:40) 3:40.92.00					

Freestyle Skiing					
Monday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Aerials					
Final Ranking					
1. Qi Guangpu, China, 121.24 (0), (2) Anton Shibalov, Russia, 119.93 (0), (3) Oleksandr Abramenko, Ukraine, 119.93 (0), (4) Jia Congyang, China, 110.41 (0), (5) Dmitri Dashinskiy, Belarus, 108.41 (0), (6) Travis Gerrits, Canada, 107.29 (0), (7) Scott Bohannon, Madison, Conn., 105.21 (0), (8) David Morris, Australia, 101.87 (0), (9) Denis Gisin, Ukraine, 99.46, (10) Pavel Krotov, Russia, 96.46, (11) Roman Rastvorov, Russia, 92.36, (12) Renato Urtzi, Switzerland, 80.53					

Freestyle Skiing					
Monday					
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia					
Men's Aerials					
Final Ranking					
1. Qi Guangpu, China, 121.24 (0), (2) Anton Shibalov, Russia, 119.93 (0), (3) Oleksandr Abramenko, Ukraine, 119.93 (0), (4) Jia Congyang, China, 110.41 (0), (5) Dmitri Dashinskiy, Belarus, 108.41 (0), (6) Travis Gerrits, Canada, 107.29 (0), (7) Scott Bohannon, Madison, Conn., 105.21 (0), (8) David Morris, Australia, 101.87 (0), (9) Denis Gisin, Ukraine, 99.46, (10) Pavel Krotov, Russia, 96.46, (11) Roman Rastvorov, Russia, 92.36, (12) Renato Urtzi, Switzerland, 80.53					

# OLYMPICS

## Women's hockey

# US gets another shot at Canada

By JIMMY GOLEN  
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The United States and Canada will play for the women's hockey gold medal for the fourth time in the five Olympics since the sport was added to the Winter Games.

"We feel like we've prepared all year for this game," said Natalie Spooner, who scored twice Monday in a 3-1 win against Switzerland to put Canada in the Olympic final.

The U.S. joined them by beating Sweden 6-1. The teams have two days off to prepare for a rematch of the 1998, 2002 and 2010 gold medal games.

"The last four years, that's been our goal," said U.S. forward Julie Chu, a four-time Olympian who has two silver medals and a bronze. "We're going for a different color this time."

Megan Bozek and Brianna Decker each had a goal and two assists as the Americans outshot Sweden 70-9. The U.S. has medaled in every Winter Games since women's hockey was added to the Olympic program in 1998, and just once — with a loss to Sweden in the 2006 semifinals — failed to reach the championship game.

Canada, the three-time defending champion that has played in every Olympic final, will have a chance for a fourth straight gold after beating Switzerland.

Not since the inaugural tournament in Nagano have the Americans beaten Canada in the Olympics, losing in the championship game in 2002 and '10 and again in the preliminary round of the Sochi Games on Wednesday.

Canada and the United States played seven times in the run-up to the Olympics, with the Americans going 4-3.

"We've played a lot of great games against them," Spooner said. "It's going to be another one of those in the final."



American Julie Chu crashes the boards against Michelle Lowenhelm of Sweden during the women's semifinal game on Monday.

US vs. Canada  
AFN-Sports  
6 p.m. Thursday CET  
2 a.m. Friday JKT

There are 11 players on the U.S. roster who played in the gold medal game in Vancouver, but Chu is the only one who was also on the team in Salt Lake City or Turin. Coach Katey Stone would like to see her get the gold medal.

"It's about time, isn't it? It's time," said Stone, who was also Chu's coach at Harvard. "Julie's been everything to the program, she's been a youngster, she's been a veteran ... she's been a mother to the younger kids. Kids like that don't come around all the time. She's a special one. I certainly hope she gets what she wants."

The U.S. scored five times in 47 shots on starting Sweden goalie Valentina Wallner before she was replaced in the second period by Kim Martin Hasson. The backup was the winning goaltender when Sweden upset the Americans in Turin and she stopped 22 of 23 shots.

"We took Valentina out because she had a busy day at work," said assistant coach Leif Boork, whose team will face Switzerland for third place. "We wanted to make a decision for the next game, the bronze medal game."

