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UKRAINE PROTESTS

EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Activists pay respects to protesters killed in clashes with police in Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, on Thursday. Fierce clashes in Ukraine's capital shattered a brief truce between the government and protesters.

Death toll mounts

Dozens killed in clashes between police, protesters as crisis escalates

BY YURAS KARMANAU
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Tossing firebombs, protesters advanced upon police lines Thursday in Ukraine's embattled capital. Government snipers shot back, killing at least 70 people and wounding hundreds of others, according to a protest doctor.

Video footage on Ukrainian television showed shocking scenes Thursday of protesters being cut down by gunfire, lying on the pavement as comrades rushed to their aid. Trying to protect themselves with shields, teams of protesters carried bodies away on sheets of plastic or planks of wood.

One of the wounded, volunteer medic Olesya Zhukovskaya, sent out a brief Twitter message — "I'm dying" — after being shot in the neck. Dr. Oleh Musiy, the medical coordinator for the protesters, said she was in serious condition after being operated on.

SEE UKRAINE ON PAGE 13

Army in Europe to shed hundreds of local national jobs

BY MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

Workers were notified of the force reductions Thursday, but many local national employees won't have to leave their jobs for more than a year.

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. Army Europe and Installation Management Command-Europe announced force structure changes Thursday that will reduce the service's local national workforce by 579 positions.

The changes also will result in a net increase of 44 U.S. civilian positions, while 89 military positions will be shed.

Army officials described the actions as a "rebalancing" of forces, adjusting the size of units that support the Army's combat forces stationed in Europe.

Those forces have been heavily slashed in recent years, as two heavy brigade combat teams and a corps headquarters were shuttered and various smaller units were repatriated or inactivated. All told, those actions amounted to the loss of more than 11,000 soldiers across the continent — roughly a quarter of the Army's total strength in Europe.

Workers were notified of the force reductions Thursday, but many local national employees won't have to leave their jobs for more than a year as the process of identifying individual workers for cuts and the requirements of various host-nation agreements play out, USAREUR officials said.

A number of the positions targeted are already empty, easing somewhat the number of layoffs the restructuring will cause.

The realignment affects three major units: the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, the Joint Multinational Training Command and Installation Management Command-Europe. Most of the reorganization will hit locations in Germany, though sites in Belgium and the Netherlands also will be affected.

SEE JOBS ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"April of 2013 wasn't Brandon's time to die. … You've killed two of your children. … Not God. Not your church. Not religious devotion. You."

— Judge Benjamin Lerner, in sentencing to prison a Pennsylvania couple who believed in faith-healing after the death of a second child, who never saw a doctor despite having pneumonia

See story on Page 10

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2. Air Force will take 'appropriate action' over viral POW/MIA emblem photo
3. National Guard soldier suspended over 'distasteful' military funeral photos and comments
4. Commander relieved after Sub Ball fundraising includes adult businesses
5. Navy Orions likely damaged in hangar collapse

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Shifting Gears

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MILITARY

Jobs: Losses concentrated most in Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels

FROM FRONT PAGE

The 21st TSC's Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe is hit hardest, losing 455 local national positions and four U.S. civilian slots.

The cuts to the organization "are completely necessary," said Helmut Haufe, general manager of TLSC-E. "Less troops, less units to be supported means less supporters required. And that's a logic nobody can deny."

Three of the TLSC-E's primary functions — supply, maintenance and transportation — will take major hits. On its own, the Maintenance Activity Kaiserslautern, which repairs everything from tracked vehicles and trucks to weapons and radios, will lose 330 positions, leaving 177.

"USAREUR lost the fair share of its force structure" when it inactivated two heavy brigade combat teams and the maintenance-intensive equipment that came with them, Haufe said, "and we have to adjust our capacity."

The TLSC-E's remaining cuts will come from the 6966th Truck Transportation Terminal, Maintenance Activity Vilseck and Supply Activity Europe.

The Joint Multinational Training Command, based in Grafenwöhr, will eliminate 83 military positions, nine U.S. civilian slots and 114 local national positions under the restructuring.

While the job losses will be spread somewhat across the command's presence, which extends to every Army community in Europe, they will be most heavily concentrated in Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels, which have served as the main training ranges for U.S. forces deploying to Afghanistan from Europe.

"When you start looking at what requirements we're going to need to support our U.S. forces here, there is a reduction in force, lots of a capacity reduction that isn't going to be made up," said Col. Adam Loveless, chief of staff for JMTC.

Much of the paring of the JMTC's military staff will come from the noncommissioned officer academy, which trains junior enlisted leaders. With fewer soldiers left in Europe to train, the academy's training staff will be reduced by one training company, Loveless said.

Meanwhile, Installation Management Command-Europe will see its workforce increase modestly, though some communities will see major job cuts while others see gains.

"The reductions are largely behind us," said Dan Thompson, a spokesman for IMCOM-E.

The command's pending actions, he said, are largely about rebalancing and adjusting support to various communities.

IMCOM-E's workforces in Baumholder and Hohenfels will see significant reductions, while U.S. Army Garrisons Bavaria and Ansbach will see smaller declines. Meanwhile, U.S. Army Garrisons Rheinland-Pfalz, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden will gain jobs.

Some of those gains include "the formal inclusion" of Army Community Service and Soldier and Family Assistance Center support positions previously considered "overhire," Thompson wrote in an email.

The community losing the most jobs in IMCOM-E's rebalancing is Baumholder, which was home to the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, one of the two brigades that were inactivated in the past two years. It will be converted from a garrison to a "small site" and will lose eight military, 11 civilian and 154 local national positions.

A significant number of those local national positions are already unfilled, Baumholder Mayor Peter Lang said, citing information he received from Army officials.

"Effectively, we speak about 80 jobs, not 154" jobs being eliminated from the community, Lang said.

U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, which has grown in population as units consolidated here from Mannheim, Heidelberg and elsewhere, will gain the most from IMCOM-E's moves, with the addition of three military, 21 U.S. civilian and 179 local national employee positions.

Altogether, IMCOM-E will see a net gain of 66 U.S. and 15 local national positions and a reduction of 10 military positions.

Bruce Anderson, a spokesman for U.S. Army Europe, said in an email that the primary driver behind the force realignment is meeting the needs of a changed mission but he said the moves also would result in cost savings.

JMTC will save an estimated $17 million annually in salaries, Loveless said, while the 21st TSC will save an estimated $25 million annually, according to Anderson. IMCOM-E did not provide figures directly relating to the moves.

It likely will be about four months before it is known which individual local national workers will be terminated. According to the USAREUR release announcing the restructuring, the 21st TSC will reduce its civilian positions no later than April 2015, while JMTC and IMCOM-E have until Sept. 30 of this year to make their civilian cuts.

Department of the Army civilians affected by the announcement won't necessarily end up on the unemployment rolls. Depending on individual situations, some may look for government jobs stateside, some may retire, some may slide into new or existing vacancies and some may enter a priority placement program that can reassign displaced personnel.

Local national workers in affected organizations will have to compete for the remaining positions. Those identified for termination won't necessarily find themselves unemployed, either. Depending on individual circumstances, some may be eligible for job retraining, retirement or transfer to vacant positions in other units.

The number of positions opening, however, is far smaller than the number being eliminated, Haufe said, "so I'm afraid there isn't much placement opportunity."

Reporter Marcus Kloeckner contributed to this report.
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Force restructuring

Net change in positions as a result of U.S. Army Europe force restructuring:

	Military	Civilian	Local National
Stuttgart	+2	+2	+91
Mannheim	—	—	-3
Ansbach	-1	+6	-20
Bamberg	—	—	-3
Garmisch	+1	-4	+14
Grafenwöhr	-32	+19	-101
Hohenfels	-53	-16	-117
Schweinfurt	—	—	-5
Vilseck	-3	-2	-20
Wiesbaden	-2	+38	+30
Hanau	—	—	-2
Darmstadt	—	—	-1
Baumholder	-8	-11	-164
Kaiserslautern	+3	+18	-257
Sembach	—	+3	+4
Chievres	-2	—	-30
Brussels	+5	+5	+5
Schinnen	+1	-15	—

Approximate reductions over the last five years (including this announcement):

Germany	-12,600	-2,150	-2,250
Belgium	-5	-25	-60
Netherlands	-5	-25	-15

SOURCE: U.S. Army Europe — Stars and Stripes

See an interactive map at **stripes.com/go/drawdown**

> **'Less troops, less units to be supported means less supporters required.'**
>
> **Helmut Haufe**
> Theater Logistics Support Center-Europe's general manager

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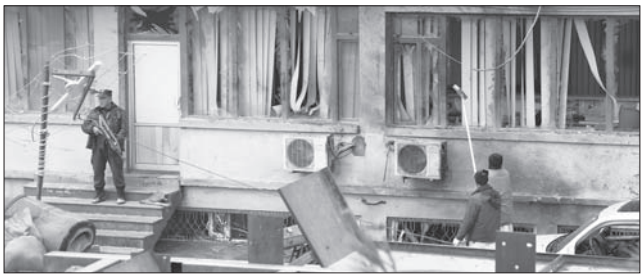

Massoud Hossaini/AP

Employees clean the site of a suicide attack as security personnel stand guard in Kabul on Thursday. A suicide bomber on foot struck a compound belonging to the minority Ismaili community, who make up a branch of Shiite Islam. The compound houses a cultural center, library and a hospital.

Suicide attack on Kabul cultural center kills 1

By Cid Standifer
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — A suicide bomber attacked a library and cultural center in Kabul on Thursday, killing a security guard and injuring four other people, Afghan officials said.

Sediq Sediqi, a spokesman for Afghanistan's Interior Ministry, said that, according to a security guard, the attacker tried to get into the cultural center about 9 a.m. He was turned away but returned half an hour later and detonated himself outside the cultural center's gate.

"Everybody knows this place," Sediqi said.

By 10:30 am, Afghan journalists were trudging through mud near the scene as armed police officers waved them back from the site of the attack. A power line suddenly burst into a shower of sparks, making the gathered crowd jump and then laugh nervously.

One witness, Shujaudin Rohani, told a huddle of journalists that he had been close to the cultural center when he heard the blast.

"The Internet is free here at the Sayed Mansour Naderi's library, so the young people used to come and use Internet here," he said.

The country has been on edge in recent weeks, waiting to see if insurgents will step up violence before presidential elections in April.

Sediqi and eyewitnesses said it did not appear the attack was targeting a campaign event.

On Wednesday, the convoy of one presidential candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, was attacked on its way back to Kabul from a campaign rally in Jalalabad. Abdullah escaped unharmed, and his campaign spokesman told The Wall Street Journal no one was killed.

Zubair Babakarkhail and Stars and Stripes reporter Alex Pena contributed to this report.
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Cid Standifer/Stars and Stripes

Police keep a crowd back from the scene of a suicide bombing targeting a Kabul cultural center on Thursday.

UN urges halt to ransoms financing al-Qaida

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. experts are urging a halt to hefty ransom payments that have made kidnapping a core tactic for al-Qaida and its affiliates in recent years.

In a report to the Security Council late Wednesday, the panel monitoring sanctions against al-Qaida also recommended reinforcing a travel ban against affected individuals by using biometrics and improving government lists of "inadmissible" passengers.

The experts say improvised explosive devices are "the primary weapon of choice of al-Qaida and its affiliates" and recommend that all countries include explosives and the raw materials and components to make IEDs under the al-Qaida arms embargo.

According to the experts, al-Qaida has engaged widely in kidnapping to finance its operations. They cited a U.S. estimate that $120 million in ransom was paid to terrorist groups between 2004 and 2012.

"A total of 1,283 kidnappings motivated by terrorism were reported in 2012, and a single hostage could deliver a seven-figure ransom into the hands of terrorists," the experts said.

The experts said Africa and the Asia-Pacific accounted for 53 percent of kidnappings recorded worldwide in 2012, an increase from 18 percent in 2004, while the Middle East accounted for 19 percent of kidnappings, up from 4 percent in 2008.

Noting that governments worldwide have condemned ransom payments to terrorist groups, the experts urged an end to payouts, stressing that it is a violation of U.N. sanctions on individuals and groups subject to an asset freeze because of their al-Qaida links.

Overall, the panel said al-Qaida "remains a threat, even though it has not been able to recover its former strength."

Its leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, is "relatively ineffective," and affiliates are disregarding his operational instructions, it said.

At the same time, the panel said "multiple al-Qaida affiliates are evolving, often autonomously."

The experts cited a "generational change" in some al-Qaida affiliates.

Taliban say they have discussed swapping prisoners for soldier

By Kathy Gannon
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Washington has held indirect talks with the Taliban over the possible transfer of five senior Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo Bay in exchange for a U.S. soldier captured nearly five years ago, a senior Taliban official told The Associated Press.

Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, 27, of Hailey, Idaho, was last seen in a video released in December, footage seen as "proof of life" demanded by the United States. Bergdahl is believed to be held in the border regions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is the only U.S. soldier to be captured in America's longest war, which began with the U.S.-led ouster of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan for sheltering al-Qaida in 2001 in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bergdahl

The talks, which the Taliban official said took place sometime over the past two months in a Middle East country, would be the first significant movement toward an exchange since it was last discussed by the U.S. and the Taliban in June 2013.

State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf would not confirm the efforts.

"We are not currently involved in active negotiations with the Taliban," Harf said Wednesday. "Clearly if negotiations do resume at some point with the Taliban, then we would want to talk with them about the safe return of Sgt. Bergdahl."

In Kabul, a senior Afghan official said the U.S. has recently been in touch with Karzai's government over a possible exchange involving Bergdahl, who was captured on June 30, 2009.

The five Taliban detainees at the heart of the proposal are the most senior Afghans still held at the prison at the U.S. base in Cuba. Each has been held since 2002.

They include:

- Mohammad Fazl, whom Human Rights Watch says could be prosecuted for war crimes for presiding over the mass killing of Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan in 2000 and 2001 as the Taliban sought to consolidate its control over the country.
- Abdul Haq Wasiq, who served as the Taliban deputy minister of intelligence and was in direct contact with supreme leader Mullah Omar as well as other senior Taliban figures, according to military documents. Under Wasiq, there were widespread accounts of killings, torture and mistreatment.
- Mullah Norullah Nori, who was a senior Taliban commander in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif when the Taliban fought U.S. forces in late 2001. He previously served as a Taliban governor in two northern provinces, where he has been accused of ordering the massacre of thousands of Shiites.
- Khairullah Khairkhwa, who served in various Taliban positions including interior minister and military commander and had direct ties to Mullah Omar and Osama bin Laden, according to U.S. military documents. His U.S. lawyers have argued in court papers that his affiliation with the Taliban was a matter of circumstance, rather than ideology, and that he had backed away from them by the time of his capture. His lawyers also have argued that he was merely a civil servant and had no military role, though a judge found otherwise and said there was enough evidence to justify holding him at Guantanamo. His lawyers have appealed.
- Mohammed Nabi, who served as chief of security for the Taliban in Qalat, Afghanistan, and later worked as a radio operator for the Taliban's communications office in Kabul and as an office manager in the border department, according to U.S. military documents. In spring 2002, he told interrogators that he received about $500 from a CIA operative as part of the unsuccessful effort to track down Mullah Omar. When that didn't pan out, he says he ended up helping the agency locate al-Qaida members.

Pakistani jets pound militant hideouts

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani air force jets bombed militant hideouts in the country's volatile northwest Thursday after government efforts to negotiate a peace deal with the Pakistani Taliban broke down earlier this week, officials said.

A Pakistani military official and two intelligence officers said 15 suspected militants were believed to have been killed in the airstrikes.

The airstrikes hit villages in the North Waziristan tribal region late Wednesday, a hotbed of militant activity that borders Afghanistan to the west, as well as the Khyber tribal region on Thursday morning. The 15 dead were killed in North Waziristan.

A security official said there were reports of militants also killed in Khyber but no detailed information.

The military official said a huge cache of arms and ammunition were also destroyed in the airstrikes in North Waziristan and explosives, and a factory for making homemade bombs was hit in Khyber.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY

Bush dedicated to helping vets

By Jon Harper
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Former President George W. Bush hosted a Military Service Initiative Summit on Wednesday and spoke about the many problems facing post-9/11 veterans and how his institute hopes to address them.

"A lot of people ask me, you know, do I miss much about being president," Bush said at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas. "The answer really [is] no, [but] I do miss saluting men and women who volunteer to defend our nation during war.

"Many are coming home and are preparing for new missions as civilians. And I intend to salute these men and women for the rest of my life … And through the Military Service Initiative, the [George W.] Bush Institute is going to help.

"Since 9/11, more than 2.5 million Americans have worn the uniform …," Bush said. "They are the 1 percent of America who kept the 99 percent safe. And we owe them and their families a deep debt of gratitude. Our country can never really fully repay our vets, but we ought to try."

Bush said his institute's plans have been shaped by a joint study that the organization conducted with the Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families, which he described as "one of the most comprehensive studies ever conducted of post-9/11 veterans."

Bush said the Military Service Initiative will focus on the following broad tasks to make it easier for former servicemembers to transition to civilian life:

■ Help Americans understand what they can do as individuals to support veterans and empower them to succeed.

"The [civilian-military] divide is exacerbated by public perceptions that the veteran is either a hero or to be pitied," Bush said. "Most veterans … don't want lavish celebrations or expressions of condolences. And while it never hurts to say thank you, that's not really the point. What most veterans want is to have their service understood and appreciated for what it is … and now they want to experience the American dream."

■ Help veterans translate their military skills to work in rewarding civilian jobs.

"From our research, we know one problem is that veterans and employers both have a hard time translating military experience [into obvious qualifications for civilian jobs]. That's not surprising," Bush said. "I mean, you don't see many job postings that say, 'Wanted: experience in hunting insurgents and terrorists, willing to risk life for co-workers.' [But] when a resume says United States military, that means you can count on the applicant to be loyal, [they've] got good leadership, teamwork skills, and discipline. To an employer, that should mean a lot."

■ Work with leaders at higher education institutions to promote innovative programs to improve the recruitment, retention and graduation rates of veterans at colleges and universities.

"Some veterans are ready to enter the workforce immediate, [but] others need to update their skills," Bush said. "[That's] especially true for younger veterans who entered the military right after high school or a short stint in college. At the Bush Center we believe it's never too late to learn a new skill. [But] unlike many Americans struggling to make it through college, the [high dropout rate] problem here is not money, the problem is fitting in … Many [veterans] report feeling isolated from their classmates and/or their professors."

■ Help businesses understand how they can improve their companies by hiring veterans, and enable employers to better tailor their recruitment and hiring efforts.

"We're going to send a broader message: Hiring veterans is not only the right thing to do, it is a smart thing to do," Bush said.

■ Study and compare the more than 46,000 nongovernmental organizations that list helping veterans as one of their missions, and develop tools and metrics to assess which ones perform better and deliver the best results.

"It can be overwhelming for newly returned veterans looking for help," Bush said. "While these organizations have good intentions, I suspect some deliver better results than others."

■ Help veterans get treatment if they are suffering from wounds of war — especially post-traumatic stress — and de-stigmatize mental health problems.

"PTS is treatable," Bush said. "Military and medical communities have made great strides in developing effective ways to reduce and overcome PTS. Like depression, PTS can be controlled through medication and therapy and other treatment. But like most serious injuries, it rarely goes away on its own. Those affected must get help. … We are going to use our platform to make clear that veterans receiving treatment for post-traumatic stress are not 'damaged goods' [and] they are not mentally shattered. They are people who got hurt defending our country and are now overcoming wounds.

"Employers would not hesitate to hire an employee getting treated for a medical condition like diabetes or high blood pressure, and they should not hesitate to hire veterans getting treated for post-traumatic stress."

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Understanding post-9/11 veterans

At a summit on veterans issues Wednesday in Dallas, former President George W. Bush offered highlights of a study on post-9/11 veterans and their concerns.

- Of the **2.5 million** post-9/11 veterans, more than 2 million served in Afghanistan or Iraq.
- The average veteran spent one out of every three years overseas.
- **82 percent** said that they would recommend military service to someone considering signing up, and **94 percent** said they were proud of their military service.
- **84 percent** say the American public has little awareness of the challenges they and their families face; **71 percent** of Americans say they do not understand the problems facing our veterans.
- Post-9/11 veterans face ever higher rates of unemployment than their civilian counterparts, and this is their top concern.
- Veterans without a steady job are more susceptible to other problems, such as depression, addiction, homelessness and suicide.
- The dropout rate for veterans exceeds **50 percent** at some institutions of higher learning.

SOURCES: George W. Bush Institute; The Syracuse Stars and Stripes

Retired Col. Miguel Howe gets a playful pat on the head from former President George W. Bush during a break in a summit.

Former President George W. Bush smiles as he walks off stage after giving a speech at a summit titled "Empowering Our Nation's Warriors" at the George W. Bush Institute at Southern Methodist University in Dallas on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY LM OTERO/AP

'Since 9/11, more than 2.5 million Americans have worn the uniform. … They are the 1 percent of America who kept the 99 percent safe. And we owe them and their families a deep debt of gratitude. Our country can never really fully repay our vets, but we ought to try.'

Former President George W. Bush

MILITARY

2nd Guard member suspended over photos

By Jon Harper
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Wisconsin National Guard member who publicly defended a subordinate who posted controversial photos and comments about military funerals on the Internet has been suspended from his regular duties pending the outcome of an investigation into the matter, according to Maj. Paul Rickert, the director of public affairs for the Wisconsin Guard.

The photos and comments, which ignited a firestorm of criticism on social media and caused the Wisconsin National Guard and the Army National Guard to initiate separate investigations into the scandal, appeared on the Instagram page of Spc. Terry Harrison, a member of the Madison-based 1st Battalion, 147th Aviation Regiment.

One photo shows a group of soldiers in Army Combat Uniforms, some posing disrespectfully around a flag-draped training casket, along with a caption that reads, "We put the FUN in funeral — your fearless honor guard from various states." The other photo shows Harrison in a car, and the comment below it reads, "It's so damn cold out. Why have a funeral outside!? Somebody's getting a jacked up flag," suggesting that the family of a fallen servicemember would receive an unprofessionally presented American flag during the ceremony because of the poor weather.

The Wisconsin Guard announced Tuesday that Harrison had been removed from the military funeral detail indefinitely.

Rickert said Wednesday that Sgt. Luis Jimenez has also been suspended from funeral honors duties because of comments he made on Facebook after Harrison was criticized.

"[Harrison] isn't disrespecting anyone …," Jimenez wrote in a Facebook post, which has since been removed. "It's actually a selfless commitment she has made. These [military funeral] practice sessions are very long. It's good to let loose a little when your job constantly asked you to be serious."

Rickert told Stars and Stripes that the angry calls his office received after the scandal broke also contributed to the decision to suspend Jimenez.

"We felt [the suspension] was prudent based on [Jimenez's] comments online and also the phone calls that we were receiving …," Rickert said. "We have received phone calls from individuals expressing their outrage and the emotional impact that they have received from the photos and the comments. Some of those phone calls have been very emotionally charged.

"This has definitely had an impact on the military community and the friends and families of fallen soldiers and veterans, and we take that very seriously."

Some Gold Star Mothers whose children were killed in action have taken to social media to express their anger over the images.

"We have reached out to Gold Star families and Gold Star Mothers to let them know that we take this extremely seriously, that we too were outraged, and that we expect the members of our funeral honors team to act in a professional and honorable manner, and that we do not condone or excuse the behavior," Rickert said.

Rickert said one purpose of the investigation is to determine if other members of the unit have been acting inappropriately.

"The funeral honors team will be looked at to ensure that these are the actions of an individual and not a larger problem," he said. "Once the investigation is complete, there will be swift and appropriate action."

Stars and Stripes was unable to contact Harrison or Jimenez for comment.

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Wisconsin National Guard member Spc. Terry Harrison's Instagram post shows soldiers mugging as they stand around a casket draped in a flag.

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MILITARY

Unit working to bring it all home

Marines in Afghanistan focus on salvaging, shipping gear out

By Jennifer Hlad
Stars and Stripes

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Forklifts, weapons, radios, tactical vehicles. Containers, trailers, air conditioners, generators. If the Marines brought it to Afghanistan, they need to get it out of Afghanistan, and it's R4OG's job to get it done.

"Saving money is the key reason why we exist," said Lt. Col. John Flynn, commander of Retrograde and Redeployment in Support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group, or R4OG. "We could burn, crush and bury everything in country and get out faster, but equipment would be wasted."

The unit was honored this week with the Ground Logistics Unit of the Year award for its work from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013, during which time it sent home more than $570 million worth of equipment and materials. Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos presented the trophy to the unit here in Helmand province Tuesday, and praised the work the unit has done even since then — retrograding "millions and millions and millions of dollars' worth of stuff."

The Marines need that gear to redistribute around the Corps, particularly as more Marines are moved to the Pacific, Amos said.

There are now four infantry battalions on the ground in Okinawa and nearly 22,000 Marines west of Honolulu, compared with roughly 16,000 a year ago, he said. In about a month, the Corps will put about 1,200 infantry, logistics and aviation Marines on the ground in Darwin, Australia, Amos said — and all those Marines need equipment.

Much of the nonmilitary stuff — desks, televisions, office equipment — will be given to the Afghans or destroyed if they don't want it, but just about everything else needs to be moved out.

U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the region, estimates that across Afghanistan, the U.S. will spend $5 billion to $7 billion shipping out 20,000 containers of equipment and 24,000 vehicles or large pieces of equipment in addition to tens of thousands of troops.

The 340 members of R4OG come from 95 units and constitute a diverse group of military occupational specialties, Flynn said. Many arrived in the past two months. The challenge they have now is backward planning so that they are able to retrieve, clean, repair and redeploy all the gear they can — and then redeploy themselves.

Maj. Brian McCaw, commander of R4OG's Headquarters and Support Company, said the process is vastly different than the retrograde after the first Gulf War, where he also served. There, he said, it was incredibly disorganized, with "vast piles of stuff" everywhere.

Now, the Marines take a more organized approach — logging and fixing the gear, certifying it for transport and working with Marine Corps Central Command to determine which units need which equipment.

"We're ahead of schedule, and we're good at what we do," McCaw said.

Flynn said the process also differs from the retrograde from Iraq, which took place during the course of a year. The planning for the Marine Corps retrograde from Afghanistan began in 2011, he said, and the process is constantly improving.

Amos said the Marine Corps already has removed 75 percent of its equipment.

"I couldn't be prouder of you," he said. "We're on a glide slope to finish the mission here by the end of December. That's what's going to happen."

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Photos by Jennifer Hlad/Stars and Stripes

Gear collected from units leaving Afghanistan is staged on a lot Wednesday at Camp Leatherneck in preparation for transport back to the U.S.

From left, Lance Cpl. Matthew Ford, Cpl. Matthew Pappas and Lance Cpl. Albert Adams, all of Retrograde and Redeployment in Support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group, prepare a pallet of gear for transportation from Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, to I Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Report: US drone may have killed a dozen civilians in Yemen

By Kimberly Dozier
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A U.S. military drone strike in Yemen last December may have killed up to a dozen civilians on their way to a wedding and injured others, including the bride, a human rights group says. U.S. officials said only members of al-Qaida were killed, but they have refused to make public the details of two U.S. investigations into the incident.