U.S. goalie Jesse Vetter needed just eight saves for the victory. Shannon Szabados stopped 21 shots for Canada. Melodie Daoust also scored for the three-time defending champions, and five-time Winter Olympian Hayley Wickenheiser had a pair of assists to extend her Olympic career points record.

Florence Schelling, who went to Northeastern University in Boston, made 45 saves for Switzerland in what was the closest game against Canada in Swiss Olympic history.



Andy Wong/AP

France's Pierre Vaultier, center, celebrates taking the gold medal ahead of silver medalist Nikolai Olyumin of Russia, right, and bronze medalist Alex Deibold of the United States in the men's snowboardcross final at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park on Tuesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

# American turns grunt work into snowboardcross bronze

By EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Alex Deibold has always been a grinder. Four years ago, he went to the Olympics as a technician — the man with a hand in waxing, scraping and, yes, grinding the snowboards into shape for America's top riders.

He's too busy for that sort of work now, and besides, his hands will be full.

When he heads back home, Deibold will carry the Olympic bronze medal he won Tuesday in snowboardcross — a sparkling reward for the behind-the-scenes grunt work he's done all those years en route to the podium.

"It was grueling work but a situation I was grateful for," said the 27-year-old from Manchester Center, Vt. "But it gave me motivation over the last four years. When I was standing on the podium, wrapping that flag around myself, all that sacrifice and work didn't seem like a damn thing."

Deibold's third-place finish was the highlight for the U.S. team on a wacky, rain-soaked day on the snowboardcross course — one that began with veteran Nick Baumgartner and seven-time Winter X Games champion Nate Holland each being eliminated in their opening heats.

That left Deibold and 20-year-old Trevor Jacob as the only U.S. riders left in the field — the only two with any chance of prolonging the string of American dominance in the men's side of this sport, where Seth Wescott had won the first two Olympic gold medals.

It came down to Deibold and Jacob, racing side-by-side in the first semifinal and vying for third place — the last spot in the medal race.

They leaped simultaneously over the second-to-last jump. Deibold was nudging Jacob with his leg, while Jacob was pushing Deibold down by his shoulder. They both stayed upright and even.

At the finish, they both slid for the finish line, the way a baserunner would go into second. Deibold's board crossed a split second in front of Jacob's. As they waited for the result of the photo finish to pop up on the board, the Americans shared a warm embrace.

"A little bit of a heated day, but you don't hate the person," said Jacob, who was relegated to the consolation race and finished ninth. "Rubbin' is racin'. And we were literally rubbin' out there. He's one of your best friends and you're racing with him. It's, 'I



Andy Wong/AP

American Alex Deibold, left, embraces Trevor Jacob after the men's snowboardcross semifinal in which Deibold edged Jacob for a spot in the final.

don't want to hurt you.' But it's a race."

No hard feelings. And hard for anyone on the U.S. team to feel anything but great for Deibold, who has never quit his day job(s) — painting, construction, bike tech, you name it — as he's tried to keep funds flowing for a career that hasn't included any free passes.

"There's definitely been times when I've doubted where I'm at, at the end of the season when you're broke and trying to figure out how you're going to pay rent," he said. "But I've never done it for the money. I've always done it for the love."

After his finish, he ran to the fence separating the athletes from the crowd, climbed on top, found his family in the stands and shouted, "I love you," while beating his fist against his chest.

Moments later, Holland, Baumgartner and Jacob were interlocking their arms and lifting Deibold into a makeshift victory chariot.

"It's cool because you have Seth Wescott, Nate and Nick and all these guys who are always kind of in front of him," U.S. snowboardcross coach Peter Foley said. "But he's always right there. He puts in as much or more work than anybody. And it's cool to see it pay off. Magic."

OLYMPICS

Men's hockey roundup

# Russia ousts Norway in elimination game

## Radulov scores twice; win puts host country into quarterfinals against Finland

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — When Alexander Radulov pumped both fists and let loose a jubilant scream, an entire hockey nation also exhaled for a day.

Although the Russians are undeniably laboring through their home Olympics, a few timely goals and two brilliant goalies are keeping them alive in their hunt for gold.

Radulov had two goals and an assist, and Russia survived its first elimination game in Sochi with a 4-0 victory Tuesday over Norway in the qualification round.

Sergei Bobrovsky made 22 saves in the second straight shut-out victory for the fifth-seeded Russians, who earned a meeting with Finland in the quarterfinals Wednesday.