Human Rights Watch released a report on the drone strike Thursday, citing interviews with eight witnesses and relatives of the dead as well as Yemeni officials. The report said four Hellfire missiles were fired at a wedding procession of 11 vehicles on Dec. 12, 2013, in Radda in southern Yemen, killing at least 12 men and wounding at least 15 others, six of them seriously.

The report said the procession "may have included members" of Yemen's al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, "although it is not clear who they were or what was their fate." Family members and survivors say all those hit were civilians; Yemeni officials told Human Rights Watch that most were militants.

"We asked both the Yemeni and the U.S. authorities to tell us which of the dead and wounded were members of militant groups and which if any were civilians," report author Letta Tayler, a senior terrorism and counterterrorism researcher at Human Rights Watch, told The Associated Press. "They did not reply to this question."

She added: "While we do not rule out the possibility that AQAP fighters were killed and wounded in this strike, we also do not rule out the possibility that all of those killed and wounded were civilians."

The New York-based group called on the U.S. government to investigate and to make the findings public.

A Pentagon spokesman, Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby, said he would not comment on specific operational details. He noted that the Yemeni government has stated that the targets were "dangerous senior al-Qaida militants."

U.S. and Yemeni officials said the target of the attack, Shawqi Ali Ahmad al-Badani, a midlevel al-Qaida leader, was wounded and had escaped.

Al-Badani is on Yemen's most-wanted list and is accused of masterminding a plan for a major attack last summer. When an intercepted message revealed the plot, the U.S. temporarily closed 19 of its diplomatic posts across Africa and the Mideast. Some European missions were closed as well.

Three U.S. officials said the U.S. government did investigate the strike against al-Badani — twice — and concluded that only members of al-Qaida were killed in the three vehicles that were hit.

The officials said the Pentagon can't release details because both the U.S. military and the CIA fly drones over Yemen. By statute, the military strikes can be acknowledged, but the CIA operations cannot. The officials said that if they explain one strike but not another, they are revealing by default which ones are being carried out by the CIA.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the drone operations publicly.

The continued secrecy surrounding the drone program shows how the Obama administration has been slow to transfer the CIA drones to the military's Joint Special Operations Command nearly a year after Obama promised in a May 2013 speech to put the military largely in charge of lethal strikes and thereby to make the program more transparent. Congress has objected to the transfer to the military because the CIA can strike in countries where the military cannot — for instance, in countries that refuse to allow U.S. counterterrorist actions on its soil.

With the drone program in limbo, U.S. officials simply have continued to say nothing of the strikes, wherever they occur.

"The U.S. refusal to explain a deadly attack on a marriage procession raises critical questions about the administration's compliance with its own targeted killing policy," Tayler wrote in the report.

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MILITARY

Report: DOD can skip BRAC process

Stars and Stripes

The tug of war between the Pentagon and Congress about base closures might have gotten a little more interesting.

According to a story published Wednesday in the online defense magazine Breaking Defense, largely forgotten laws give the Defense Department authority to close facilities without the Base Realignment and Closure process — without DOD even getting permission from Congress.

Speaking at the Association of the U.S. Army's winter conference in Huntsville, Ala., House Armed Services Committee staffer Vickie Plunkett said Wednesday that buried in Title 10 — the chapter of the U.S. Code that governs the Defense Department — is Section 2687, which, she said, "does give the services authority to do closures, and it only requires notification to Congress," Breaking Defense reported.

If the Pentagon and the White House were willing to take the political risk, they could shut down facilities and dare a gridlocked Congress to undo it.

"It's notification with time for Congress to act" before the closure is carried out, the magazine reported her saying. But, the veteran staffer went on — emphasizing her opinions were her own, not committee policy — "Congress is basically dysfunctional right now.

"The authorities only require notification. Take your chances," she said to an eruption of laughter, "because it's going to require us to get our act together to stop it."

The Army has recommended to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Congress that a new round of BRAC is needed for 2017. More than 350 installations have been closed in five BRAC rounds in 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 2005.

No one is suggesting that the Pentagon should try to slip something past Capitol Hill, Breaking Defense stressed. As a matter of constitutional law, any such actions need to be included in the annual budget, which has to be passed by Congress.

As a matter of practical politics, the military informs Congress when it lets go even a handful of arsenal or depot employees, even people fired for misconduct, because of congressional sensitivity to constituents' complaints about job cuts.

The Pentagon is in an even stronger position when it comes to the Army's arsenals, the government-owned manufacturing facilities for military equipment. Section 4532 of Title 10 — portions of which predate the Civil War — is the Arsenal Act, which Plunkett pointed out contains this language:

"The Secretary may abolish any United States arsenal that he considers unnecessary."

And that's not even the Secretary of Defense, because the Act was written before that job existed; it's the Secretary of the Army.

"The secretary of the Army has unilateral authority — standing, statutory, Title 10 authority — to close arsenals. Unilateral," Plunkett said.

"Now the issue is will the services … take advantage of those statutes?"

DeCA urges return of Hot Pockets because of recall

Stars and Stripes

The Defense Commissary Agency is taking part in a recall on some Nestle Hot Pocket flavors due to a contaminated beef source used in the products.

Customers with the following Hot Pockets are urged to return them to the commissary where they were purchased for a full refund, DeCA officials announced in a news release.

■Hot Pockets Philly Steak and Cheese – UPC: 43695075205; Batch Code: 3022544513, 3191544512, 3224544512, 3254544512, 3268544512; Best Before Date: March, September, October, November 2014.

■Hot Pockets Philly Steak and Cheese – UPC: 43695159905; Batch Code: 3197544512, 3240544512; Best Before Date: September, October 2014.

■Hot Pockets Croissant Crust Philly Steak and Cheese – UPC: 43695056341; Batch Code: 3211544512, 3248544512, 3283544512; Best Before Date: September 2014.

Commissaries did stock some of the infected product, and officials are working with all stores to get it removed as quickly as possible, Chris Wicker, public health adviser for the DeCA, said in the news release.

The reason is the recall announced last week by Rancho Feeding Corp., which affects many companies, Nestle said on its website.

On Feb. 14, Rancho Feeding Corp., a Petaluma, Calif., establishment, recalled some 8.7 million pounds of beef, because it processed diseased and unsound animals and carried out those activities without the full benefit of federal inspection, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Report: Military mental illness work ineffective

USA Today

The military has produced dozens of programs aimed at preventing mental illness among troops during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but there's little evidence that most of them work, a blue-ribbon panel of scientists said in a report released Thursday.

The findings by a committee of 13 experts appointed by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies come as about 1,000 Iraq- and Afghanistan-era veterans are being diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder each week, according to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

"There's no substantive indication of effectiveness (in the military prevention programs) and, most importantly, there's no evidence of an enduring impact," said panelist David Rudd, provost at the University of Memphis and an authority on suicide in the military.

The Pentagon issued a statement Thursday saying that it is reviewing the study's findings, said Army Lt. Col. Catherine Wilkinson, a spokeswoman.

The Institute study, requested by the Pentagon, follows an earlier Institute of Medicine review released last year concluding that the Pentagon and Department of Veterans Affairs are struggling to keep pace with a growing number of mental health problems generated by the wars.

The scientists in the study released Thursday singled out for prominent criticism the largest and costliest program, the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness effort — since expanded and renamed Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness.

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NATION

Records show Wis. fundraising tactics

By Scott Bauer
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Newly released records show that Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's campaign partnered with a Republican lieutenant governor candidate in 2010 to tap wealthy donors who already had given all they could to Walker, a move designed to bolster their potential ticket.

The behind-the-scenes navigating of Wisconsin's campaign finance laws by Walker staffers was revealed Wednesday as part of the release of 28,000 pages of documents collected during a criminal investigation into one of the governor's aides.

Walker, who faces re-election this year and is considering a run for president in 2016, was not charged with any wrongdoing in the investigation that closed last year with convictions against six of his former aides and associates.

Democrats are hoping Walker could be sunk by the investigation, which has shadowed him for years. It was unsuccessfully used against him in his 2010 run for governor and recall attempts in 2012 — and it hasn't hurt his fundraising ability. That gubernatorial race broke state spending records at $36 million, and the recall hit $81 million, largely because state laws limiting donations don't apply until a recall election is officially set. That allowed Walker to collect checks as large as $500,000 from backers.

The newly released records show how Walker's campaign was working closely with Republican lieutenant governor candidate Brett Davis' campaign to milk all they could out of Walker's supporters during his first run for governor, in 2010. The plan eventually fell apart because Davis lost in the primary election. Walker at the time was the Milwaukee County executive.

In one February 2010 email with a subject line of "Damn it," Walker's deputy chief of staff in his Milwaukee County office demands that Walker's campaign manager, Keith Gilkes, provide her with a list of people who had maxed out their donations to Walker.

"Where's my maxed out donor list?" Kelly Rindfleisch wrote. "Do I have to do everything?"

"Yeah, yeah — we are working on it," Gilkes responded. "We don't drop everything just to make Kelly happy in this office."

Six days later, Walker's deputy campaign manager supplied the donor list.

It's clear from the emails that Rindfleisch at least didn't care for Rebecca Kleefisch, who defeated Davis in the September 2010 primary and became Walker's running mate for lieutenant governor, a position she still holds.

"Ugh, I just hate Becky," Rindfleisch wrote in a March 30, 2010, email to Davis's campaign manager, Emily Loe.

Rindfleisch was convicted in 2012 of misconduct in office, a felony, for doing campaign work for Davis on government time while in Walker's county executive office. Rindfleisch, who is appealing her conviction, was sentenced to six months in jail and three years of probation.

Senate hopefuls collected $500K per day last year

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Candidates in U.S. Senate races this year collectively raised more than a half-million dollars per day in 2013, suggesting a spate of never-ending campaign ads, mail and phone calls to come before November's elections.

Democrats on the ballot in 2014 raised more than $108 million last year, besting Republicans' $87 million, according to an Associated Press analysis of Senate candidates' campaign disclosure reports filed with the secretary of the Senate and the Federal Election Commission. Incumbent Democrats outraised incumbent Republicans by more than 2-to-1 and outspent them almost 3-to-1.

Both parties' Senate candidates started the election year with their campaign accounts totaling pretty much the same. Democratic candidates had a combined $78 million in cash; Republicans almost $80 million.

The nearly $200 million raised by candidates is slightly lower than the amount raised in 2009, when Senate candidates, both incumbents and challengers, raised almost $203 million. The 2010 Senate elections were the last time a presidential race was not on the ballots with the Senate races.

Then, however, donors lacked the option of giving to super PACs, the outside groups that can raise unlimited cash to pay for television ads, mail and phone calls independent of a candidate's campaign. Such groups have flourished since the Supreme Court ruled four years ago they could accept unlimited contributions from individuals.

That means candidates could have less direct control over campaign money — and less money to spend — in 2014 than four years ago.

Candidates or their individual campaign committees still raise the bulk of money spent on Senate campaigns.

Eduardo Verdugo/AP

President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper shake hands as Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto looks on Wednesday after a news conference concluding the North American Leaders Summit in Toluca, Mexico.

Obama finding the world intrudes on his travels

By Jim Kuhnhenn
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even given President Barack Obama's own penchant for finding foreign travels eclipsed by distractions, his day-trip to Mexico stands out as a tour de force of multitasking.

The president was in Mexico on Wednesday for a summit with his North American counterparts — Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper — to discuss issues of trade, security and energy.

Each topic was fraught enough, what with opposition at home for a 12-nation Pacific rim trade deal, a stalled immigration overhaul bill and a pending decision by his administration on a contentious oil pipeline from Canada.

But there would be more, and it was not on the original summit agenda.

With an eruption of violence in Ukraine, the visit began with Obama, at Pena Nieto's side, demanding that President Viktor Yanukovych's government halt its bloody crackdown on protesters in the streets of Kiev or face consequences. By day's end, he cautiously noted reports of a truce between Yanukovych and the protesters, saying it "could provide space for the sides to resolve their disagreements peacefully."

He also condemned violence in Venezuela and called on President Nicolas Maduro's government to release detained protesters.

In between, he applauded a clothing retailer's wage practices, placed a call to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and kept enough of an eye on Olympic hockey to know that the U.S. victory over the Czech Republic had set up a U.S.-Canada semifinal clash.

In a way, it was a quintessential second-term day, with all its limitations, symbols and modest gestures as well as its focus on foreign affairs.

Obama acknowledged that "elements of my party" oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership deal, but disputed the notion that Democratic concerns would derail the agreement.

"We'll get this passed if it's a good agreement," he said in a joint news conference with the two other North American leaders.

He signed an executive order cutting back red tape on exports to show determination in the face of congressional inaction. Because press photographers witnessed the signing aboard Air Force One, he called the moment "historic."

Then he saluted The Gap for announcing that the company intended to raise wages for their workers beginning this year, drawing attention to his call for a higher minimum wage.

Obama's trips have a history of getting overshadowed by events.

- Last June, his two-day summit with the Group of Eight industrial economies and his visit to Berlin came after revelations that the National Security Agency had conducted surveillance of foreign communications.
- His trip to Brazil and Chile in March 2011 was overwhelmed by U.S. bombing over Libya.
- In Seoul, South Korea, in 2012, a live mic caught Obama confiding with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev over the best timing for a missile defense deal.
- In April 2012, allegations of misconduct by Secret Service personnel in Colombia drowned out Obama's participation in the Summit of the Americas, a conclave of more than 30 heads of government from North, South and Central America and the Caribbean.

Feds drop plan to collect license tag data

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Homeland Security Department abruptly reversed course Wednesday and dropped plans to ask a private company to give the government access to a nationwide database of license plate tracking information.

Secretary Jeh Johnson directed that a contract proposal issued last week be canceled.

The proposal said Immigration and Customs Enforcement was planning to use the license plate data in pursuit of criminal immigrants and others sought by authorities.

Gillian Christensen, an ICE spokeswoman, said the contract solicitation was posted "without the awareness of ICE leadership."

"While we continue to support a range of technologies to help meet our law enforcement mission, this solicitation will be reviewed to ensure the path forward appropriately meets our operational needs," Christensen said.

The department said Johnson has ordered a review of the proposal.

The contract notice came amid growing concerns about government surveillance of U.S. citizens but didn't address potential privacy consequences.

NATION

Cities brace for flooding amid respite from winter

By Don Babwin
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — As dozens of moms and nannies pushing strollers descended on Chicago's Lincoln Park to enjoy a rare sunny, mild day, shrinking mounds of snow and growing puddles signaled that one of the cruelest winters in memory is about to get miserable in a whole different way.

"Now we are going to start the flood season," said Don Gutzmer, a contractor who was at the park's zoo for a meeting. "If all the snow melts at once, the ground can't absorb it."

Weeks of subfreezing weather are giving way, at least briefly, to temperatures in the 40s and 50s, putting many Midwestern cities on guard for flooding, roof collapses and clogged storm drains. Some areas expected a double whammy: warm, springlike air combined with heavy rains that could compound the problem and turn the big melt into a muddy, damaging mess.

In Chicago, the National Weather Service issued an advisory Wednesday warning that ice and deep snow could clog the city's drainage system. Street crews raced to clear catch basins of debris.

Officials in suburban Will County prepared to siphon warm water from a nuclear power plant's cooling pond into the Kankakee River in hopes of melting ice that can jam the channel and push floodwaters over the banks.

At the same time, emergency management authorities warned people in low-lying areas to be ready to move to higher ground, even going door-to-door to ensure families were aware of the danger.

Landscaping companies' phones rang off the hook with calls from homeowners seeking teams to scoop snow onto dump trucks and haul it away before their basements flood.

"They're calling me to say, 'With this rain coming, where is that water and the snow going to go when it melts?'" said Jodey Schmiedekamp of Countryside Industries in suburban Chicago.

In Indiana, the weather service cautioned that melting snow piled as high as 18 inches will not be able to flow normally into rivers and streams because those channels are frozen. Between the snowmelt and the rain, some flooding would be unavoidable.

"A lot of bad things could happen tomorrow," said Marc Dahmer, a weather service meteorologist in Indianapolis.

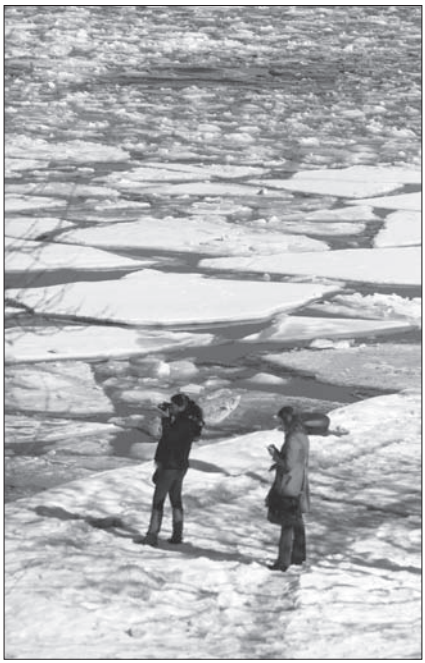
Parts of Michigan have gotten so much snow that authorities fret about more roof collapses like the one that injured two women Wednesday in the Grand Rapids area, which has received 101 inches this season. Other collapses have been reported around the state since January.

If rain adds weight to the snowpack, it "can exacerbate the situation that's there," said John Maples, a weather service meteorologist in Grand Rapids.

The respite won't last long. Temperatures were expected to drop below freezing again within days, threatening to turn all that water back into ice and creating treacherous driving conditions.

While it lasts, the thaw may also reveal a struggle for survival that has played out all winter close to the frozen ground. As the ice and snow recedes around rivers, lakes and ponds, it could reveal dead fish, turtles, frogs, toads and crayfish that didn't make it.

"Winterkill begins with distressed fish gasping for air at holes in the ice and often ends with large numbers of dead fish that bloat as the water warms in early spring," said Gary Whelan, of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



Kiichiro Sato/AP

Visitors take pictures of the ice-filled Chicago River on Wednesday in downtown Chicago. As subfreezing weather gives way to temperatures in the 50s, cities are on guard for flooding.

Homeland security issues a warning on shoe explosives

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has warned airlines that terrorists could try to hide explosives in shoes. It's the second time in less than three weeks that the government has issued a warning about possible attempts to smuggle explosives on a commercial jetliner.

Homeland Security said Wednesday it regularly shares relevant information with domestic and international partners, but it declined to discuss specifics of a warning sent to airlines.

"Our security apparatus includes a number of measures, both seen and unseen, informed by the latest intelligence, and as always DHS continues to adjust security measures to fit an ever evolving threat environment," the department said in a statement.

A U.S. intelligence official told The Associated Press that DHS released a notice to airlines reiterating that liquids, shoes and certain cosmetics were of concern. All of those are covered under existing Transportation Security Administration security policies.

The latest warning was focused on flights headed to the United States from abroad.

The official said "something caused DHS concern, but it's a very low threshold to trigger a warning like this." The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly.

Earlier this month, Homeland Security warned airlines with flights to Russia to be on the lookout for explosive devices possibly hidden inside toothpaste. The Transportation Security Administration then banned passengers from bringing any liquids in their carry-on luggage on nonstop flights from the U.S. to Russia. That warning became public just days before the opening ceremonies of the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

It is unclear if the latest warning, first reported Wednesday by NBC News, is related to the earlier threats to Russia-bound flights.

Air passengers in the United States have had to take off their shoes at airport security checkpoints since shortly after Richard Reid tried to ignite explosives hidden in his shoes on a Miami-bound flight in late 2001. Reid pleaded guilty to terrorism charges and is serving a life sentence.

NATION

Son of child killer charged in Ore. slaying

By Steven Dubois
The Associated Press

CANBY, Ore. — His grandfather sits on California's death row, and his father avoided a death sentence by pleading guilty to killing two Oregon girls.

Now Francis Weaver, 31, is one of three men charged with murder in what Canby, Ore., police describe as a drug deal gone bad.

Police allege Weaver and co-conspirators sought to steal drugs last weekend from a Grants Pass man whose car contained 15 pounds of marijuana. The victim, Edward Spangler, 43, was shot in the face and the shoulder.

Weaver and the other men, Michael A. Orren, 27, and Shannon Bettencourt, 32, were arraigned Tuesday in an Oregon City court. A court clerk said they did not enter pleas and have yet to be assigned attorneys. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for next week.

Weaver's father, Ward Weaver III, was convicted of aggravated murder in 2004, two years after the bodies of Ashley Pond, 12, and Miranda Gaddis, 13, were found in his backyard. Before the discovery, the search for Pond and Gaddis riveted Oregon for months and put the missing girls on the cover of People magazine.

It was Francis Weaver, then 19, who finally ended the mystery by calling emergency dispatchers to report that his girlfriend accused Ward Weaver of raping her, and that his father had privately admitted to killing the girls.

In the early 1980s, Francis Weaver's grandfather, Ward Weaver Jr., was convicted of killing a man whose car had broken down and of kidnapping, raping and murdering the man's girlfriend, Barbara Levoy, 23. Her body was found buried beneath a deck at his home in Oroville, Calif.

Francis Weaver's mother, Maria Shaw, said Wednesday her son is not the biological son of Ward Weaver III. Asked who is the father, she said it was either a now-deceased Marine named Richard or a man who was in the Navy named Christopher.

"I don't know which one of those two is the real dad," she said. "At the time, I was raped by Ward and I wanted revenge. I didn't want to be with Ward. I just wanted to get away from him."

Shaw, who eventually divorced Weaver in the 1990s, said her son had nothing to do with Spangler's death.

"He's not guilty," she said. "They want (to arrest) him so bad because they think he's Ward Weaver's son."

The Oregonian reported that exhaustive DNA investigations during the case in which Ward Weaver III was convicted brought to light Francis Weaver is not his biological son, though both men previously had believed he was. Regardless, Francis Weaver was raised by Ward Weaver and grew up calling him "Dad."

The investigation began shortly before 5 a.m. Sunday when Canby police officers were called to a small park near the apartment where Shaw lives and Francis Weaver sometimes stays. Officers found Spangler's body next to a car that crashed into a tree.

Police documents obtained from the Clackamas County Jail said the men had been tracking Spangler for three hours in an attempt to steal the marijuana, with Weaver exchanging text messages with Orren. Minutes before the homicide, Orren was directed to a back parking lot at the apartment building, where he is suspected of meeting Spangler.

A probable-cause statement written by Detective Brett Ethington said Orren was identified as the shooter and the gun believed to be used in the killing has been recovered.

Father says Pa. Craigslist killing suspect is a liar

The Associated Press

SUNBURY, Pa. — The father of a Pennsylvania woman who with her newlywed husband is charged with killing a man she met through Craigslist said he would support his daughter's execution if she is found guilty and even would hold the hand of the victim's widow.

Sonny Dean also told The Daily Item newspaper Wednesday that he believes his daughter, Miranda Barbour, 19, may have been involved in one other slaying besides the Nov. 11 fatal stabbing of Troy LaFerrara, 42, in Sunbury.

Police said LaFerrara met the young woman through her Craigslist ad, which offered companionship in exchange for money.

Investigators allege Miranda Barbour stabbed LaFerrara, of Port Trevorton, about 20 times in her parked car as her husband, Elytte Barbour, held a cord tight against LaFerrara's neck from the backseat, and then dumped his body in an alley.

Dean told the newspaper that his daughter was a heroin addict and is a liar and a manipulator, but he doesn't think she is a mass murderer. "Miranda lives in a fantasy world," he said.

Miranda Barbour told The Daily Item last Friday she killed fewer than 100 people but stopped counting at 22. She said she lured a man into an alley in Alaska and watched as the leader of a satanic cult to which she belonged shot the man before telling Barbour it was her turn.

"Believe very little of what Miranda says," said Dean, of Texas. "She has a long history of extreme manipulation and dishonesty."

It is possible she participated in a killing in Alaska, he said. He also did not dispute her claim of being a satanist.

"The reason I think that the Alaska incident is a possibility is that Miranda ran away from home at least two times that I remember, both for over a 48-hour period," he said. "Once was around the age of 13 and once was sometime the following year, when she was 14. I don't know what took place during either of those 48-hour periods."

Dean said he prays for peace and comfort each morning for LaFerrara's family, especially the victim's widow, Colleen LaFerrara.

George Clark/AP

The Freedom Baptist Church entrance is blocked Thursday in Laurel, Miss., after a floor collapsed Wednesday evening, injuring 35 people.

Floor collapses at Miss. church center, injuring 35

The Associated Press

LAUREL, Miss. — The second floor of an activity center at a rural Mississippi church collapsed during an evening youth service, sending about 70 people crashing down and injuring 35 of them, survivors and authorities said Thursday.

The injuries were not life-threatening, an official said.

Pastor Tommy Davis, at Freedom Baptist Church in Myrick, told The Chronicle in Laurel that the floor at the activity center collapsed as dozens of youths held a worship service Wednesday evening. Witnesses described an ominous-sounding rumble before the floor crashed down.

"In the middle of the student service, the floor — which is a second-story floor — gave way, causing about 70 students to fall," Davis said. "But it's got to be said that no one was seriously injured, no one was trapped. God's hand was certainly taking care of the kids who were in that building."

Survivors reported brief moments of panic before calm was restored.

Linda Cranford, a spokeswoman for the Jones County Fire Council in the region where the church is located, told The Chronicle that 35 people were hurt but none of the injuries was life-threatening. She said a 16-year-old girl with a head injury was taken to a hospital in Hattiesburg.

She said 19 others were taken to a local hospital closer to the church.

Authorities said most of those hurt later were released. Witnesses described injuries including scrapes, cuts and possibly some broken bones. Several others were treated at the church grounds and didn't require further medical attention, reports said.

Cranford did not immediately answer calls from The Associated Press for comment early Thursday.

Students said the collapse came unexpectedly while the service was underway, starting with a rumble in the building. Tori Hodge, 18, told the newspaper there was an initial scene of panic before calm prevailed.

"We heard a huge rumble and the floor collapsed and people collapsed with it," she said. "Everbody heard it. The floor started crumbling and waving. People started falling through the ceiling, just like you'd see in a movie."

There was no immediate report on what caused the floor collapse.

Davis praised the leaders of the worship service for quick action in restoring calm. He said the students, in seventh to 12th grades, all were reunited with their parents afterward.

Couple sent to jail for second child's death

By Maryclaire Dale
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — A U.S. couple who believed in faith-healing were sentenced Wednesday to 3½ to seven years in prison in the death of a second child who never saw a doctor despite being stricken with pneumonia.

Herbert and Catherine Schaible defied a court order to get medical care for their children after their 2-year-old son, Kent, died in 2009. Instead, they tried to comfort and pray over 8-month-old Brandon last year as he, too, died of treatable pneumonia.

C. Schaible

"My religious beliefs are that you should pray, and not have to use medicine," Catherine Schaible, 44, told the judge. "But because it is against the law, then whatever sentence you give me, I will accept." She added that her beliefs have since changed.

The Schaibles are third-generationmembers of an insular Pentecostal community, the First Century Gospel Church in northeast Philadelphia, where they also taught at the church school. They have seven surviving children.

H. Schaible

Judge Benjamin Lerner rejected defense claims that their religious beliefs "clashed" with the 2011 court order to get annual checkups and to call a doctor if a child became ill. The order came after a jury convicted them of involuntary manslaughter in Kent's death, and they were sentenced to 10 years of probation.

"April of 2013 wasn't Brandon's time to die," Lerner said, noting the violence committed throughout human history in the name of religion. "You've killed two of your children. … Not God. Not your church. Not religious devotion. You."

NATION

NOAH BERGER/AP

A worker passes lottery signs Thursday at Dixon Landing Chevron in Milpitas, Calif., where a winning Powerball ticket was sold.

Ticket sold in Calif. wins $425M Powerball jackpot

The Associated Press

MILPITAS, Calif. — The lone winning ticket for the $425 million Powerball jackpot was sold at a convenience store in central California, but there was no immediate word on who may have won one of the largest lottery jackpots in U.S. history.

The winning numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 1, 17, 35, 49, 54 and a Powerball of 34.

California lottery officials said the ticket was sold at Dixon Landing Chevron in Milpitas, a city about 10 miles north of San Jose. The business will receive $1 million for selling the winning ticket.

Rajwinder Singh, an employee at the Chevron store, said late Wednesday that he believed he was probably the person who sold the winning ticket.

"I've been here working from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," he told The Associated Press. "I hope I'll find out soon."

Early Thursday morning the scene was quiet, with just few customers at the 24-hour store and gas station just off Interstate 880, a region of corporate office in the Silicon Valley area.

The ticket was the only one to match all the winning numbers, Powerball officials said late Wednesday.

The jackpot was estimated at $425.3 million, with a cash payout option of $242.2 million. It's one of the largest lottery jackpots in U.S. history — but still far from the record.

A ticket for the nation's second-largest lottery prize ever also was purchased in the area. In December, two winning tickets were purchased in San Jose, Calif., and Atlanta, for a $636 million Mega Millions prize.

The nation's biggest lottery prize was a $656 million dollar Mega Millions jackpot in 2012. The biggest Powerball jackpot was $590.5 million last May.

Facebook is betting $19B on WhatsApp service purchase

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook is placing a $19 billion bet on reaching its next billion mobile users with the acquisition of WhatsApp, a popular messaging service that lets people send texts, photos and videos on their smartphones.

The deal is by far Facebook's largest and bigger than any that Google, Microsoft or Apple have done.

But it is likely to raise worries that Facebook and other technology companies are starting to become overzealous in their pursuit of promising new products and services, said Anthony Michael Sabino, a St. John's University business professor.

"I expect there to be a lot of skepticism about this deal," Sabino said. "People are going to look at this and say, 'Uh-oh, did they pay way too much for this?'"

The world's biggest social networking company is taking the long view. WhatsApp has 450 million monthly users, 70 percent of whom use it every day. The service is adding a million new users per day.

There are 19 billion messages sent and 34 billion received via WhatsApp each day, in addition to 600 million photos and 100 million video messages.

At this rate, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is confident the app will reach a billion users. Services that reach that milestone "are all incredibly valuable," Zuckerberg said in a statement.

Facebook said Wednesday that it's paying $12 billion in stock and $4 billion in cash for WhatsApp. In addition, the app's founders and employees — 55 in all — will be granted restricted stock worth $3 billion that will vest over four years after the deal closes.

The transaction translates to roughly 11 percent of Facebook's market value.

Guidelines to limit births by C-section urge waiting

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Show more patience in the delivery room. That's the prescription being given to the nation's obstetricians.

New guidelines say doctors should give otherwise healthy women more time to deliver their babies vaginally before assuming that labor has stalled. The recommendations are the latest in years of efforts to prevent unnecessary C-sections.

"Labor takes a little longer than we may have thought," said Dr. Aaron Caughey, who co-authored the guidelines for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The recommendations were being published jointly Thursday by two groups of pregnancy specialists — the ACOG and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine — amid growing concern that C-sections are overused.

Nearly 1 in 3 women in the U.S. give birth by cesarean. C-sections can be life-saving for mother or baby. But they also can be done for convenience or fear of lawsuits, and the surgery can bring some serious health risks.

Having one cesarean greatly increases the chances that a next pregnancy will end in one, too.

One of the main reasons for a first-time C-section is labor that's progressing too slowly, the ACOG's analysis found.

How long should labor take? There's no clear-cut deadline, and every woman is different, said Caughey, obstetrics chairman at the Oregon Health and Sciences University.

"My patients ask this every day," he said. He tells them it can "run the gamut from six hours long, start to finish, to three and four days" at the other extreme.

Whether labor is too slow is assessed at different time points — and what doctors were taught in medical school about the different stages may not be the most up-to-date.

A 2012 study from the National Institutes of Health found that one particular stage takes up to 2½ hours longer now than it did in the 1960s, when many labor definitions were set. Partly that's because today's mothers-to-be tend to be older and to weigh more. But it's also because of some changes in obstetric practice, such as more use of painkilling epidurals that can slow labor.

So the obstetricians' group took a closer look. Among the recommendations for otherwise low-risk mothers and babies:

- Don't order a C-section just because the first and longest phase of labor is prolonged. This so-called latent phase is when contractions are mild and far apart, and the mother's cervix is barely dilated. Historically, doctors considered it stalled if it lasted longer than 20 hours for a first-time mom, or 14 hours for other mothers.
- "Active labor" begins later than once thought, not until the cervix is dilated 6 centimeters. Active labor is when contractions become stronger and more frequent, and the cervix begins to dilate more rapidly until the woman eventually is ready to push.

Doctors once thought active labor began when the cervix was dilated 4 centimeters, but recent research shows that dilation remains pretty slow until reaching the new threshold.

That's an important change because many doctors won't admit women to the hospital until they're in active labor, unless they need more care for another reason.

- If women aren't too tired, allow them to push at least two hours if they have delivered before, three hours if it's their first baby. They may push longer if they had an epidural as long as the doctor can see progress.
- Forceps can offer a safe alternative to certain cesareans if used by an experienced, well-trained physician. Few physicians today undergo the training.

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NATION

Banks won't finance pot shop properties

The Associated Press

DENVER — Banks holding commercial loans on properties that lease to Colorado marijuana businesses say they don't plan to refinance those loans when they come due.

The Denver Post reported Wednesday that the banks' position is based on the fact that marijuana is illegal under federal law. Their stance has left some property owners looking for financing.

Bankers note that property used as collateral for those loans are theoretically subject to federal drug-seizure laws. That makes the loans a risk.

Just last week, federal banking regulators announced a road map for banks that might do business with the marijuana industry. The rules require banks to file reports on interactions with marijuana businesses and identify any questionable transactions.

"It's just awkward because we're all caught in the federal law issue," Vectra Bank CEO Bruce Alexander said. "We're seeing that when banks find out (about a marijuana business leasing a property), they are given an element of time to cure it, to get the tenant out or move on."

Colorado's two largest banks, Wells Fargo Bank and FirstBank, say they won't offer new loans to landowners with preexisting leases with pot businesses. Wells Fargo and Vectra Bank have told commercial loan clients that they either have to evict marijuana businesses or seek refinancing elsewhere.

"Our policy of not banking marijuana-related businesses and not lending on commercial properties leased by marijuana-related businesses is based on applicable federal laws," Wells Fargo spokeswoman Cristie Drumm told the Post.

"Part of the interpretation (of laws) is the Controlled Substances Act prohibits anyone from dealing with the substances or their proceeds," said Ron Tilton, executive vice president of FirstBank. "Someone collecting rent from a dispensary or grow house, that's the proceeds of an operation and therefore is illegal."

How much of a property is leased to a marijuana business is another factor.

"If it's 100 percent of a property, we'll not go for it," Tilton said. "A retail operation in a small strip center, and less than 20 percent is to a marijuana business, we'll look at the borrower and see if he's substantial enough (financially)."

> **'Someone collecting rent from a dispensary or grow house, that's the proceeds of an operation and therefore is illegal.'**
>
> **Ron Tilton**
> FirstBank executive vice president

SURVIVAL INTERNATIONAL/AP

Hopi tribal elder Lawrence Keevama, left, speaks with French attorney Pierre Servan-Schreiber, center, and Sam Tenakhongva, Hopi Kachina Society leader, at the tribal offices in Flagstaff, Ariz. Servan-Schreiber twice sought to block the sale of Hopi ceremonial items from auction in France.

Tribal objects to get respect on trip home

BY FELICIA FONSECA
The Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Two dozen ceremonial items bought last year at auction in France are set to return to Arizona in a way that pays reverence to the beliefs of American Indian tribes.

The masks and hoods invoke the ancestral spirits of the Hopi and Apache Tribes — who consider them living beings in keeping with tradition — and the expectation is they will be treated as such. That means shipping the sacred items free of plastics, bubble wrap or other synthetic material that would be suffocating.

The items also should face the direction of the rising sun, have space to breathe, and be spoken to during their journey.

The shipping reflects the deeply sensitive nature of the items that the Los Angeles-based Annenberg Foundation quietly bought for $530,000 at a contested Paris auction two months ago with the goal of sending them back to their tribal homes in eastern Arizona.

The Hopi and two Apache tribes believe the return of the objects, kept largely out of public view, will put tribal members on a healing path and help restore harmony not only in their communities but among humanity.

"The elders have told us the reason we have the ills of society — suicides, murders, domestic violence, all these things — is we're suffering because these things are gone and the harmony is gone," said Vincent Randall, cultural director for the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The tribes say the items — 21 pieces are headed to the Hopi, two to the San Carlos Apache and one to the White Mountain Apache — were taken from their reservations in the late 19th and 20th centuries at a time when collectors and museums competed for sensitive items from Western tribes. Tribal archaeologists say the objects also could have been traded for food and water, or unrightfully sold.

Although the Apaches are among the most successful tribes in getting items within the United States returned to the tribes, they could do little to stop the sale in France.

The auction house argued that the items rightfully were in private collectors' hands. A judge hearing the Hopi's plea to block the sale said that unlike the U.S., France has no laws to protect indigenous peoples.

The Annenberg Foundation took note of the Hopi Tribe's heartbreaking loss and in December employed a well-orchestrated, secretive plan to successfully bid on most of the items at auction.

The plan involved foundation employees placing bids by phone and keeping its plan private to save the tribes from potential disappointment. A French lawyer working for the Hopis and Survival International, Pierre Servan-Schreiber, said he spoke with the foundation using a discreet earpiece to keep the objects' prices from skyrocketing as he bid on behalf of a U.S. benefactor.

"This is how we achieved this brilliant result," Servan-Schreiber said in an email.

Motorists criticize tactics of federal roadside survey on impaired, drunk driving

BY MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

READING, Pa. — Orange cones and flashing police lights confronted Ricardo Nieves as he rounded a bend on the way to his mother's house. Before he knew what was going on, Nieves said, a man working for a government contractor stepped in front of his car and forced him to turn into a parking lot. There, a woman repeatedly tried to question him about his driving habits and asked for a mouth swab that would detect the presence of illegal or prescription drugs in his system.

Nieves refused. Then he sued, contending his rights were violated.

His Dec. 13 experience has been repeated thousands of times in cities around the country as the federal government tries to figure out how many of the nation's motorists are driving while drunk or high.

U.S. transportation officials call the National Roadside Survey of Alcohol and Drugged Driving, which has been conducted five times since 1973, a vital tool for monitoring the safety of America's roadways. But some motorists and civil liberties advocates contend the government's methods are intrusive and even unconstitutional.

Some police departments have refused to partner on the survey or regretted their decision to do so in the wake of public outcry, while in Tennessee, legislation that would ban law enforcement from helping out on the survey unanimously cleared the state Senate last month.

"I didn't even have a choice to make a decision" to stop for the survey or keep going, Nieves said. "That choice was taken away the moment he stepped into my right of way."

Conducted in 60 cities around the nation, the survey yields the government's best estimate of the prevalence of impaired driving.

Motorists are randomly selected — either by a uniformed police officer or a private contractor working for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration — and waved into a parking lot, where they are questioned about their drinking and driving habits, asked to take a breath test, and offered money if they provide saliva and blood samples or agree to answer a more extensive written survey.

> **'I didn't even have a choice to make a decision (to stop for the survey or keep going). That choice was taken away the moment he stepped into my right of way.'**
>
> **Ricardo Nieves**

Federal officials stress the survey is both voluntary — a large sign at each survey site says so — and anonymous, with local police enlisted to provide security and divert motorists from the flow of traffic. Any driver found to be impaired is offered a ride home or put up in a hotel.

The survey's supporters include Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a group funded by auto insurers whose president, Adrian Lund, said it lets researchers and policymakers monitor how national alcohol policies are working.

"This is a very minimal intrusion on privacy," Lund said. "If you know that by participating in this survey, (it) means that we may develop policies that make it less likely you're killed by an alcohol-impaired driver, I think that's well worth the price."

WORLD

2 Americans found dead on Maersk Alabama

A company spokesman said the Maersk Alabama has left port after authorities in the island nation of Seychelles completed their onboard investigation into the deaths of two Americans aboard the ship, featured the film "Captain Phillips."

The Americans were security officers found dead in a cabin Tuesday. The Navy said Thursday that one is a former Navy SEAL.

Virginia-based Maersk Line Limited has said the deaths were not related to their ship duties.

The Maersk Alabama became famous after a 2009 hijacking by Somali pirates that was dramatized in "Captain Phillips" starring Tom Hanks.

German defense chief overhauling ministry

BERLIN — Germany's new defense chief has announced an overhaul of her ministry, citing serious mismanagement of arms projects.

Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen dismissed two senior officials Thursday and said she plans to bring in external advisers after concluding that there are serious problems with all major procurement programs.

Those include the aerial reconnaissance system ISIS, the military transport plane A400M and the Euro Hawk drone. Von der Leyen, who took over from Thomas de Maiziere in Chancellor Angela Merkel's new Cabinet, said the military needs a "fresh start" in planning arms projects.

Radioactive water leaks at Japan nuclear plant

TOKYO — Highly radioactive water has overflowed from a storage tank at Japan's crippled nuclear power plant, but the operator said Thursday it did not reach the Pacific Ocean.

Tokyo Electric Power Co. said the leak involved partially treated water from early in the disaster at the plant, meaning it was more toxic than previous leaks. The cores of three reactors melted at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant in 2011 following a massive earthquake and tsunami, and radioactive water has been stored in more than 1,000 tanks.

Mortar attack kills at least 22 in Iraq

BAGHDAD — A mortar attack struck a busy area in a mainly Shiite town south of Iraq's capital Thursday, killing at least 22 people and wounding more than 50, authorities said.

The five mortar rounds slammed into a busy market, a residential building and a parking lot around 7 p.m. as people returned home from work and shopped in Musayyib, officials said.

Police said it appeared the rounds came from the nearby Sunni-dominated town of Jurf al-Sakr, though it wasn't immediately clear who fired them.

The officials gave the casualty toll and details on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to release information to journalists.

From The Associated Press

Marko Drobnjakovic/AP

An anti-government protester mans a barricade on the outskirts of Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, on Thursday.

Ukraine: EU votes to impose sanctions in wake of violence

FROM FRONT PAGE

Protesters were also seen leading policemen with their hands held high around the sprawling protest camp in central Kiev. Ukraine's Interior ministry says 67 police were captured in all — it was not clear how. An opposition lawmaker said they were being held in Kiev's occupied city hall.

At least 101 people have died this week in the clashes in Kiev, a sharp reversal in three months of mostly peaceful protests. Now neither side appears willing to compromise or in control of the streets. The opposition is insisting on President Viktor Yanukovych's resignation and an early election while the embattled president is apparently prepared to fight until the end.

Thursday was the deadliest day yet at the sprawling protest camp on Kiev's Independence Square, also called the Maidan. Snipers were seen shooting at protesters there — and video footage showed at least one sniper wearing a Ukraine riot police uniform.

Musiy, the protest doctor, told the AP that at least 70 protesters were killed Thursday and more than 500 were wounded in the clashes — and that the death toll is likely to rise.

In addition, three policemen were killed Thursday and 28 suffered gunshot wounds, Interior Ministry spokesman Serhiy Burlakov told the AP.

There was no way to immediately verify any of the death tolls. Earlier in the day, an AP reporter saw the bodies of 21 protesters laid out near Kiev's protest camp.

Saying the U.S. was outraged by the violence, President Barack Obama issued a statement urging Yanukovych to withdraw his forces from downtown Kiev immediately. He also said Ukraine should respect the right of protest and that protesters must be peaceful.

In Brussels, the 28-nation European Union decided in an emergency meeting Thursday to impose sanctions against those behind the violence in Ukraine. The U.S. is considering whether to join the EU sanctions. A freeze on assets and travel bans could hurt the oligarchs who back Yanukovych.

As the violence exploded Thursday morning and heavy smoke from burning barricades at the encampment belched into the sky, the foreign ministers of three EU countries — France, Germany and Poland — met with Yanukovych for five hours after speaking with the opposition leaders. The EU ministers then returned to speak again with opposition leaders.

In Moscow, President Vladimir Putin was sending former ombudsman Vladimir Lukin to Ukraine to act as a mediator.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Russia will "try to do our best" to fulfill its financial obligations to Ukraine, but indicated Moscow would hold back on further bailout installments until the crisis is resolved.

"We need partners that are in good shape and a Ukrainian government that is legitimate and effective," he said.

At the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Ukrainian alpine skier Bogdana Matsotska, 24, said she will not take part in Friday's women's slalom due to the developments in Kiev.

"As a protest against lawless actions made toward protesters, the lack of responsibility from the side of the president and his lackey government, we refuse further performance at the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games," her father and coach, Oleg Matsotskyy, wrote in a Facebook post.

Efrem Lukatsky/AP

Activists evacuate a wounded protester during clashes with police in Independence Square, the epicenter of Ukraine's unrest, on Thursday.

WORLD

Together again

Tearful reunions between North, South Korean families begin for 1st time in more than 3 years

By Hyung-Jin Kim and Foster Klug
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Their backs stooped, dozens of elderly North and South Koreans separated for six decades reunited Thursday, weeping and embracing in a rush of words and emotion. The reunions come during a rare period of detente between the rival Koreas and are all the more poignant because the participants will part again in a few days, likely forever.

About 80 South Koreans traveled through falling snow with their families to North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort to meet children, brothers, sisters, spouses and other relatives. Seoul had said about 180 North Koreans were expected.

South Korean TV showed old women in brightly-colored traditional hanbok dresses talking and hugging, families trading photographs of relatives who couldn't attend or had died. Two men in suits and ties wiped away tears, grasped each other by the necks and pressed their foreheads together as cameras flashed. One old man was wheeled in on a stretcher, his head propped on a pillow, a blue blanket wrapped tightly around him.

Those meetings — the first in more than three years because of high tensions — are a vivid reminder that despite 60 years of animosity, misunderstanding, threats and occasional artillery exchanges, the world's most heavily armed border divides a single people.

For some families, aging and illness did not thwart the reunions but made them bittersweet.

"Sister, why can't you hear me?" North Korean Ri Jong Sil, 84, asked Lee Young-sil, 87, who has difficulty recognizing people because of Alzheimer's disease, according to South Korean media pool reports.

Millions of Koreans have been separated from loved ones by the tumult and bloodshed of the three-year war that ended in 1953. During a previous period of inter-Korean rapprochement, about 22,000 Koreans had brief reunions — 18,000 in person and the others by video.

The reunions were arranged after impoverished North Korea began calling recently for better ties with South Korea, in what outside analysts say is an attempt to win badly needed foreign investment and aid. The North, however, sent mixed signals by threatening to scrap the reunions to protest annual military drills between Seoul and Washington set to start Monday.

AP photos

South Korean Park Yang-gon, left, and his North Korean brother, Park Yang Soo, get emotional during the Separated Family Reunion Meeting at Diamond Mountain resort in North Korea on Thursday.

South Korean Lee Young-sil, 87, right, meets with her North Korean sister, Ri Jong Sil, 84, in North Korea on Thursday.

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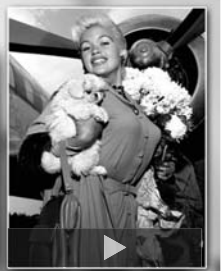

WORLD

Japan may review sex-slavery apology

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's government said Thursday it may re-examine a 20-year-old study that led to a landmark apology over forced prostitution during World War II, in a sign it is leaning toward a denial that officials were involved in organizing sex slavery.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the official government spokesman, said it may decide to verify the accuracy of interviews with 16 South Korean women who said they were forced to serve as prostitutes for Japan's wartime military.

Although numbers vary, some historians say as many as 200,000 women from across Asia, most of them Koreans, were forced to serve as sex slaves, called "comfort women" in Japan, for frontline soldiers.

Japanese nationalists have long insisted that women in wartime brothels were voluntary prostitutes, not sex slaves, and that Japan has been unfairly criticized for a practice they say is common in any country at war.

The interviews, conducted by Japanese officials in 1993 at the request of South Korea's government as part of a broader investigation by Japan, were key to a statement in which Japan apologized later that year.

A reversal of that apology would greatly worsen already-strained relations between Japan and South Korea.

The statement, issued by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, acknowledged that many women were forced into prostitution for Japan's wartime military, despite a lack of records clearly indicating direct government involvement.

"We would like to re-examine" the interviews, Suga said, adding that he would seek ways of doing so while taking into consideration that the contents of the interviews are classified information. Suga also suggested that a government-led team would review the overall study.

Abe has been criticized by South Korea and China for backpedaling from past Japanese apologies and acknowledgements of wartime atrocities.

Members of his nationalist government and many others who share their view have been frustrated by recent efforts by South Korea to enlist U.S. support in pressuring Japan to stick to its 1993 apology. They are stepping up efforts to discredit accounts by South Korean women who say they were sex slaves.

AP

Former South Korean comfort woman Kil Un-ock, center, attends a protest rally in Seoul, South Korea, in May 2013. Japan may revisit its landmark apology over forced prostitution in World War II.

3 accused of roles at Auschwitz

The Associated Press

BERLIN — German prosecutors have arrested three elderly men on suspicion they served as guards at the Nazis' Auschwitz death camp.

Stuttgart prosecutors' spokeswoman Claudia Krauth said Thursday the three men, aged 88, 92 and 94, were all taken to a prison hospital where they will be held as the investigation continues. The men, whose names were not released, are all suspected of accessory to murder as guards at the death camp in Poland.

They are part of a group of some 30 suspected former Auschwitz guards that German federal prosecutors recommended charges against last September. State prosecutors have been responsible for investigating further and filing charges.

Krauth said her office received six cases total but there was not yet enough in the other three.

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FAITH

SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP

Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men walk past a picture of the late religious spiritual leader of Israel's Sephardic Jews, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, at an Oct. 13 ceremony a week after his funeral in Jerusalem. The Spanish conservative government plans to make amends in weeks to come with a law that offers citizenship to Jews forced to flee Spain in 1492.

Making amends

Spanish government likely to offer citizenship to descendants of once-exiled Sephardic Jews

BY JORGE SAINZ AND ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

MADRID — They were burned at the stake, forced to convert or chased into exile. Now Spain is moving to right a half-millennium old "historic mistake" against its onetime flourishing Sephardic Jewish community. The European Union country is on the verge of offering citizenship to descendants of victims estimated to number in the millions.

The Spanish conservative government plans to make amends with a law expected to be passed within weeks or months in Parliament that offers citizenship to the descendants of legions of Jews forced to flee in 1492. Asked whether the new law amounted to an apology, Spanish Justice Minister Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon replied, "Without a doubt."

"What the law will do, five centuries later, is make amends for a terrible historic mistake, one of the worst that Spaniards ever made," Ruiz-Gallardon told The Associated Press in an interview.

Descendants of Sephardic Jews will be considered "children of Spain," he said.

The term "Sephardic" literally means "Spanish" in Hebrew, but the label has come also to apply to one of the two main variants of Jewish religious practice. The other — and globally dominant one — is "Ashkenazic," which applies to Jews whose lineage, in recent times, is traced to northern and eastern Europe.

Because of mixing between the groups and other factors, there is no accepted figure for the global Sephardic population, but reasonable estimates would range between a fifth and a third of the world's roughly 13 million Jews. Hundreds of thousands live in France and already have EU passports. The largest community is in Israel, where almost half of the 6 million Jews are considered Sephardic.

It is not completely clear how much of a historical link Spain will require. Most of Israel's Sephardics hail from northern Africa and southern Europe, which were early ports of call after the expulsion from Spain, and so they may be able to easily show direct links. Other communities, from places like Iraq and Yemen, are considered Sephardic by religious practice yet may have trouble proving a connection to Spain.

Either way, interest already is running high.

Hundreds of Israelis claiming Sephardic ancestry have contacted the Spanish Embassy in Tel Aviv, begun researching their family histories and taken to the airwaves to discuss their newfound citizenship possibilities.

To some, the prospect of Spanish citizenship marks a significant dose of historic justice.

To others, it simply offers a European Union passport. That's a big deal in a country that is still technically at war with many of its neighbors and where prosperity is a relatively recent phenomenon.

'What the law will do, five centuries later, is make amends for a terrible historic mistake.'

Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon
Spanish Justice minister

Leon Amiras, who heads an association of immigrants to Israel from Latin countries, said his phone hasn't stopped ringing since the news emerged.

"People from every corner are interested, from professors to doctors, engineers to plumbers and bus drivers," he said. "Everyone is talking about this."

The reform will allow dual nationality, enabling the newly minted Spaniards to retain their previous citizenship. Such an arrangement would give Sephardic Jews the same dual nationality privilege Spain currently grants only to Latin Americans.

Elsewhere in Europe, Germany offers citizenship to descendants of Jews forced to flee the Nazis. Israel, of course, offers automatic citizenship to Jews.

Previously, under a 1924 law, the government had discretionary powers to award Sephardic Jews nationality, but the new law is much more far-reaching: According to Ruiz-Gallardon, Spanish nationality to those who can prove ancestry will be a right the authorities must honor.

The nuts and bolts of the new law, will be relatively simple, the government says. Applicants need only have their ancestry certified by a rabbi in any country and the Spanish Federation of Jewish Communities.

The greater the documentary evidence an applicant presents, the quicker the procedure will run, Ruiz-Gallardon said.

Applicants will have to provide details of their birth and family name or prove knowledge of Ladino, the Judeo-Spanish language considered to be the "Yiddish" of Sephardic Jews.

For centuries Sephardic Jews have maintained some of their gastronomic customs, an extensive oral tradition of popular Spanish novels, and in some cases spoken Ladino, which is close enough to Spanish that it enables communication with Spanish speakers anywhere.

Given Israel's existential angst, many citizens have sought foreign passports in recent years for a backup plan for times of trouble. Israel is surrounded by hostile forces in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza and faces constant tensions with Iran as well.

Spanish King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella issued the Alhambra Decree, also known as the Edict of Expulsion, in March 1492, banishing Jews as part of a ruthless policy to unite Spain under the banner of Catholicism. The edict accuses the Spanish Jews — one of the great Jewish centers of learning from that era — of trying "to steal faithful Christians from our holy Catholic faith ... and subvert them to their own wicked belief and conviction."

Ruiz-Gallardon has his own personal link to the issue. His great-grandfather, Jose Rojas Moreno, was the Spanish ambassador to Romania during World War II and is credited with helping to prevent deportations of Jews to concentration camps.

His actions helped evacuate 65 Jews to Spain and he also gave protection to the goods and estates of 200 other Jews, according to the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, which conducts Holocaust research.

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WK9

FACES

Cinema siren

Amber Heard heats up screens in '3 Days to Kill'

By Rick Bentley
The Fresno Bee

Director Joseph McGinty Nichol — better known as McG — had Rita Hayworth and Lana Turner in mind when putting together the character of Vivi Delay in "3 Days to Kill." He wanted the mysterious and masterful CIA agent to have the same on-screen sizzle.