"It is do-or-die games right now," said Alex Ovechkin, who hasn't scored a goal in three games. "We don't have much time to prepare ... but I'm pretty sure everybody on Finland is going to be ready, and we're going to be ready as well."

Ilya Kovalchuk and Alexey Tereshchenko also scored, but the Russians knew they barely survived another tense afternoon at the Bolshoy Ice Dome. Russia was clinging to a 2-0 lead before doubling it in the final 1:07.

Russia must win four games in six days to claim its first hockey gold medals in 22 years after failing to earn a bye to the quarterfinals. The Russians were forced into two shootouts in the preliminary round, losing to T.J. Oshie and the U.S. before squeaking out a 1-0 win over Slovakia.

"I think at this stage, the most important thing is the win, whether it's 5-0 or 4-1 or 1-0," Bobrovsky said.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Russia forward Ilya Kovalchuk, left, shoots the puck past Norway goaltender Lars Haugen for a goal in the second period of their Olympic elimination game on Tuesday in Sochi, Russia. Russia won 4-0 and advances to the quarterfinals against Finland on Wednesday.

The powerful Russian lineup again struggled early against winless Norway, but Radulov's soft backhand finally beat Lars Haugen early in the second period. The crowd gave a cathartic roar as Russia's scoreless streak ended at more than 101 minutes — an astonishing number for a team with Ovechkin, Evgeni Malkin and Pavel Datsyuk in its lineup.

The much-criticized Radulov came through where his NHL

teammates couldn't, and Kovalchuk also scored late in the second period when a rebound kicked off the back of Haugen's leg.

"We scored a couple lucky goals," Ovechkin acknowledged. "Everybody knows we have such a good, talented team on offense. We just try to keep our energy and keep our emotion. It's working, and (on Wednesday) we're going to have emotions and strength for the quarterfinals."

Haugen stopped 27 shots for

Norway, which has never beaten Russia in a major tournament.

Russia's strength in Sochi has been its goaltending, and coach Zinetula Bilyaletdinov continued to rotate his netminders after Semyon Varlamov shut out Slovakia two days ago. Bobrovsky played well in the Russians' loss to the U.S., but yielded four goals to Oshie in the shootout.

Bilyaletdinov wouldn't say who will start against Finland. But with Bobrovsky's blanking of

Norway, Russia still allowed a goal in 140 minutes, 33 seconds.

"Maybe Russia goes on a roll now," Norwegian captain Ole-Kristian Tollefsen said. "After beating us and scoring a few goals, they'll have a good feeling."

Norway hasn't won an Olympic hockey match since its home Lillehammer Games in 1994, and the team finished last in group play in Sochi with three losses of declining quality. The Norwegians also faced Russia without Mats Zuccarelli, their only NHL player. The New York Rangers forward watched from a suite with a bandage visible on his left hand.

**Slovenia 4, Austria 0:** Anze Kopitar scored 5:29 into the first period to help Slovenia beat Austria in the qualification round, extending the experience of playing for his father in international competition.

The Olympic hockey rookies will face top-seeded and 2006 Olympic champion Sweden on Wednesday in the quarterfinals. Kopitar, who plays for the Los Angeles Kings, is the only NHL player on the Slovenia squad. His father, Matjaz, is the coach.

Robert Kristan had a 30-save shootout for the Slovenes, and he got plenty of support offensively.

Jan Urbas scored a short-handed goal midway through the first period, and Sabahudin Kovacevic's slap shot put Slovenia up 3-0 early in the second.

Austria called timeout late in the game to add an extra skater, but Slovenia's Jan Mursak took advantage with an empty-net goal.

The Austrians lost their first two games by a combined score of 14-4 to Finland and Canada before beating Norway 3-1 in their final game of the preliminary round.

# NHL won't discuss 2018 participation while in Sochi

By LARRY LAGE

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The possibility of NHL players competing in the 2018 Olympics won't be discussed by the league during the Sochi Games.

"It's not anything we're focused on dealing with right now," Commissioner Gary Bettman said. Bettman was joined at a news conference Tuesday by NHL Players' Association Executive Director Don Fehr and International Ice Hockey Federation President Rene Fasel.

"There is nothing like an Olympic gold medal in the life of an athlete," Fasel said. "Nothing."

Then Bettman interjected: "Except for winning the Stanley Cup."