He cast 27-year-old Amber Heard, whose parents probably weren't even born when Hayworth and Turner were burning up screens. Despite her youth, Heard was well aware of work by the likes of Hayworth and Turner in the 1940s and 1950s.

"Rita Hayworth in 'Gilda' is one of the most important and powerful pieces of work that influenced me as an actor," Heard says. "That was a time when they could tell stories where the female characters could be tough and didn't have to apologize for their sexuality.

"That's unusual in films in this day and age. Today women are either dressed in pants suits to show they are strong or have their boobs up to their chins to show they are sexual. What makes it so wrong is that we know in real life women don't behave that way. Women don't divide or compartmentalize aspects of their lives. Look at someone like Lauren Bacall, who was strong and feminine."

The appreciation of those performances is clear in Heard's "3 Days to Kill" turn as the government agent who lures Ethan, an assassin (Kevin Costner), out of retirement. Vivi smolders so much it could melt butter on popcorn, then turns so cold that she could freeze a soda. Heard embraces the character with such a passion that Vivi's biggest crime is all of the scene stealing she does.

Playing characters who are emotionally and sexually strong has become a trademark of the Texas native's career, from the short-lived TV series "Hidden Palms" and "The Playboy Club" to the films "Drive Angry" and "Machete Kills."

"I try to play as broad a group of characters as possible, but the one thing I am always attracted to are confident characters. I look for the strength of a character, whether she's a teenage backwoods person or a bratty, spoiled rich kid hanging out at the swimming pool," Heard says.

In casting Heard, McG was looking for someone who could motivate Ethan to do what he must while also maintaining an aura of mystery around her. The director says, "Amber is a girl from Texas. She's an accomplished marksman. I think that you need to have life experience to be able to draw upon that to be a great actor, and she's lived a very, very interesting, uninhibited life."

As soon as she took on the role, Heard felt comfortable in Vivi's skin.

"Vivi is a true professional. She's tough and she's smart. She was born for this job. That's unique because not everyone can detach themselves, but she's found a niche role for herself. With Vivi, every decision is meticulously planned. She didn't just wake up in those heels one day," Heard says. "Vivi exists in the world that she made for herself and she makes her own rules and you can't ask for a better platform as an actor."

Amber Heard says she likes to play different kinds of characters. "[T]he one thing I am always attracted to are confident characters. I look for the strength of a character, whether she's a teenage backwoods person or a bratty, spoiled rich kid hanging out at the swimming pool," Heard says.

John Shearer, Invision/AP

Coach not returning to 'The Voice'

The Associated Press

Cee Lo Green says he's quitting as a coach on "The Voice."

The singer-songwriter-actor announced on Wednesday's "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" that he won't be coming back "at all."

He already was taking a break from the sixth season of the NBC talent competition, which begins airing in the U.S. on Monday.

Green told DeGeneres he plans to continue his relationship with NBC, with which he has a development deal. NBC confirmed Green's departure from the show and expressed hopes to work with him on future projects.

Green was one of the original coaches when "The Voice" premiered in 2011. He appeared in seasons one through three, as well as season five.

NBC anchor: Sorry for snub

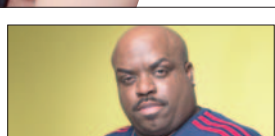
NBC News anchor Brian Williams had a quick on-air response after Arsenio Hall needled him for excluding Hall from a video montage of late-night hosts: Oops.

"Arsenio is a late-night veteran and he took us to task on his show and he even urged his audience members to call our newsroom," Williams said on his "Nightly News" telecast Wednesday from the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

"So, in apologizing to Arsenio we just wanted to point out: At least you're in good company here," Williams continued, noting that the newscast last year left New Hampshire off a map and on Tuesday misspelled Philadelphia on-screen.

Hall's exclusion came during what he called NBC News' "Brady Bunch montage" showing clips of virtually every late-night TV host. The video was used on Monday's "Nightly News" segment on "The Tonight Show" debut of Jimmy Fallon, also on NBC.

On Tuesday's syndicated "The Arsenio Hall Show," the host was smiling but clearly irked as he displayed the graphic and called out Williams and journalism in general.



Cee Lo Green

Lawyer files suit over portrayal

A lawyer who says he was defamed by his portrayal in "The Wolf of Wall Street" is asking for $25 million in damages and the film removed from theaters. Andrew Greene says in a complaint filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of New York against the filmmakers and Paramount Pictures that the toupee-wearing character Nicky "Rugrat" Koskoff played by actor P.J. Byrne in the film was modeled after Greene.

Absent Bowie steals show at Brit Awards

David Bowie stole the show at Wednesday's Brit music awards in London without even showing up, while Arctic Monkeys took home two big trophies at British music's leading prize night.

The 67-year-old Bowie, who is enjoying a renaissance with his first album in a decade, "The Next Day," was named British male artist of the year.

The trophy was accepted by supermodel Kate Moss. She was sent, presenter Noel Gallagher joked, as New York-based Bowie's "representative on Earth."

The evening's biggest winner was rough-edged northern English rock band Arctic Monkeys, who won album of the year for "AM" and were named best British group for a third time.

Rock band Bastille was named British breakthrough act, and British single of the year went to drum 'n' bass quartet Rudimental for "Waiting All Night." Bruno Mars took the trophy for international male solo artist of the year.

Lorde was named best international female artist. Lorde — who also performed her Grammy Award-winning anthem "Royals" with an assist from British electronic duo Disclosure — said winning awards was so new to her that "my brain still feels like it's exploding every time it happens."

French electronic tricksters Daft Punk were named international group.

Bonnaroo announces headliners for festival

The eclectic trio of Elton John, Kanye West and Jack White will headline this year's Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival.

Organizers announced the lineup for the June 12-15 festival Wednesday night.

Sir Elton will be attending his first Bonnaroo, while West will be making his first return after one of the most memorable appearances in 2008. That year, he made fans wait nearly two hours for his early-morning set, which didn't start until 4:30 a.m.

Other performers scheduled to appear include Frank Ocean, Lionel Richie, Vampire Weekend, The Avett Brothers, Lauryn Hill and Skrillex, who will host one of Bonnaroo's SuperJams.

Tickets go on sale at noon Feb. 22 on the festival's website.

Academy of Country Music will salute troops

The Academy of Country Music will pay tribute to members of the armed forces with its annual television special.

Merle Haggard, George Strait and Carrie Underwood are among the first performers to sign on to "ACM Presents: An All-Star Salute to the Troops." The two-hour special will air May 20 in the U.S.

Each year, the academy tapes a special a different theme on the day after its awards show, which will be held April 6 in Las Vegas.

Ticket sales for this year's show at the MGM Grand will be donated to the academy's charitable foundation ACM Lifting Lives.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Marijuana found in big rig's load of spinach

AZ FLAGSTAFF — All the green stuff in a tractor-trailer rig stopped in northern Arizona wasn't spinach.

Highway Patrol officers found 1,000 pounds of marijuana in the big rig carrying spinach after it was stopped on eastbound Interstate 40 in Flagstaff on Tuesday for an equipment violation.

The Arizona Daily Sun reported that officers took the truck to a Wal-Mart store to use its loading dock to remove the marijuana from the trailer.

The driver and another person were arrested and jailed on suspicion of various drug charges. Their identities were not released immediately.

The Sun reported that authorities are investigating where the marijuana shipment originated and where it was headed.

Inmates recaptured after escaping jail

GA DAHLONEGA — Authorities have recaptured a north Georgia jail inmate who they say escaped by removing a toilet from a cell wall.

Lumpkin County sheriff's Lt. Wesley Burnett said Larry Lavaughan Farmer was apprehended late Wednesday.

Authorities said Farmer was one of two inmates who escaped Tuesday after a toilet was ripped from the wall of a cell at the Lumpkin County Detention Center. Sheriff's officials said the pair got through the hole left by the toilet, went to a mechanical area, broke a window and climbed outside.

Authorities said the other inmate, William Jeffrey Harris, turned himself in after he was injured trying to scale razor and barbed wire fences.

Family with mini horse as service animal sues

OH BLUE ASH — An Ohio city is violating federal housing law and protections for people with disabilities by refusing to let a girl keep a miniature horse as a service animal, her mother said in a lawsuit.

Ingrid Anderson and the advocacy group Housing Opportunities Made Equal, or HOME, filed the lawsuit Tuesday against the city of Blue Ash.

A medical center recommended the horse for Anderson's daughter, who has physical ailments, The Cincinnati Enquirer reported. HOME executive director Elizabeth Brown said the girl uses the horse — which is named Ellie and is the size of a large dog — for support to walk in her yard and to pull herself up after falls.

Brown said Blue Ash officials characterized the horse as livestock and said it had to be removed. She said the group tried to work with the city and that the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Cincinnati was a last resort.

Group upset by legal killing of young lions

SD RAPID CITY — A national mountain lion protection organization is outraged that South Dakota hunters shot three young lions last week and had their kills deemed legal by the state.

Penny Maldonado, with the Wyoming-based Cougar Fund, told the Rapid City Journal that the killing of the 3-month-old, 4-month-old and 5-month-old lions is "tragic."

It's a misdemeanor for hunters to kill lion kittens that still have spots, or those that travel in pairs or groups.

State Game, Fish & Parks Regional Wildlife Manager John Kanta said the spotted coat that indicates youth can disappear at various times. He said no fines were issued to hunters who killed the young lions, after the animals were examined in a lab.

Pizza manager caught urinating in sink fired

WV KERMIT — Health officials have temporarily shut down a southern West Virginia pizza restaurant after a district manager was caught on surveillance video urinating into a sink.

The Mingo County Health Department on Tuesday ordered the Pizza Hut in Kermit to shut down. A department notice posted on the restaurant's door said conditions in the restaurant constituted a substantial public health hazard.

The video posted on YouTube and media websites shows the manager urinating in a metal sink in a food preparation area. The video is dated Jan. 29. Pizza Hut said the incident occurred after business hours.

Pizza Hut Corp. spokesman Doug Terfehr issued a statement saying the company was "embarrassed by the actions of this individual."

The employee's name wasn't released.

NSA T-shirt ruling called First Amendment victory

MN SAUK RAPIDS — Federal authorities have dropped an attempt to stop a Minnesota man from marketing merchandise poking fun at the National Security Agency for its surveillance of citizens, including T-shirts bearing the NSA's official seal and the slogan, "The only part of the government that actually listens."

"It's a victory for First Amendment rights," said Dan McCall, of Sauk Rapids, who operates LibertyManiacs.com. He sued the NSA and Department of Homeland Security last fall after they issued cease-and-desist orders.

The settlement was filed in federal court in Maryland on Tuesday. The NSA agreed to acknowledge that McCall's designs were intended as parody, and the NSA and DHS both agreed to formally retract their claims that his merchandise violated federal law. The government also agreed to pay him $500 in court costs.

McCall agreed in return to drop his lawsuit, the St. Cloud Times reported Wednesday.

Snow pusher finishes job despite shooting

MI PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP — A worker who was shot at while clearing snow at a Michigan apartment complex didn't let the attack prevent him from getting his job done.

Ben Clink told The Ann Arbor News that he pleaded with the man not to shoot again after a bullet shattered the corner of a windshield of a front-end loader. Clink was using the vehicle to clear snow Tuesday at Valley Ranch apartments in Pittsfield Township, near Ann Arbor.

Bevan Wilson, 39, was arraigned Wednesday on attempted murder and other charges and ordered jailed on a $45,000 bond. Clink wasn't injured.

Police said the man was upset after a Clink pushed snow near a parked vehicle. Clink said he had planned to move the pile of snow, but the man shot first.

Cop accused of taking inappropriate photos

NC CHARLOTTE — A Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officer is accused of secretly taking pictures of juvenile girls that captured parts of their underwear as they participated in the department's high school academy.

Officer Thomas E. Allen is charged with four counts of secretly using a photographic imaging device to view another's body or undergarments and four counts of possessing photographic images in violation of the peeping statute.

From wire reports

THE CENSUS

180

The estimated number of bald eagles that have taken up residence at Michigan's biggest power plant this winter. The south-flying out-of-towners have been a common site at DTE Energy's massive plant along Lake Erie near Monroe, where they are drawn to the plant's warm water discharge and secluded perches that offer them easy access to gizzard shad, their food of choice. DTE Energy has set aside the land in the back of the plant for wildlife habitat preservation and is happy to host the birds. "It's a fantastic sight," said Skiles Boyd, DTE Energy vice president for environmental management and resources. "You never get to see that kind of thing anywhere else in those kinds of numbers."

Steve Kohls, Brainerd (Minn.) Dispatch/AP

Bad break

Gary Cook inspects the 2013 Tucker Sno-Cat Trail Groomer that he was driving Monday morning when it broke through the ice on Clark Lake in Nisswa, Minn. Cook was grooming a trail for snowmobilers to gain easy access to the lake. Efforts were underway to lift the 14,500-pound machine and remove it before the ice begins to freezes again.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

FTC eyes tracking of shoppers' phones

By Jennifer C. Kerr
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Should shoppers turn off their smartphones when they hit the mall? Or does having them on lead to better sales or shorter lines at the cash register?

Retailers are using mobile-based technology to track shoppers' movements at some malls and stores. The companies collecting the information say it's anonymous, can't be traced to a specific person and no one should worry about invasion of privacy.

Consumer advocates aren't convinced. It's spying, they say, and shoppers should be informed their phones are being observed and then be able to choose whether to allow it.

The Federal Trade Commission held a workshop Wednesday on the issue, part of a series of privacy seminars looking at emerging technologies and the impact on consumers.

FTC attorney Amanda Koulousias said the commission wants to better understand how companies are using phone-location technology, how robust privacy controls are and whether shoppers are notified in advance.

Here's how the technology works:

■ Your smartphone has a unique identifier code — a MAC address — for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. Think of it like a Social Security number, but this address is not linked to personal information, like your name, email address or phone number, only to a specific phone.

■ When your smartphone is turned on, it sends out signals with that MAC address (for media access control) as it searches for Wi-Fi or Bluetooth. Those signals also can be captured by sensors in stores that could tell a department store how often shoppers visit, how long they stay and where they spend time.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Feb. 21)	$1.4065
Dollar buys (Feb. 21)	€0.7110
British pound (Feb. 21)	$1.71
Japanese yen (Feb. 21)	100.00
South Korean won (Feb. 21)	1,045.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	$1.6671/0.5998
Canada (Dollar)	1.1078
China (Yuan)	6.0888
Denmark (Krone)	5.4411
Egypt (Pound)	6.9661
Euro	$1.3715/0.7291
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7556
Hungary (Forint)	227.55
Israel (Shekel)	3.5154
Japan (Yen)	102.01
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2817
Norway (Krone)	6.1177
Philippines (Peso)	44.80
Poland (Zloty)	3.04
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2654
South Korea (Won)	1,075.33
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8890
Thailand (Baht)	32.60
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2008

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, 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	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.71

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	$3.617	$3.792	$3.965	$4.226
Change in price	+7.1 cents	+6.8 cents	+6.4 cents	+1.2 cents
Netherlands	--	$4.752	$5.049	$5.097
Change in price	--	+10.3 cents	+10.9 cents	+10.4 cents
U.K.	--	$3.727	$3.900	$4.161
Change in price	--	+6.8 cents	+6.4 cents	+1.2 cents
Azores	--	--	$4.482	--
Change in price	--	--	no change	--
Belgium	--	$3.851	$4.006	$4.266
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	$4.445	$4.094*
Change in price	--	--	no change	+1.2 cents
Italy	$3.936	--	--	$4.277
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	$3.549	--	$3.979
Change in price	--	+7.0 cents	--	+1.0 cents
Okinawa	$3.459	--	--	$3.979
Change in price	no change	--	--	+1.0 cents
South Korea	$3.639	--	$3.979	$4.239
Change in price	+8.0 cents	--	+6.0 cents	+1.0 cents
Guam	$3.629**	$3.799	$3.979	--
Change in price	+7.0 cents	+6.0 cents	+7.0 cents	--

*** Diesel EFD ** Midgrade**
For the week of Feb. 22-28

MARKET WATCH

Feb. 19, 2014

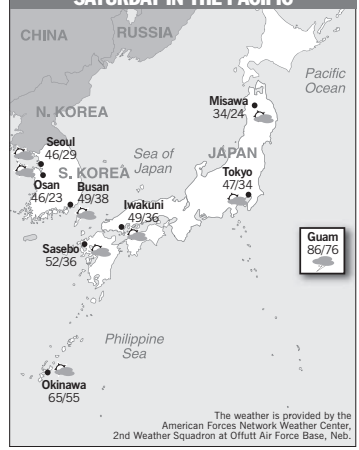
Dow Jones industrials	-89.84	16,040.56
Nasdaq composite	-34.83	4,237.95
Standard & Poor's 500	-12.01	1,828.75
Russell 2000	-12.42	1,149.07

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

FRIDAY IN EUROPE

SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Friday's US temperatures

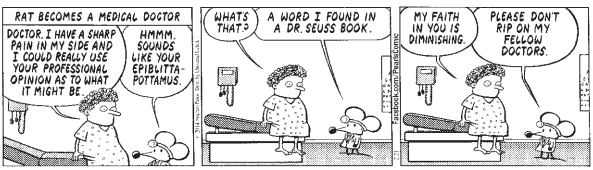
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	59	43	Clr	Fort Wayne	38	30	Clr	Louisville	53	36	Clr	Pocatello	40	28	Cldy	Sioux City	42	19	PCldy
Abilene, Tex	71	35	Clr	Cheyenne	39	23	Clr	Fresno	71	44	Clr	Lubbock	71	29	Clr	Portland,Maine	44	32	Cldy	Sioux Falls	30	13	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	42	36	Clr	Chicago	36	25	Clr	Goodland	54	22	Cldy	Macon	60	54	Rain	Portland,Ore.	45	36	Cldy	South Bend	35	28	Clr
Albany,N.Y.	48	35	Rain	Cincinnati	48	35	Clr	Grand Junction	44	23	Cldy	Madison	26	18	Snow	Providence	51	34	Rain	Spokane	35	26	Cldy
Albuquerque	59	28	PCldy	Cleveland	42	36	Clr	Grand Rapids	31	28	Clr	Medford	55	35	Cldy	Pueblo	57	15	PCldy	Springfield,Ill	46	28	Clr
Allentown, Pa.	50	35	Rain	Colorado Springs	52	20	PCldy	Great Falls	31	23	Snow	Memphis	63	39	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	67	60	Rain	Springfield,Mo	57	29	Clr
Amarillo	68	25	Clr	Columbia,S.C.	68	60	Rain	Green Bay	24	16	Snow	Miami Beach	83	72	Cldy	Rapid City	37	21	Clr	Syracuse	47	39	Rain
Anchorage	23	8	Cldy	Columbus,Ga.	58	53	Rain	Greensboro,N.C.	63	57	Rain	Midland-Odessa	72	33	Clr	Reno	59	33	Clr	Tallahassee	72	61	Rain
Asheville	57	47	Rain	Columbus,Ohio	45	35	Clr	Harrisburg	52	38	Rain	Milwaukee	28	23	Snow	Richmond	65	55	Rain	Tampa	78	66	Cldy
Atlanta	60	49	Rain	Concord, N.H.	43	28	Cldy	Hartford Spgfld	48	32	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	17	10	Snow	Roanoke	59	50	Rain	Toledo	38	31	Clr
Atlantic City	57	40	Rain	Corpus Christi	72	50	PCldy	Helena	31	20	Cldy	Missoula	29	22	Snow	Rochester	47	41	Rain	Topeka	58	28	PCldy
Austin	72	41	Clr	Dallas-Ft Worth	70	39	Clr	Honolulu	81	69	Cldy	Mobile	64	50	Cldy	Rockford	33	21	Clr	Tucson	78	44	PCldy
Baltimore	58	43	Rain	Dayton	45	33	Clr	Houston	70	47	PCldy	Montgomery	63	49	PCldy	Sacramento	67	43	Clr	Tulsa	63	32	Clr
Baton Rouge	67	48	Clr	Daytona Beach	82	65	Cldy	Huntsville	62	43	Clr	Nashville	60	38	PCldy	St Louis	53	31	Clr	Tupelo	63	39	Clr
Billings	36	25	Clr	Denver	48	24	Clr	Indianapolis	42	29	Clr	New Orleans	65	51	PCldy	St Petersburg	77	67	Cldy	Waco	70	39	Clr
Birmingham	62	43	Clr	Des Moines	43	21	PCldy	Jackson,Miss.	67	41	Clr	New York City	55	42	Rain	St Thomas	84	74	PCldy	Washington	60	47	Rain
Bismarck	20	2	Cldy	Detroit	38	32	Clr	Jacksonville	77	59	Cldy	Newark	57	40	Rain	Salem,Ore.	45	35	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	83	71	Cldy
Boise	44	29	Cldy	Duluth	17	7	Clr	Juneau	32	21	Cldy	Norfolk,Va.	67	56	Rain	Salt Lake City	43	28	Cldy	Wichita	60	27	PCldy
Boston	50	35	Rain	El Paso	70	41	PCldy	Kansas City	53	27	Clr	North Platte	48	17	Clr	San Angelo	73	31	Clr	Wichita Falls	68	34	Clr
Bridgeport	50	36	Rain	Elkins	44	42	Clr	Key West	81	74	Cldy	Oklahoma City	66	32	Clr	San Antonio	75	45	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	47	38	Rain
Brownsville	74	57	PCldy	Erie	42	37	Clr	Knoxville	56	44	PCldy	Omaha	48	23	PCldy	San Diego	73	54	PCldy	Wilmington,Del.	55	39	Rain
Buffalo	46	44	Rain	Eugene	44	35	Cldy	Lake Charles	67	47	PCldy	Orlando	84	64	Cldy	San Francisco	65	48	Clr	Yakima	41	27	PCldy
Burlington,Vt.	46	32	Rain	Evansville	51	34	Clr	Lansing	32	29	Clr	Paducah	54	35	Clr	San Jose	69	44	Clr	Youngstown	44	37	Clr
Caribou,Maine	32	16	Snow	Fairbanks	-2	-32	Clr	Las Vegas	68	45	Clr	Pendleton	42	32	PCldy	Santa Fe	55	21	PCldy				
Casper	31	19	Cldy	Fargo	10	-2	Clr	Lexington	52	36	Clr	Peoria	41	25	PCldy	St Ste Marie	30	30	Snow				
Charleston,S.C.	71	61	Rain	Flagstaff	54	20	PCldy	Lincoln	50	24	PCldy	Philadelphia	55	39	Rain	Savannah	71	60	Rain				
Charleston,W.Va.	52	45	PCldy	Flint	36	31	Clr	Little Rock	61	36	Clr	Phoenix	79	52	PCldy	Seattle	45	35	Cldy				
Charlotte,N.C.	65	58	Rain	Fort Smith	63	31	Clr	Los Angeles	79	54	Clr	Pittsburgh	45	39	Clr	Shreveport	70	39	Clr				

National temperature extremes
Hi., Wed., 90, Needles, Calif.
Lo., Wed., -4, Lebanon, N.H.

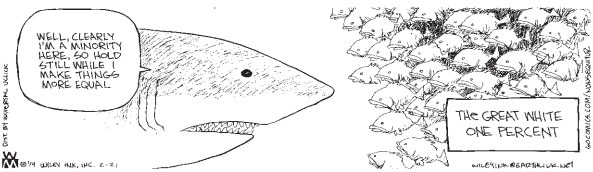
Frazz

Dilbert

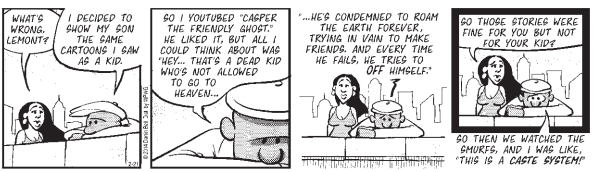
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur

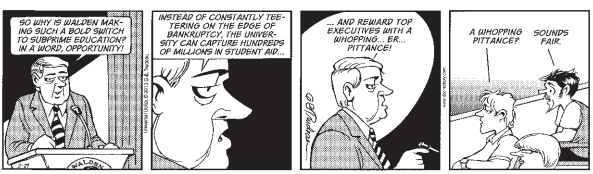


Candorville



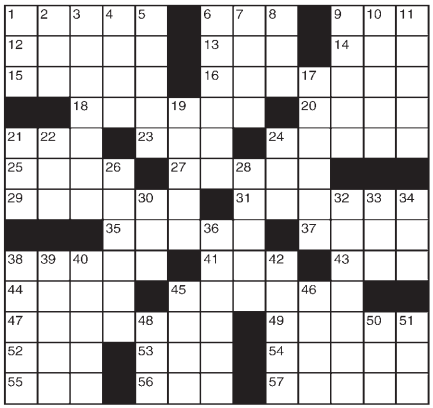
Get Fuzzy

Doonesbury



Fort Knox

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Have a cow?
6 Jazz style
9 Witty one
12 Where the elated walk
13 Mellow
14 Hasten
15 Island near Java
16 Old foot soldier
18 Vow
20 Part
21 — Zedong
23 Buck's mate
24 Semiprecious azure stone
25 Hollywood clashers
27 Bachelor party VIP
29 Sarge, e.g.
31 Song
35 Sixth President
37 Ivy League school
38 Wilkes- —, PA
41 "— the ramparts ..."
43 Cover
44 Curved molding
45 Two-way
47 Wet season
49 Talent finder
52 Lingerie buy
53 Automaton, for short
54 Oar fulcrum
55 Bando of baseball
56 — and outs
57 Busybody

DOWN

1 Barracks bed
2 Blackbird
3 Spoof
4 String instrument
5 Went wrong
6 Wisconsin critter
7 Shrek is one
8 Shell game item
9 Jubilant shout
10 Garlicky mayo
11 DNA bits
17 Music award
19 Accepted doctrine
21 Chaps
22 Earlier
24 Gehrig or Ferrigno
26 Frightens
28 Beginning
30 Praise in verse
32 Swell
33 Student at 37-Across
34 Roulette bet
36 Increases
38 Flops on stage
39 Old marketplace
40 Kidney-related
42 Out of practice
45 1969 landing site
46 Rue the run
48 Kyoto cummerbund
50 Last (Abbr.)
51 Afternoon social

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

2-21 **CRYPTOQUIP**

U P W J D P I L U H P A F O T N O K J O N P Z C O D E H Z K V L Z T F X P F O I C V R O E V H D P I O W C O G W P H: "G U G X O R O X V A A V H."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WANTING A FEW SMALL CARPETS ON HER HARDWOOD FLOOR, THE OPERA SINGER PURCHASED SOME ARIA RUGS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals H

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Impressed with reporter, GIs

I'm a Canadian officer serving at NATO HQ in Brussels and I read Stars and Stripes nearly every day. I just wanted to congratulate the paper and especially reporter Martin Kuz on the excellent article on the front page of the Feb. 18 edition ("Death Detachment: Transporting the fallen, fighting to keep emotions in check").

Kuz has covered with utter compassion yet clarity of description what is all our nation's utmost duty to our fallen. I hung on every word, and now have the highest admiration for the men and women charged with the sacred and very human duty of repatriation of remains.