The league and the union have allowed their players to be in the Olympics since 1998, creating an elite hockey tournament that has become one of the most popular events at the Olympics.

The 2018 Winter Games will be in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and no one knows if NHL players will be there.

"None of this moves forward, if it moves forward at all, is if the players don't want to play," Bettman said. "If the players ever said, we're not interested, we're not going to force them to go."

If NHL players ever did say that, it would be stunning. They all seem to want to keep having an opportunity to play for gold on the world's stage every four years.

"The Olympic Games is obviously a pinnacle of sports and it



**"It's not anything we're focused on dealing with right now."**

Gary Bettman  
NHL Commissioner

represents a lot," Canadian forward John Tavares said. "I think it's important we continue to try and find a way to (make it work). We certainly enjoy coming as players."

While the NHL and NHLPA said a decision about 2018 could be made within six months, both parties didn't want to be tied to a timetable.

"We'll get a sense of what people are thinking over the next 12,

16 months," Fehr said after the news conference. "We have our board meeting this summer, and I'm sure it'll be a topic of some discussion. And then the players either at that point will be able to say, 'This is what we want to do, go try and make it happen.' Or, they're going to say, 'We want to think about it a little more.'"

International competition in hockey isn't going away, but it might not happen at future Olympics because NHL owners don't like it for at least a couple of reasons.

Some NHL owners are not in favor of freezing their season for more than two weeks when they have less competition for fans in the United States. They're also wary of putting their well-paid players at risk of injury while playing for their country.

"I believe in the not-too-distant future the NHL and NHLPA will be in a position to talk about other international initiatives that we're discussing, including bringing back the World Cup," Bettman said. "We see international competition on the horizon. It's really just a question of what the format will be."

OLYMPICS



LUCA BRUNO/AP

The United States' Mikaela Shiffrin passes a gate Tuesday during the second run of the women's giant slalom at Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Shiffrin finished fifth in her Olympic debut.

# Shiffrin settles for fifth, changes focus to slalom

BY TIM DAHLBERG  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Mikaela Shiffrin knew what to do after the first run of the giant slalom left the teen skiing sensation in fifth place.

"Ski faster," she said. Shiffrin did just that, slicing through the rain and snow to trim some off her first run time in the first Olympic race of her young life. But her stay near the top of the leaderboard was brief, and she was soon eliminated from medal contention.

Her goal was gold. But under difficult conditions the 18-year-old gained some valuable experience that could pay off when she goes off as the favorite Friday in the slalom.

"I wanted a gold, but I also think this was meant to happen," she said. "It's something I will learn from the next Olympics I go to. I'm sure."

The closest thing to a replacement for the injured Lindsey Vonn, Shiffrin had a chance to boost the flagging hopes of the country's ski team by snatching a medal in her Olympic debut. It wasn't to be, though, with Tina Maze of Slovenia earning her second gold medal of the Sochi Games and two other veteran gold medal winners in Anna Fenninger and Viktoria Rebensburg taking the silver and bronze.

"It's amazing to be at my first



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

Mikaela Shiffrin pauses in the finish area after completing her first run. The 18-year-old had a faster second run, but not fast enough to get on the podium.

Olympics and have that first race out of the way," said Shiffrin, who finished fifth. "That was also a very cool race to be a part of, especially with the top three girls, they really raced well."

Shiffrin raced well herself, bettering her time in the second run as snow alternated with rain. But a couple of mistakes on turns cost her valuable tenths of a second in the middle of the second run and she couldn't make them up.

Shiffrin was in second place as she crossed the finish line, but there were four other skiers with better first-run times who were yet to ski. It became a numbers game that Shiffrin quickly lost.

"I tried to race from the very start to the very finish," she said. "I think it was a pretty fair race and I'm just really in awe of the top three girls."

Shiffrin, who first raced in the World Cup at the age of 15 and is the reigning slalom champion, is still an overwhelming favorite to win a gold medal on Friday. She had never won a World Cup giant slalom, though she has been on the podium twice in the race on the World Cup circuit this year and was given an outside chance at picking up a medal in this race.

Her father, Jeff, said the difficult conditions were better handled on this day by veteran skiers who have more experience with them.

"I thought she did awesome," he said. "This is not what she's prepared for. I think it takes tons of experience to really kill this and she skied really well. I'm really happy for her."