Lt. Col. John McNair
Brussels

War must end, not wind down

I am Lance Cpl. Phillip Vinnedge's Gold Star mother. He was killed on Oct. 13, 2010, while serving in the Marines in Afghanistan.

Stars and Stripes' Feb. 14 front page included the article "Afghanistan releases 65 prisoners: 'Dangerous insurgents' freed Thursday despite international objections." I was under the impression that the reason for having U.S. troops in Afghanistan is to capture and eliminate the Taliban, thus decreasing violence and demoralization acts against others, and eliminating the security threat to the American people.

If we know we're leaving, it makes each additional death especially sad and cruel. How do you ask one of our troops to be the last one to die because of an arbitrary and pointlessly chosen withdrawal date? Why are we still there?

Arab and Muslim societies need to start shaming suicide bombers and naming the bombers' actions "murder," not martyrdom. Congress has convinced the nation to ignore our presence in Afghanistan. How many young men and women will our government be responsible for killing before those in power finally say enough?

A statement from the U.S. Embassy in Kabul called the prisoner release "deeply regrettable" and said the Afghan government bears responsibility for the results of its decision. How dare our government support this decision by remaining in Afghanistan. I believe the greatest casualty is to be forgotten!

Please don't allow the death of my child to be "deeply regrettable." We need to end the policy of "hands off the poppy fields" that are funding the Taliban and al-Qaida. Our troops need to be given the support, tools and rules of engagement to end this war or our government needs to remove all American servicemembers from Afghanistan immediately.

Julie Vinnedge
St. Charles, Mo.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader letters information on this page.

Ukraine might be site of Cold War's final episode

By George F. Will

WASHINGTON

One hundred years ago this coming Aug. 4, the day Britain declared war on Germany, socialists in the German Reichstag voted for credits to finance the war. Marxists — including Lenin, who that day was in what now is Poland — were scandalized. Marx had preached that the proletariat has no fatherland, only a transnational class loyalty to proletarians everywhere. "In 1918," wrote Louis Fischer, Lenin's best biographer, "patriotism and nationalism, born of the 'subjectivism' Lenin so disliked, were ideological crimes in Soviet Russia."

These are history-shaping virtues in Ukraine today. Because the nation-state is the necessary framework for durable political liberty, nationalism is a necessary, although insufficient, impulse sustaining liberty. Marx, whose prophesies were perversely predictive because they were almost invariably wrong, predicted the end of nationalism. Economic forces, he said, determine political, cultural and psychological realities. So capitalism, with its borders-leaping cosmopolitanism, would dilute to the point of disappearance all emotional attachments to nations. Ukraine's ferment is an emphatic, albeit redundant, refutation of Marxism.

The political elites who cobbled together the European Union hoped that the pooling of national sovereignties would extinguish the nationalism that, they think, ruined Europe's 20th century. They considered the resulting "democracy deficit" — the transfer of national parliaments' prerogatives to Brussels bureaucrats — a price well worth paying for tranquility.

Now comes turbulent Ukraine, incandescent with nationalism and eager to preserve its sovereignty by a closer relation with the EU.

Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovych, is resisting the popular desire for constitutionally limited government, and for a national existence more independent of Russian President Vladimir Putin's presence. Yanukovych wants to trade Ukraine's aspirations for Putin's billions.

Russia is ruled by a little, strutting Mussolini — the Duce, like Putin, enjoyed being photographed with his chest bare and his biceps flexed. Putin is unreconciled to the "tragedy," as he calls it, of the Soviet Union's demise. It was within the Soviet apparatus of oppression that he honed the skills by which he governs — censorship, corruption, brutality, oppression, assassination.

Sergei Chuzavkov/AP

Anti-government activists reinforce the barricades in Kiev's Independence Square, the epicenter of Ukraine's current unrest, on Thursday.

Remember when President George W. Bush peered into Putin's eyes and got "a sense of his soul" as someone "very straightforward and trustworthy"? Remember when Putin fed the world the fable about rushing naked from his burning dacha — the fire started when Putin was in a sauna — before the rescue of his cherished crucifix that had belonged to his sainted mother? Ukrainians, whose hard history has immunized them against the folly of wishful thinking, see in Putin's ferret face the cold eyes of a prison warden.

Ukraine, whose population (46 million) and size are approximately those of Spain, is a potential economic power. Russia remains what the Soviet Union was, a third-world country with first-world military technologies. Its hunter-gatherer economy — name a Russian consumer good other than vodka and caviar you might want — is based on extraction industries (oil, gas, minerals).

Putin's contempt for Barack Obama is palpable. Russia's robust support of Bashar Assad is one reason Assad has, according to the Obama administration's director of intelligence, "strengthened" his position in the period since Obama said Assad should "step aside." Russia has been less than helpful regarding U.S. attempts to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program. Where, exactly, has Obama's much advertised but never defined "reset" of relations with Russia been fruitful?

Yet Obama seems so fixated on it that he will not risk annoying Putin by voicing full-throated support for the Ukrainian protesters. Obama participated in waging seven months of war against Libya, a nation not threatening or otherwise important to the United States. Yet Joe Biden's Tuesday phone call to Yanukovych is, as of this writing, Obama's strongest response to the Ukraine crisis, which matters to the political trajectory of the European continent.

Europe, which for many centuries was a cockpit for many fighting faiths, is now politically vanilla. And as a military or diplomatic power, "Europe" remains more a geographical than a political term. Still, the pull of European political culture has not lost its power. And if Europe's historical amnesia is not complete, it should hear echoes of 1848 and 1989 in the voices of Ukrainians today.

The Soviet Union — "one of modern history's pivotal experiments," in the weasel words of NBC's Olympics coverage — existed for seven miserable decades. Ukraine's agony is a reverberation of the protracted process of cleaning up after the "experiment." So, this is perhaps the final episode of the Cold War. Does America's unusually loquacious 44th president remember how the words of the 40th — "Tear down this wall!" — helped to win it?

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

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

Connect dots to free Bergdahl
(Boise) Idaho Statesmen

We know from the ups and downs of the past 4½ years that anecdotal evidence and positive signals regarding Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's release can circle back to the path of heartbreak and frustration for his Idaho family and the nation.

The news Tuesday that President Barack Obama and the State Department were attempting to update or "refresh" some kind of prisoner swap marks an important dot on the continuum that could lead to Bergdahl's ultimate release. For this we are optimistic and grateful.

Other dots include actions both in the U.S. and in the Afghanistan war zone, where Bergdahl was taken prisoner in 2009.

A film purportedly depicting Bergdahl a month ago seemed to be saying, yes, we still have him and here he is; let's make a deal. Bergdahl's family and supporters have worked tirelessly to get his situation and plight before the American people.

The news Tuesday showed a recent shift in U.S. policy. Instead of releasing Taliban prisoners piecemeal in order to make a determination of a good-faith deal, the U.S. is now ready to release all five at the same time in exchange for Bergdahl.

That willingness to negotiate — and to realize the window of opportunity to seek Bergdahl's release may be closing as Americans begin to disengage in Afghanistan — might be the strongest dot of any that will connect a path to Bergdahl's ticket home to Idaho. …

The most mystifying aspect of the recent Bergdahl activity is the publicity surfacing from what is usually a very hushed affair: flag-rank Pentagon press secretaries solemnly saying Bergdahl has "been gone too long"; military officers in the know sending YouTube messages through Sen. Jim Risch's office reassuring the Bergdahl family that everything is being done.

Yes, we should all err on the side of hope and prayer and success in this fragile moment. Dots are connecting in the direction that you would want them to go.

Godspeed to the process.

Make it the world vs. N. Korea
Los Angeles Times

It's one thing to know that third-generation strongman Kim Jong Un maintains an iron grip on North Korea's 25 million people. It's another thing to read the horrifying particulars of how his regime wields its control — through starvation, torture, rape, summary executions and the disappearance of tens of thousands of citizens into an extralegal prison labor-camp system.

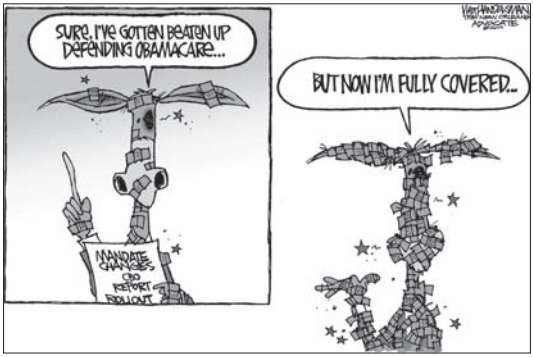
The details are contained in a report compiled by an international team of investigators led by respected Australian jurist Michael Kirby and released this week by the United Nations' Human Rights Council. The report, based on more than 300 interviews with people who have left the country, accuses the regime of a wide range of crimes against humanity and recommends that the U.N. Security Council refer the matter to the International Criminal Court for prosecution.

The report paints a picture of a society characterized by "almost complete denial of the right to freedom of thought," in which the state "operates an all-encompassing indoctrination machine." … Police routinely use violence "to create a climate of fear that pre-empts any challenge to the current system of government." For those who don't get the message, the state uses torture, execution and the allocation of food to control people.

We have been skeptical of the Human Rights Council in the past. Among the issues: Some of the very nations whose human rights records should be investigated are members of the council. At this moment, that includes China, Ethiopia and Kazakhstan. But Kirby's report is clear-eyed in its assessment and principled in its recommendations. Significantly, the report castigates China for denying investigators access to North Korean refugees in its border region, and accuses it of complicity in the atrocities by returning some refugees to North Korea.

The question is, what will the rest of the world do about it? … Much as Russia has shielded the Syrian government from Security Council actions, so too has China protected North Korea. It has the power to block a prosecution with its veto.

That doesn't absolve the international community of its responsibility to try to bring North Korea's oppressive leaders to justice. In fact, those efforts are overdue.



Pampas and bad circumstance
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Argentina, Latin America's largest economy after Brazil and Mexico, appears again to be in deep economic trouble.

Inflation is running at 55 percent. The peso lost most of its value in January. The government is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to approve postponement of the repayment of a $1.3 billion installment on a loan, including two U.S. hedge funds, in order to avoid default.

Argentina has defaulted three times before on major loans, in 1982, 1989 and 2001. The question is why would anyone loan the country $140 billion?

On top of all that, Argentinian President Cristina E. Fernandez de Kirchner, 61, has been in questionable health since suffering a brain injury last year, calling into question her ability to make decisions at a time of economic adversity. Presidential elections are scheduled for next year and she can't run, facing term limits.

So how did this situation occur? Argentina appears to have a deeply ingrained culture of economic irresponsibility. It spends money it doesn't have, borrows what it can to make up the difference and defaults when it feels it must.

Too bad the United States exhibits some of the same fiscal habits. … The United States has low inflation, although everyone knows that the real cost of living is rising, not falling. It is also worth noting that America's debt to foreign lenders stands at nearly $6 trillion, a third of it to China and Japan.

Argentina will probably get bailed out again. The rescue should be accompanied by harsh words about fiscal responsibility. American politicians should be obliged to read those words also.

Debt-limit vote: rare exception
(San Antonio) Express News

Raising the nation's debt ceiling should be routine. This allows the federal government to pay its bills — obligations substantially imposed by Congress.

But this has become not so routine. Last week, the House majority's leadership needed the House minority to muster enough votes to accomplish even this boilerplate legislation. Then Republican leaders, because of recalcitrance in the GOP rank and file, had to provide the votes to allow a Senate floor vote on the legislation, which then passed 55-43.

That so much effort was required to accomplish what should be so routine says much about the dysfunctional state of Congress these days. But in this drama, some sanity emerged. Our hope is that it lasts.

House Speaker John Boehner prevented another useless display of brinkmanship by outwardly defying his own caucus, which secretly wanted to avoid another crisis but didn't want to take the heat for raising the debt ceiling.

The same dynamic existed in the Senate, where Texas's own John Cornyn joined Minority Leader Mitch McConnell to get past the 60 votes to clear a procedural hurdle to get the bill to the floor. …

Both McConnell and Cornyn had to know they were helping primary election foes. …

The GOP caucuses likely won't admit it, but Boehner, McConnell and Cornyn all took one for their team. And helped the nation.

But here's the biggest takeaway. Important legislation got approved in the House because the speaker allowed a floor vote. And it got approved in the Senate because a few Republicans finagled the bill onto the floor for a vote.

This has been rare. … So, how many meaningful measures might now be law with the kind of straight-up votes that occurred here? Imagine: members of Congress running in this midterm election on accomplishment rather than obstruction.

Can't go rogue on Obamacare
The (Bowling Green, Ky.) Daily News

As the Republican-controlled U.S. House passed several bills that would have repealed the Affordable Care Act, liberal critics belittled these efforts by contending that Obamacare was "settled law" since it had been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

But how can we say it is "settled law" when our president's actions seem to reflect his belief that some of the law's very specific provisions are what he wants them to be as opposed to their clear meaning?

The most recent case in point was the administration's decision to delay until 2016 the requirement that employers with 50 to 99 full-time workers either provide health insurance or pay a financial penalty. …

President Barack Obama's stated rationale for the extension was to ensure that midsized companies had sufficient time to comply with the law. His explanation raises two interesting questions. How long do you really need to comply with a law that was enacted in 2010? Is it fair for the president to be in the business of picking winners and losers? One group of employers has received a two-year delay while everyone subject to the individual mandate got no such reprieve.

Obama's decision to ignore the clear intent of a law that defines his presidency seems more attuned to political calculation than about providing additional time for compliance.

The Affordable Care Act is expected to be front and center among issues in the 2014 midterm elections, but this does not justify doing an end run around the Constitution.

No need to hide raw milk sales
The (Portland) Oregonian

"Out of state" is often meant as an insult in Oregon, especially when applied to campaign contributions. But good things can come from distant places. The Virginia-based Institute for Justice demonstrated that last year by taking up the cause of Christine Anderson, who is prohibited by state law from advertising that which she may sell legally.

What is the thing upon which Oregon's famous free-speech protections do not smile? In the Land of the Ubiquitous Strip Club, you may not discuss raw milk, at least in a money-making sense. Though farmers with a small number of animals may sell the stuff, they may not advertise it, even on their websites.

The rationale buried in this legal contradiction is easily understood and even well-intentioned. Lawmakers are reluctant to ban the sale of raw milk, which enjoys a limited but devoted following. Few, however, want consumption to increase, given the potential for serious illness. There's a reason dairies pasteurize the stuff.

As well-intentioned as policymakers may be, the state has given raw milk producers a raw deal. Advertising for wine and beer is ubiquitous in Oregon and elsewhere despite the well-known effects of excessive alcohol consumption. The state itself enjoys a monopoly on hard liquor sales, and it's more than happy to promote and cash in on lottery games with which gambling addicts routinely ruin themselves. But when it comes to untreated cow juice, silence is the law.

Treating raw milk advertising in this fashion isn't merely inconsistent. It also may violate farmers' free speech rights, as Anderson argued in a lawsuit filed late last year.

Anderson, who owns Cast Iron Farm in McMinnville, was featured in a 2012 story in the Yamhill Valley News-Register. A state inspector who read the article had questions about some of the practices it described, Frank Barcellos, of the Department of Agriculture's food safety program, told us last year. So the inspector investigated further, discovering in the process that the price of raw milk was posted illegally on the farm's website. An inspection report ensued, as did a lawsuit, which Anderson filed with the assistance of the Institute for Justice.

Rather than putting up a fight, the state did the right thing and settled this month. … In return for Anderson's commitment to drop the suit, Department of Agriculture Director Katy Coba instructed her staff not to enforce the ban on raw-milk advertising. The settlement also requires Coba's department to ask lawmakers in 2015 to strike the ban from the lawbooks.

Following through on that commitment should be one of the least controversial things the Legislature does next year.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with RHP Libaldo Jimenez on a four-year contract. Designated RHP Liam Hendriks for assignment.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Signed general manager Frank Wren and manager Fredi Gonzalez to contract extensions.
CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with RHP Homer Bailey on a six-year contract.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Fined Phoenix F PJ Tucker $5,000 for violating the league's anti-flopping rules for the second time this season.
BROOKLYN NETS — Traded G Jason Terry and F Reggie Evans to Sacramento for G Marcus Thornton.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Acquired G Steve Blake from the Los Angeles Lakers for G Kent Bazemore and G MarShon Brooks.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Suspended Washington TE Fred Davis indefinitely for violating the league's substance abuse policy.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Named Billy Devaney and Russ Bolinger player personnel scouts.
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed CB Derricus Purdy.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Fired offensive line coach John Garmer and head athletic trainer Kevin O'Neill.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled Fs Cory Emmerton, Riley Sheahan and Teemu Pulkkinen and D Adam Almquist from Grand Rapids (AHL).
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled Fs Tyler Toffoli, Linden Vey and Tanner Pearson from Manchester (AHL).
MINNESOTA WILD — Recalled D Jonathon Blum and F Jake Dowell from Iowa (AHL). Assigned G John Curry to Iowa.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Recalled D Jon Merrill from Albany (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Recalled D Brandon Gormley from Portland (AHL).

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
CHIVAS USA — Signed M Agustin Pelletieri.
D.C. UNITED — Waived F Casey Townsend.
SEATTLE SOUNDERS — Waived F Will Bates.
SPORTING KANSAS CITY — Traded F Teal Bunbury to New England for a 2015 first-round draft pick and allocation money.

COLLEGE
ALABAMA — Announced F Nick Jacobs is taking a leave of absence from the men's basketball team.
COKER — Announced the resignation of men's soccer coach Paul Leese, who will take the same position at Texas-Pan American.
COLORADO STATE — Promoted Gary Ozzello to executive director of community outreach and engagement.
IOWA STATE — Named Maurice Linguist secondary coach.
NOTRE DAME — Announced DB Cody Riggs is transferring from Florida.
TCU — Dismissed WR LaDarius Brown from the football team.
UAB — Named Zac Woodfin strength and conditioning coach and Richard Owens tight ends coach.

College baseball

Wednesday's scores

SOUTH
Berry 6, Bates 3
Catawba 7, Pfeiffer 4
Christian Brothers 9, Victory 1
Erskine 18, Benedict 4
FAU 5, Miami 2
Georgia Southern 4, Georgia Tech 3
Indiana-Southeast 7, St. Catharine 5
Louisville 13, E. Kentucky 1
Murray St. 11, Mid-Continent 1
NC State 15, NC A&T 0
Newberry 8, Augusta (Ga.) 4
Randolph-Macon 14, Christopher Newport 11
Sewanee 15-12, Johnson Bible 0-1
Trevecca Nazarene 8-13, Kentucky St. 3-0
Vanderbilt 5, Lipscomb 1
Virginia 17, William & Mary 2

SOUTHWEST
Houston 3, Rice 0
Texas Southern 8, Lamar 4
Texas St. 8, Texas-San Antonio 0, 5 innings

College basketball

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST
Albany (NY) 57, Binghamton 48
Army 74, Colgate 66
Boston College 62, Syracuse 59, OT
Boston U. 71, American U. 62
Bucknell 55, Loyola (Md.) 53
Buffalo 96, Akron 90
Delaware 81, Hofstra 77
E. Mennonite 80, Bridgewater (Va.) 75
Hartford 75, Mass.-Lowell 68
Lafayette 76, Holy Cross 64
Lehigh 72, Navy 65
Manhattan 74, Monmouth (NJ) 61
Mount St. Mary (NY) 63, Yeshiva 37
Old Westbury 104, NYU-Poly 62
Saint Joseph's 57, Rhode Island 54
Slippery Rock 79, Edinboro 66
St. Bonaventure 71, Duquesne 67
St. Joseph's (LI) 69, Farmingdale 65
St. Rose 81, Adelphi 68
Stony Brook 72, UMBC 53
Swarthmore 72, Washington (Md.) 70
Vermont 75, New Hampshire 44
W. New England 76, Salve Regina 70
William Paterson 81, Ramapo 61

SOUTH
Barton 98, Pfeiffer 84
Carson-Newman 88, Anderson (SC) 79
Cincinnati 77, UCF 49
Coll. of Charleston 87, William & Mary 54
Elon 81, UNC Greensboro 68
Florida 71, Auburn 66
Gardner-Webb 79, Presbyterian 70
High Point 72, Liberty 60
James Madison 63, Drexel 61, OT
LSU 92, Mississippi St. 81
Lenoir-Rhyne 53, Catawba 49
Limestone 70, Erskine 63
Lincoln Memorial 101, Brevard 93
Mars Hill 90, Tusculum 87
Miami 71, Notre Dame 64
Morehead St. 90, Austin Peay 88, 2OT
Morgan St. 78, Coppin St. 69
NJIT 77, Md.-Eastern Shore 76
Radford 86, Longwood 75
Saint Louis 89, George Mason 85, OT
Shaw 56, Fayetteville St. 57
UNC Asheville 82, Charleston Southern 71
Union (Ky.) 82, Bryan 73
VMI 84, Campbell 81
Winthrop 75, Coastal Carolina 65
Young Harris 94, North Georgia 81

MIDWEST
Alma 71, Adrian 60
Aquinas 75, Cornerstone 70
Augsburg 75, Carleton 67
Calvin 83, Olivet 63
Cardinal Stritch 83, Olivet Nazarene 77
Carroll (Wis.) 76, Beloit 66
Cent. Michigan 101, Ball St. 95, 3OT
Creighton 85, Marquette 70
Davenport 84, Michigan-Dearborn 63
Dayton 65, La Salle 53
Gustavus 72, St. Thomas (Minn.) 68
Hamline 69, St. Mary's (Minn.) 60
Hope 110, Kalamazoo 78
Illinois 62, Minnesota 49
Indiana St. 59, Evansville 54
Indiana Tech 77, Marygrove 68
Kansas St. 65, TCU 53
Kent St. 75, Miami (Ohio) 63
Lakeland 73, Edgewood 66
Lawrence 84, Lake Forest 76
Marian (Wis.) 73, Concordia (Wis.) 71
Milwaukee Engineering 84, Wis. Lutheran 70
Missouri 67, Vanderbilt 64
Ohio St. 76, Northwestern 60
St. John's (Minn.) 71, Concordia (Moor.) 68
St. Norbert 78, Ripon 62
St. Olaf 78, Macalester 54
W. Michigan 73, Ohio 63
Wichita St. 88, Loyola of Chicago 74
Wis.-La Crosse 63, Wis.-Stout 55
Wis.-Platteville 60, Wis.-Eau Claire 34
Wis.-River Falls 90, Wis.-Superior 77
Wis.-Stevens Pt. 70, Wis.-Oshkosh 51
Xavier 83, DePaul 64

SOUTHWEST
Arkansas 71, South Carolina 64
Midwestern St. 78, Angelo St. 68
SMU 68, Houston 64
Texas A&M Commerce 78, E. New Mexico 71

FAR WEST
Arizona 67, Utah 63, OT
Colorado 61, Arizona St. 52
New Mexico 68, UNLV 56
Oregon 78, Washington 71
UCLA 86, California 66

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST
Adelphi 84, St. Rose 75
Albany (NY) 86, Binghamton 35
American U. 69, Boston U. 44
Bloomfield 88, Mt. Ararat (Conn.) 49
Bucknell 70, Loyola (Md.) 49
Colgate 71, Army 60
Dayton 84, La Salle 69
E. Mennonite 58, Shenandoah 47
Farmingdale 72, St. Joseph's (LI) 53
Holy Cross 90, Lafayette 76
Juniata 72, Susquehanna 69
Navy 79, Lehigh 59
New Hampshire 71, Vermont 50
Old Westbury 88, NYU-Poly 77
Richmond 89, UMass 76
Rider 74, Monmouth (NJ) 64
Slippery Rock 82, Edinboro 64
Stony Brook 72, UMBC 51
Swarthmore 80, Washington (Md.) 67
Thiel 64, Chatham 53
UConn 89, UCF 35
W. New England 59, Salve Regina 54
West Virginia 77, Oklahoma St. 45
William Paterson 82, Ramapo 66

SOUTH
Barton 72, Pfeiffer 69
Carson-Newman 89, Anderson (SC) 80
Charlotte 74, FAU 63
Chowan 52, Lincoln Christian 47
Georgia St. 85, Louisiana-Monroe 77
Lees-McRae 80, Mount Olive 73
Lenoir-Rhyne 72, Catawba 55
Limestone 74, Erskine 63
Lincoln Memorial 87, Brevard 59
Louisiana-Lafayette 62, Troy 57
Louisville 81, Houston 62
Middle Tennessee 75, Marshall 36
Morgan St. 66, Coppin St. 61
Murray St. 66, SE Missouri 55
Shaw 78, Fayetteville St. 67
Southern Miss. 106, FIU 96
St. Augustine's 74, Livingstone 54
Transylvania 101, Hanover 85
Tusculum 83, Mars Hill 61
Union (Ky.) 69, Bryan 61
VCU 74, St. Bonaventure 57
Young Harris 69, North Georgia 59

MIDWEST
Akron 89, N. Illinois 75
Augsburg 74, Carleton 47
Bethel (Minn.) 70, St. Catherine 37
Bowling Green 67, Cent. Michigan 55
Buffalo 61, Kent St. 58
Calvin 82, Adrian 55
Carroll (Wis.) 75, Beloit 61
Concordia (Moor.) 70, St. Benedict 56
Cornerstone 64, Aquinas 49
Davenport 92, Michigan-Dearborn 65
Hope 69, Albion 53
Indiana Tech 95, Marygrove 53
Lake Forest 62, Lawrence 44
Macalester 60, St. Olaf 58
Michigan 70, Indiana 58
Saint Louis 57, Rhode Island 53
South Florida 62, Cincinnati 43
St. Mary's (Minn.) 83, Hamline 63
St. Norbert 56, Ripon 42
St. Thomas (Minn.) 60, Gustavus 41
Toledo 80, E. Michigan 73
W. Michigan 71, Ohio 64
Wis.-Eau Claire 89, Wis.-Platteville 58
Wis.-Oshkosh 57, Wis.-Stevens Pt. 53
Wis.-Stout 89, Wis.-LaCrosse 72
Wis.-Superior 72, Wis.-River Falls 55

SOUTHWEST
Arkansas St. 72, **FAR WEST** Texas-Arlington 47
Baylor 89, Iowa St. 51
Louisiana Tech 82, Tulsa 75, OT
Midwestern St. 69, Angelo St. 58
North Texas 73, UTEP 64
Oklahoma St. 74, Texas 63
Old Dominion 85, Rice 49
TCU 64, Kansas St. 44
Tarleton St. 71, West Texas A&M 69
Texas St. 63, South Alabama 61

FAR WEST
Colorado St. 71, Boise St. 51
Fresno St. 65, Wyoming 60
Nevada 99, San Jose St. 95
New Mexico 65, UNLV 58
San Diego 87, Loyola Marymount 74
Utah St. 79, San Diego St. 69

Boxing

Fight schedule

Feb. 21
At Cleveland, Angelo Santana vs. Hank Lundy, IBF junior lightweights; Amir Imam vs. Jared Robinson, 10, junior welterweights.
At Dover (Del.) Downs Hotel & Casino, Ray Robinson vs. Aslanbek Kozaev, 12, for the NABO welterweight title.

Feb. 22
At Venetian Macao-Resort Hotel, Macau, China, Toshiaki Nishioka vs. Akifumi Shimoda, 12, for Vetyeka's WBA featherweight title; Miguel Vazquez vs. Denis Shafikov, 12, for Rosales's IBF lightweight title. Rex Tso vs. Mako Matsuyama, 10, super flyweights.

Feb. 28
At Turning Stone Resort Casino Event Center, Verona, N.Y., Mickey Bey Jr. vs. Alan Herrera, 10, lightweights; Badou Jack vs. Derek Edwards, 10, super middleweights.

March 1
At Emperors Palace, Johannesburg, South Africa, Hekkie Budler vs. Karlius Diaz, 12, for Budler WBA World IBO minimumweight titles.
At Geten Arena, Magdeburg, Germany, Robert Stieglitz vs. Arthur Abraham, 12, for Stieglitz's WBO super middleweight title.
At The SECC, Glasgow, Scotland, Ricky Burns vs. Terence Crawford, 12, for Burns' WBO lightweight title.
At Alamodome, San Antonio, Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. vs. Bryan Vera, 10, super middleweights; Orlando Salido vs. Vasyl Lomachenko, 12, for Salido's WBO featherweight title; Juan Diaz vs. Gerardo Robles, 10, lightweights; Karim Mayfield vs. Francisco Contreras, 10, light welterweights.

March 8
At Max-Schmeling-Halle, Berlin, Yoan Pablo Hernandez vs. Pawel Kolodziej, 12, for Hernandez's IBF cruiserweight title.
At Hard Rock Hotel, Las Vegas, Omar Figueroa vs. Ricardo Alvarez, 12, for Figueroa's WBC lightweight title; Leo Santa Cruz vs. Cristian Mijares, 12, for Santa Cruz's WBC super bantamweight title; Carlos Molina vs. Jermall Charlo, 12, for Molina's IBF junior middleweight title; Jorge Linares vs. Nihito Arakawa, 10, lightweights; Saul Alvarez vs. Alfredo Angulo, 12, junior middleweights.

March 14
At Villa La Nata Sporting Club, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Juan Carlos Reveco, vs. Mauricio Pereyra, 12, for Reveco's WBA World flyweight title.

March 15
At Coliseo Rafael Rodriguez, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, Danny Garcia vs. Mauricio Herrera, 12, for Garcia's WBA Super World and WBC Super lightweight titles; Deontay Wilder vs. Malik Scott, 10, heavyweights; Juan Manuel Lopez vs. Daniel Ponce de Leon, 10, for Lopez's WBO International junior lightweight title.
At Sands Casino Resort, Bethlehem, Pa., Tomasz Adamek vs. Vyacheslav Glazkov, 12, IBF heavyweight eliminator; Ronald Cruz vs. Kermit Cintron, 10, welterweights.

March 17
At The House of Blues, Boston, Danny O'Connor vs. Andrew Farmer, 10, welterweights.

March 21
At Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, Cabazon, Calif., Vanes Martirosyan vs. Luciano Cuello, 10, super welterweights.

Tennis

Delray Beach International

Wednesday
At Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center
Delray Beach, Fla.
Purse: $539,730 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
First Round
Marin Cilic (7), Croatia, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 6-1, 6-3.

Second Round
Feliciano Lopez (6), Spain, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.
Kevin Anderson (3), South Africa, def. Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, 1-0, retired.
Steve Johnson, United States, def. Tommy Haas (1), Germany, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (2).
Marinko Matosevic, Australia, def. Lleyton Hewitt (8), Australia, 7-6 (2), retired.

Doubles
First Round
Sekou Bangoura and Vahid Mirzadeh, United States, def. Eric Butorac, United States, and Raven Klaasen (2), South Africa, 7-5, 3-6, 10-5.
Benjamin Becker, Germany, and Feliciano Lopez, Spain, def. Alex Bogomolov Jr., Russia, and Dudi Sela, Israel, 6-1, 6-4.
Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, def. Adrian Mannarino, France, and Michael Russell, United States, 6-1, 6-3.
Ryan Harrison and Jack Sock, United States, def. Tomasz Bednarek, Poland, and Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, walkover.

Quarterfinals
Frantisek Cermak, Czech Republic, and Mikhail Elgin, Russia, def. Bradley Klahn and Tim Smyczek, United States, 6-2, 6-2.

Rio Open

Wednesday
At Jockey Club Brasileiro
Rio de Janeiro
Purse: Men, $1,199 million (WT500); Women, $250,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
Men
Second Round
Pablo Andujar (8), Spain, def. Martin Klizan, Slovakia, walkover.
Tommy Robredo (5), Spain, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-2, 6-1.
Thomaz Bellucci, Brazil, def. Juan Monaco (7), Argentina, 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.
David Ferrer (2), Spain, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 6-2 (2), 6-1.

Women
First Round
Kurumi Nara, Japan, def. Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, 6-3, 6-2.
Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, def. Nadiya Kichenok, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-3.
Second Round
Paula Ormaechea, Argentina, def. Kiki Bertens, Belgium, 7-5, 7-5.
Katarzyna Piter, Poland, def. Dinah Pfizenmaier, Germany, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1.
Nastassja Burnett, Italy, def. Alison Van Uytvanck, Belgium, 0-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Klara Zakopalova (1), Czech Republic, def. Silvia Soler-Espinosa, Spain, 6-4, 6-1.

Doubles
Men
First Round
Pablo Cuevas, Uruguay, and Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Marcelo Demoliner and Joao Souza, Brazil, 6-4, 6-3.
Daniele Bracciali and Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. Oliver Marach, Austria, and Florin Mergea, Romania, 6-3, 6-4.
Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez (3), Spain, def. Pablo Andujar, Spain, and Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-2, 6-2.
David Marrero, Spain, and Marcelo Melo (2), Brazil, def. Andre Begemann and Martin Emmrich, Germany, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Pro hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	57	37	16	4	78	176	125
Tampa Bay	58	33	20	5	71	168	145
Montreal	59	32	21	6	70	148	142
Toronto	60	32	22	6	70	178	182
Detroit	58	26	20	12	64	151	163
Ottawa	59	26	25	8	60	169	191
Florida	58	22	29	7	51	139	183
Buffalo	57	15	34	8	38	110	172

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	58	40	15	3	83	186	138
N.Y. Rangers	59	32	24	3	67	155	146
Philadelphia	59	30	23	6	66	162	167
Columbus	58	29	24	5	63	170	161
Washington	59	27	23	9	63	171	175
Carolina	57	26	22	9	61	144	158
New Jersey	59	24	22	13	61	135	146
N.Y. Islanders	60	22	30	8	52	164	200

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	57	39	16	2	80	175	142
Chicago	60	35	11	14	84	207	163
Colorado	58	37	16	5	79	174	153
Minnesota	59	31	21	7	69	145	147
Dallas	58	27	21	10	64	164	164
Winnipeg	60	28	26	6	62	168	175
Nashville	59	25	24	10	60	146	180

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	60	41	14	5	87	196	147
San Jose	59	37	16	6	80	175	142
Los Angeles	59	31	22	6	68	139	128
Phoenix	58	27	21	10	64	163	169
Vancouver	60	27	24	9	63	146	160
Calgary	58	22	29	7	51	137	179
Edmonton	60	20	33	7	47	153	199

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

Feb. 9-25
Olympic break

AP sportlight

Feb. 21
1931 — The Chicago White Sox meet the New York Giants in the first major league night game. The 10-inning exhibition is played in Houston.
1952 — The Boston Celtics and the Fort Wayne Pistons tip off at midnight in a "Milkman's Special" following an Ice Follies performance at Boston Garden. Bob Cousy of the Celtics scores 24 points in front 2,368 customers in a 88-67 win.
1952 — Dick Button performs the first triple jump in a figure skating competition.
1953 — In the longest game in college basketball in history, Niagara beats Siena, 88-81 in six overtimes.
1960 — Philadelphia Warriors rookie Wilt Chamberlain sets an NBA record with his fourth 50-point game of the season, scoring 58 in a 129-122 victory over the New York Knicks.
1970 — Bobby Hull scores two goals, including the 500th of his career, in the Chicago Black Hawks' 4-2 win over the New York Rangers.
1970 — Pete Maravich scores 64 points but Louisiana State still loses to Kentucky, 121-105. Dan Issel scores 51 for the Wildcats.
1976 — New York's Red Holzman becomes the coach, after Red Holzman and Red Auerbach, to win 500 games with a 102-98 victory over New Orleans.
1992 — Kristi Yamaguchi wins America's first Olympic gold medal in women's figure skating since 1976. Midori Ito of Japan takes the silver and Nancy Kerrigan of the United States wins bronze.
2003 — Michael Jordan becomes the first 40-year-old in NBA history to score 40 or more points, getting 43 in the Washington Wizards' 89-86 win over the New Jersey Nets.

Women

First Round
Raluca Olaru, Romania, and Alexandra Panova, Russia, def. Monique Adamczak, Australia, and Stephanie Vogt, Liechtenstein, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Johanna Larsson, Sweden, and Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, def. Darija Jurak, Croatia, and Andreja Klepac (2), Slovenia, 6-0, 6-3.
Paula Kania, Poland, and Valeria Solovyeva, Russia, def. Paula Kristina Goncalves and Laura Pigossi, Brazil, 6-3, 6-3.
Lourdes Dominguez Lino, Spain, and Mariana Duque-Marino, Colombia, def. Irina Buryachok, Ukraine, and Katarzyna Piter (4), Poland, 3-6, 6-1, 10-8.

Open 13

Wednesday
At Palais des Sports
Marseille, France
Purse: $850,900 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Indoor

Singles
First Round
Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, def. David Guez, France, 3-6, 6-1, 6-1.
Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3.
Michael Llodra, France, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 6-3, 7-6 (2).
Ricardas Berankis, Lithuania, def. Jan Hajek, Czech Republic, 6-5, retired.
Nicolas Mahut (8), France, def. Kenny de Schepper, France, 7-6 (2), 6-3.
Julien Benneteau (7), France, def. Jesse Huta Galung, Netherlands, 6-1, 6-4.
Second Round
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (2), France, def. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (8).
Richard Gasquet (1), France, def. Blaz Kavcic, Slovenia, 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles
First Round
James Cerretani, United States, and Adil Shamasdin, Canada, def. Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Albano Olivetti, France, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).

Quarterfinals
Gero Kretschmer and Alexander Satschko, Germany, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, and Austin Krajicek, United States, 6-4, 7-6.
Marin Draganja and Mate Pavic, Croatia, def. Colin Fleming and Ross Hutchins, Britain, 3-6, 7-6 (9), 10-8.

Dubai Championships

Wednesday
At Dubai Tennis Stadium
Dubai, United Emirates
Purse: $2 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Second Round
Flavia Pennetta, Italy, def. Agnieszka Radwanska (2), Poland, 6-1, 6-1.
Caroline Wozniacki (8), Denmark, def. Annika Beck, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.
Venus Williams, United States, def. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia, 6-2, 6-1.
Jelena Jankovic (5), Serbia, def. Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, 7-5, 6-4.
Alize Cornet, France, def. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.
Sorana Cirstea, Romania, def. Sara Errani (4), Italy, 6-2, 5-7, 6-1.
Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, def. Petra Kvitova (3), Czech Republic, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Doubles
First Round
Flavia Pennetta, Italy, and Sam Stosur, Australia, def. Kveta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Katarina Srebotnik (3), Slovenia, 6-1, 6-4.
Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (2), Russia, def. Serena and Venus Williams, United States, 6-4, 4-6, 10-4.

NBA

Harry E. Walker/MCT

The Los Angeles Lakers traded point guard Steve Blake to the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday. The Lakers acquired reserve guards Kent Bazemore and MarShon Brooks in the deal.

Trade roundup

Warriors acquire PG Blake; Kings ship Thornton to Nets

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Golden State Warriors have made another move in hopes of finding a reliable backup to point guard Stephen Curry.

The Warriors acquired Steve Blake from the Los Angeles Lakers for reserve guards Kent Bazemore and MarShon Brooks on Wednesday night, adding a veteran ball-handler to their beleaguered bench.

Word of the deal started to spread just before the Warriors played in Sacramento and the Lakers hosted Houston, with the players involved saying goodbye to teammates and coaches in their locker rooms. The Warriors went on to beat Sacramento 101-92, while the Rockets routed the Lakers 134-108.

Both teams confirmed the trade before halftime of their games.

"We think this just bolsters the bench and gives us some more options, some more weapons and a player when you give him the ball you know you can trust him," Warriors general manager Bob Myers said. "We just think it was a chance to improve our roster and that was our justification."

The trade gives Golden State a savvy veteran off the bench without sacrificing any of its core players or moving into the league's luxury tax.

The Warriors used a $4 million trade exception they got in a deal with Denver that landed free agent Andre Iguodala last summer. The team is about $400,000 under the luxury tax, Myers said.

Blake, who is making $4 million in the final year of his contract, averaged 9.5 points and 7.6 assists while starting all 27 games he played for the injury-depleted Lakers this season.

Hector Amezcua, Sacramento Bee/MCT

The Sacramento Kings sent guard Marcus Thornton to the Brooklyn Nets Wednesday in exchange for guard Jason Terry and forward Reggie Evans.

Also:

■ The Brooklyn Nets acquired guard Marcus Thornton from the Sacramento Kings for Jason Terry and Reggie Evans on Wednesday, removing two little-used veterans from their aging roster and hoping a younger one can rediscover his scoring touch.

Terry came from Boston along with Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce but has appeared in just 35 games after a knee injury, averaging 4.5 points on 36 percent shooting. Evans was a favorite of fans but not coach Jason Kidd, who used him in just 30 of their 51 games.

Evans made 56 starts last season and led the Nets with 11.1 rebounds per game, but lost his starting spot when the Nets acquired Garnett, and then fell behind rookie Mason Plumlee in Kidd's rotation.

Thornton averaged 21.3 points in 23 games with the Kings in 2010-11 after being acquired in a mid-season trade with New Orleans.

■ The Miami Heat have traded Roger Mason Jr. to the Sacramento Kings for a protected 2015 second-round draft pick and cash.

The move allowed Miami to open up another roster spot, while the Kings got an undisclosed amount of money. Mason, who averaged three points in 25 games for the Heat, is expected to be waived by Sacramento.

NBA

ANDY CLAYTON-KING/AP

Timberwolves forward Kevin Love shoots over Pacers center Roy Hibbert on Wednesday in Minneapolis. The Timberwolves won 104-91 behind 42 points and 16 rebounds from Love.

Roundup

Love, Minnesota get past Indiana

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Love had 42 points and 16 rebounds, Ricky Rubio added a career-high 17 assists, and the Minnesota Timberwolves beat Paul George and the Indiana Pacers 104-91 on Wednesday night.

J.J. Barea scored 12 points off the bench as the Wolves took control early against the Eastern Conference leaders.

George led Indiana with 35 points, but managed just two in the fourth quarter as the Pacers lost for the third time in five games.

It was Love's eighth straight game with at least 25 points and 10 rebounds, the longest streak since Shaquille O'Neal accomplished the same feat Jan. 3-19, 2005.

Spurs 111, Trail Blazers 109: Patty Mills came off the bench to score 29 points, Marco Belinelli hit a go-ahead three-pointer with 1:34 remaining and San Antonio defeated host Portland in a game between short-handed teams.

Mills scored 24 points during the second half to lead the Spurs, who rested starters Tim Duncan and Tony Parker. San Antonio, also sat Kawhi Leonard with an injured right hand.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points for Portland, which played without LaMarcus Aldridge. The Trail Blazers' leading scorer and rebounder is out with a groin injury.

Rockets 134, Lakers 108: Dwight Howard thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the team he left as a free agent after one tumultuous and contentious season, getting 20 points and 13 rebounds in a rout of Los Angeles that extended visiting Houston's winning streak to eight.

Bulls 94, Raptors 92: Carlos Boozer scored 20 points, D.J. Augustin had 19 against his former team and Chicago edged host Toronto for its fourth straight win.

Warriors 101, Kings 92: David Lee had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Klay Thompson scored 18 points and Golden State held off host Sacramento in a game both teams played short-handed.

Cavaliers 101, Magic 93: Kyrie Irving scored 22 points and Cleveland won its sixth straight by beating visiting Orlando.

Bobcats 116, Pistons 98: Al Jefferson scored 29 points, Kemba Walker had 24 points and a career-high 16 assists, and Charlotte defeated visiting Detroit for the second straight night.

Nets 105, Jazz 99: Joe Johnson scored 27 points, Andray Blatche had 25 and Brooklyn beat the Jazz for the Nets' first win in Utah since 2008.

Wizards 114, Hawks 97: John Wall scored 21 points and Washington recovered to beat reeling host Atlanta after almost blowing a 20-point lead.

Knicks 98, Pelicans 91: Carmelo Anthony capped a 42-point performance with three clutch baskets in the last two minutesto help visiting New York snap a three-game skid.

Suns 100, Celtics 94: Markieff Morris scored 18 points to lead six Phoenix players in double figures against visiting Boston.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	29	25	.537	—
Brooklyn	25	27	.481	3
New York	21	33	.389	8
Boston	19	36	.345	10½
Philadelphia	15	40	.273	14½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	38	14	.731	—
Washington	26	28	.481	13
Atlanta	25	28	.472	13½
Charlotte	25	30	.455	14½
Orlando	16	40	.286	24

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	41	13	.759	—
Chicago	28	25	.528	12½
Detroit	22	32	.407	19
Cleveland	22	33	.400	19½
Milwaukee	10	43	.189	30½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	40	15	.727	—
Houston	37	17	.685	2½
Dallas	32	23	.582	8
Memphis	30	23	.566	9
New Orleans	23	30	.434	16

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	43	12	.782	—
Portland	36	18	.667	6½
Minnesota	26	28	.481	16½
Denver	24	28	.462	17½
Utah	19	34	.358	23

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	37	19	.661	—
Phoenix	32	21	.604	3½
Golden State	32	22	.593	4
L.A. Lakers	18	36	.333	18
Sacramento	18	36	.333	18

Tuesday's games

Indiana 108, Atlanta 98
Cleveland 114, Philadelphia 85
Toronto 103, Washington 93
Charlotte 108, Detroit 96
Milwaukee 104, Orlando 100
Memphis 98, New York 93
Miami 117, Dallas 106
Phoenix 112, Denver 107, OT
San Antonio 113, L.A. Clippers 103

Wednesday's games

Cleveland 101, Orlando 93
Charlotte 116, Detroit 98
Chicago 94, Toronto 92
Washington 114, Atlanta 97
Minnesota 104, Indiana 91
New York 98, New Orleans 91
Phoenix 100, Boston 94
Brooklyn 105, Utah 99
San Antonio 111, Portland 109
Golden State 101, Sacramento 92
Houston 134, L.A. Lakers 108

Thursday's games

Miami at Oklahoma City
Denver at Milwaukee
Houston at Golden State

Friday's games

New York at Orlando
Dallas at Philadelphia
New Orleans at Charlotte
Cleveland at Toronto
Atlanta at Detroit
Denver at Chicago
L.A. Clippers at Memphis
San Antonio at Phoenix
Utah at Portland
Boston at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday

Rockets 134, Lakers 108

HOUSTON — Parsons 8-14 0-0 18, Jones 4-8 2-6 11, Howard 9-14 2-6 20, Beverley 4-9 0-0 10, Harden 10-18 4-6 29, Motiejunas 5-11 0-1 12, Asik 3-6 1-2 7, Lin 3-11 1-2 9, Garcia 4-7 0-0 11, Casspi 2-5 2-2 7, Brooks 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 52-104 12-25 134.

L.A. LAKERS — Johnson 9-13 2-3 24, Kelly 4-14 4-4 13, Kaman 4-11 1-1 9, Marshall 7-13 2-4 20, Meeks 7-14 3-3 19, Farmar 3-6 0-0 9, Hill 5-7 0-0 10, Sacre 2-6 0-0 4. Totals 41-84 12-15 108.

Houston	32	32	40	30	—134
L.A. Lakers	22	21	32	33	—108

Three-Point Goals—Houston 18-35 (Harden 5-7, Garcia 3-5, Parsons 2-3, Motiejunas 2-4, Beverley 2-6, Lin 2-6, Jones 1-1, Casspi 1-2, Brooks 0-1), L.A. Lakers 14-27 (Johnson 4-6, Marshall 4-6, Farmar 3-4, Meeks 2-6, Kelly 1-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 73 (Howard 13), L.A. Lakers 38 (Hill, Johnson 7). Assists—Houston 28 (Harden 11), L.A. Lakers 29 (Marshall 16). Total Fouls—Houston 15, L.A. Lakers 19. Technicals—Howard, Houston defensive three second. Flagrant Fouls—Kaman. A—18,997 (18,997).

Spurs 111, Trail Blazers 109

SAN ANTONIO — Green 5-9 3-3 16, Diaw 5-14 0-0 11, Splitter 5-9 5-9 15, Joseph 0-4 0-0 0, Belinelli 7-11 2-2 20, Brown 0-2 0-0 0, Ayres 1-2 0-0 2, Mills 13-26 2-2 29, Ginobili 6-10 4-5 16, Bonner 1-1 0-0 2, De Colo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-88 16-21 111.

PORTLAND — Batum 2-8 3-4 8, Wright 4-8 0-0 10, Lopez 4-11 3-4 11, Lillard 13-21 4-5 31, Matthews 6-18 4-7 18, Williams 8-14 2-2 19, Robinson 4-7 2-3 10, McCollum 1-4 0-0 2, Claver 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 42-93 18-25 109.

San Antonio	18	33	28	32	—111
Portland	24	28	29	28	—109

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 9-24 (Belinelli 4-6, Green 3-7, Diaw 1-3, Mills 1-5, Joseph 0-1, Ginobili 0-2), Portland 7-22 (Wright 2-4, Matthews 2-5, Williams 1-2, Batum 1-3, Lillard 1-3, Robinson 0-1, Claver 0-2, McCollum 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 49 (Green 7), Portland 59 (Lopez 14). Assists—San Antonio 16 (Ginobili, Joseph 4), Portland 18 (Lillard 6). Total Fouls—San Antonio 20, Portland 20. Technicals—Batum, Portland defensive three second. A—20,057 (19,980).

Bulls 94, Raptors 92

CHICAGO — Dunleavy 1-6 0-0 2, Boozer 7-13 6-7 20, Noah 3-7 2-4 8, Hinrich 8-11 0-0 19, Butler 6-11 4-6 16, Augustin 7-15 1-1 19, Gibson 4-8 2-2 10, Snell 0-1 0-0 0, Mohammed 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-72 15-20 94.

TORONTO — Ross 4-9 1-1 9, Patterson 2-6 0-0 5, Valanciunas 1-3 0-0 2, Lowry 4-13 7-7 16, DeRozan 11-25 10-11 32, Salmons 2-6 0-0 4, Johnson 4-6 1-3 9, Hansbrough 4-7 0-1 8, Vasquez 3-8 0-0 7, Stone 0-0 0-0 0, Novak 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-83 19-23 92.

Chicago	31	17	22	24	—94
Toronto	21	20	21	30	—92

Three-Point Goals—Chicago 7-12 (Augustin 4-5, Hinrich 3-3, Snell 0-1, Butler 0-1, Dunleavy 0-2), Toronto 3-17 (Vasquez 1-3, Patterson 1-3, Lowry 1-4, Salmons 0-1, Ross 0-2, DeRozan 0-4). Fouled Out—Gibson, Lowry. Rebounds—Chicago 51 (Dunleavy 11), Toronto 42 (Hansbrough 7). Assists—Chicago 25 (Noah 13), Toronto 16 (Lowry 7). Total Fouls—Chicago 24, Toronto 24. Technicals—Augustin, Boozer, Mohammed, Chicago Coach Thibodeau, DeRozan, Hansbrough, Lowry. A—17,704 (19,800).

Suns 100, Celtics 94

BOSTON — J.Green 5-12 6-6 17, Bass 7-12 4-4 18, Sullinger 5-13 0-1 11, Rondo 7-22 4-5 18, Wallace 3-5 3-4 9, Pressey 0-2 0-0 0, Olynyk 3-10 0-0 7, Bayless 0-2 2-2 2, Humphries 2-6 1-4 5, Johnson 2-3 1-2 7. Totals 34-87 21-28 94.

PHOENIX — Tucker 4-11 2-4 10, Frye 4-7 3-4 15, Plumlee 2-6 0-0 4, Dragic 6-13 3-6 17, G.Green 6-14 3-4 17, Mark.Morris 7-12 4-4 18, Smith 1-6 0-0 2, Len 1-2 0-0 2, Barbosa 1-3 1-2 4, Marc.Morris 4-8 1-2 11. Totals 36-82 17-26 100.

Boston	21	29	21	23	— 94
Phoenix	29	23	24	24	—100

Three-Point Goals—Boston 5-17 (Johnson 2-2, Olynyk 1-3, Sullinger 1-3, J.Green 1-6, Wallace 0-1, Rondo 0-2), Phoenix 11-28 (Frye 4-6, G.Green 2-5, Dragic 2-5, Marc.Morris 2-5, Barbosa 1-3, Mark.Morris 0-2, Tucker 0-2). Fouled Out—Tucker. Rebounds—Boston 57 (Sullinger, Bass 8), Phoenix 58 (Tucker 11). Assists—Boston 18 (Rondo 10), Phoenix 23 (Tucker, Dragic 6). Total Fouls—Boston 24, Phoenix 23. A—16,135 (18,422).

Nets 105, Jazz 99

BROOKLYN — Johnson 10-16 3-4 27, Pierce 3-8 0-0 7, Garnett 3-5 0-0 6, D.Williams 6-15 5-6 19, Livingston 3-7 3-4 9, Blatche 11-20 3-4 25, Kirilenko 2-2 0-2 4, Teletovic 3-7 0-0 8, Anderson 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 41-82 14-20 105.

UTAH — Jefferson 3-7 0-0 8, M.Williams 4-9 3-3 12, Kanter 8-14 2-2 18, Burke 6-12 0-0 14, Hayward 3-11 2-2 9, Burks 7-14 8-9 23, Garrett 3-6 0-0 7, Evans 1-3 1-1 3, Gobert 1-3 0-0 2, Rush 1-3 0-0 3. Totals 37-82 16-17 99.

Brooklyn	21	27	27	30	—105
Utah	28	28	18	25	— 99

Three-Point Goals—Brooklyn 9-23 (Johnson 4-7, Teletovic 2-6, D.Williams 2-7, Pierce 1-2, Anderson 0-1), Utah 9-24 (Jefferson 2-3, Burke 2-7, Garrett 1-1, Burks 1-1, Rush 1-2, M.Williams 1-4, Hayward 1-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Brooklyn 41 (Pierce, Blatche 6), Utah 52 (Evans 13). Assists—Brooklyn 25 (Livingston, D.Williams 7), Utah 20 (Burke 10). Total Fouls—Brooklyn 16, Utah 16. A—17,386 (19,911).

Wizards 114, Hawks 97

WASHINGTON — Ariza 7-12 0-0 19, Nene 3-9 4-6 10, Gortat 7-9 0-0 14, Wall 8-19 2-2 21, Beal 7-16 3-3 19, Webster 5-10 0-0 13, Booker 6-8 0-0 12, Temple 2-4 0-0 4, Seraphin 1-1 0-0 2, Porter Jr. 0-1 0-0 0, Vesely 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 46-89 9-11 114.