Jeff Shiffrin said not winning a medal might actually benefit his daughter because she won't face as much media pressure.

"I like to look at the silver lining so this sets her up great for the slalom," he said. "She won't have to deal with these distractions (media) the next 48 hours."

## Women's giant slalom

# Slovenia's Maze wins second gold

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Tina Maze skied through rain and snow to win Olympic gold, and then swam through slush to celebrate.

In tough conditions on the slopes above Sochi, Maze won her second gold medal of the 2014 Games on Tuesday by leading the giant slalom from start to finish.

Wearing bib No. 1, the Slovene skied cautiously and cleanly through the gates to finish 0.07 seconds ahead of Anna Fenninger of Austria.

Maze celebrated by belly-flopping onto the wet snow and pretending to swim the breaststroke.

"Didn't you feel like in (a) swimming pool? We are all wet, so I said, 'Why not?'" Maze said. "It's been a great day for me."

Defending champion Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany was third, trailing 0.27 behind Maze's two-run time of 2 minutes, 36.87 seconds.

American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin placed fifth in her Olympic debut, missing a medal by just 0.23 seconds.

The 30-year-old Maze added giant slalom gold in the rain to the tie for victory in a sunbathed downhill last week. She also won giant slalom silver at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Maze led the first run by 0.52 seconds. Jessica Lindell-Vikarby of Sweden had been in second place, but she faded down to place seventh.

Maze began the second run with a 0.85-second advantage over Fenninger, the super-G winner, but gave much of it away in a cautious run down the steep and slushy final slope.

"Not easy day, as we see the weather is playing (games), but I love it when it's working out fine," Maze said. "I don't care if it's raining, if it's sunny or whatever."

The slope was really good and it was possible to ski well."

After Maze crossed the line, a further 44 lower-ranked skiers still had their second run. They included pop-classical violinist Vanessa-Mae, who raced for Thailand as Vanessa Vanakorn. She was the slowest of 74 first-run finishers, then slowest again in the afternoon by more than seven seconds.

One absentee in the original 90-racer lineup was Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany, who skipped her weakest event because of a cold and breathing problems.

Hoefl-Riesch, the super-combined champion and super-G silver medalist, went to the course

to warm up Tuesday but chose not to race. She is expected to defend her slalom title on Friday

and challenge for a record-equaling fourth career Olympic gold in women's Alpine

skiing.

Julia Mancuso, GS champion at the 2006 Turin Olympics, skied out midway down the last slope in her final event.

"That's a wrap for me here in Sochi. It's been inspiring! Thanks for all the support and Love! #GoUSA!!! Now I get to celebrate my Bronze!!!" Mancuso, who got her medal in super-combined, wrote on her Twitter account.

Maze has been the most consistent women's skier at the Sochi Games. Mancuso edged her off the super-combined podium by just 0.10 seconds and she was fifth in super-G.

Maze has been the most consistent women's skier at the Sochi Games. Mancuso edged her off the super-combined podium by just 0.10 seconds and she was fifth in super-G.



GERO BREILOER/AP

Women's giant slalom winner Tina Maze of Slovenia poses with her nation's flag during a flower ceremony Tuesday at Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. It was Maze's second gold medal of the Games.

## SPORTS



**'No hard feelings'**  
Incognito apologizes to Martin,  
Miami owner after report | Page 25

Rematches  
loom; teams  
set to push  
for playoffs

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
The Associated Press

**L**EWIS NEW ORLEANS  
eBron James won't  
assume the playoffs date  
with the Indiana Pac-  
ers that so many others  
expect.

He definitely has another one  
with Kevin Durant — in just a  
few days.

The NBA's two best players  
went their separate ways after  
the East's 163-155 victory over  
the West in Sunday's NBA All-  
Star Game, but only temporarily.  
They will be back on the same  
floor on Thursday in Oklaho-  
ma City, perhaps even joined by  
Russell Westbrook.

Less than two months remained  
in the regular season when play  
resumed on Tuesday, with so  
much still to sort out in the loaded  
Western Conference.

Things seem so much simpler  
in the East, where a Miami-  
Indiana matchup in the Eastern  
Conference finals has seemed a  
certainty since the opening weeks  
of the season — except to James.