ATLANTA — Martin 1-2 2-2 4, Millsap 7-18 6-8 21, Brand 7-11 6-7 20, Teague 6-16 2-2 16, Korver 4-5 0-0 10, Williams 3-9 7-9 14, Mack 2-5 2-2 6, Scott 2-5 0-0 4, Schroder 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 33-73 25-30 97.

Washington	31	27	33	23	—114
Atlanta	14	33	36	14	— 97

Three-Point Goals—Washington 13-24 (Ariza 5-8, Webster 3-5, Wall 3-6, Beal 2-4, Temple 0-1), Atlanta 6-16 (Korver 2-3, Teague 2-3, Millsap 1-4, Williams 1-5, Mack 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 43 (Gortat 12), Atlanta 47 (Millsap, Brand 11). Assists—Washington 30 (Wall 12), Atlanta 20 (Teague 5). Total Fouls—Washington 23, Atlanta 11. A—13,529 (18,729).

Knicks 98, Pelicans 91

NEW YORK — Shumpert 1-6 0-0 2, Anthony 16-29 8-12 42, Chandler 2-6 0-0 4, Felton 1-8 3-3 5, Prigioni 2-4 0-0 6, J. Smith 7-13 2-3 19, Hardaway Jr. 6-13 1-2 16, Tyler 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 37-83 14-20 98.

NEW ORLEANS — Aminu 1-4 1-2 3, Davis 6-10 2-2 14, Ajinca 1-3 0-1 2, Roberts 4-8 1-1 10, Gordon 9-17 7-8 28, Stiemsma 1-2 0-0 2, Evans 3-11 2-6 8, Morrow 1-4 0-0 3, Rivers 6-10 1-1 14, Babbitt 3-6 0-0 7. Totals 35-75 14-21 91.

New York	23	30	25	20	—98
New Orleans	24	23	23	21	—91

Three-Point Goals—New York 10-21 (J. Smith 3-4, Hardaway Jr. 3-6, Prigioni 2-3, Anthony 2-6, Felton 0-1, Shumpert 0-1), New Orleans 7-21 (Gordon 3-9, Rivers 1-2, Morrow 1-3, Roberts 1-3, Babbitt 1-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New York 48 (Chandler 11), New Orleans 51 (Davis 10). Assists—New York 20 (Felton 8), New Orleans 16 (Roberts 4). Total Fouls—New York 17, New Orleans 20. Technicals—New York Coach Woodson, Gordon. A—16,495 (17,188).

Timberwolves 104, Pagers 91

INDIANA — George 11-22 10-10 35, West 2-10 0-0 4, Hibbert 2-5 0-0 4, G.Hill 4-8 3-4 13, Stephenson 5-15 0-2 10, Scola 1-2 0-0 2, Watson 3-7 0-0 6, Granger 1-6 0-0 2, Mahinmi 2-4 1-2 5, Copeland 2-4 1-2 6, Butler 1-2 0-0 2, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Sloan 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-87 15-20 91.

MINNESOTA — Brewer 5-10 2-3 12, Love 14-22 9-10 42, Turiaf 5-7 1-8 11, Rubio 2-10 2-6 6, Budinger 2-8 0-0 5, Mbah a Moute 0-2 0-0 0, Cunningham 4-9 2-2 10, Shved 2-5 2-2 6, Barea 6-10 0-0 12, Dieng 0-0 0-0 0, Hummel 0-0 0-0 0, Muhammad 0-0 0-0 0, Price 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-83 18-31 104.

Indiana	18	21	33	19	— 91
Minnesota	30	22	30	22	—104

Three-Point Goals—Indiana 6-22 (George 3-6, G.Hill 2-3, Copeland 1-2, Mahinmi 0-1, Johnson 0-1, Butler 0-1, Watson 0-2, Granger 0-2, Stephenson 0-4), Minnesota 6-20 (Love 5-10, Budinger 1-5, Brewer 0-1, Barea 0-1, Mbah a Moute 0-1, Shved 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 56 (George 11), Minnesota 57 (Love 16). Assists—Indiana 17 (Stephenson 4), Minnesota 26 (Rubio 17). Total Fouls—Indiana 27, Minnesota 20. Technicals—Stephenson. A—15,109 (19,356).

Warriors 101, Kings 92

GOLDEN STATE — Iguodala 6-11 1-1 13, Lee 10-20 3-4 23, O'Neal 0-2 3-4 3, Curry 5-14 2-3 13, K.Thompson 6-14 5-5 18, Green 5-8 2-2 12, Barnes 2-5 2-2 7, Crawford 4-10 2-2 10, Speights 1-2 0-1 2. Totals 39-86 20-24 101.

SACRAMENTO — Gay 6-21 4-6 16, Landry 4-7 1-1 9, J.Thompson 2-7 2-4 6, Thomas 9-17 6-7 26, McLemore 1-4 1-2 4, Outlaw 6-11 3-4 18, Acy 2-2 0-0 4, Williams 1-4 2-2 4, Fredette 1-3 1-2 3, McCallum 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 33-79 20-28 92.

Golden State	30	29	16	26	—101
Sacramento	26	24	26	16	— 92

Three-Point Goals—Golden State 3-19 (Barnes 1-2, K.Thompson 1-3, Curry 1-4, Speights 0-1, Green 0-2, Crawford 0-3, Iguodala 0-4), Sacramento 6-17 (Outlaw 3-4, Thomas 2-6, McLemore 1-2, Williams 0-1, McCallum 0-1, Gay 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 44 (Lee 11), Sacramento 61 (Acy 12). Assists—Golden State 26 (Curry 8), Sacramento 13 (Thomas 7). Total Fouls—Golden State 23, Sacramento 19. Technicals—O'Neal, Golden State defensive three second, Acy, J.Thompson. A—17,317 (17,317).

Cavaliers 101, Magic 93

ORLANDO — Harris 6-14 5-8 19, Davis 0-4 0-0 0, Vucevic 8-15 4-6 20, Nelson 2-11 0-0 5, Afflalo 7-14 7-8 23, Harkless 0-2 1-2 1, O'Quinn 5-8 0-0 10, Oladipo 2-6 0-0 4, Nicholson 4-9 0-0 9, Moore 1-6 0-0 2, Maxiell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-89 17-24 93.

CLEVELAND — Deng 6-14 4-4 17, Thompson 5-9 6-9 16, Zeller 4-5 8-9 16, Irving 8-18 3-4 22, Jack 3-10 3-4 10, Miles 1-5 2-2 4, Bennett 2-8 3-3 7, Dellavedova 2-7 0-0 4, Sims 2-2 1-2 5, Gee 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 33-80 30-37 101.

Orlando	11	25	32	25	— 93
Cleveland	26	29	17	29	—101

Three-Point Goals—Orlando 6-22 (Afflalo 2-4, Harris 2-5, Nicholson 1-2, Nelson 1-5, Harkless 0-1, Oladipo 0-2, Moore 0-3), Cleveland 5-20 (Irving 3-7, Jack 1-2, Deng 1-2, Gee 0-1, Miles 0-2, Bennett 0-2, Dellavedova 0-4). Fouled Out—O'Quinn. Rebounds—Orlando 54 (Vucevic 12), Cleveland 61 (Thompson 14). Assists—Orlando 21 (Nelson 9), Cleveland 22 (Irving 7). Total Fouls—Orlando 25, Cleveland 20. A—16,539 (20,562).

Bobcats 116, Pistons 98

DETROIT — Smith 7-18 0-1 14, Monroe 5-15 3-4 13, Drummond 4-7 0-0 8, Jennings 7-18 2-4 20, Singler 3-8 2-2 10, Stuckey 6-10 2-2 15, Jerebko 1-4 2-2 4, Bynum 5-9 3-5 14, Caldwell-Pope 0-0 0-0 0, Mitchell 0-1 0-0 0, Datome 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-90 14-20 98.

CHARLOTTE — Kidd-Gilchrist 3-5 5-6 11, McRoberts 5-8 2-2 15, Jefferson 12-20 5-8 29, Walker 8-20 5-5 24, Henderson 5-7 0-0 11, Zeller 3-6 1-2 7, Sessions 3-7 3-4 10, Tolliver 2-6 0-0 4, Biyombo 0-1 1-2 1, Pargo 1-2 2-2 4, Douglas-Roberts 0-0 0-0 0, Adrien 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 42-82 24-31 116.

Detroit	21	26	25	26	— 98
Charlotte	28	25	33	30	—116

Three-Point Goals—Detroit 8-18 (Jennings 4-8, Singler 2-4, Bynum 1-1, Stuckey 1-1, Jerebko 0-1, Smith 0-3), Charlotte 8-20 (McRoberts 3-4, Walker 3-8, Sessions 1-2, Henderson 1-3, Tolliver 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 41 (Monroe 7), Charlotte 64 (Biyombo, Jefferson, Henderson 8). Assists—Detroit 20 (Bynum 8), Charlotte 32 (Walker 16). Total Fouls—Detroit 20, Charlotte 18. Technicals—Bynum, Drummond, Jennings 2, Detroit defensive three second. Ejected—Jennings. A—14,400 (19,077).

Calendar

Feb. 20 — Trade deadline, 3 p.m. EST.
April 16 — Last day of regular season.
April 19 — Playoffs begin.
May 20 — Draft lottery.
June 5 — NBA Finals begin.
June 16 — Draft early entry withdrawal deadline.
June 26 — NBA Draft.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Roundup

Boston College stuns No. 1 Syracuse in OT

Eagles rally from a 13-point deficit to drop Orange from unbeaten ranks

The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — To a man, the Boston College Eagles were convinced of one thing: DK was looking down on them.

Olivier Hanlan and Patrick Heckmann hit three-pointers in overtime, Lonnie Jackson made four straight free throws in the final 26.2 seconds, and lowly BC stunned top-ranked Syracuse 62-59 on Wednesday night, ending the Orange's unbeaten season.

"It was an emotional game for us," BC coach Steve Donahue said after his first Carrier Dome win in eight tries against the Orange. "It's been incredible for these guys to persevere. We've played well in a lot of games."

The Eagles came to town with heavy hearts and a good dose of determination. Longtime basketball media contact and sports information assistant Dick Kelley died last week after a two-year battle with ALS. His funeral was Tuesday and the Eagles, who often visited his apartment, were wearing "DK" patches on their uniforms.

"The patch on our chests, toward the end of the game it was like, 'We can't be denied. DK is looking down on us. He's got us,'" forward Ryan Anderson said. "It's real emotional. It's really going to set in in a couple of hours."

Boston College (7-19, 3-10 Atlantic Coast Conference), which had lost five straight, rallied from a 13-point second-half deficit to pull off the improbable upset. The Eagles had dropped six games by four points or fewer, including 74-71 at Georgia Tech and 73-69 to Notre Dame in the last week.

"We've been in a lot of close games this year, lost a lot of heartbreakers," said Jackson, who was just 9-for-16 from the free-throw line in conference play entering the game. "We've been in this before, so we just had to rely on that. Finally, the ball bounced our way."

Syracuse (25-1, 12-1) travels to No. 5 Duke on Saturday night for a rematch of their overtime instant classic on Feb. 1.

The loss leaves No. 3 Wichita State (28-0), which beat Loyola of Chicago 88-74 on Wednesday night, as the lone unbeaten in Division I.

The Eagles, whose only conference wins this season were over Virginia Tech, beat a No. 1-ranked team for the third time and first since knocking off then-No. 1 North Carolina in 2009.

Syracuse, which had won its last two games by a combined three points, shot a season-low 32.2 percent from the field, including going 2-for-12 from three-point range, its sputtering offense unable to pull off another miracle finish.

"When you get in enough of these games, there's going to be one you're not going to make a play. That's what happens," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "At the end of games, you get into enough of these games, you're not going to win.

"I'm really happy that we've won 25 games," Boeheim said. "We can't think about that. We've got to think about what we have to do going forward. We've really got to get better, and I think we will. It's been an unbelievable run, I've never seen anything like it before. It's remarkable what they've done."

Tied at 50 after two halves played at Boston College's deliberate pace, Hanlan and Heckmann hit from long range to give BC a 56-52 lead with 2:56 left, but Tyler Ennis' driving layup knotted the score at 56 with 2:09 left.

A free throw by Ennis gave the Orange a one-point lead, but Heckmann's backdoor layup put the Eagles back in front with 43.5 seconds left.

After a timeout, Ennis threw a pass toward C.J. Fair in the right corner that sailed out of bounds. After the officials initially ruled it was Syracuse's ball, a video review with 32.5 seconds left reaffirmed the call. It didn't matter when Fair missed a drive and Jackson sealed the victory with his clutch free throws.

Hanlan finished with 20 points and Jackson had 10. Anderson had nine points and 14 rebounds, but the Eagles won it by going 11-for-22 from behind the arc. They committed 15 turnovers, three after halftime.

Kevin Rivoli/AP

Boston College players celebrate Wednesday after defeating No. 1 Syracuse 62-59 in overtime at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, N.Y. The loss snapped Syracuse's 25-game unbeaten streak

Fair finished with 20 points on 7-for-23 shooting and had 11 rebounds. Ennis had 14 points and six assists and Jerami Grant finished with 11 points.

Grant's spinning layup on a drive through the lane gave Syracuse a 50-48 lead with 77 seconds left in regulation, but Hanlan tied it with a layup 30 seconds later.

After a timeout, Ennis missed a layup attempt, but snared his own rebound and Boeheim called a timeout with 20 seconds left to set up a final shot. But Rakeem Christmas missed a hook in the lane just before the buzzer to force overtime.

No. 2 Florida 71, Auburn 65: Patric Young made a pair of free throws with 19 seconds left and the Tigers threw the ball away on the ensuing inbounds play, helping the host Gators (24-2, 13-0 Southeastern Conference) win their school-record 18th victory in a row.

No. 3 Wichita St. 88, Loyola (Chi.) 74: Fred VanVleet scored 22 points on perfect shooting and the visiting Shockers (28-0, 15-0 Missouri Valley Conference) beat the Ramblers (9-18, 4-11).

No. 4 Arizona 67, Utah 63 (OT): Gabe York and Nick Johnson each scored 15 points, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson added 13 and the visiting Wildcats (24-2, 11-2 Pac-12) escaped in overtime against the Utes (17-9, 6-8).

No. 7 Cincinnati 77, Central Florida 49: Sean Kilpatrick hit six three-pointers and scored 23 points to help the Bearcats (24-3, 13-1 American Athletic Conference) dominate the host Knights (10-14, 2-11).

No. 10 Saint Louis 89, George Mason 85 (OT): Jordair Jett scored 24 of his 25 points after halftime, Rob Loe hit two key three-pointers in overtime and the Billikens (24-2, 11-0 Atlantic-10) beat the host Patiors(9-17, 2-10) for their 18th straight win.

No. 11 Creighton 85, Marquette 70: Doug McDermott scored 17 of his 25 points in the second half and Ethan Wragge added 22 to help the Bluejays (22-4, 12-2 Big East) beat the host Golden Eagles (15-11, 7-6) in a foul-plagued Big East game.

No. 23 UCLA 86, California 66: Jordan Adams scored 28 points and the visiting Bruins (21-5, 10-3 Pac-12) returned to the national rankings with an impressive victory against the Golden Bears (17-9, 8-5) to keep pace in the Pac-12 title chase.

No. 24 Ohio St. 76, Northwestern 60: LaQuinton Ross scored 16 points before being ejected after a scuffle, leading the host Buckeyes (21-6, 8-6 Big Ten) over the Wildcats (12-15, 5-9).

Service academies

Army 74, Colgate 66: Kyle Wilson tied a career-high with 29 points, 18 in the second half, as the host Black Knights (13-13, 9-6 Patriot League) beat the Raiders (9-17, 3-12) for the third straight time.

Kevin Ferguson added 17 points and Dylan Cox had 15 for Army.

Lehigh 72, Navy 65: Mackey McKnight and Corey Schaefer scored 15 points apiece as the host Mountain Hawks (14-14, 7-8 Patriot League) beat the Midshipmen (9-17, 4-11) for the ninth-straight time.

Will Kelly paced Navy with 19 points, while Worth Smith and Zach Fong added 12 apiece.

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NFL/GOLF

Dolphins' line coach, trainer fired over bullying

By Steven Wine
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins fired offensive line coach Jim Turner and longtime head athletic trainer Kevin O'Neill on Wednesday for their roles in the team's bullying scandal.

The moves were the first punitive steps taken by the Dolphins since a report on the NFL's investigation of the case was released last week.

Investigators found that guard Richie Incognito and two teammates engaged in persistent harassment directed at tackle Jonathan Martin, another offensive lineman and an assistant trainer. Martin left the team at midseason, and Incognito was suspended for the final eight games.

Turner didn't attempt to stop the harassment and even took part in some of the taunting of offensive lineman Andrew McDonald, the NFL report said. O'Neill expressed hostility toward the investigation and cut short an interview with those conducting it, according to the report.

O'Neill was fired shortly after he and other team officials arrived in Indianapolis for the league's annual scouting combine. Turner didn't make the trip.

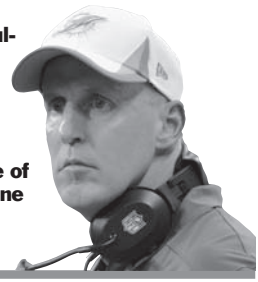
In a news release announcing the firings, Dolphins owner Stephen Ross said the behavior described in the report was "against the core values of our organization."

"After receiving the report, I conducted my own internal review of the facts to determine the appropriate steps for our organization," Ross said. "Jim Turner and Kevin O'Neill are good people who care a great deal about their profession and the players whom they serve, but both exhibited poor judgment at times, which led me to this conclusion."

Ross said he has been in contact with Martin and will meet soon with the two-year veteran.

'That ultimately rests on my shoulders and I will be accountable moving forward for making sure we emphasize a team-first culture of respect toward one another.'

Joe Philbin
Miami Dolphins head coach



Martin has two seasons remaining on his contract with the Dolphins, but last month Ross said he didn't believe the tackle would play again for Miami. Incognito is now a free agent and will try to sign with another team.

Coach Joe Philbin made his first public comments since the report's release, saying the vulgar language and behavior outlined were disappointing and unacceptable, and adding that fundamental values of respect were violated.

"That ultimately rests on my shoulders and I will be accountable moving forward for making sure that we emphasize a team-first culture of respect toward one another," Philbin said.

The report found no evidence that Philbin was aware of abusive conduct within the team.

Several people interviewed told investigators Turner gave McDonald a male sex doll as a gag gift around Christmas 2012. Turner told investigators he didn't remember the incident, but investigators said they didn't believe him.

Martin told investigators O'Neill and other team employees saw an assistant trainer being humiliated and didn't intervene. O'Neill allegedly laughed at racial insults directed toward the assistant trainer.

O'Neill was the Dolphins' trainer for 18 years and has been in the NFL for 25 years. He and his Miami staff won national awards, including one last year from the National Athletic Trainers' Association.

Turner joined the Dolphins shortly after Philbin was hired as head coach two years ago.

Match Play Championships

Stenson highlights a day of comebacks

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Henrik Stenson would be the first to say how lucky he was to win the Match Play Championship in 2007.

He was on the ropes in the opening round against Zach Johnson, headed for certain defeat, when he somehow saved par on the 15th hole and Johnson missed a good birdie chance. Stenson birdied the next two holes, won the match and never lost the rest of the week.

If that scenario were to repeat itself this week, consider the plight of the following players from Wednesday's opening round:

Graeme McDowell was 3 down with three holes remaining against Gary Woodland. He saw the Cadillac SUVs in position to drive him back to the clubhouse. He saw his agent on the phone, perhaps booking a flight. He saw Woodland's ball headed for the flag on the par-3 16th.

"I thought it was over," McDowell said.

He thought wrong. Woodland's tee shot took a big hop over the green and between two corporate suites. He took two shots to get to the green. Bogey. Woodland had wedge in hand when he pulled his approach to the 17th and had 8 feet left for par, which he didn't have to putt because McDowell made a 12-foot birdie putt. And then Woodland went from one bunker to the other on the 18th and still wasn't on the green after four shots.

Just like that, the match went to extra holes. McDowell made a 6-foot birdie on the 19th hole and lived to see another day at Dove Mountain.

"I'm sure he's extremely disappointed right now — and I'm extremely elated," McDowell said. "I'm surprised to be sitting here, having won. Yeah, I hit a couple of quality shots down the last couple of holes, but he had mistakes, as well. It's a brutal format."

Jason Dufner went 3 down with a bogey on the 10th hole, and Scott Stallings matched his birdies on the next two holes. The PGA champion was headed for defeat when Stallings made one too many mistakes. A sloppy bogey on the 14th hole and the 17th hole, along with Dufner's clutch birdie on the par-3 16th squared the match.

Stalling made one last error, coming up short of the first green in overtime. Dufner made a par and advanced. It was Dufner's first time in three years making it out of the first round.

Brandt Snedeker never led in his match against David Lynn of England, though he was never too far out of the match.

Even so, the match was level when Snedeker faced a tough chip from the collar of the 18th green with hardly any of the putting surface between his ball and the cup. It was a marvelous chip to save par. Then, he had another delicate chip to the right of the first green, against short-sided.

Ted S. Warren/AP

Henrik Stenson hits out of a bunker on the 17th hole in his match against Kiradech Aphibanrat during the first round of the Match Play Championship on Wednesday in Marana, Ariz. Stenson won 2 and 1.

He chipped beautifully to about 4 feet for par. He won with an 8-foot birdie on the next hole.

"I played a great stretch of golf in there and a bad stretch and I've just got to eliminate the bad stretch," Snedeker.

Factoring in conceded putts, Pablo Larrazabal shot a 68 and was on his way back to Spain. Ernie Els shot 75 and has a tee time at Dove Mountain on Thursday.

Els made it hard on himself with bogeys on both par 5s on the back nine, even though one of those bogeys was good enough to win the hole against Stephen Gallacher, who took a tour of the desert. Els was two down with three to play and won the next two holes with pars.

Gallacher hit a beautiful putt from 10 feet for birdie to win on the 18th. He thought it was in. Els thought it was in. But it was out.

On the 19th hole, Els won with a two-putt par and somehow made it to the second round.

For all the comebacks (eight of the winners were trailing in their matches after 12 holes) and the 11 matches that went to the 18th hole or beyond (Sergio Garcia defeated Marc Leishman in 22 holes), the opening round went large according to form.

Three of the top four seeds — Stenson, Justin Rose and Rory McIlroy — advanced. The exception was Zach Johnson, who was hammered by Richard Sterne of South Africa. It was the fourth straight year Johnson failed to make it out of the first round.

Opening round at a glance

MARANA, Ariz. — A brief look at the first round of the Match Play Championship on Wednesday at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club at Dove Mountain:

Match of the day: Down three holes with three to play, Graeme McDowell rallied to tie Gary Woodland and won with a birdie on the 19th hole.

Shot of the day: Top-seeded Henrik Stenson of Sweden hit a 65-yard bunker shot to 2½ feet to set up a par win on the par-4 14th that pulled him even with Kiradech Aphibarnrat. Stenson won Nos. 16 and 17 with birdies in a 2-and-1 victory.

Shortest day: Billy Horschel finished off Jamie Donaldson on No. 13 in a 6-and-5 victory.

Longest day: Sergio Garcia edged Marc Leishman on the 22nd hole.

English implosion: U.S. Open champion Justin Rose was the only of the five English players to advance. Luke Donald, the 2011 winner, dropped out along with 2010 champion Ian Poulter, Lee Westwood and David Lynn.

Quote of the day: "I thought it was over." — Graeme McDowell on his comeback victory over Gary Woodland.

Stat of the day: Eight players who trailed with six holes remaining went on to win.

Thursday's key matches: Henrik Stenson vs. Louis Oosthuizen, Rory McIlroy vs. Harris English, Jimmy Walker vs. Rickie Fowler, Matt Kuchar vs. Ryan Moore, Justin Rose vs. Ernie Els and Brandt Snedeker vs. Webb Simpson.

Thursday's forecast: Sunny, high of 75 degrees F with winds gusting up to 15 mph.

— The Associated Press

OLYMPICS

Scoreboard

Medal count

At Sochi, Russia
5 of 6 events Thursday
(78 of 81 events)

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	10	4	7	21
United States	8	5	11	24
Germany	8	4	4	17
Russia	7	9	7	22
Canada	6	9	4	19
Netherlands	6	7	9	22
Switzerland	6	3	2	11
Belarus	5	0	1	6
France	4	4	7	15
Poland	4	0	0	4
China	3	2	1	6
Sweden	2	6	4	12
Austria	2	6	2	10
Czech Republic	2	4	2	8
Slovenia	2	1	4	7
South Korea	3	2	1	5
Japan	1	4	3	8
Finland	1	3	0	4
Britain	1	0	2	3
Slovakia	1	0	0	1
Italy	0	2	6	8
Australia	0	2	1	3
Latvia	0	1	2	3
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1

Women's curling

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Semifinals
Canada 6, Britain 4
Sweden 7, Switzerland 5
Thursday, Feb. 20
Bronze Medal
Britain 6, Switzerland 5
Gold Medal
Canada 6, Sweden 3

Nordic combined

Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Team
K120 Jump

1. Germany (Fabian Riessle, Bjoern Kircheisen, Johannes Rydzek, Eric Frenzel), 481.7, 0:00.
2. Austria (Lukas Klapfer, Christoph Bieler, Mario Stecher, Bernhard Gruber), 476.3, +0:07.
3. Norway (Magnus Hovdal Moan, Magnus Krog, Joergen Graabak, Haavard Klemetsen), 462.8, +0:25.
4. France (Maxime Laheurte, Sebastien Lacroix, Francois Braud, Jason Lamy Chappuis), 455.2, +0:35.
5. Czech Republic (Tomas Portyk, Tomas Slavik, Miroslav Dvorak, Pavel Churavy), 440.0, +0:56.
6. Japan (Akito Watabe, Yusuke Minato, Hideaki Nagai, Yoshito Watabe), 433.3, +1:05.
7. Russia (Ernest Yahin, Niyaz Nabeev, Ivan Panin, Evgeniy Klimov), 426.2, +1:14.
8. United States (Todd Lodwick, Taylor Fletcher, Billy Demong, Bryan Fletcher), 397.6, +1:52.
9. Italy (Armin Bauer, Lukas Runggaldier, Samuel Costa, Alessandro Pittin), 383.9, +2:10.

NR. Finland (Janne Ryynaenen, Mikke Leinonen, Eetu Vaehaesoeyrinki, Ilkka Herola), DNS.

4X5km Race

1. Norway (Magnus Hovdal Moan, Haavard Klemetsen, Magnus Krog, Joergen Graabak), 46:48.5, 0.0.
2. Austria (Lukas Klapfer, Christoph Bieler, Bernhard Gruber, Mario Stecher), 47:09.9, +21.4.
3. Germany (Eric Frenzel, Bjoern Kircheisen, Johannes Rydzek, Fabian Riessle), 47:13.8, +25.3.
4. Japan (Hideaki Nagai, Yusuke Minato, Yoshito Watabe, Akito Watabe), 47:25.6, +37.1.
5. United States (Bryan Fletcher, Todd Lodwick, Taylor Fletcher, Billy Demong), 47:43.1, +54.6.
6. France (Sebastien Lacroix, Francois Braud, Maxime Laheurte, Jason Lamy Chappuis), 47:51.3, +1:02.8.
7. Italy (Lukas Runggaldier, Armin Bauer, Samuel Costa, Alessandro Pittin), 47:54.7, +1:06.2.
8. Czech Republic (Pavel Churavy, Tomas Slavik, Miroslav Dvorak, Tomas Portyk), 48:40.1, +1:51.6.
9. Russia (Evgeniy Klimov, Niyaz Nabeev, Ernest Yahin, Ivan Panin), 51:35.8, +4:47.3.

Total
(Jump and 4X5km race in parentheses)

1. Norway (Magnus Hovdal Moan, Haavard Klemetsen, Magnus Krog, Joergen Graabak), (3, 462.8, +0:25; 1, 46:48.5, 0.0) 47:13.5, 0.0.
2. Germany (Eric Frenzel, Bjoern Kircheisen, Johannes Rydzek, Fabian Riessle), (1, 481.7, 0:00; 3, 47:13.8, +25.3) 47:13.8, +0.3.
3. Austria (Lukas Klapfer, Christoph Bieler, Bernhard Gruber, Mario Stecher), (2, 476.3, +0:07; 2, 47:09.9, +21.4) 47:16.9, +3.4.
4. France (Sebastien Lacroix, Francois Braud, Maxime Laheurte, Jason Lamy Chappuis), (4, 455.2, +0:35; 6, 47:51.3, +1:02.8) 48:26.3, +1:12.8.
5. Japan (Hideaki Nagai, Yusuke Minato, Yoshito Watabe, Akito Watabe), (6, 433.3, +1:05; 4, 47:25.6, +37.1) 48:30.6, +1:17.1.
6. United States (Bryan Fletcher, Todd Lodwick, Taylor Fletcher, Billy Demong), (8, 397.6, +1:52; 5, 47:43.1, +54.6) 49:35.1, +2:21.6.
7. Czech Republic (Pavel Churavy, Tomas Slavik, Miroslav Dvorak, Tomas Portyk), (5, 440.0, +0:56; 8, 48:40.1, +1:51.6) 49:36.1, +2:22.6.
8. Italy (Lukas Runggaldier, Armin Bauer, Samuel Costa, Alessandro Pittin), (9, 383.9, +2:10; 7, 47:54.7, +1:06.2) 50:04.7, +2:51.2.
9. Russia (Evgeniy Klimov, Niyaz Nabeev, Ernest Yahin, Ivan Panin), (7, 426.2, +1:14; 9, 51:35.8, +4:47.3) 52:49.8, +5:36.3.

Freestyle skiing

Men's Cross
Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Quarterfinals
Heat 1
1. Armin Niederer, Switzerland (Q).
2. Egor Korotkov, Russia (Q).
3. Victor Oehling Norberg, Sweden.
4. Jouni Pellinen, Finland.
Heat 2
1. Jean Frederic Chapuis, France (Q).
2. Jonathan Midol, France (Q).
3. Jonas Devouassoux, France.
4. Andreas Matt, Austria.
Heat 3
1. Brady Leman, Canada (Q).
2. Arnaud Bovolenta, France (Q).
3. John Eklund, Sweden.

NR. Thomas Fischer, Germany, DNF.
Heat 4
1. Filip Flisar, Slovenia (Q).
2. Florian Eigler, Germany (Q).
3. Andreas Schauer, Germany.
4. Didrik Bastian Juell, Norway.
Semifinals
Heat 1
1. Jean Frederic Chapuis, France (A).
2. Jonathan Midol, France (A).
3. Egor Korotkov, Russia (B).
4. Armin Niederer, Switzerland (B).
Heat 2
1. Brady Leman, Canada (A).
2. Arnaud Bovolenta, France (A).
3. Florian Eigler, Germany (B).
4. Filip Flisar, Slovenia (B).
Small Final
1. Egor Korotkov, Russia.
2. Filip Flisar, Slovenia.
3. Armin Niederer, Switzerland.

NR. Florian Eigler, Germany, DNF.
Big Final (Medal)
1. Jean Frederic Chapuis, France.
2. Arnaud Bovolenta, France.
3. Jonathan Midol, France.
4. Brady Leman, Canada.

Women's Halfpipe
Final Ranking

1. Maddie Bowman, South Lake Tahoe, Calif., (85.80; 89.00) 89.00.
2. Marie Martinod, France, (84.80; 85.40) 85.40.
3. Ayana Onozuka, Japan, (79.00; 83.20) 83.20.
4. Virginie Faivre, Switzerland, (74.40; 78.00) 78.00.
5. Janina Kuzma, New Zealand, (77.00; 74.80) 77.00.
6. Brita Sigourney, Carmel, Calif., (27.80; 76.00) 76.00.
7. Rosalind Groenewoud, Canada, (5.40; 74.20) 74.20.
8. Mirjam Jaeger, Switzerland, (71.20; 16.00) 71.20.
9. Annalisa Drew, Andover, Mass., (66.40; 9.60) 66.40.
10. Amy Sheehan, Australia, (15.00; 40.60) 40.60.
11. Angeli VanLaanen, Bellingham, Wash., (13.80; 29.60) 29.60.

NR. Anais Caradeux, France, DNS.

Figure skating

Thursday
At Sochi, Russia
Final Ranking
(Short and free programs in parentheses)

1. Adelina Sotnikova, Russia (2, 74.64; 1, 149.95), 224.59.
2. Yuna Kim, South Korea (1, 74.92; 2, 144.19), 219.11.
3. Carolina Kostner, Italy (3, 74.12; 4, 142.61), 216.73.
4. Gracie Gold, Chicago (4, 68.63; 5, 136.90), 205.53.
5. Julia Lipnitskaia, Russia (5, 65.23; 6, 135.34), 200.57.
6. Mao Asada, Japan (16, 55.51; 3, 142.71), 198.22.
7. Ashley Wagner, Alexandria, Va. (6, 65.21; 7, 127.99), 193.20.
8. Akiko Suzuki, Japan (8, 60.97; 8, 125.35), 186.32.
9. Polina Edmunds, San Jose, Calif. (7, 61.04; 9, 122.21), 183.25.
10. Mae Berenice Meite, France (9, 58.63; 11, 115.90), 174.53.
11. Valentina Marchei, Italy (12, 57.02; 10, 116.31), 173.33.
12. Kanako Murakami, Japan (15, 55.60; 12, 115.38), 170.98.
13. Kaetlyn Osmond, Canada (13, 56.18; 13, 112.80), 168.98.
14. Li Zijun, China (11, 57.55; 14, 110.75), 168.30.
15. Zhang Kexin, China (14, 55.80; 15, 98.41), 154.21.
16. Kim Haejin, South Korea (18, 54.37; 17, 95.11), 149.48.
17. Gabrielle Daleman, Canada (19, 52.61; 16, 95.83), 148.44.
18. Nathalie Weinzierl, Germany (10, 57.63; 21, 89.73), 147.36.
19. Elene Gedevanishvili, Georgia (17, 54.70; 20, 92.45), 147.15.
20. Brooklee Han, Australia (22, 49.32; 18, 94.52), 143.84.
21. Park So Youn, South Korea (23, 49.14; 19, 93.83), 142.97.
22. Elizaveta Ukolova, Czech Republic (20, 51.87; 23, 84.55), 136.42.
23. Anne Line Gjersem, Norway (24, 48.56; 22, 85.98), 134.54.
24. Nicole Rajicova, Slovakia (21, 49.80; 24, 75.20), 125.00.

IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Adelina Sotnikova became the first Russian woman to win an Olympic gold medal in figure skating on Thursday, beating defending champion Yuna Kim in the free skate.

Figure skating

Russian stuns champion

Sotnikova upsets S. Korea's Kim; Gold finishes fourth

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Adelina Sotnikova gave Russia its first Olympic gold medal in women's figure skating with a stunning upset of defending champion Yuna Kim of South Korea on Thursday at the Sochi Games.

Sotnikova was considered the host nation's No. 2 skater behind Julia Lipnitskaia, but she soared when her teammate struggled.

Kim got silver, followed by Carolina Kostner of Italy for bronze.

Lipnitskaia was fifth.

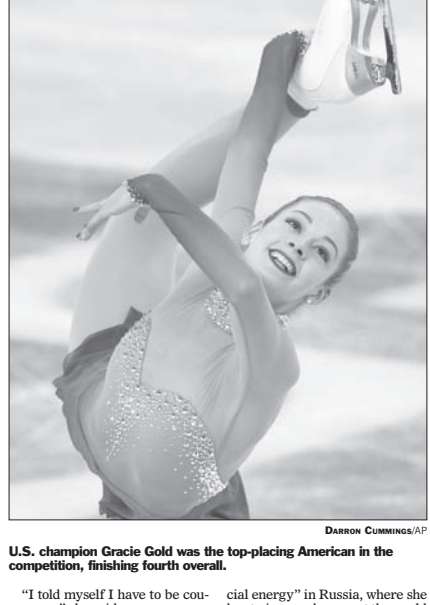
American Gracie Gold finished fourth, Ashley Wagner seventh and Polina Edmunds ninth.

The South Korean star carried the slimmest of leads into the final day of the figure skating competition at the Sochi Games. She earned 74.92 points in winning the short program Wednesday; Russian teen Adelina Sotnikova has 74.64 and Italy's Carolina Kostner 74.12.

Kim, 23, is the only one of the three who knows how it feels to nail a perfect free skate at the Olympics. But what she was seeking to accomplish was still daunting: Just two women, Sonja Henie and Katarina Witt, have won two straight golds.

Kostner, 27, fell apart during her free skate at the 2010 Olympics and plummeted to 16th. Sotnikova, a decade younger, was ninth in her first world championships in March.

For one night, at least, Kostner embraced the pressure. She decided Wednesday morning to swap out a triple toe loop for a more difficult triple flip in her short program.



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

U.S. champion Gracie Gold was the top-placing American in the competition, finishing fourth overall.

"I told myself I have to be courageous," she said.

And she said she feels a "special energy" in Russia, where she has twice won bronze at the world championships.

OLYMPICS

US women's bobsled looks ahead to 2018

By Tim Reynolds
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Elana Meyers and Jamie Greubel have weddings to plan. Lauryn Williams has a life to start. Aja Evans is ready to make a run at the Rio de Janeiro Games.

Even after winning Olympic medals, it didn't take long for U.S. women's bobsledders to turn toward the future.

The foursome of medalists sat side-by-side for possibly one of the final times Thursday, a day after American sleds grabbed silver and bronze at the Sochi Games. Meyers and Williams were one-tenth of a second off the time that would have won them gold; Greubel and Evans were a full second off the winning pace, but well ahead of all other challengers for bronze.

"We are, truly, a team to beat," Meyers said.

The trick now is finding a way to stay in that category. And really, that shouldn't be too difficult.

All three Olympic team drivers — Meyers, Greubel and Jazmine Fenlator — plan to be back, and with the Americans still figuring out how to squeeze all the possible speed from their new BMW-made sleds, each figures to be better. Plus, it's almost certain that some pushers in the U.S. pipeline will enroll in driving school at Lake Placid, N.Y., next month.

What's unclear is who will be pushing sleds in the next World Cup season.

Lolo Jones said earlier in these Olympics that while she's still very much planning to go back to her life as a hurdler with an eye on the Rio Games, she could easily see herself resuming her brakeman duties next winter. That would suggest there's at least a chance she sticks around for four more years.

Williams is likely gone, since she was ready to start a "real" life as a certified financial planner last year when she retired from competitive track and field after three Olympics and two medals there. And now that she's one of five people to medal in different sports at the Summer and Winter Games, there wouldn't figure to be much left for her to chase.

"The last six months have been amazing," Williams said of her brief and meteoric time in bobsledding. "And to have a silver and gold, 2004 and 2014, it's a dream come true — even though I didn't even get the opportunity to dream it. Life is always taking me by surprise."

Evans didn't know how much she would enjoy bobsledding when she tried it two years ago. Now she's an Olympic medalist, and may follow in Jones' path of trying to be a track and field athlete as well as a bobsledder.

Evans plans to relocate to the West coast soon, set to resume training as a thrower in field events, just as she was in college. That could mean she takes a break from sliding, though she still is planning to vie for a spot on the 2018 Olympic team, and that quest would not be thwarted if she winds up missing a season of pushing.

"When we were finishing our race and everything was settling, I was like, 'So when does track practice start?' I'm serious about it and I'm really excited about it," Evans said. "This is a good opportunity for me. I feel like I have enough time to advance and take my time and get on that elite level in track and field. I'm so much stronger mentally and physically."

That leaves the drivers, who helped the U.S. make history with two medals at these Games.

Meyers is getting married this year, and Greubel plans to do the same. Meyers has made tons of sacrifices to get ready for her nuptials, and is planning a simple day with family and friends — and in at least one case, opponents. Canada's Kaillie Humphries, who edged Meyers for the gold medal, is on the guest list.

"I am going to make sure she has lots of cake," said Meyers, who has the dress and the cake picked out and will appear on a reality show later this year in the runup to the wedding.

Greubel thinks the sky is the limit for the Americans now. Most of the other drivers the U.S. raced against at the Sochi Games have far more experience. In some cases, certain drivers on the circuit this year have more years of experience than all three U.S. pilots combined.

"I really think we should be proud of what we've accomplished in such little time," Greubel said. "To be able to win these Olympic medals against women who have been driving for two quads, three quads, I think it's something we should be proud of."

Jae C. Hong/AP

U.S. bobsled drivers Elana Meyers, left, and Jamie Greubel, right, plan to try for the 2018 Olympics, but it's unclear if brakemen Lauryn Williams, second from left, or Aja Evans will return.

Alessandro Trovati/AP

American Mikaela Shiffrin, 18, will make her second attempt at a gold medal on Friday in the slalom.

Shiffrin focused on slalom

By Howard Fendrich
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Mikaela Shiffrin came to the Sochi Games hoping for two medals. Didn't matter one bit that she's only 18 or that she's at her first Olympics.

After a fifth-place finish in the giant slalom, the American gets to race Friday in her specialty, the slalom, which she has ruled for the past two years, including a world championship and World Cup title. She's won eight of the past 18 slaloms; no one else has won more than two in that span.

It's the last women's event on the Alpine hill at Rosa Khutor, and the second leg will be under the lights at night.

"I've been preparing for this for my entire life, really. Whether I knew it or not at the time, every single instance, every event that's happened to me — it's been preparation for this and preparation for whatever happens in my future," Shiffrin said. "I've always been really aware of that."

That's why Shiffrin was able to smile and even laugh and, at least publicly, brush aside whatever disappointment she might have felt when she wound up out of the medals in the giant slalom on Tuesday.

Asked that day which of her two GS runs she would like to redo, she replied: "I wouldn't redo any of them. I think this was supposed to happen."

In what way?

"I believed that I wasn't going to win my first World Cup slalom race until I was ready, because if I won it a minute sooner, then I wouldn't be able to continue to win," explained Shiffrin, who lives in Eagle-Vail, Colo.

"And I think it's the same for my first GS. I was really thinking that my first GS win would be at the Olympics, and that would be such a cool thing to accomplish. But it's just something that I accept: I got fifth today," she said. "There are four girls who skied better than I did, and I'm really excited to analyze their skiing and analyze mine."

The GS winner was Tina Maze of Slovenia, who also took gold in the downhill, and can become only the second woman in Olympic history with three titles at a single Winter Games. Janica Kostelic of Croatia did it at the 2006 Turin Olympics.

Maze pushed Shiffrin during the 2012-13 World Cup season for the slalom title. It came down to the last race, when Shiffrin took first place and Maze was third.

"Now she's done GS, so will probably be more relaxed for slalom," Maze said about Shiffrin. "She's a great athlete. She has a great team around her. They are working really good. For that age, she's great, amazing."

Others to watch Friday include the defending champion, Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany, Marlies Schild of Austria, and Frida Hansdotter of Sweden, who won the most recent World Cup slalom on Feb. 2 in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, and is second, behind Shiffrin, in the season standings.

Hansdotter also was the slalom bronze medalist at last year's world championships, where Shiffrin became the youngest woman to win a world title since 1985.

If it comes down to Shiffrin vs. Schild on Friday, the president of the Austrian ski federation, Peter Schroecksnadel, thinks the difference could depend on the snow conditions.

"If it's softer snow like [it's been], I think Shiffrin has the advantage, because Marlies likes skiing on hard ice," Schroecksnadel said. "Shiffrin is a very smooth skier. I think she has very good chances to win the slalom."

OLYMPICS

Bowman wins gold in halfpipe

By Will Graves
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — This one was for Sarah.

Braid spinning in the chilly mountain air, Maddie Bowman of the U.S. soared to the first-ever gold in women's Olympic halfpipe skiing, edging Marie Martinod of France in the final on a night the sport paid tribute to late Canadian freestyle skiing icon Sarah Burke.

Burke, a leading advocate to have several events — including halfpipe — added to the Olympic program, died following a training accident in 2012. Her parents, Gordon Burke and Jan Phelan, watched as Bowman made history.

The 20-year-old from South Lake Tahoe, Calif., put together a pair of athletic runs in the finals. Stringing along dizzying series of spins and grabs, Bowman performed the two highest-scoring runs of the finals.

Her first one, an 85.80, put pressure on Martinod, who led qualifying. Bowman's second run was even better. She clasped the side of her helmet in disbelief then sat and waited to see if Martinod or American teammate Brita Sigourney could top her.

Nope.

Sigourney, who washed out in her first finals run, appeared ready to threaten Bowman before her backside skimmed the snow with only one jump off the 22-foot halfpipe left.

That left Martinod, who retired in 2007 but returned to the sport in 2012 at the urging of Burke. The 29-year-old Frenchwoman was one of the oldest performers in the 23-skier field and her introduction included a series of outtakes with her young daughter.

Martinod was clean but not spectacular. Her 85.40 earned silver but didn't really come close to bumping Bowman from the top of the medal stand.

There were several hard crashes during qualifying, the worst coming when Anais Caradeux slammed into the ice during her second run. The 23-year-old Frenchwoman lay motionless for several seconds before being tended to by medics.

Caradeux sustained lacerations on her face but managed to ski down the halfpipe to the medical tent. She qualified ninth but didn't compete in the finals. Caradeux said afterward she blacked out for "10-15 seconds" and sustained some short-term memory loss.

Matt Slocum/AP

Switzerland's Sarah Forster slides on the ice Thursday while celebrating her team's 4-3 win over Sweden in the women's bronze medal hockey game in Sochi, Russia. It was Switzerland's first-ever medal in women's hockey.

A first for Swiss hockey

Women claim bronze, first-ever medal

Matt Slocum/AP

Sweden's Emma Nordin, left, and Anna Borgqvist react to their team's 4-3 loss to Switzerland in bronze medal game.

By Jimmy Golen
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The losing didn't bother the Swiss women's hockey team, even as it was slogging through the round-robin without a victory and finishing last in its group.

Sure, the 9-0 loss to the United States hurt. But a 5-0 victory by Canada was the closest Switzerland had ever come to the three-time defending Olympic champions, and a playoff victory over Russia put the Swiss in the semifinals. When they lost just 3-1 to Canada in the semifinals, they felt like they were ready to claim their first women's hockey medal in the country's Olympic history.

They were.

"We didn't care about the color of a medal," said Florence Schelling, who stopped 28 shots to help Switzerland beat Sweden 4-3 in the bronze medal game on Thursday. "A medal is a medal."

Jessica Lutz broke a third-period tie with 6:17 to play as Switzerland rallied from a two-goal deficit with four straight third-period goals to earn just its second victory of the Sochi Games. Sara Benz and Phoebe Stanz scored to help Switzerland tie the game, and Aline Muller scored a 175-foot empty-netter with 67 seconds left that turned out to be the difference.

Valentina Wallner stopped 22 shots for Sweden. Michelle Lowenheilm scored in the first period, and Erica Uden Johansson made it 2-0 with 62 seconds left in the second period on a long, fluttering goal that Schelling allowed to tip off the webbing of her glove.

Semis: This time, Crosby's NHL coach will be behind bench for Americans

FROM BACK PAGE

Bylsma watched that game from a restaurant in Pittsburgh. Now, the Penguins coach will be behind the U.S. bench hoping Crosby, one of his players in the NHL, doesn't help the Canadians win two consecutive Olympic gold medals.

"I don't recall any conversations between Sid and I about the possibility or facing each other," Bylsma said. "We talked a little bit about the Olympic experience and I know prior to leaving we wished each other luck."

The U.S. might be peaking at the right time to improve its chances to win Olympic hockey gold for the first time since the "Miracle on Ice," in 1980.

If the U.S. wins two more games, anyone who has been watching them play won't be surprised.

"This is a team that has put up a spectacular performance," Czech Republic coach Alois Hadamczik said after Wednesday's quarterfinal.

It wasn't the first time in Sochi.

The U.S. has been tested only once, in an eight-round shootout against the host Russians in the preliminary round. The Americans crushed the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia by a combined score of 17-4.

Phil Kessel leads the Americans with five goals and eight points in the tournament.

The U.S. shaped its roster with players who skate fast, hit hard, share the puck and score.

"It starts off the ice," U.S. forward Max Pacioretty said. "Everyone on this team realizes you have to play for the team and check your ego at the door. All of us are the top players on our team back home and you come here and you're asked to play different roles.

"You see everyone in the room, willing to go to the dirty areas, block shots, make hits. It's nice to see when you see a guy like Patty Kane backchecking as hard as he can across the ice. It kind of puts things in perspective."

The Swedes might've been fortunate if they ended up playing the Russians rather than the fired-up Finns.

Top-seeded Sweden won the first of four quarterfinal games on Wednesday, dominating Slovenia 5-0. After the game, Sweden coach Par Marts predicted Russia would beat Finland later in the day. He was wrong — the Finns eliminated Russia with a 3-1 victory — and might regret what he said to a room full of reporters.

The remaining teams have had a lot of success since the Nagano Games in 1998, the first with NHL players.

Canada, which barely beat Latvia 2-1 to advance to these semifinals, won gold in 2010 and 2002. The Swedes were the top team at the Turin Games eight years ago. The Americans earned silver twice in the past three Olympics, losing to Canada each time. Finland is the only nation with three medals in the Olympic era with the best hockey players in the world.

SPORTS

Boston College stuns top-ranked Syracuse

College basketball, Page 27

WINTER OLYMPICS

Grand finale?

Going into Friday's pair of potentially super semifinals, NHL not committed to 2018

By Larry Lage
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — If this is it for NHL players at the Olympics, it's a good way to go out.

The United States will face Canada in a rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game, and rivals Sweden and Finland will meet in the Sochi Games hockey semifinals on Friday.

The NHL and the NHL Players' Association have refused to commit to going to South Korea in 2018, leaving open the possibility that the best hockey players in the world might not play in the Olympics after Sunday's finale.

In the meantime, the stage is set potentially for a pair of fantastic games at the Bolshoy Ice Dome.

The Americans have easily been the best team on ice so far, scoring the most goals (20) in three routs and a closely contested 3-2 shootout victory over the host Russians.

U.S. coach Dan Bylsma doesn't expect that trend to continue the rest of the way.

"This is a one-game tournament," he said Wednesday after a 5-2 win over the Czech Republic in the quarterfinals. "And, it usually comes down to a one-goal game."

Canada's Sidney Crosby scored the game-winning goal in overtime to beat the Americans four years ago.

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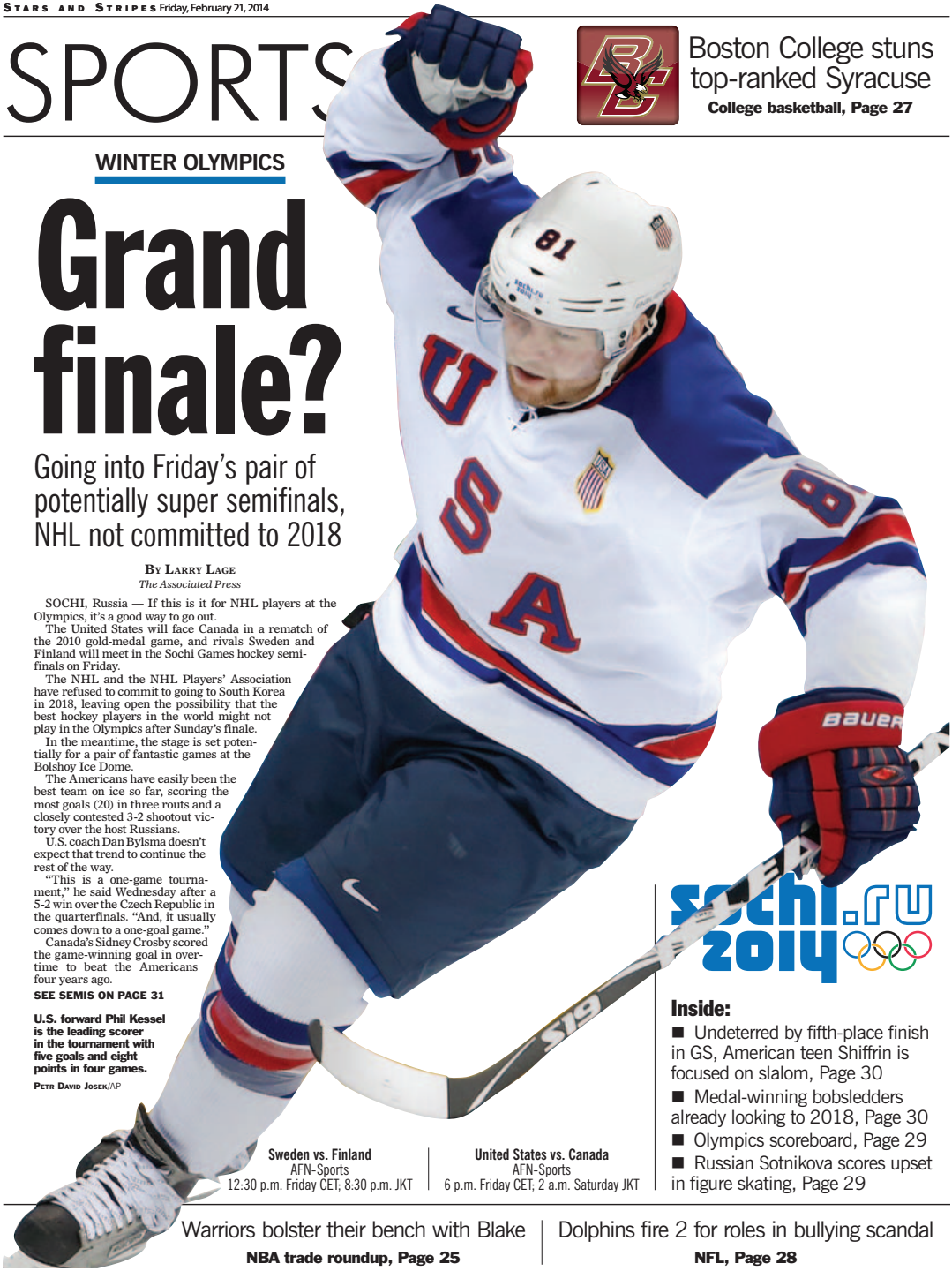

U.S. forward Phil Kessel is the leading scorer in the tournament with five goals and eight points in four games.

Petr David Josek/AP

Sweden vs. Finland
AFN-Sports
12:30 p.m. Friday CET; 8:30 p.m. JKT

United States vs. Canada
AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Friday CET; 2 a.m. Saturday JKT

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