"This is more than a two-team  
race. There's a lot of good teams  
in the Eastern Conference," he  
said. "It's been a slow start for us  
as a whole, but there's so many  
good teams, you can't just count  
on us and one other team. I re-  
spect every team we go against."

The Miami Heat went into the  
break 2½ games behind Indiana,  
with the third-place Toronto Rap-  
tors having 10 more losses than  
the Heat. The Pacers lost Game  
7 of the East finals in Miami last  
June, and they want home-court  
advantage if — when? — the  
teams meet again this spring.

The Heat are interested in it,  
too, though only to a point.

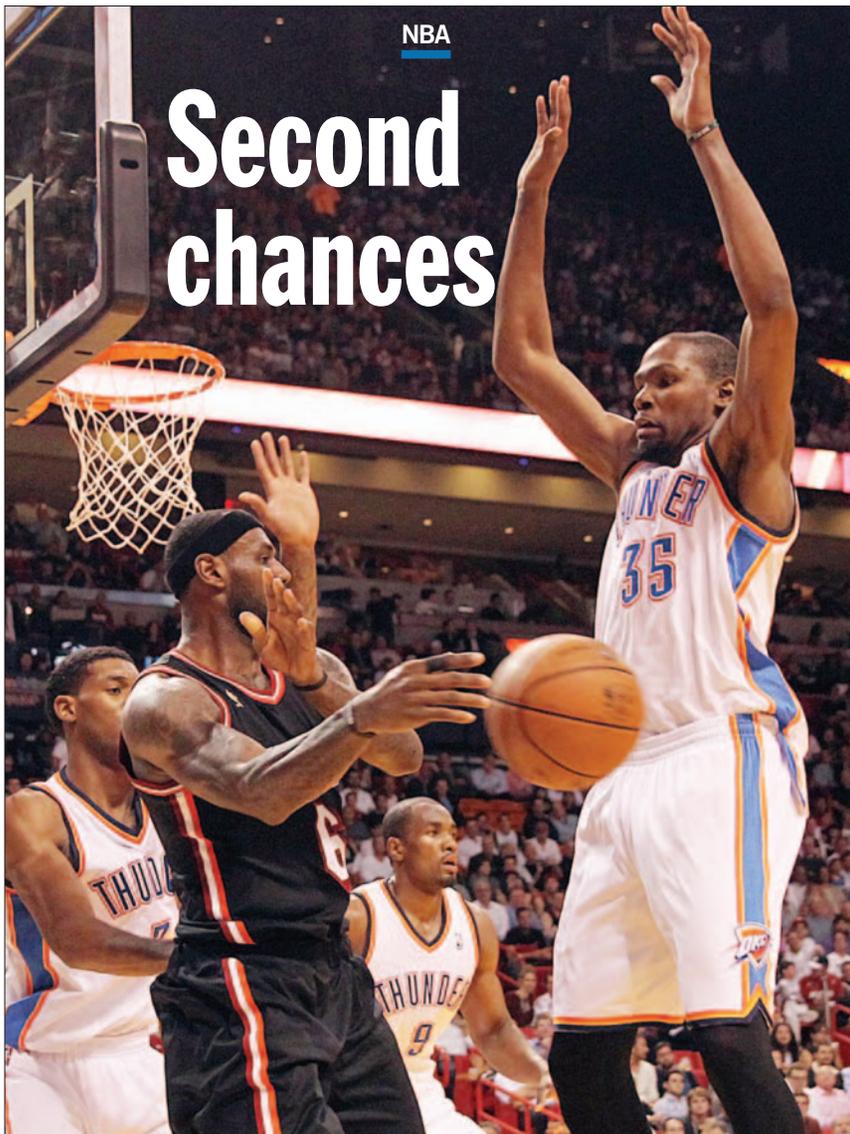
"What matters more is that  
we're healthy. We're going to  
compete for first place, of course,  
but we're not going to make it this  
huge thing," Chris Bosh said.

"We're within striking distance,  
2½ back. We like our chances."

The Oklahoma City Thunder fi-  
nally opened a little cushion atop  
**SEE SECOND ON PAGE 24**

### Inside:

■ LeBron sees himself  
staying put, Page 24



PEDRO PORTAL, EL NUEVO HERALDO/MCT

Miami's LeBron James, left, and OKC's Kevin Durant, right, will face off again on Thursday as play resumes after the All-Star break.

NBA

# Second chances